

## Announcing the collaborative release of the book “Barcode Atlas of Indian Fishes” — A joint effort by ICAR-NBFGR & Zoological Survey of India

Kolkata, 30 June 2024

The book "Barcode Atlas of Indian Fishes" was released by the Honourable Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, during the celebration of 109<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Celebration of ZSI & Inauguration of Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 on 30 June 2024 at Kolkata. The delegates present on occasion were Shri Jitendra Kumar, IFS, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, Ms. Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC, Government of India, Dr. A.A. Mao, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Dr Uttam Kumar Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow, Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata and other scientists, researchers and academicians of the country. The book is a pioneering joint effort of ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow and ZSI, Kolkata, to document and catalogue the vast diversity of fish species found in the Indian subcontinent using DNA barcoding techniques. This aims to provide a comprehensive reference for researchers, academicians, policymakers, and conservationists involved in fish biodiversity and conservation. This atlas creates a scientifically accurate and accessible database of Indian fish species, including their scientific, common, and vernacular names, order, family, habitat, distribution, economic importance, and conservation status as per IUCN categories. A key feature of the atlas is DNA barcode information for each species. DNA barcoding uses a short genetic sequence from a standardised genome region to provide a unique genetic identifier for each species. This enhances the accuracy of fish identification, especially in cases where morphological differences are subtle or for processed fish products. The specific DNA barcode accession numbers provided are crucial for accurate species identification, aiding researchers and conservationists in their work.

