

A CURRENT STATUS AND CONSERVATION OF FRESH WATER FISH DIVERSITY IN THE MIDDLE AND LOWER STRETCHES OF GANGA RIVER

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The present study evaluated the freshwater fish diversity across 13 stations in the middle and lower stretches of the Ganga River, recording 141 species from 99 genera. The middle stretch showed higher species richness, while the lower stretch exhibited greater diversity and evenness. NMDS analysis revealed distinct assemblages between stretches. Dominance of exotic species and decline of native taxa highlight ecological degradation. Conservation strategies such as habitat restoration, fish passages, and sustainable fisheries are essential to safeguard the Ganga's biodiversity and sustain the livelihoods of riparian communities.
