



Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)

- **Assam's Sonitpur district** recently received a **Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)**, a legally protected area recognised for its unique ecosystems, rich biodiversity, rare species, wild crop relatives, and ecological significance.
- **BHSs** are notified under **Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002** by State Governments in consultation with local bodies and community institutions.
- They conserve ecologically fragile habitats such as **sacred groves, wetlands, wildlife corridors, and wild crop gene pools**, complementing the protected area network beyond National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

APSC Relevance: Biodiversity Conservation; Biological Diversity Act