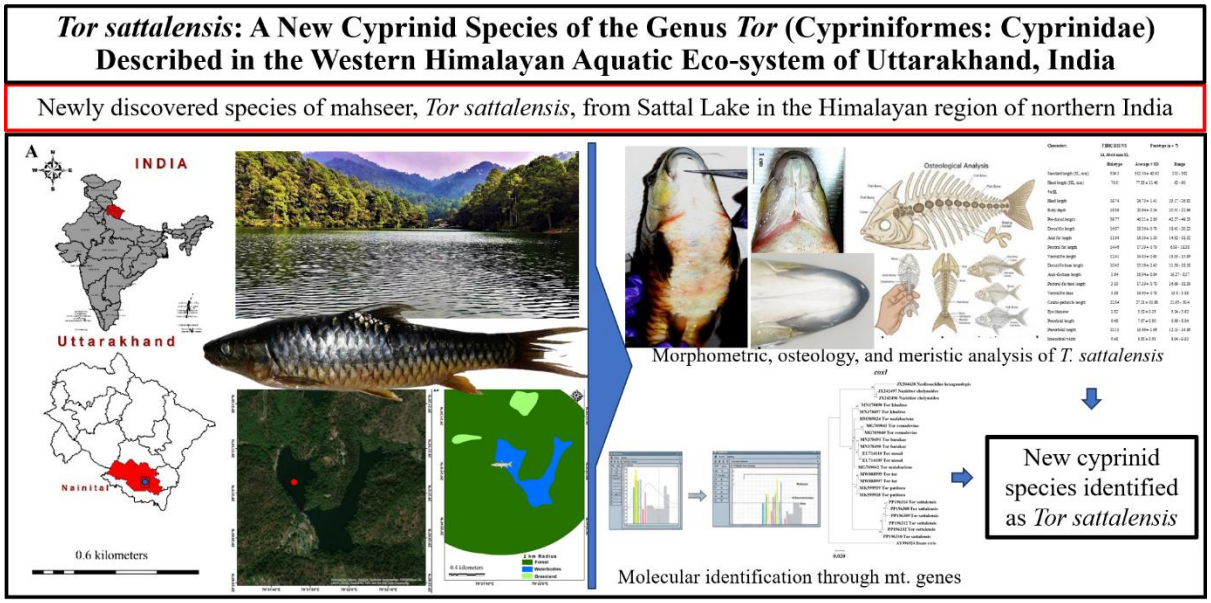
ICAR-CICFR Discovers a New Mahseer species *Tor sattalensis* from Uttarakhand

The ICAR–Central Institute of Coldwater Fisheries Research (ICAR-CICFR), Bhimtal, has discovered a new mahseer species, *Tor sattalensis*, from the landlocked Sattal Lake in the mid-hill Himalayan region of Uttarakhand, India. The lake is located at an altitude of 1,282 m above mean sea level.

The species was identified through an integrative taxonomic approach involving detailed morphometric and meristic analyses, osteological examination, and molecular characterization using mitochondrial genes (*coxI, cytb,* and *ATPase 6 & 8*). *Tor sattalensis* is distinct from all known congeners by the absence of a fleshy median lobe below the mandibular symphysis, a "U"-shaped partially grey lower lip, and non-hypertrophic lips.

The species is currently known only from its type locality, indicating a restricted distribution. This discovery enriches the taxonomic knowledge of Himalayan ichthyofauna, provides insights into cyprinid evolution and biogeography, and highlights the need for conservation of fragile freshwater ecosystems.

The study, led by Dr Neetu Shahi (National Fellow), along with her team Dr D. Sarma, Mr Bhupendra Singh, Dr R. S. Haldar, Mr Ravindra Posti, and Mr Sumanta Kumar Mallik has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Environmental Biology (Vol. 47, 2026).



Dr Amit Pande, Director (Acting), stated that the discovery of *Tor sattalensis* from Sattal Lake highlights the rich yet underexplored freshwater biodiversity of the mid-Himalayan region. The finding reflects ICAR-CICFR's continued commitment to advancing taxonomic research, enhancing understanding of coldwater fish diversity, and promoting conservation-oriented science for the sustainable management of fragile Himalayan aquatic ecosystems.

(Source: ICAR–Central Institute of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Bhimtal, Nainital, Uttarakhand)