

Concept note
Virtual Photostory Exhibition

The river of hope and sorrow – Brahmaputra

Rivers have been the lifeline of human civilization. They provide water, which is a key natural resource that supports life on earth, and not only essential for human existence and development but also sustain ecosystems and biodiversity. The Brahmaputra River flows through four countries: China (Tibet Autonomous Region), India, Bangladesh, and tributaries joining from Bhutan. The river and its tributaries are known by several names locally in different regions such as the Yarlung Tsangbo and Zangbo in South Tibet, the Siang or Dihang River in Arunachal Pradesh in India, Luit and Dilao in Assam in India, and Jamuna in Bangladesh. The river provides life and livelihood to a diverse range of communities, along the entire Yarlung-Zangbo-Brahmaputra-Jamuna basin area. The basin is rich in biodiversity, with a huge potential for irrigation development, livelihood opportunities, hydropower generation, and trade and navigation. However, the river is both a creator and destroyer as it deposits huge amounts of fertile alluvial soil along with being a major source of freshwater, but also causes distress and devastation through erosion and floods.

This virtual photography exhibition on Brahmaputra explores the kaleidoscopic perspectives on life, community and infrastructure around the river. These diverse perspectives have been grouped along the following themes while generating the call:

- People of the river
- Living with the river
- River as a source of livelihood
- Rural and urban floods
- Biodiversity of the river
- Cultural aspects of the river
- River as a space for women
- Char dwellers and the river
- Riverine community during pandemic
- River infrastructure

The participants of this exhibition are as diverse as the communities that thrive around the Brahmaputra, as the submissions have been open to anyone who has an association with the river and engages with photography. The exhibition thus, provides an inclusive platform to showcase the various narratives from the region. It is an attempt to present fresh perspectives on the hopes and trials surrounding the river. And it aims to foster a sense of peace, understanding and cooperation among the diverse communities of the Brahmaputra basin. The photo stories have been curated and will be published within the initiative "Science Communication for Water Diplomacy in the Brahmaputra" <http://www.brwaterdiplomacy.com/>.