

## Damuda: Sacred Water: Narratives on Environmental Loss and Conflict in the Upper and Middle Damodar River Basin



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*(Mitchell Kuhn III)*

## DAMUDA: SACRED WATER: NARRATIVES ON ENVIRONMENTAL LOSS AND CONFLICT IN THE UPPER AND MIDDLE DAMODAR RIVER BASIN



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Indian Institute of Advanced Study, 2018. Hardcover. Condition: New. 1st Edition. Damuda: Sacred Water, looks at narratives around environmental loss and conflict along the upper valley of the Damodar River Basin in eastern mainland India. The river Damodar flowing through Jharkhand and West Bengal is often used as a poignant metaphor to indicate environmental loss in the lives of local and indigenous folk living here. The upper tract of the Damodar, is a site of large scale industrialisation since the 1950s, home to the oldest coal mines, steel plants and hydroelectric dams of India. On its journey, the book traverses through different spatial remains along this tract. A road: the Grand Trunk Road; a dam: the Damodar Valley Corporation dam, the forests and abandoned coal mine sites, to delve deeper into the narratives around environmental loss and conflict in the upper tract of the Damodar Basin. Attempts are made, along the way, to reclaim and gather again the fragments of environmental wisdom that have been lost over the flow of history in this region. The very name Damuda meaning sacred water in Mundari and Santali, a world view and it's concomitant way of life exist with the people of the Damuda, the mixed communities of tribal and non tribals who have come to live and work here. The narratives along with weaving in a sense of belonging for all currently residing here, indicate how one may relocate themselves by reimagining the environment and the idea an notions of environmental space. Sayantoni Datta was a Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla from 2012-2014. She graduated from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in 2001. Sayantoni worked as an independent researcher and activist around issues on gender, indigenous communities, child rights and environmental justice particularly in central and eastern...



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