

BALIPARA FOUNDATION

Assam • India

Launch of "Reflections on Managing WATER: Earth's Greatest Natural Resource"

Press Release:

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, Khanapara. Published by Balipara Foundation the book was released on 23rd April 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, 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 was also addressed.

The Chief Minister said that as our home bred researches and scientists stay abroad and we lack the proper solutions to water imbalance problems and other problems. Sri Gautam Baruah said that due to lack of proper water management we face problems. A presentation on water as a critical resource was made by co editor Smt Indira Khurana. Sri Ranjit Barthakur, who is the other co-editor, revealed that this book also has chapters on water laws and examines on need for suitable policies to properly manage our waters. It was felt that the book would be a proper vehicle for the management of our water resources in water deficit areas such as Rajasthan and water abundant areas as Assam.