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For decades I have walked the Himalayas with one message: *Ecology is Economy*. If we kill the systems that sustain us, no GDP can save us. The same truth now stares at us from India's cities.

Mumbai's four rivers are not drains. They were, and can again be, life-lines. But they will not be revived by concrete alone. They need understanding.

That is why I welcome this book by **Dr. Snehal Donde**. As a **Fulbright Scholar**, she has studied the world's best treatment plants, including **Ward Island in Manhattan**. As **Chairperson, Clean and Healthy River Committee, Microbiologist Society of India**, she has her feet deep in Mumbai's soil. This combination is rare.

Dr. Donde asks us to see the whole river. She brings back into our policy discussion the **flood plain, the riparian zone, the mangrove**—the forgotten soldiers of clean water. She reminds the engineer that behind every STP are **microbes**, and behind every healthy river is **soil**.

This book is science, yes. But it is also dharma. The duty to give our children rivers that flow, not sewers that stink.

I urge every municipal commissioner, every civil engineer, and every young Indian who asks "what can I do?" to read this work. Then, join Dr. Donde in the work that must follow.


Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi

Padmashri & Padmabhushan

Founder, HESCO

Dehradun, April 2026