

INVASIVE FISH SPECIES IN THE GANGA RIVER: UNSEEN THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

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The river Ganga, home to 190 fish species, is increasingly threatened by eight exotic fish species. Surveys at 20 stations reveal low invasion in upper stretches (0.37% at Bijnor) and high levels in middle and lower sections, peaking at Buxar (25.66%). Common carp (52.44%) and Nile tilapia (40.37%) dominate, making up 90% of exotics. Omnivorous invaders (62.5%) disrupt native food webs, impacting major carps and hilsa. The study highlights the need for stricter aquaculture regulation and habitat restoration to conserve biodiversity and fisheries.
