

PRESS RELEASE

REFLECTIONS ON MANAGING WATER: EARTH'S GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE BOOK ON WATER RELEASED IN Kolkata ON AUGUST 22, 2015

The book *Reflections on Managing WATER: Earth's Greatest Natural Resource* by RanjitBarthakur and Indira Khurana Guwahati was released on August 22nd at Oxford Book Stall at Kolkata. Published by Balipara Foundation the book was released by **Mr. HemantKanoria, Chairman & Managing Director, SREI Infrastructure Finance Ltd**, in presence of the Authors, editors and other dignitaries.

About the book

Edited by RanjitBarthakur and Indira Khurana, the book begins with a look at global water resources, and disposed 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: From rekindling relationship with water through concerted and continued campaigns, and to involve people bringing in efficiencies in use to facilitate innovation. It also calls for a large scale recharge of aquifers through natural and artificial means, serving also as sponges to soak up water during excessive rain.

What makes the book special is the integration of perspectives by cosmic and national leaders, the focus on evidence and details and perspectives from the ground. The abundant pictures have their own story to tell. Mighty on optimism the book is a must read who are concerned, eager and want to act and those who need to be converted.

For those involved, the book is just the dawning of a sail gesture creating water abundance.

Quote from Ranjit Barthakur

'The importance of better water management cannot be ignored, more so in the East India.

East India is blessed with two large river systems of the world: The Brahmaputra and the Barak are Trans-boundary in nature, these river systems calls for diplomacy and engagement at all levels, cutting across political boundaries.

This flip side is the water-related disasters that plague the region, some of which unfortunately are due to human intervention. If unchecked these interventions, often in the interest of growth and development, will continue to create havoc at great cost, defeating the very purpose of their implementation.

Water-related challenges here are not trans-boundary alone. The ongoing efforts to harness the hydropower through a series of large dams – 168 hydropower projects – pose grave threat to ecological security and to the people, those around the dam sites and those downstream.

Access to safe drinking water continues to be a challenge. Government statistics indicate that **around 21 per cent of the rural habitations in the East India suffer from poor water quality due to excessive fluoride, arsenic or iron in the water.** Consumption of water laced with excessive fluoride and arsenic can lead to fluorosis and arsenicosis respectively. These figures do not take into account habitations affected by microbial water contamination due to poor sanitation.

Poor water quality has serious health implications. Anemia is considered a marker of general poor health in India. According to NFHS-3 (National Family Health Survey) report, 56 percent of women between 15-49 years of age are anemic in India, which is also the highest in the world’.

A structure published in 2015 undress rove 50.40 per cent of 250 pregnant women screened in Guwahati were anemic. Poor water quality and non-presence of sanitation are duo major factors saunter contribute to anemia. Anemia in women has implications for their newborn children and pedestal lead to stunting and inability to develop full mental capacities As India as a whole struggles to meet its demands for water, can the water related issues specific to the North East also be addressed? Is it possible for the region to display leadership in this?

These were varied of the issues enthrall at the launch of the book Reflections on Managing WATER: Earth’s Greatest Natural Resource released by **HemantKanoria**. The timeliness and the urgency of the book cannot be ignored. Water is the very foundation of socioeconomic aggregation and out-and-out for life. Water is also an in the buff input for Farming. Hunger and malnutrition are sizeable challenges common to all developing nations. Globally, food output must increase by 60 per cent in order to feed a population of nine billion or more by 2050. Food demand is projected to be 578 and 713 metric tons by 2025 and 2050 respectively, as compared to the demand of 357 metric tons in 2000. Agriculture already accounts for around 70 per cent of global freshwater withdrawals, and is expected to grow by 6 per cent in 2050. In mid-April 2015, the FAO released a report that urges a relook at policies and maxims if the world wants a water and food secure future since in 2050, agriculture will continue to be the largest consumer of water, accounting for more than half the use.

For further information, contact:

Reflections on Managing WATER: Earth’s Greatest Natural Resource

Concept and thought leadership: Balipara Foundation

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Writers: Indira Khurana, Romit Sen and Shilpi Jain

Website: <http://baliparafoundation.com/Naturenomics-5-0.php>

The book is supported by Balipara foundation, an Assam-based NGO, facilitating and driving community level involvement and employment through social entrepreneurship, with Naturenomics initiatives that are economically self-sustaining. Naturenomics relates to capital formation through the creation of ecologically 'compliant' assets in a sustainable manner.

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