

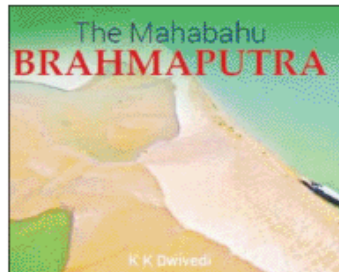
BOOK PRESENTS ALTERNATE PERSPECTIVE OF B'PUTRA

The Mahabahu Brahmaputra zooms the camera on myriad cultures

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Guwahati: There isn't anything romantic about living on the banks of a river which flirts with flood every time the monsoon arrives, claiming several lives, washing away hectares of land and drowning animals.

As it rains, the mighty river Brahmaputra becomes a battleground, as the angry tides and people, staying along its banks, fight against each other. Often termed as the bane for the region, in a first of its kind initiative, here is a book which has attempted to present a 'never seen before image' of the Brahmaputra among the common man.



The book, titled *The Mahabahu Brahmaputra*, hails the river for sustaining myriad cultures, vibrant wildlife and for being a repository of historical and mythological stories. To capture the lives that strive along the banks of the Brahmaputra, drones and hi-tech underwater cameras have been used.

6 We had to get the clearance from the Civil Aviation Ministry for using the drones. Also, the flow of the river is intense for underwater shots and there is minimal literature on the aspects we wanted to focus
- KK Dwivedi, editor & coordinator, *The Mahabahu Brahmaputra*

Speaking to *EC*, KK Dwivedi, editor and coordinator of the book, said, "The book is presenting an alternate perspective of the mighty river. Since many centuries, the river has sustained life on both its banks but the river is often termed as the river of sorrow. The word Brahmaputra, over time, has become synonymous with flood and erosion. The positive aspects are rarely highlighted."

Dwivedi, who is also the Commissioner of Industries and Commerce, Assam added, "In literature also,

much is written on the hydrology and morphology, but not on its sustaining cultures and wildlife."

The book is replete with pictures that give a '360o view of the Brahmaputra'.

The river has been extensively shot under water, on the surface and aerially, using a drone. Backed by a team of researchers, bureaucrats, Central Government and Assam Police officials, the book displays the first ever aerial views of the Rang Ghar, Talatal Ghar, Umananda and

Kamakhya Temple.

The breathtaking photographs were clicked by ace wildlife photographer Dhritiman Mukherjee, who is based in Kolkata and Dwivedi himself. However, the captivating pictures were not at all an easy feat to capture.

Priced at ₹ 2000, the book will be sold by wildlife NGO Aaranyak. The funds collected from the sale of the book will be utilised for conservation of the Adjutant Stork - one of the most endangered bird species.

Mukherjee said, "It was an exhilarating experience to capture the varied moods of the river. The Brahmaputra is much dynamic from the Ganga and hence, it was very interesting for me."

WEATHER

GUWAHATI 34.8° C MAX 25.0° C MIN , SHILLONG 24.7° C MAX 17.1° C MIN , KOHIMA 23.6° C MAX 19.3° C MIN , AGARTALA 32.6° C
SILCHAR 32.1° C MAX 25.4° C MIN , DIBRUGARH 28.7° C MAX 22.2° C MIN , TEZPUR 33.2° C MAX 26.8° C MIN , IMPHAL 30.2° C M