

MARINE FAUNAL DIVERSITY IN INDIA

Taxonomy, Ecology and Conservation

Edited by

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More than 70% of the earth's surface is covered by water, making it an abundant resource for studying species diversity, faunal communities, and ecosystems. India's massive coastline (5,044 miles) means it plays a major role in accommodating these faunal communities. Of the 32 animal phyla, 15 are represented in India's marine ecosystems, covering more than 15,000 species.

Marine and coastal ecosystems of India provide a wide range of habitats to support wildlife. Major ecosystems such as estuaries, mangroves, coral reefs, lagoons, seaweeds and sea grasses serve as nurseries for both inshore and offshore fish and other sea creatures, many of which are actually or potentially the subject of commercial exploitation. *Marine Faunal Diversity in India* describes a wide range of marine faunal groups, including sponges, corals, molluscs, crabs, fish, reptiles, birds, marine mammals, and mangrove fauna. The chapters, written by experts in their respective fields, illustrate the diversity and distribution of marine faunal communities. Key aspects of the ecology and conservation of these important ecosystems are also discussed. *Marine Faunal Diversity in India* provides marine biologists and related researchers with access to the latest research and field studies from this major region.

KEY FEATURES

- Provides the latest field research on marine faunal diversity throughout the vast and species-rich Indian region
- Brings together expertise from top marine biology researchers
- Covers a diverse array of aquatic environments of coastal and island areas
- Discusses conservation ecology of marine faunal groups



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