

FUNDAMENTALS OF HISTORICAL GEOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHY OF INDIA
by Ravindra Kumar. Published by Wiley Eastern Limited, New Delhi, 254 Pages,
Price Rs. 25.00.

A large amount of new data in the field of Indian Stratigraphy has emerged from the identification of new fossils in horizons considered earlier as nonfossiliferous. Also data from geochronological techniques have been added. In view of this, a new book on Indian Stratigraphy will be very valuable for graduate, post-graduate and research students.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part deals with elements of historical geology, while the second part elaborates on the stratigraphy of India. The two parts are spread over eleven chapters. The first Chapter gives a general introduction to the subject and a brief historical review of various concepts from Uniformitarianism to Plate Tectonics, and the history of geological investigations in India. The second Chapter deals with criteria adopted for stratigraphic classification and correlation, standard stratigraphic and time-scale, and absolute age of rocks. Chapter 3 incorporates an understanding of the marine and the continental basins and palaeogeographic and palaeotectonic reconstructions. After the first three Chapters dealing with the elements of the subject, the Earth's crustal structure and the tectonic divisions of India are discussed in Chapter 4.

The stratigraphy of India is discussed in Part 2 covering Chapter 5 to Chapter 11. The author gives a balanced view on the controversial aspects of several formations of Indian stratigraphy. He has also made a good attempt at presenting the tectonic history of different regions. Since the author has considerable personal experience in the geology of the Himalaya, that part has been discussed well. The palaeontology of different regions has been incorporated but palynological studies has been neglected although in many parts of the Himalaya and in the Gondwana sequence important contributions have been made through palynological studies.

The book gives a bibliography of selected references. An author index would have greatly facilitated many users. The printing in general is good except for occasional errors of proof reading. The book is reasonably priced and is well within the reach of students who will find it extremely useful for their course purposes.

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A TEXT BOOK ON INVERTEBRATE PALAEOONTOLOGY. By S. K. Chadha. Publishers : Malhotra Bros., Pacca Danga, Jammu, Price Rs. 14-00

The book features an introductory chapter projecting the definition and scope of the subject in all its related spheres, followed by nine chapters, each dealing with an Invertebrate Phylum. Since Palaeontology forms a part of the courses in Earth Sciences as well as in all life sciences, this reasonably well written book is a good attempt at dealing with the Invertebrate fossils in detail. It would be a valuable source book for graduate and post-graduate students of Indian Universities, particularly because the author has drawn examples from Indian fauna. However, it is felt that the contents of the book lack an evolutionary treatment, so necessary for the biologist. The illustrations too could have been improved considerably to provide a better insight into the subject. Probably, the author being a geologist himself, on a priority has catered to the needs of Earth Scientists. Indeed it is believed that the book would be well received both by the academic community and by the general reader to realise the intricacies of the discipline.