

## Media Coverage of the launch of NM 5.0 - Reflections on Managing Water



Guwahati, 23<sup>rd</sup> April: The book *Reflections on Managing WATER: Earth's Greatest Natural Resource* by Ranjit Barthakur and Indira Khurana Guwahati was inaugurated on April 23th at Administrative Staff College. Published by Balipara Foundation the book was released by Honourable Chief Minister of Assam Sri Tarun Gogoi.

Also present in the occasion was Shri Jitesh Khosla, Chief Secretary, Assam; Sri Himangshu Shekhar Das, Chief Information Commissioner; Shri Ranjit Barthakur, Founder Trustee Balipara Foundation; Dr. Indira Khurana, noted environmentalist; Sri. R.K. Krishna Kumar, from the Tata Group; Dr. Dhrubajyoti Saikia, Vice Chancellor, Cotton College State University and Professor Gautam Barua, Director IIIT Guwahati.

Edited by Ranjit Barthakur and Indira Khurana, the book begins with a look at global water resources, and then focuses on India, deep-diving into India's water resources, its celebration, use and abuse of water, legal aspects and the linkage of water with nature. The book also talks about the steps needed for assuring water abundance and calls for action on various fronts. A Pan-Indian book, issues related specific to Assam and the North East was also addressed.

The event was successful and well covered by the media. Below are ARTICLES, ADS AND PRESS RELEASES:

## Asoniya Pratidin

Advertisement dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015

তিনিহুকীয়ালাই বিশেষ কামত  
স্নাহি পুনৰ ডিগবৈলৈ ঘূৰি  
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যোৱা দহটা বছৰ ধৰি ছাহাৰা ইণ্ডিয়া  
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পৰিচালিত বিত্তীয় প্রতিষ্ঠানটোত

**BALIPARA FOUNDATION**  
Assam • India

PRESENTS  
**NATURENOMICS™ 5.0**

*Reflections on Managing*  
**WATER**  
*Earth's Greatest*  
*Natural Resource*

Venue:  
**Assam Administrative Staff College**  
on 23rd April, 2015  
4.30 pm onwards

Supported by:

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Dr. Kaushal K. Gupta  
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## The Assam Tribune

Article by Ranjit Barthakur dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015

### Water: earth's greatest natural resource

■ Ranjit Barthakur

Water is linked to every aspect of our lives and that the life cycle and water cycle are synonymous, and so it is puzzling that we are, in a sense, throwing away our life as it were. Or as Jacques Cousteau, the French conservationist, so eloquently put it, "We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one."

From space, the Earth appears blue because of the reflection from the oceans. The total volume of water on earth is about 1.4 billion km<sup>3</sup>, of which freshwater is a mere 2.5% – around 35 million km<sup>3</sup>. Today, one of every five people on earth faces water scarcity. The trans-boundary character of water has increasingly been the cause of conflict across nations and within national boundaries. The urgency on reflection on current perception, policies and practices involving water and enabling the availability of water cannot be overstated.

The world floats on seawater, which drives the hydrological cycle. Yet the world is heading towards a water crisis. India should ideally be pushed with water, given its annual average rainfall of 1,100 mm, the Himalayan water tower that replenishes rivers and groundwater, its other rivers and the 7,500-km-

long coastline. However, a mix of natural features and human interventions has left the country oscillating between frequent flood and drought, sometimes both occurring at the same place, albeit at different times.

India faces multiple challenges in addressing water needs for all sectors and people. Meeting future demand appears a challenge, with reports suggesting that by 2030, India will be able to meet only 50% of the demand for water. The per capita availability has declined – from water secure status, we are moving towards a water scarce situation.

But where is the water and what is the quality? We are forgetting that at one end of a pipe should be a source of water, in absence of which, water infrastructure is rendered redundant. Somewhere we seem to have lost the plot. Mismanagement of a vital natural resource has led to deprivation – even death – and put a brake on development!

The main factors driving water scarcity in India include meeting the survival and aspirational needs of a growing population, economic growth, politically-driven decisions, poor water use and non-compliance to laws of the land. And as we struggle to meet our water demands, we also compromise on

the water quality.

As surface water was unfit for consumption due to biological contamination, there was a shift to tapping water from below the ground. Technological interventions led to rampant mining, resulting in excessive arsenic and fluoride in the water, causing debilitating disease, even death. With more than 80% of rural drinking water dependent on groundwater, there is now a shift to tapping surface water as a source.

With abysmally low levels of sweet water, harvesting rain water becomes imperative in the water deficit areas and scale up artificial recharge and bring efficiency in water use for agricultural production and urban supply and consumption. We need to have a water conscious and responsible industry and stretch water use through multiple use of every drop.

We are only beginning to understand the entrenched linkage between water and biodiversity. Assam is one among these mega-diverse regions. Forests here are home to precious wildlife and species with medicinal value. The growing demand for land is diminishing the quality and regularity of water available for our ecosystems. This is leading to degradation and loss of biodiversity, diminishing the ability of ecosystems to provide essential services that keep people fed,

healthy and out of poverty. The role of natural forests in maintaining water resources is not quite recognized while planning.

In India today, our relationship with water is complex and contradictory. Water is personal. We revere and celebrate water. Our faith ensures that we take a dip during the Kumbh Mela, the organization and execution of which has initiated multidisciplinary team research in Harvard. Yet, with impunity we dump our waste – liquid and solid – into the same revered waters.

The National River Linking Programme envisages gridding 37 Himalayan and Peninsular rivers at an estimated \$ 120 billion. This gigantic south Asian water grid will annually handle 178 billion m<sup>3</sup> annum of inter-basin water transfer through an estimated 12,500 km of new canals, irrigate 35 million more hectares and generate inland navigation opportunities. But is this really feasible? We don't think so.

This will involve going against nature with grave financial, energy and environmental implications, uprooting and displacing millions and destroying the livelihoods of several water communities who survive on the river in its current flow. It will have repercussions on regional peace as well, given the trans-boundary nature of rivers and the associated aquifers.

Today we find ourselves in a position where we are heading towards a crisis, because of mismanagement of water and the inability to think and manage water differently. We are hurtling towards an unnecessary crisis that can be averted. The September 2014 floods in Jammu and Kashmir had once again highlighted the critical need to work for conservation and sustainable management of our resources. Deforestation in the catchment areas of rivers, unplanned settlement in flood plains and rampant dumping of garbage into the rivers are attributed to the Jammu & Kashmir floods. We need to learn from such case studies to achieve breakthroughs through technology. The communities of the North-east understand that the relationship between human existence and nature is closely intertwined.

It's time we started respecting and managing our water resources in a sustainable and equitable manner. Or else we will be like the proverbial stone in the African saying, "The stone in the water knows nothing of the hill which lies parched in the sun." We need to rekindle our relationship with water through a convergence of religion, culture, belief and a respect for its aesthetic nature which can lead to its nurturing and sustainable development. It is this force that needs to be tapped.

## Asoniya Pratidin

Press Release dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015



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# Amar Asom

Press Release dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015



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আঠ হাজাৰ হেক্টৰ ভূমি নৈৰ  
বুকুত জাহ যায়। ৮ পৃষ্ঠাত

## Amar Asom

News Feature dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### ✓ উন্নয়ন হ'লে প্রদূষণ বৃদ্ধি হয়

এই সমস্যাই অসমৰ অৰ্থনীতিত বিকপ প্ৰভাৱ পেলাইছে। ইফালে, বানপানীৰ সমস্যা ঘকা ৰাজ্যখনত খোৱাপানীৰ সংকট। ৰাজধানী চহৰ গুৱাহাটী মহানগৰীত বাৰিষা কৃত্ৰিম বানপানীৰ সৃষ্টি হয়। কিন্তু সেই বানপানীৰ সমস্যাৰ মাজতে খোৱা পানীৰ সংকটে দেখা দিয়ে। আমাৰ প্ৰাকৃতিক সম্পদ আছে যদিও আমি মেনেজ কৰিব পৰা নাই। বাৰজাপনা গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ বিষয়। প্ৰাকৃতিক সম্পদৰ সদ্ব্যৱহাৰ অবিহনে সমস্যাৰ সমাধান নহয়। —এই মন্তব্য মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী তৰল গগৈৰ। বৃহস্পতিবাৰে গুৱাহাটীৰ পানাপান্ধিত অসম পদাধিকাৰী প্ৰশাসনীয় মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ প্ৰেক্ষাগৃহত আয়োজন কৰা এটা গাৰ্ভীৰ্যপূৰ্ণ অনুষ্ঠানত 'ৰিফ্লেকশ্বন আন মেনেজিং বাটক-আৰ্থছ গ্ৰেটেস্ট নেচাৰেল ৰিছাৰ্চ' নামৰ গ্ৰন্থখন উন্মোচন কৰি দিয়া ভাষণত মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী গগৈয়ে এইদৰে কয়। পানীৰ দৰে এটা গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ বিষয়ক লৈ বালিপৰা ফাউণ্ডেশ্বনে এখন গ্ৰন্থ প্ৰকাশ কৰি উলিওৱাৰ বাবে কাউণ্ডেশ্বনক প্ৰশংসা কৰি মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী গগৈয়ে কয়— 'পানীৰ সদ্ব্যৱহাৰৰ লগতে নতুন প্ৰযুক্তিৰে বাটক মেনেজমেণ্টত গুৰুত্ব প্ৰদান কৰিব লাগিব। এইক্ষেত্ৰত সকলোৰে সজাগ-সচেতন হ'ব লাগিব। গোলকীয় উষ্ণতা বৃদ্ধি তথা বতৰৰ অস্বাভাৱিক পৰিবৰ্তন সমগ্ৰ বিশ্বৰে সমস্যা। বেয়া বতৰৰ বাবেই বিগত বৰ্ষত দেশত সহস্ৰাধিক কৃষকে আত্মহত্যা কৰিছিল। অসম এখন পিছপৰা ৰাজ্য। ৰাজ্যৰ আন ঠাইৰ তুলনাত গুৱাহাটী মহানগৰীৰ ভবলু, বাহিনী আদিনদী প্ৰদূষিত হৈছে। উন্নয়ন হ'লে প্ৰদূষণ বৃদ্ধি হয়। বৰ্তমান আমি প্ৰদূষণ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত বিশেষ গুৰুত্ব দিছোঁ। সমস্যা আহিব আৰু সমাধান সূত্ৰও ওলাব।' মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী গগৈয়ে লগতে কয়— 'নবজাতকৰ মৃত্যু তথা প্ৰসূতিৰ মৃত্যুৰ হাৰ আৰু এনিমিয়াৰ হাৰ আমাৰ দেশত যথেষ্ট বেছি। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ চাহ বাগিচাসমূহত ইয়াৰ হাৰ যথেষ্ট বেছি। এইক্ষেত্ৰত আমাৰ বিজ্ঞানী তথা বিশেষজ্ঞসকলে বিশেষভাৱে অধ্যয়ন কৰিব লাগে। এই দিশসমূহত কটন কলেজ ৰাজ্যিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আৰু আই আই টি গুৱাহাটীয়ে গভীৰভাৱে গৱেষণা কৰা উচিত। আমাৰ ইয়াৰ পানীত আৰ্ছেনিক, আইৰন আদিৰ সমস্যা আছে।' গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ বিষয়ৰ গ্ৰন্থখন পৰিকল্পনা কৰাৰ লগতে প্ৰকাশ কৰি উলিয়াইছে 'বালিপৰা ফাউণ্ডেশ্বন'-এ। গ্ৰন্থখন সম্পাদনা কৰিছে ৰঞ্জিত বৰঠাকুৰ আৰু ইন্দিৰা খুবানাই। অনহাতে, লেখকসকল হৈছে ইন্দিৰা খুবানা, ৰমিত সেন আৰু শিল্পী জৈন। গ্ৰন্থখনত প্ৰকৃতিপ্ৰদত্ত অন্যতম সম্পদ 'পানী'ক কেন্দ্ৰ কৰি বিভিন্ন দিশ সামৰি লোৱা হৈছে। গাৰ্ভীৰ্যপূৰ্ণ অনুষ্ঠানটোত বালিপৰা ফাউণ্ডেশ্বনৰ অধ্যক্ষ ৰঞ্জিত বৰঠাকুৰে কয়— 'প্ৰাকৃতিকভাৱে চহকী ৰাজ্যখনৰ বাবে কি কৰিব পাৰি, তাৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ্য ৰাখি গ্ৰন্থখন প্ৰকাশৰ পৰিকল্পনা কৰা হয়। প্ৰকৃতিৰ অন্যতম সম্পদ পানীক বিজ্ঞান-প্ৰযুক্তিপ্ৰতিভাৰে সংৰক্ষণ কৰাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত গুৰুত্ব দিয়া হৈছে।' অনুষ্ঠানত ইন্দিৰা খুবানাই দূশা-শ্ৰাব্য মাধ্যমযোগে গ্ৰন্থখনৰ চমু আভাস দাঙি ধৰাৰ লগতে ভবিষ্যতে পানীৰ পৰা হ'ব পৰা সংকটৰ বিষয়ে উল্লেখ কৰে। অনুষ্ঠানত ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰৰ মুখ্য সচিব জিতেশ খোছলা, কটন কলেজ ৰাজ্যিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ উপাচার্য ড° প্ৰবজ্যোতি শইকীয়া, আই আই টি গুৱাহাটীৰ প্ৰাক্তন সঞ্চালক গৌতম বৰুৱা, টাটাৰ আৰু কে কৃষ্ণকুমাৰে বক্তব্য আগবঢ়ায়। সকলোৰে বালিপৰা ফাউণ্ডেশ্বনৰ উদ্যোগক প্ৰশংসা কৰে। অনুষ্ঠানত ভালেসংখ্যক বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তি উপস্থিত আছিল।



# Eastern Chronicle

News Feature dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015

## Assam CM bats for tapping State's water resources

GOGOI CAUTIONED THAT A LAPSE IN USING THE NATURAL RESOURCES LEADS TO DISASTER AND ADVOCATED FOR JUDICIOUS USE OF THE SAME

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati:** Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi released a book titled 'Reflections of Managing WATER: Earth's Greatest Resources' at a function held at Assam Administrative Staff College in Guwahati on Thursday evening.

Published by Balipara Foundation the book deals with issues of global water resources, then focuses on India and India's water resources, use and abuse of water and legal aspects and linkage of water with nature.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Minister Gogoi said, "Since Assam has abundance of water resources, there is a need of proper management of the same. A good and scientific management of water resources would lead to controlling flood and erosion."

He also said that the educational institutions like IITs and universities should take the lead in research related to focal problems like flood and erosion. He also cautioned that a lapse in using the natural resources leads to disaster and advocated for judicious use of the same.



### fighting flood

Assam CM Tarun Gogoi called for collective efforts from all stake holders to solve problems like flood and erosion. He also reiterated that universities and other higher places of learning should encourage new ideas, new concepts and innovations to find an answer to the problems of the society



Since Assam has abundance of water resources, there is a need of proper management of the same. A good and scientific management of water resources would lead to controlling flood and erosion

-Tarun Gogoi, Assam CM

He also called for collective efforts from all stake holders to solve problems like flood and erosion. He also reiterated that universities and other higher places of learning should encourage new ideas, new concepts and innovations to find an answer to the problems of the society.

Assam Chief Secretary Jitesh Khosla advocated for a judicious use of water be-

cause wisdom shown in using water determines a country's social and economic wellbeing.

Director of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Guwahati Professor Gautam Baruah, Chairman of Balipara Foundation Ranjit Barthakur and Vice Chancellor of Cotton College State University Dhruva Jyoti Saikia also spoke on the occasion.

# The Times of India

Press Release dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015

## Assam yet to get flood aid from Centre: Gogoi

Guwahati: Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi on Thursday said the state has not received flood assistance funds worth Rs 400 crore from the Centre.

"The Central team that visited Assam to assess the damage caused by floods last year has recommended Rs 400 crore. But we have not yet received any money," Gogoi told reporters here.

He said the inordinate delay would affect restoration and other related work as the monsoon is about to set in.

"How would I start flood control work now?" Gogoi asked.

He said other flood-hit states such as Jammu and Kashmir got huge relief immediately after last year's floods. "The Centre is playing with the lives of ordinary citizens in Assam," Gogoi said.

The two inter-ministerial teams from Delhi had visited

Assam earlier this year to assess the situation in many flood-hit districts last year, four months after the Assam government submitted its memorandum.

The first team visited on February 3 and toured Goalpara, Barpeta and Kamrup districts, while another came on February 13 and visited Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and other districts of Upper Assam.

In October 2014, Assam had sought a total of Rs 9,370 crore assistance from the Centre to mitigate the problems created by floods, rebuild damaged infrastructure, rehabilitate victims and strengthen embankments.

The state government sought Rs 2,010 crore for damaged infrastructure which included roads and bridges, dwelling houses, health centres and school buildings and Rs 660 crore for rescue and relief operations. AGENCIES

# The Assam Tribune

Press Release dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015

## Book on water management released

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 24 - The book *Reflections on Managing WATER: Earth's Greatest Natural Resource* by Ranjit Barthakur and Indira Khurana was formally released at the Assam Administrative Staff College on Thursday.

Published by Balipara Foundation, the book was released by Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi. Also present on the occasion were Jitesh Khosla, Chief Secretary; Himangshu Shekhar Das, Chief Information Commissioner; Ranjit Barthakur, founder trustee Balipara Foundation; Dr Indira

Khurana, environmentalist; RK Krishna Kumar from the Tata Group; Dr Dhrubajyoti Saikia, Vice Chancellor, Cotton College State University; and Prof Gautam Barua, Director, IIT-Guwahati.

Edited by Ranjit Barthakur and Indira Khurana, the book begins with a look at global water resources, and then focusses on India, exploring India's water resources, its celebration, use and abuse of water, legal aspects and the linkage of water with nature.

The book also talks about the steps needed for assuring water abundance and calls for action on various fronts. A Pan-

Indian book, issues specific to Assam and the North-east are also addressed.

The Chief Minister in his address stressed the need for finding solutions to water imbalance problems and other related issues. Gautam Baruah was of the view that many of the present-day problems were largely attributable to lack of proper water management.

A presentation on water as a critical resource was made by co-editor Indira Khurana. Ranjit Barthakur, who is the editor, said that the book also had chapters on water laws and on the need for suitable water management policies.

## Dainik Agradoot

Press Release dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**অসমত পানীৰ সমস্যা সমাধানৰ  
উপায়ৰ অভাৱ : মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী গগৈ**



গগৈৰ। কলি মহানগৰীত বলিপৰ ফাউণ্ডেছনে প্ৰকাশ কৰি উলিওৱা বিজ্ঞানচৰ্ছ 'অন মেডেলিং বাটাৰ অৰ্থছ গ্ৰেটেষ্ট নেচাৰেল বিছ'ৰ্চ শীৰ্ষক পানী সম্পৰ্কীয় গ্ৰন্থখন উন্মোচন কৰি মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী গগৈয়ে এইদৰে মন্তব্য আগবঢ়াই। গ্ৰন্থখন সম্পাদনা কৰিছে বঞ্জিত বৰঠাকুৰ আৰু ইন্দিৰা খুৰানাই। উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানত মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ উপদেষ্টা জীতেশ খোচলা, মুখ্য সচিব হিমাণ্ত শেখৰ দাস, গ্ৰন্থখনৰ সম্পাদক বঞ্জিত বৰঠাকুৰ, ড° ইন্দিৰা খুৰানা, বিখ্যাত পৰিবেশবিদ আৰু কে কুমাৰ কুমাৰ, ড° প্ৰবজ্যোতি শইকীয়া, অধ্যাপক গৌতম বৰুৱায়ে অংশগ্ৰহণ কৰে।

গুৱাহাটী, ২৪ এপ্ৰিল : 'অসমত পানীৰ সমস্যা সমাধানৰ উপায়ৰ অভাৱ। বিদেশত আমাৰ বহুতো গবেষক আৰু বিজ্ঞানী আছে যদিও আমি সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব পৰা নাই।' এই মন্তব্য মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী তৰুণ