

these recommendations are worth following. The final chapter (chapter 14) discusses the future of environmental analysis regarding the ecosystem, public health and analytical approach. This chapter provides an opportunity for the readers to get a glimpse of the end of analytics, considering the developments in the field.

Overall, this book has many positives and a few negatives. Some of the negatives are: (a) due to the monotonous style, the book feels like a compilation of information from various sources; (b) certain topics are covered with too many surveys that run into several pages without any subheads that would have made reading comfortable (e.g. chapter 6, Raman spectroscopy), and (c) some illustrations are simple and find no relevance (e.g. figures 5.1, 9.1 and 12.1). These shortcomings raise doubts regarding the target audience – students versus researchers.

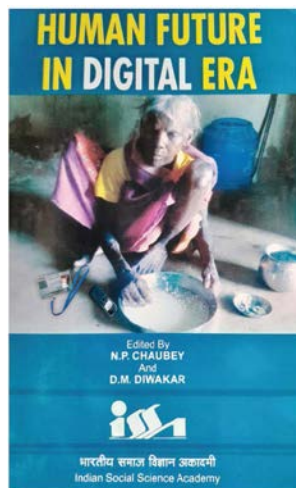
The many positive features are as follows:

- The book gives a general outline of the various techniques for analysing pollutants.
- It presents a futuristic view of environmental analysis and introduces many new topics such as nanoparticles-based environmental analysis and green chemistry.
- Each selected case is explained with schematic diagrams and a robust literature survey (typically more than 70 per chapter), which help the students and researchers to take to further reading.
- The illustrations are simple, self-exploratory and aid in explaining the principles of the techniques.

This can be a helpful resource/reference book for graduate and postgraduate students, research scholars and teachers in environmental science and environmental engineering. Additionally, some selected chapters can be standalone reading material for life science and pharmaceutical science students (e.g. chromatography and green chemistry practices in the laboratory). We recommend this book to libraries of all colleges and universities where environmental science and technology courses are offered.

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Human Future in Digital Era. N. P. Chaubey and D. M. Diwakar (eds). Indian Social Science Academy, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bengaluru. 2022. xiv + 382 pages. Price: Paper back – Rs 500; Hard bound – Rs 800.

Today, most of us in the developed and developing world depend on digital technologies in our daily lives directly or indirectly. It is because these digital technologies have made our lives easier, faster or more efficient. Most urban children are addicted to digital technology and are familiar with social media, smartphones, tablets and internet use. Digital technology is deeply embedded in the way they live and learn. Our smart cities are increasingly dependent on digital technologies like Big Data, the internet of things (IoT) and digital sensors. In 2017, 27 billion devices were connected using IoT. This number is expected to increase to 125 billion by 2030. IoT is an interlacing web of ‘smart’, physical devices that can be powered on, connected to the internet, and often connected to one another. For society, these devices can include anything from light bulbs to mobile phones, smart TVs, security systems, e-bikes, e-cars, self-driving cars, etc. IoT also exists outside the consumer world. Healthcare, manufacturing, financial services, transportation, telecommunication and other industries connect smart devices to the internet and with each other to power analytics, artificial intelligence and automation. However, there are still many examples of unsuccessful smart devices, like internet-based smart heating systems in cold countries. There is a debate as to whether the digital era contributes significantly to laziness and lethargy and increases health hazards such as obesity and diabetes. At the same time, it

provides relief from the burdens of running errands and doing unnecessarily labour-intensive work. There is also a perception that people are being made redundant as artificial intelligence (AI) is replacing human capital. But the mass unemployment that could arise as a result of replacement is certainly controversial. The replacement of humans with technology is almost always viewed with scepticism. This debate is covered to some extent in this edited volume of 358 pages.

This volume is based on the selected papers which had been presented at the 42nd Indian Social Science Congress (27–31 December 2018) at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar, India, and released at the 45th Indian Social Science Congress in Chennai as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – the celebration of 75th year of our Independence. The cover page of this edited volume is a photo of a starving lady Mrs Amwa Kunwar – an 80 years old lady with a mobile phone and an identity card. There are some interesting articles by well-known academicians like Vinod K. Gaur, Ashok Jain, B. C. Tripathi, Santosh Kar, S. C. Lakhotia, M. P. Terrence Samuel on the development of the digital era in our country and their positive effects on humans for sustainable growth and development. Ashok Jain has reviewed the development and growth of digitization and its impact on our country’s development. There is a possibility of India emerging as a global leader in digital technology, with phenomenal growth in economic and social wealth in general and tremendous growth in the rural economy. A few articles discuss the challenges of digitization on the possible cyber threat, financially fraudulent transactions, paid news and publicity.

This book consists of edited, selected invited manuscripts before the COVID-19 era. Nowhere else has unprecedented and unforeseen growth occurred, as in the digital and e-commerce sectors, which have boomed amid the COVID-19 crisis. COVID-19 has led to a surge in e-commerce and accelerated digital transformation. As lockdowns became the new normal, businesses and consumers increasingly ‘went digital’. Goods and services were provided and purchased more online, raising e-commerce’s share of global retail trade from 14% in 2019 to about 17% in 2020. There is a nice lesson taught by the COVID-19 pandemic period, ‘developing countries should not only be consumers but also be active players and thus producers of the digital global economy’. The prime example

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is the tremendous growth of online education system, online seminars and online conferences across continents. Our Government and funding agencies have saved the international travel expenditure. School children must attend online sessions using Zoom links, with teachers assigned to them. However, an inequality arose among urban and rural students as the latter students do not have modern internet or smart mobile facilities. The digital era also improved routine health care and medical research. These technologies range from primary data collection to digital health records. There has been increased use of such health technologies during the COVID-19 pandemic, driven in part by the availability of these data, which has helped improve the understanding of our country's socio-economic conditions.

Modern digital technologies are already profusely used in all energy end-use sectors. More and more residential and commercial buildings are now equipped with smart appliances and intelligent energy management systems. Now digital techno-

logies have been exploited to optimize the energy used in many energy-using activities: from constructing an industrial product to cooling a home.

Among 31 review articles published in this edited volume, the negative and positive effects of the digital era on society are discussed. Some of these articles highlight that social media and mobile devices may lead to psychological and physical issues, such as eye strain and difficulty focusing on important tasks. Possible ill effects may contribute to more serious health conditions such as depression, obesity, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and premature death.

Should there be a second edition of this book, they may like to consider the following suggestions: (1) References in all chapters should follow a uniform style; (2) The author index should include only contributing authors; (3) Pages 381 and 382 must be removed or merged with the subject index. The preface written by the Editors have many typos (e.g. the name of our former Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha

Rao has been typed as P. V. Narsingha Rao. Manmohan Singh should have been Dr Manmohan Singh). These casual omissions by the Editors in the Preface should be ignored by the readers.

This book is relevant as it discusses contemporary issues like the Digital-India programme, which was founded by the Government of India with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, and promote inclusive growth that covers electronic services, products, devices and job opportunities. This book costs only Rs 500 which makes it possible for even a young student to buy. It is an excellent tribute to the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

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