

## National Workshop on Fish Systematics Marks a Leap in Aquatic Research in India

Hyderabad, 18 January 2024

ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFG) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), jointly hosted the "National Workshop on Advances in Fish Systematics: Morphological and Molecular Approaches" from 18-19 January 2024 successfully at Hyderabad. The workshop was inaugurated with lamp-lightening by Guests. Dr. C. Raghunathan, the Additional Director of ZSI welcomed the guests and delegates. This was followed by enlightening addresses from distinguished guests including Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director of ZSI, and Dr. Uttam Kumar Sarkar, Director of ICAR-NBFG, Lucknow. Dr. Sarkar emphasised the role of advanced research in fish systematics led by conserving aquatic biodiversity and sustainable practices. A special address was delivered by Dr. Trinadh Kumar IFS, Inspector General of Forests & Head of Integrated Regional Office, Telangana. The highlight of the inaugural session was the address by the Chief Guest, Shri Kalicharan S. Khartade, IAS, Secretary of the Telangana State Biodiversity Board. The workshop's valedictory address was given by the Hon'ble Minister of Forest and Environment & Endowments, Government of Telangana, Smt. Konda Surekha. She expressed her commitment to supporting research initiatives contributing to the state's environmental well-being. Additionally, Smt. Vani Prasad, IAS, Principal Secretary, Environment, Forest, and Science & Technology, Government of Telangana, graced the event with a special address as the Guest of Honour. Over two days, more than 20 speakers shared their expertise on various aspects of fish systematics, both morphological and molecular. The workshop witnessed participation from over 50 delegates, ranging from researchers, and academicians to students, who benefitted from the rich exchange of knowledge. A significant feature of the workshop was the release of a booklet titled "State Fishes of India" and a bound galley of the first edition of "Barcode Atlas of India Fishes". These publications, along with others, were unveiled by the dignitaries, marking a significant contribution to the field of ichthyology in India. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Deepa Jaiswal, Officer-in-Charge of the Freshwater Biology Regional Centre of ZSI, Hyderabad. The event was a platform for learning and discussion, reflecting the joint efforts of ICAR-NBFG and ZSI for the implementation of the one of commitments made as part of the MoU.

