

## SUSTAINABLE GANGA FISHERIES FOR LIVELIHOOD AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

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*This study examines the ecological and socio-economic dynamics of fisheries along the River Ganga, which spans over 3,700 km and encompasses five Indian states. A total of 190 fish species were recorded, with spatial variations in species diversity and catch patterns. Trends indicate a decline in major carps and catfishes between 2017 and 2019, followed by a gradual recovery, supported by interventions such as river ranching. Socio-economic analysis revealed increased fisher income and dependence on fisheries. The findings highlight the role of sustainable fishery practices under the Namami Gange Programme in enhancing ecological health and empowering riverine communities through the Arth Ganga framework.*

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