

## BOOK REVIEWS

**COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY OF KONKAN** Edited by Shrikant Karlekar, Aparna Publications, 4 'Ankur' 573/4 Bibwewadi, Pune 411 037, 1993, 325 pp. Rs. 125/-

This book is one of the very few of its kind on the subject of coastal geomorphology in our country; is the first on the coast of Konkan in Maharashtra; and is in fact a unique one in the sense that most of the papers included in the book are the result of painstaking exercises in the field and laboratory undertaken by young students for the purpose of 'project work' which is a part of their post-graduate curriculum. It is creditable, the editor had conceived the idea and collated to bring forth this volume; besides being a welcome addition to the existing literature on Indian Coasts, it is an edition which would be useful to young students and researchers. This book contains 15 papers - a solitary paper each on wave dynamics in the surf zone and mangrove swamp; a couple of papers on beach processes, sediments and related forms; three papers on dunes and other depositional landforms and materials; five papers on tidal cycles and sedimentation and related forms in estuaries, creeks and on beaches and three papers on sea caves, cliffs and platforms. The wave environment, the ebb and flow cycles of tides and the resultant variations in suspended sediments, organic matter, minor flora, in salinity and the various macro and micro forms these variations create are studied in detail in most of the papers. Yet, in a few others, rocky landforms along the shoreline and also well behind it, are mapped, described and their significance is explained in terms of sea levels and other terrestrial processes.

The individual papers, besides containing generalities on the respective subjects in the beginning, explain the experimental procedures adopted to measure and monitor the various processes in the field and to analyse the various materials in the laboratory, end with a list of conclusions preceded by a thorough discussion supported by various statistical measures and are accompanied by a number of tables and illustrations. The ways and means of measuring and monitoring of various dynamic littoral processes, are both simple as well as advanced (like using colour dyes) and analysis of sediment and water samples is something very few geography students are trained to conduct. Measuring and monitoring of processes and the resultant changes in the morphology of the forms, in two different seasons (during and after monsoon) and the attention paid to process-form relationships, in different shore zones, are special features of most of the papers in the book.

The introduction in most of the papers is quite lengthy though not altogether unnecessary; the objectives and methodology are repetitive; most of the conclusions listed in the summary in most of the papers are simple self-evident facts but some of them are definitely serious scientific inferences sifted from the analysis of materials and data. On the whole, all the papers without exception, are good academic and scientific exercises. Although the form of presentation is satisfactory, the language is not without blemish and spelling mistakes are far too many. Punctuation marks including full stops are missing. The way of quoting references in the text and punctuation connected with same is not consistent and correct. However, one of the papers (pp.157-174) is free from most of these defects. Two of the papers (pp.37-64 & 182-195) do not carry tables though referred to in the text. If these blemishes are ignored, the book contains valuable information on the processes and land forms along the Konkan coast.

This book can be a useful addition to libraries in colleges and universities imparting

education and training in earth sciences and to scientists and researchers dealing with investigations on coasts.

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**RECENT RESEARCHES IN SEDIMENTOLOGY 1993** V. JHINGRAN, (Ed)  
Hindusthan Publishing Corpn., 6, U.B, Jawahar Nagar, DELHI 110007, 213 p.

This volume contains papers selected from among those presented during the VII and VIII Convention of the Indian Association of Sedimentologists held in 1990. The only connecting link among all the papers included is that they all deal with sediments and sedimentary rocks.

The survey of sedimentology in India (V. K Verma, 1-41) brings out the latest thinking on the environments of deposition of stratigraphic units in Vindhya, Gondwanas and Siwaliks. The papers by Rajendra Singh (42-53), Diwaker Singh *et al* (54-62) and Yamuna Singh and Dharendra Kumar (103-113) deal directly or indirectly with uranium mineralisation in some of the sedimentary rocks in India. The contributions by Raiverman on Siwalik Conglomerates (114-129) and Arora and Khan on Talchir tillite and sandstones (72-92) are excellent examples of how a very detailed study of different parameters of sediments and their analyses can throw light on palaeodrainage in one case and tectonic setting in the other. That subtle variations in the environments of deposition can be reasonably predicted is brought out well in the studies of Bhandar limestone by Yamuna Singh and Dubey (130-140) and modern sediments in three bays off Ratnagiri in the west coast by Victor Rajamanickam and Gujar (154-164). The rest of the papers deal with studies on texture, heavy minerals and environments of deposition of some of the ancient and modern sediments.

This volume is bound to be of interest to scholars working in the field of sedimentology as the papers cover some of the types of studies that can be undertaken in the field and methodologies usually adopted in analysing field and laboratory data.

R. V

**THE STORY OF WIND ENERGY 1993**, By D. Chandra, Dev Sahitya  
Kutir Private Ltd., 21, Jhamapukur lane, Calcutta - 700 009, 32p. Rs.24.00

Though the author was an eminent teacher of the properties and occurrence of coal, one of the most commonly used form of conventional energy, it is praiseworthy that he has undertaken to advance the cause of less known non-conventional renewable forms of energy. Earlier contributions have been on solar energy and water energy.

The present booklet deals in brief about wind energy, the history of its development and use in other countries and the areas where this can be profitably harnessed. Sketches and photographs have been included to explain the principles and possible mode of use. Unfortunately in India, harnessing this form of energy is yet to make a beginning. This neatly got up publication is a good introduction to this form of energy.

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