



NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON

**DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION AND
SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY**

India's Priorities and Preparations for COP17

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GoI

**Venue: Radisson Blu Plaza, Banjara Hills
Hyderabad**

Date: 10th & 11th September 2026

ORGANIZED BY
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
(A Statutory Body of the Ministry of Environment Forest and
Climate Change, GoI)

Tentative Programme

DAY-I: 10.09.2026 (THURSDAY)	
0900-0930	Registration By Delegates
0930-1000	Inaugural Session
0930-0935	Welcome Address: Dr. B. Balaji Member Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority
0935-0940	Remarks: Shri Virendra Tiwari. Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority
0940-0945	Remarks: Smt. Uma Devi Former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
0945-0952	Special Remarks: Shri Ashutosh Agnihotri, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
0952-0955	Vote of Thanks: Shri Tarun Kumar Kathula Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
TECHNICAL SESSION-I	
1000-1300	Presentation and Discussion on critical agenda items of the CBD CoP-17 ➤ Shri. Tarun Kathula/ Dr. Achuta Nand Shukla/ Dr. B. Balaji
1300-1400	LUNCH
TECHNICAL SESSION-II	
	CHAIR: Smt Uma Devi Co-CHAIR: Shri Tarun Kathula
1400-1410	<i>Understanding the Use of DSI</i> 1. How DSI is generated, accessed and used 2. Direct and indirect use of DSI 3. Limited or initial use 4. Use of DSI in research and commercial applications 5. Role of bioinformatics, AI and computational tools ➤ Dr. Srirama
1410-1420	<i>Interaction & Discussion</i>
1420-1430	<i>DSI – Current International Context and COP17</i> 1. Key outcomes of CBD Decisions 15/9 and 16/2 2. Issues emerging from the intersessional process 3. Relevant outcomes of SBI-7 4. Key issues expected to be considered at COP17 ➤ Dr. Balaji
1430-1440	<i>Interaction & Discussion</i>
1440-1450	<i>DSI, Products and Services</i> 1. How DSI contributes to research, innovation and product development 2. DSI use across different stages of the value chain

	3. DSI-dependent products and services 4. Relevant sectoral examples 5. Practical challenges in identifying the contribution of DSI ➤ Dr Srirama
1450-1500	<i>Interaction & Discussion</i>
1500-1510	DSI Databases: Transparency and Open Access – Issues for COP17 ➤ Shri Nitin Ramakrishnan
1510-1530	TEA BREAK
1530-1800	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
BREAKOUT GROUP-I Direct and Indirect Use of DSI, Limited/Initial Use and Proportionate Pathway CHAIR: Shri. Achalender Reddy Co-CHAIR: Dr Achuta Nand Shukla Rapporteur: Dr Gayathri Shanbhag	
1. What should constitute direct use of DSI? 2. What should constitute indirect use ? 3. What should be understood as limited or initial use ? 4. When does DSI use become too remote to be considered relevant? 5. How should DSI use during discovery/research be considered? 6. How should AI and computational use of DSI be treated? 7. What are the practical challenges in identifying and quantifying DSI use? 8. What safeguards would be required for a possible proportionate pathway?	
BREAKOUT GROUP-II DSI-Using Sectors, Contributors, Thresholds, Contribution Rates and Products/Services CHAIR: Dr Sunil Archak Co-CHAIR: Dr. Vibha Ahuja Rapporteur: Dr Srirama	
1. Which sectors make significant use of DSI? 2. Which sectors derive significant commercial value from DSI? 3. Who are the relevant categories of users? 4. Who should potentially contribute to the Cali Fund? 5. Should contribution depend on the size of the entity? 6. What should constitute significant versus limited use? 7. What could be the basis for determining eligibility thresholds? 8. What factors should be considered in determining contribution rates? 9. How should a possible products- and services-based approach complement the existing sectoral approach? 10. How can unintended barriers to responsible use of DSI be avoided	
BREAKOUT GROUP-III Allocation of the Cali Fund and Effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism CHAIR: Dr. Rakesh Mishra Co-CHAIR: Dr Siva Thambisetty Rapporteur: Ms Kaveri & Mr Sameer	
A. Allocation of the Cali Fund 1. What principles should guide the allocation of resources from the Cali Fund among eligible developing country Parties?	

2. How should biodiversity-related needs and the capacity-building, research and technological needs of developing countries be reflected in the allocation? 3. Should there be a minimum or equitable allocation to ensure that developing country Parties, particularly biodiversity-rich countries, can benefit meaningfully from the Fund? 4. How can the allocation methodology ensure transparency, predictability and effective utilisation of the resources?	
B. Effectiveness Review	
1. What should be the key criteria for assessing the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism and Cali Fund? 2. Are contributions, benefit delivery, governance and transparency being adequately addressed? 3. What indicators and evidence should inform the first review?	
DAY II: 11.09.2026 (FRIDAY)	
0900-0945	Breakout Groups to continue and finalize the presentations (BG-I, II, III)
0945-1200	CONCLUDING SESSION
CHAIR: Smt Uma Devi	Co-Chair: Shri. Virendra Tiwari
Presentations by the Breakout Group Representatives	
BG-I- Direct and Indirect Use of DSI, Limited/Initial Use and Proportionate Pathway	
BG-II- DSI-Using Sectors, Contributors, Thresholds, Contribution Rates and Products/Services	
BG-III- Allocation of the Cali Fund and Effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism	
1130-1155	Concluding Remarks
1155-1200	Vote of Thanks: Dr. B. Balaji , Member Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority
Preparatory Discussion on Synthetic Biology under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	
1200–1205	Welcome Remarks and Introduction (Shri. Tarun Kumar Kathula)
1205–1215	Overview of CBD Processes on Synthetic Biology and Key Developments since COP-16 (Dr. Abhilasha Mathuriya)
1215-1300	Detailed Para-wise Deliberations on the Draft CBD Text/Proposed Outcome on Synthetic Biology
1300-1400	LUNCH
1400–1545	Detailed Para-wise Deliberations on the Draft CBD Text/Proposed Outcome on Synthetic Biology-contd.
1545–1615	Identification of Key Issues and India's Position for COP-17 (Shri. Tarun Kumar Kathula)
1615–1630	Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks (Dr. Achuta Nand Shukla)