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**Point for discussion this month**

**Accidents on / due to - Anaerobic Digesters**

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Dear Readers,

It's absolutely clean water of Mutha river upstream of Pune. When it passes through Pune it becomes impure due to urban wastes. Take any city in India or world; its pure water resources are highly polluted. That's why friendship with pure water bodies – rivers or lakes is essential to maintain our valuable sources free of pollution.

SERI is promoting ecotechnology from last 11 years and trying to convince people, government and experts that it is the way to tackle the pollution from point or non-point sources as these are risk free and accident free techniques. The news of fatal accident on Anaerobic Digester in some company in Shriperambudur demands safer technologies to deal with pollution. Life of persons is more valuable than the compensations are given to the kins of victims.

Sandeep Joshi's incessant, thankless efforts of popularising ecotechnology are now showing some fruits of satisfaction. Few institutions have realized the potential of ecotechnology and they are coming up with centres for research in ecotechnology. SERI will help such institutions without any hesitation.

Ecotechnology is not a brand of SERI or Sandeep Joshi but it's an ocean of knowledge and application of ecological principles for the benefits of human kind. The brands are Soil Scape Process (Vertical Filtration), Green Bridge (Horizontal Filtration), Green Channel etc. These are the systems developed by SERI giving amazing results in field applications.

Thanking you,  
Chief Editor

## **Jal – Maitri – Water Friendship: Effort to maintain water resources pure Dec. 6– 7, 2007**

Now, it is well understood that rivers when traverse through cities, they get polluted due to waste streams from the populated areas. So, the group of Jal Dindi Pratishthan decided to survey the riverine ecosystem before the first big city along the river.

Jal Dindi (Sacred Voyage along the river) starts from Alandi every year to reach Pandharpur 450 km away on boats through rivers. It was decided to survey the origin of Indrayani so that it would help in preparing the profile of river with some major features.

As usual Dr. Vishwas Yevale lead the team of Kayakers, boatmen; Sandeep Joshi lead the sampling and analysis of river water at selected locations; Vinod Bodhankar and Narendra Chugh took the lead in amassing people along the river in forthcoming events and jal-maitri. Shri. Gurav, Shailesh, Raja, Jitendra, Deepak were bubbling with fresh air which they had at the rise of Indrayani river on Duke's Nose Mountain in Lonavala – a hill station about 70 km away from Pune. Babanrao – a great waterman was with his team of river boating experts.

The experience on pure, serene river was completely fun and adventure; even the rocks in the riverbed under the water could not stop the water friendship journey.

Origin of Indrayani River on Duke's Nose mountain near Kurvande village, Lonavala as shown by villagers and believed by them



In search of live streams at the origin of Indrayani river – from left Mr. Gurav, Sandeep Joshi, Narendra Chugh and Vinod Bodhankar.



Sandeep Joshi demonstrated testing of sample collected from one of the live streams at the origin of Indrayani. Mr. Narendra, Dr. Vishwas Yevale, Vinod Bodhankar and Babanrao looked on.



The pure water collected in the copper pot was taken to the Temple of Saint Dnyaneshwar as a tribute to his work on spread knowledge and message of nature and social integrity through his well revered books in 15<sup>th</sup> Century. That's why; Indrayani river is given a status of Dnyanganga (River of Knowledge). This river friendship programme was really an open classroom lesson for the enthusiastic learners of environment .

River Indrayani is intercepted by roads and gas pipeline being implemented by GAIL in the uphill region. Precautions are needed to keep Indrayani flowing even in monsoon when it rains heavily.



It's hardship on waters because of bunds and dams. You need to lift the boats and kayaks to overcome the hurdle of bund. Waterway along the rail track makes a beautiful sight.



Let us develop affection for such beautiful waterways which will reduce the load of traffic and air pollution on the expressways and highways at the same time catering the needs of ecosystems and agriculture.



- Sandeep Joshi

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### NewsAnalysis

## DJB plans for mega sewers

The Delhi Jal Board has embarked upon an ambitious Rs. 3,150 crore plan to tap all untreated sewage and rectify the capitals faulty sewage system in a bid to maximize utilization of 17 sewage treatment plants and ensure a clean affluent discharge into the Yamuna. These plants are working at only 60 % of their capacity.

An interceptor sewer will be constructed along the two major drains of Delh Najafgarh and Shahdara to collect untreated sewage from unauthorized colonies and slums and the up flows from the existing drains to existing treatment plant and the treated water would be discharged in to Yamuna. For the additional sewage generated, the DJB plans to augment the capacity of existing pilot plants on Delhi Gate and Dr. Sen Nursing Home to the desired level, while remaining 13 drains will be trapped in the Ring Road and Bela Road Trunk sewers.

The Jal Board is not sure how much sewage will be generated from untrapped areas. For that, it plans to undertake a comprehensive study, also taking in to account the sewage that will be routed through the six rehabilitation sewers and also promised that the technology will be environment friendly and cause minimum inconvenience to citizens.

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## Climate changes lead to wars and famine: History says

The world's growing population may be unable to adequately adapt to ecological changes brought about by the expected rise in global temperatures. The researchers examined the time period between 1400 and 1900, or the Little Ice Age, which recorded the lowest average global temperatures around 1450, 1650 and 1820, each separated by slight warming intervals.

When such ecological situations occur, peoples tend to move to another place. Such mass movement lead to war, like in the 13<sup>th</sup>

century, when the Mongolians suffered drought they invaded China or the Manchurians who moved into central China in 17<sup>th</sup> century because conditions in the northeast were terrible during cooling period.

Epidemics may not be directly linked to temperature (change), but it is a consequence of migration, which creates chances for disease to spread. International Alert, a London based conflict resolution group, identified 46 countries- home to 2.7 billion people- where it said the effects of climate change would create a high risk of political instability.

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### **Pollution crouch down to new low**

During winters, air pollutants usually accumulate in the atmosphere at a lower level due to lower temperatures and slower wind speeds. CPCB warned that pollutants height was more than 30 % lower than it was last year.

Major air pollutants such as respirable suspended particulate matters (RSPM) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) have been found at a higher level compared to the same period last year. Mr. S D Makhijani, director of CPCB said "As a result, those who are suffering from cardiopulmonary diseases like asthma and bronchitis would need to be very careful."

"Studies on similar conditions in London in the past showed manifold increase in pulmonary and cardiac illness because harmful particles linger longer at ground levels" said Dr. Ratnadeep Guleria of AIIMS. During all of October, for instance, the average mixing height during daytime decreased 31 % and by 26 % for nighttime.

In certain cases, pollutants even descended by 50 % lower than what was observed last year. "Exposure to NOx is not good news. Since it is odorless, people are not aware of any assault by this toxic gas. They become silent victims," said Dr. T K Joshi head of Centre of Environment and Occupational health

- Priya Kapole

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### **Book Review**

#### **Environment Management by Sandeep Joshi**

Sandeep Joshi has written a book on environment management for professionals, businesses and industries. It's an easy to read book having just 150 pages without any complexity of the references or mathematics. The language is very simple and lucid. This book will be very useful for the decision makers and managers who need entirety of the environmental requirements while taking decisions about the projects. This book is also useful for students of environment science and engineering, the professionals working in the field of environment management and NGOs.

- Sayali Joshi

The book is very simple and gives idea about the legalities and environment business in detail.

- Prof. Pandit, Maharashtra Vriksha Samvardhini

The book covers almost all aspects of environment management without making it complicated. So, it is useful for everybody.

- Er. S. N. Lele, Chairman, SOPPECOM

The book is small but gives an account on legalities of environment management useful for project managers.

- Er. Sudarshan Tandale, Convenor, Water Resources Group, The Institution of Engineers, Pune Local Chapter

The book is very useful for students of environment engineering and professionals.

- Zigisha Mhaskar, Architect, Environment Planner

The book caters needs of environment engineering students and upcoming environmental consultants.

- Prof. Sameer Shastri  
- Mr. Sagar Warhekar, Env'tl Consultant

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