

## High Resolution Facies Record on Late Holocene Flood Plain Sediments from Lower Reaches of Narmada Valley, Western India

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**Abstract:** A high resolution quantitative granulometric record for site Uchediya [21°43'2.22" N, 73° 6'26.22" E; 10 m a. s. l.] gives understanding towards accretion history of the late Holocene flood plain in the lower reaches of Narmada River. Two sediment facies (sandy and muddy) and seven subfacies (sandy subfacies:  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$ ,  $Sm_{FS+MS}$ ,  $Sl_{FS+VFS}$  and  $St_{MS+CS}$ ; muddy subfacies:  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$ ,  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  (O) and  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  (T)) are identified based on cluster analysis supplemented with sedimentary structures observed in field and other laboratory data. Changes in hydrodynamics are further deduced based on various sedimentological parameters and their ratios leading to arrive at a depositional model.

**Keywords:** Lower reaches of Narmada valley, Late Holocene, Sedimentology, Sediment facies, Hydrology.

### RATIONALE, STUDY AREA AND BACKGROUND

Continental response to a climate change is best achieved through multi-faceted studies on various landforms in the river flood plains. The changes in both landforms and the sediment characteristics have long been used as an indication for climate change (Reid and Frostick, 1997; Nanson and Tooth, 1999; Knox, 2000; Macklin et al. 2002; Macklin and Lewin, 2003). Lower reaches of Narmada River (LrNR) expose a very conspicuous pair of landforms namely, the palaeobank extending from town Rajpardi in east towards the mouth of river Narmada in west, for almost 33 km (Bedi and Vaidyanadhan, 1982) and the late Holocene flood plain (chronology bracket from Raj and Yadava, 2009: ~1950 ± 90 to 1280 ± 70 yrs BP) that developed adjacent to palaeobank (Fig.1). The present study focuses on the late Holocene flood plain, along the present Narmada River. This river flows (on an average) 8 m below this late Holocene flood plain throughout most of the year except during monsoon flood periods, when the flood water submerges the Holocene surface and adjacent palaeobank becomes active. The majority of the surface is used for agriculture, whereas villages are located high above over palaeobank.

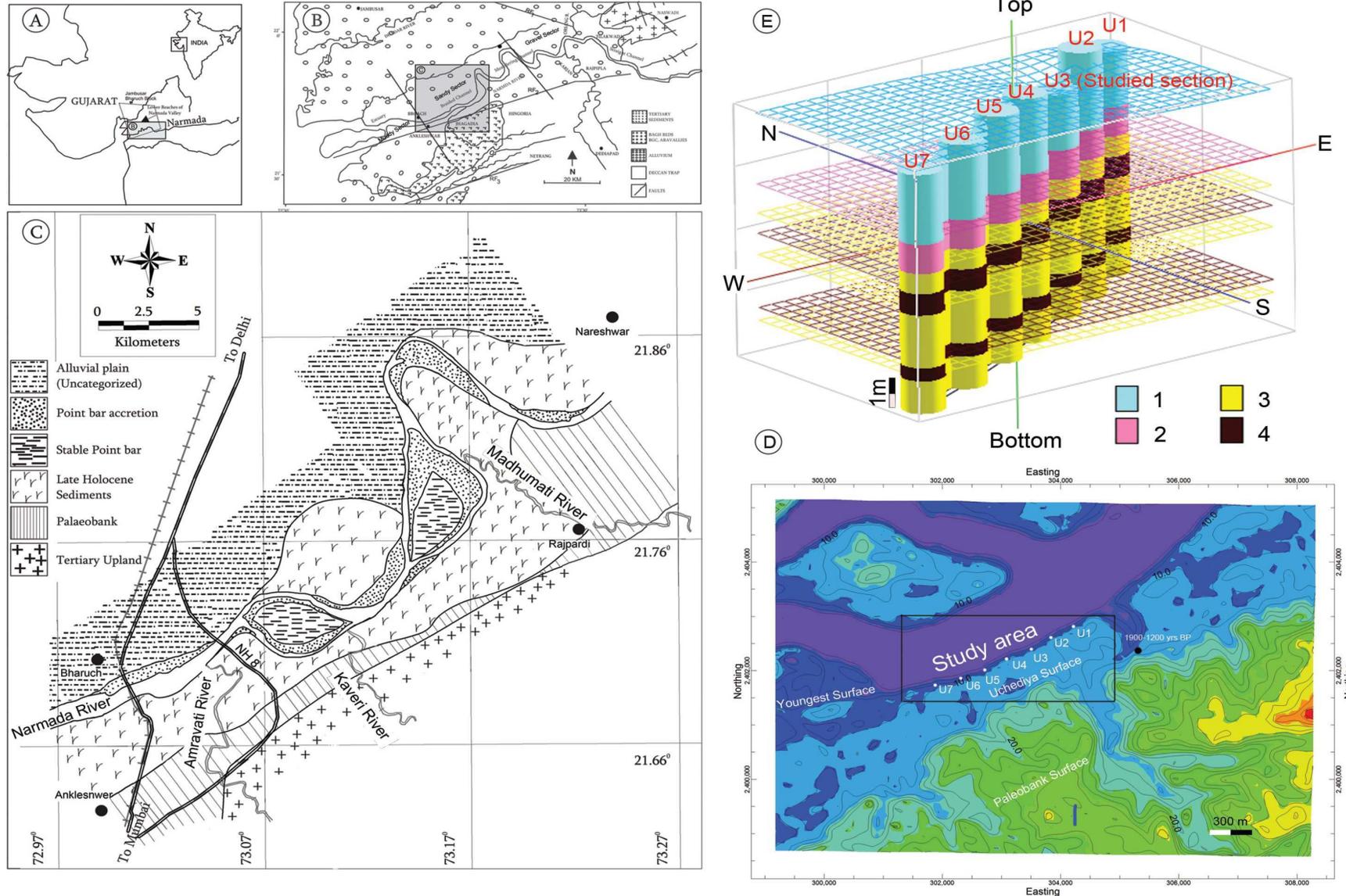
The LrNR has been investigated through various perspectives namely, general geomorphology (Wainwright, 1964; Allchin and Hegde, 1969; Gadekar et al. 1981; Bedi and Vaidyanadhan, 1982; Sant and Karanth, 1988; Ganapathi

and Pandey, 1991; Sant and Karanth, 1993; Sant, 1999); Quaternary stratigraphy (Chamyal and Merh, 1992; Bhandari et al. 2005); volcanic ash (Raj, 2008); alluvial fans (Chamyal et al. 1994; Chamyal et al. 1997); neotectonics (Chamyal et al. 2002; Raj et al. 2003; Raj, 2007; Raj and Yadava, 2009) and radiocarbon chronology (Raj and Yadava, 2009: ~1950±90 to 1280±70 Years BP; cal BP 1924 to cal BP 1172 for intercalated silty sandy and clay sequence near Uchediya village along bank of river Kaveri). However the late Holocene sedimentary sequence in this area lacks a systematic sedimentological analysis.

In the present paper we discuss high resolution granulometric data as well as various statistical parameters calculated from these records, supplemented with inputs from field (nature of facies contacts and sedimentary structures) and other laboratory data (foraminifera record) from a representative site Uchediya [21°43'2.22" N, 73° 6'26.22" E; 10 m a.s.l.] west of Kaveri River along the bank of River Narmada. The quantitative record is further used to identify sediment facies, depositional environment, hydrological characters and changes that occurred through sediments aggradation.

### GEOMORPHOLOGY

The course of River Narmada downstream of the dam at



**Fig.1.** Geomorphology and location map of the study area. (A) Geographic location with reference to India; (B) Regional geology and structural features of Lower reaches of Narmada valley modified after Sant (1991); (C) Detailed geomorphology of the study area (modified after Bedi and Vaidhyadnan, 1982); (D) Digital elevation model for the Late Holocene and palaeobank surfaces (U1 to U7 represent the sites of lateral mapping); (E) Lateral mapping of the Late Holocene sequence deciphering a near horizontal lithounits; wire line indicate the possible extension of the sediment contacts. 1, 2, 3 and 4 indicates visually distinguishable sedimentary units.

Kevadiya is identified as LrNR. The LrNR is divided into three segments based on dominance of present day channel sediments namely, gravelly channel (Kevadiya to Chanod), sandy channel (Chanod to Bharuch) and muddy channel (from Bharuch up to river mouth) (Fig.1B). The Palaeobank and late Holocene flood plain are the two well-developed landforms in the sandy sector and then extending into the muddy sector with diminishing elevation difference (Fig.1D). The late Holocene flood plain is flat and gently dips in the northerly direction. The plain is incised by transverse flowing Narmada tributaries (Madumati River, Kaveri River and Amravati River) (Fig.1C). These tributaries become defunct soon after they enter late Holocene flood plain that emerges across the palaeobank. The exposed section along these tributaries and river Narmada gives an opportunity to map the extension of sediments laterally (Fig.1E).

### METHODOLOGY

A systematic survey was carried out over the late Holocene flood plain for a stretch of 2.4 km along river Narmada and 700 m transverse along river Kaveri (a tributary) covering an area of about 1.68 sq. km (Fig.1E). The surface detail of the landform was deciphered using digital elevation models supplemented with field checks and subsurface information was deciphered using a shallow seismic study (Sukumaran et al. 2011) that utilized ambient noise. A representative site Uchediya was selected along the channel of Narmada (21°43'2.22" N, 73° 6'26.22" E; 10 m a.s.l.). High resolution studies were carried out in the cut-open trench over four benches across the 802 cm vertical profile. Each trench was approximately 200 cm in length and 50 cm in width; cut vertically along plumb line (Fig.2A). The trench was further dressed and cleaned so as to record field based sedimentological details (sedimentary facies, their transition and sedimentary structures) followed by continuous sampling at 2 cm interval. 401 samples were collected in 2 sets. One set packed in bottles was used for analysis, whereas the other set packed in aluminum foil in plastic bags was preserved as an undisturbed library sample.

Granulometric analysis was carried out for all 401 samples adopting the well-established sieve and pipette method (Folk, 1974; Syvitski, 2007; Cheetham et al. 2008). A hundred gram split of each sample was separated from the total sample by the method of conning and quartering. These samples were treated with dilute HCl and 6% hydrogen peroxide followed by washing with distilled water to remove carbonate and organic matter from the sample. After washing and cleaning, samples were subjected to wet sieving through 63 µm sieve to separate silt and clay

sediments. After separation, > 63 µm and < 63 µm particles were dried and packed in separate aluminum foils. More than 63 µm sediments were then run in sieve shaker using sieves of 1000 µm, 400 µm, 250 µm, 210 µm, 149 µm, 125 µm, 105 µm, 88 µm, 74 µm and 63 µm. Each fraction was then collected separately and packed separately in air tight bags after being weighed in an electronic weighing balance.

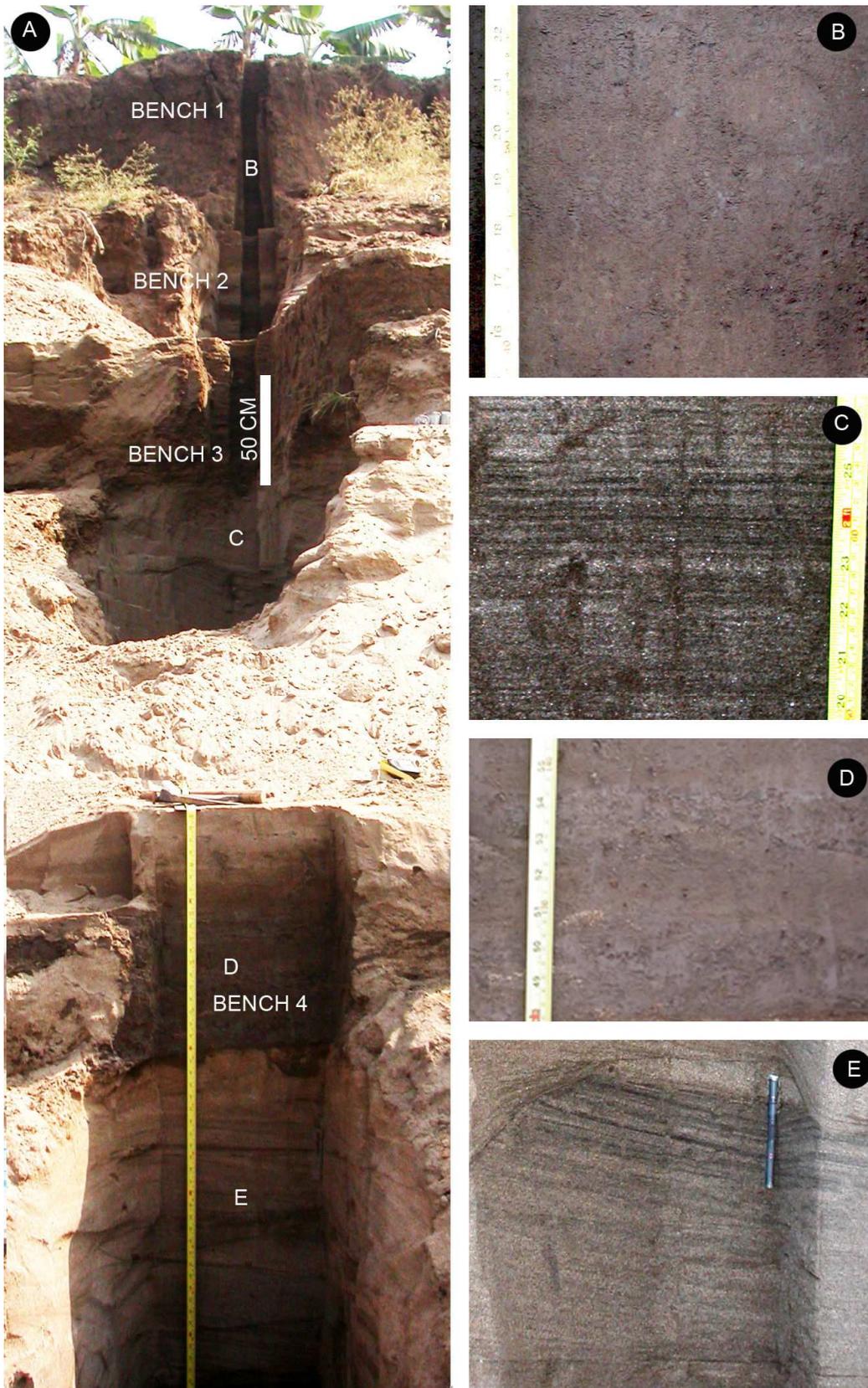
Ten grams of processed (< 63 µm) sediments was taken from the wet sieved fraction of the total sediment for pipette analysis. These processed samples were added into the cylinder along with some amount of distilled water and 1 ml of 10% cologne solution to make the total to 1000 ml. This was left overnight with stirring occasionally, so that the sediment disintegrated completely. The experimental cylinder was then put in a water bath to maintain a uniform temperature throughout the experiment. After stirring the cylinder vigorously for 2-3 minutes, pipette samples were drawn according to the time calculated (using Stock's law) for a given temperature. After calculation of each fraction, total weight of different fractions of each sample was normalized to 100 grams.

### SEDIMENT FACIES

The sediment facies and their subfacies were analyzed using a statistical approach supplemented with sedimentological observation in field (largely following after Friend et al. 1986; Friend et al. 1979; Martinius, 2000). Grain size data of Uchediya sequence (401 samples) was initially processed using cluster analysis. Each cluster was quantitatively determined, compared, evaluated and supplemented with field base details. Each cluster is referred to as sediment subfacies in this paper (Figs.3, 4 and 5). The nomenclature of sediment subfacies is based on the abundance of grain size and primary sedimentary structures in line with litho-facies classification after Martins (1965), Friedman (1967), Jackson (1975), Miall (1978, 1985), Friend et al. (1979), Friend et al. (1986) and Martinius (2000). In the present study, the 802 cm thick Uchediya sequence was classified into two broad sedimentary facies namely sandy facies (68%) and muddy facies (32%). Each of the facies was sub divided into subfacies based on cluster analysis of granulometric data. The sediment subfacies were supplemented with other supporting records on composition and micro faunal assemblages at certain depths to resolve intricacies within subfacies.

#### Sandy Facies

The sandy facies is the most dominant facies (68%)



**Fig.2.** Field photographs showing (A) trench section and sedimentary structures. (B) Massive fine facies ( $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(O)$ ), (C) Laminated sand facies ( $Sl_{FS+VFS}$ ), (D) Massive Fine ( $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(T)$ ) and (E) Trough cross bedded sand facies ( $St_{MS+CS}$ ).

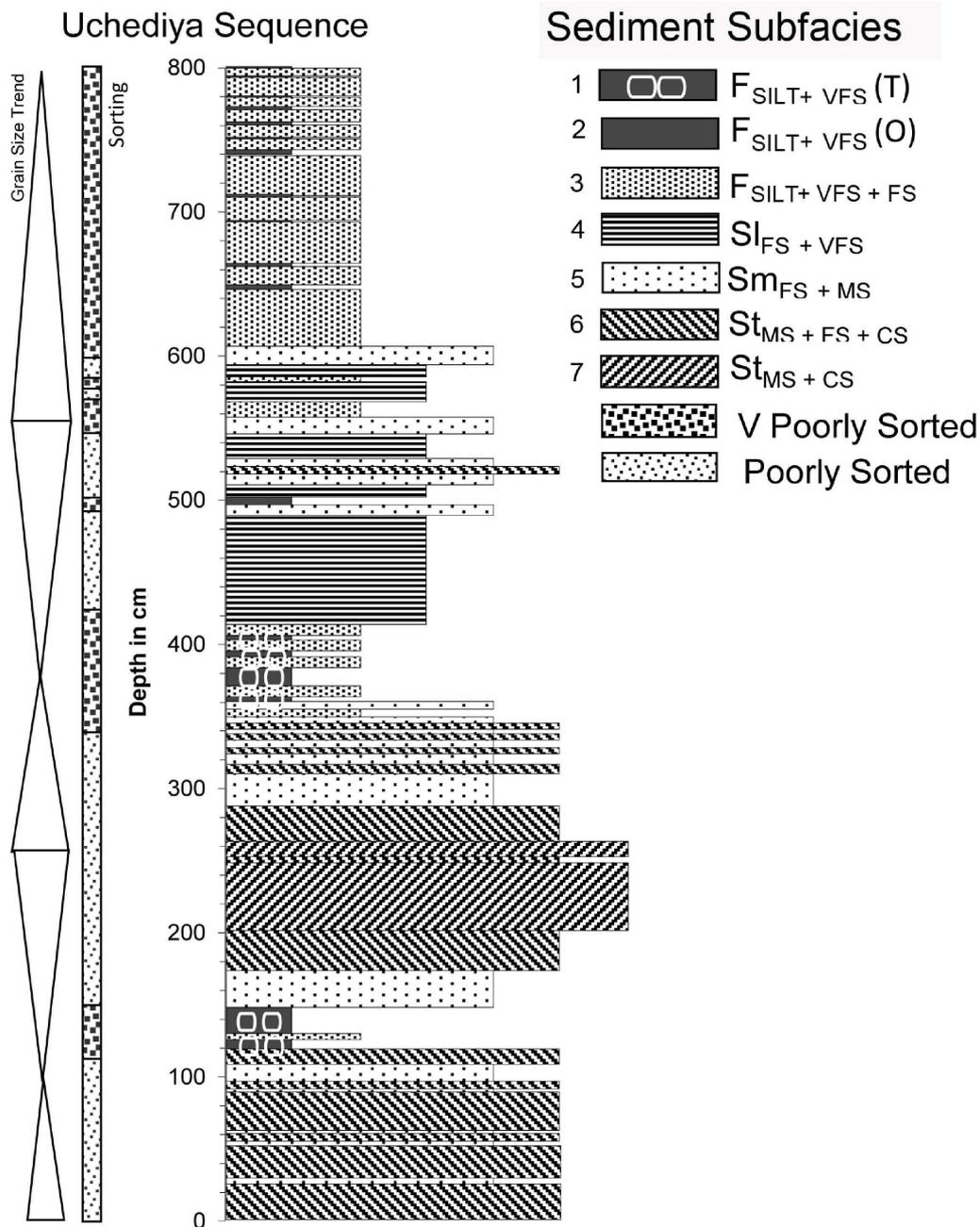
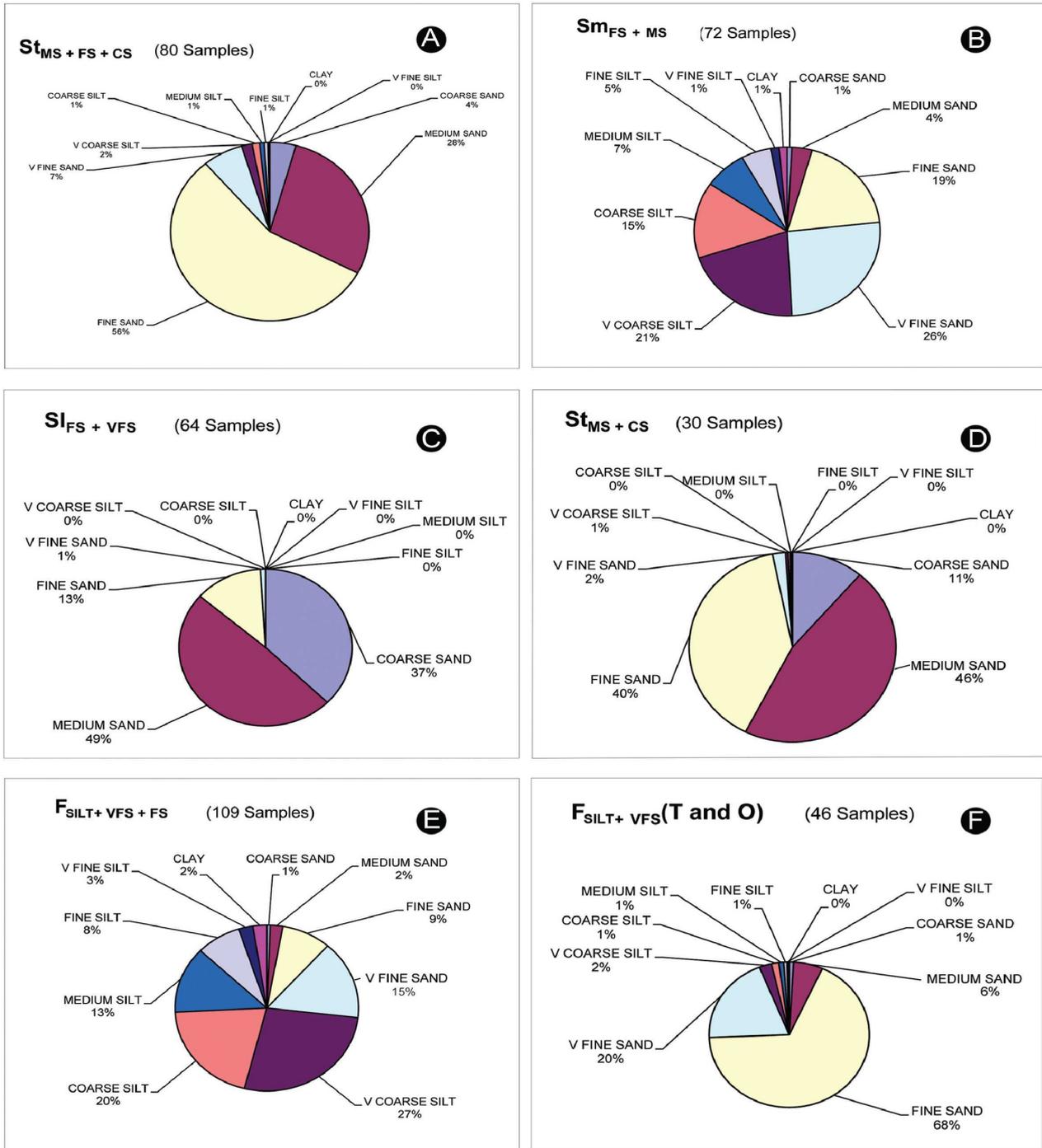


Fig.3. Litholog of Uchediya sequence showing different sedimentary subfacies and their associations.

exposed along the Uchediya sequence. This facies was inferred based on data from 247 samples. The sandy facies shows both laminae and trough-shaped cross bedding structures (Fig.2E). The sandy facies is further subdivided into four subfacies namely,  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  (32%),  $Sm_{FS+MS}$  (29%)  $SI_{FS+VFS}$  (26%), and  $St_{MS+CS}$  (13%). where the notation SI refers to laminated sand; Sm to massive and St to trough-shaped cross bedded components and the subscripts represent grain size (fine sand, very fine sand, medium sand and coarse sand). Overall, the sandy facies is poorly sorted

(sorting ranges from 1.26 to 2) and show modality from bimodal to unimodal distribution.

$St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies (10YR 5/4 to 10YR 4/3) are decoded by analyzing around 80 samples. The subfacies constitutes 32% of total sandy facies (Fig.4A). The subfacies show trough-shaped cross bedding with basalt pebbles seen occasionally along the trough cross. This subfacies is seen prominently in the lower portion of the sequence from the base to 120 cm. The high resolution analysis shows that the  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies is sub divided into a number of units by

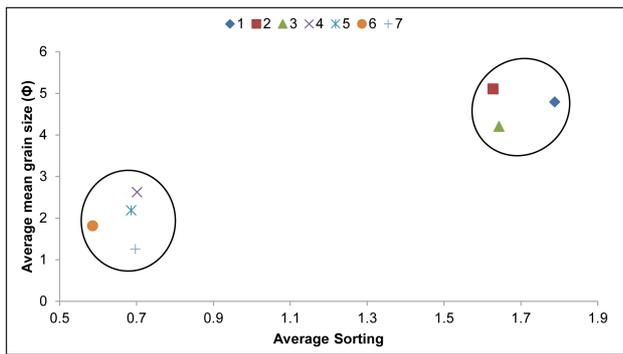


**Fig.4.** Pie diagram showing average values of sand, silt and clay percentage variation in each sedimentary subfacies.

intercalation of thin (few centimeters to 10 cm) units of  $St_{FS+MS}$  subfacies and thick (50 cm) units of  $St_{MS + CS}$  subfacies.  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies are moderately well sorted showing unimodal, symmetrical and platykurtic distribution.

$Sm_{FS+MS}$  subfacies (10YR 5/4 to 10YR 3/3) was inferred based on analysis of 72 samples and comprises 29% of sandy

facies (Fig.4B).  $Sm_{FS+MS}$  subfacies are massive in nature and occur as an intercalating suite from base of the sequence up to 210 cm in the sequence. The facies become prominent in the range 150 cm to 168 cm and 290 cm to 310 cm from the base. Sediment units with  $Sm_{FS+MS}$  subfacies vary in thickness from a few centimeters to a maximum of 20 cm.  $Sm_{FS+MS}$  subfacies are moderately sorted, showing



**Fig.5.** Plot of average sorting against averaged mean grain size of individual facies clearly shows clustering of two groups. Numbers 1 to 7 indicate the facies code as in Fig.3, Fig.4 and in additional material (Table 1).

unimodal, fine skewed and very leptokurtic distribution.

$SI_{FS+VFS}$  subfacies was inferred from analysis of 64 samples and comprises 26% of the sandy facies (Fig.4C).  $SI_{FS+VFS}$  subfacies (10YR 5/4 to 10YR 4/5) are laminated and is seen restricted to the central portion of the sequence between 415 cm to 485 cm. The subfacies also occurs as an intercalating suite alternate with its coarser equivalents from depth of 500 cm to 590 cm.  $SI_{FS+VFS}$  subfacies are moderately sorted showing bimodal nature skewed towards very fine classes (80%) and leptokurtic (61%).

$St_{MS+CS}$  subfacies (10YR 5/4 to 10YR 4/3) was inferred from analysis of 30 samples respectively and comprises 13% of sandy facies (Fig.4D).  $St_{MS+CS}$  subfacies also shows trough-shaped cross bedding identified occurring within the  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies as a coarser fraction from 200 cm to 245 cm.  $St_{MS+CS}$  subfacies differs from  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies in that it has a very platykurtic distribution curve.

**Muddy Facies**

The muddy facies are the second dominant facies (32%) exposed along the Uchediya sequence. The facies was inferred based on data from 154 samples. The muddy facies

shows both massive and laminated components. Overall the muddy facies are very poorly sorted (sorting ranges from 3.1 to 3.3). Based on the quantitative analysis of grain size data and association of primary structures, the muddy facies is further subdivided into two subfacies namely,  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}$  and  $Fl_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  where Fm stands for massive muddy facies; Fl for laminated muddy facies; and subscripts represent dominance of grain size (silt, very fine sand and fine sand).  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  facies are poorly sorted showing bimodal to trimodal very fine skewed, platykurtic distribution. However the facies can be subdivided into  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}$  (O) and  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}$  (T) subfacies based on the presence (T) or absence (O) of microfossil assemblage at different levels (Sukumaran et al. *accepted*).

$Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  subfacies (10YR 4/4 to 10YR 4/3) was inferred from analysis of 109 samples respectively (Fig.4E) comprising 71% of the muddy facies. The  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  subfacies dominates in the sequence from 605 cm to 802 cm (top). A single unit varies from a maximum of 35 cm to a few centimeters. The subfacies unit thins consistently towards the top

$Fm_{SILT+VFS}$  subfacies (10YR 4/4 to 10YR 4/3) was decoded from analysis of 46 samples comprising 29% of muddy facies (Fig.4F).  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}$  subfacies units are well developed at depths from 120 cm to 145 cm, 360 cm to 410 cm, 495 cm to 500 cm and 605 cm to 802 cm.  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}$  subfacies occur as a thin intercalating unit with  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  subfacies from 605 cm to 802 cm and vice versa at depths between 120 cm to 145 cm and 360 cm to 410 cm. Based on the presence or absence of foraminiferal assemblages we further classify  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  subfacies into  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  (O) and  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  (T) representing overbank and tidal conditions respectively.

**Palaeohydrology**

The sedimentary facies are represented by a suite of samples with similar textural characteristics. The textural

**Table 1.** Equations and terminologies used in the present paper

Mean	Sorting ( $\sigma_1$ )	Skewness ( $SK_1$ )		Kurtosis ( $K_G$ )		
$\frac{\phi_{16} + \phi_{50} + \phi_{84}}{3}$	$\frac{\phi_{16} + \phi_{50} + \phi_{84}}{3}$	$\frac{\phi_{16} + \phi_{84} - 2\phi_{50}}{2(\phi_{84} - \phi_{16})} + \frac{\phi_{50} + \phi_{95} - 2\phi_{50}}{2(\phi_{95} - \phi_{50})}$		$\frac{\phi_{95} - \phi_{5}}{2.44(\phi_{75} - \phi_{25})}$		
	Very well sorted	<0-3.5	Very fine skewed	+0.3 to +1.0	Very platykurtic	<0.67
	Well sorted	0.35-0.50	Fine skewed	+1.0 to +0.3	Platykurtic	0.67-0.90
	Moderately well sorted	0.5- 0.70	Symmetrical	+0.1 to -0.1	Mesokurtic	0.90-1.11
	Moderately sorted	0.70- 1.00	Coarse skewed	-0.1 to -0.3	Leptokurtic	1.11-1.50
	Poorly sorted	1.0-2.00	Very coarse skewed	-0.3 to -1.0	Very leptokurtic	1.50-3.00
	Very poorly sorted	2.00- 4.00			Extremely leptokurtic	>3.00
Extremely poorly sorted	>4					

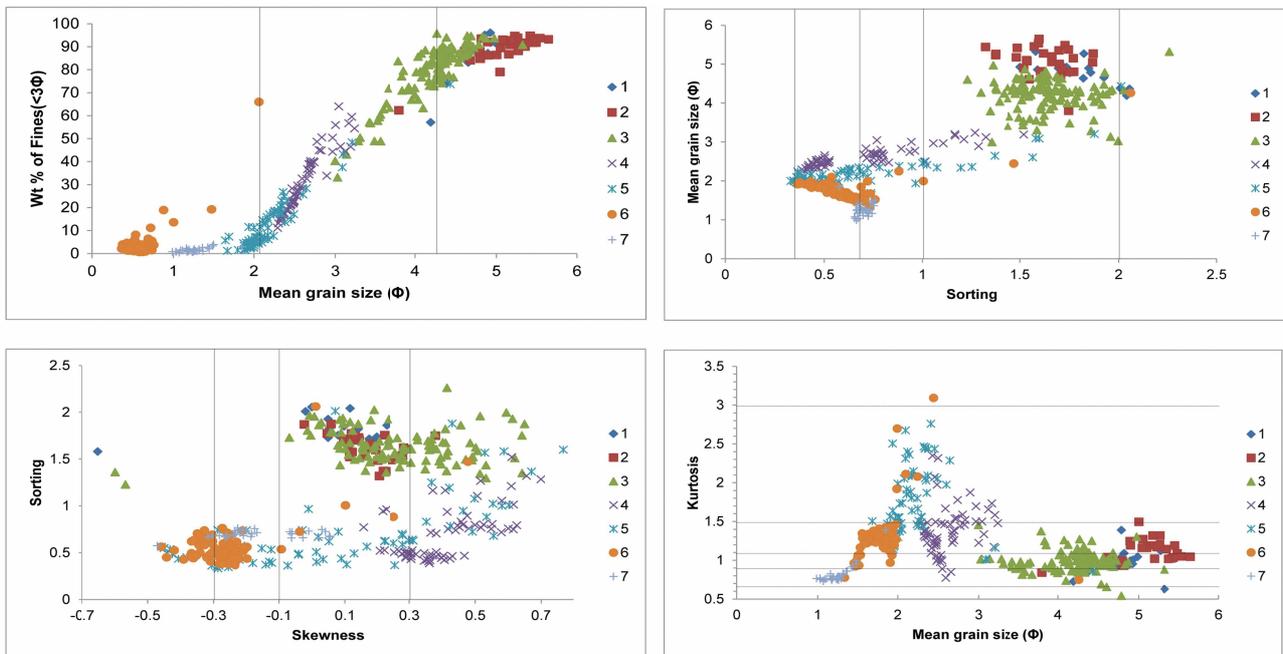
parameters for 401 samples (additional material Table 1; can be requested from the author) were determined using GRADISTAT v6 statistical package (Blott and Pye, 2001) using descriptive terminology for the size distribution after Friedman and Sanders, (1978) and the equations by original Folk and Ward (1957; Table 1). The grain size distribution in a sedimentary sequence gives quantitative textural characteristic for suites of facies. Various statistical parameters further capture the mechanism of sediment transport, the environment of deposition and its changes (Krumbein, 1934; Passega, 1964; Sahu, 1964; Folk, 1966; Friedman, 1967; Doeglas, 1968; Visher, 1969; Guerzoni et al, 1996; Pandey et al. 2002; Richard et al. 2005; Purkait, 2006; Bartholdy et al. 2007; Ren and Packman, 2007; Cheetham et al. 2008; Goossens, 2008; Poizot et al. 2008; Brandon et al. 2009; Buscombe and Masselink, 2009; Citterio and Piegay, 2009; Oldfield et al. 2009; Hajek et al. 2010).

In this section, we discuss and synthesize various such statistical parameters viz., mean, overall sorting, sorting within weight percentage of tails of fines ( $4\phi$  and finer), kurtosis and skewness after Tenner (2007b). These are further plotted on bivariate diagrams for suitable interpretation. These diagrams capture hydrodynamics, sediment supply, trapping and other dynamical conditions. We use various diagrams to differentiate transporting agencies, transitions from one agency to another, change in energy conditions, and sediment contribution from outside

systems. In view of the bimodal and polymodal sediments in the different facies, the statistical parameters were used only for the relative variation of the sediment characteristics.

### Bivariate Plots

The plot of mean phi sizes versus weight percentage for  $< 3\phi$  ( $0.125\mu\text{m}$ ) sediments (Fig.6A) is similar to segmented cumulative frequency curve, in which each distinct facies is transported by a particular mechanism such as suspension load (muddy facies); saltation (muddy and sandy facies) and traction (sandy facies). The plot show systematic transition of facies from leading, flat upper segment to central steeper segment to trailing flat segment.  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}$  (T) that leads the upper segment is followed by  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}$  (O) suggesting that subfacies were deposited under the suspension mode. The subfacies  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$ , falls at the transition of upper and steeper segment of the S curve showing that at least part of subfacies were deposited through suspension and saltation.  $Sl_{FS+VFS}$ , and  $Sm_{FS+MS}$ , fall along the bottom portion of steeper segment suggesting that at least part of the sediment was deposited through saltation and traction.  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  and  $St_{MS+CS}$  fall along the trailing segment indicating sediment transportation under traction. The plot clearly shows the relationship between subfacies and mode of transport and thereby energy conditions at the time of deposition.



**Fig.6.** Bivariate plots of 401 samples used for the characterization of sediments. Numbers 1 to 7 indicate the facies code as in Fig.3, Fig.4 and additional material (Table 1).

The plot between standard deviation in the grain size (sorting) and mean grain size (Fig.6B) differentiates muddy and sandy facies. It shows that compared to sandy facies, muddy facies are poorly to very poorly sorted. Part of subfacies  $Sm_{FS+MS}$  and  $Sl_{FS+VFS}$  falls in the transition region (moderate to poor sorting) between muddy facies and  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  and  $St_{MS+CS}$  subfacies. Similarly the plot of skewness (degree of asymmetry of a frequency) with standard deviation (sorting) clearly differentiates muddy and sandy facies as well as partially differentiates  $Sl_{FS+VFS}$ ,  $Sm_{FS+MS}$ ,  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  and  $St_{MS+CS}$  subfacies (Fig.6C).

A plot of mean grain size with kurtosis (degree of peakedness) also differentiates between the discussed sediment subfacies. The plot is able to distinguish parts of  $Sm_{FS+MS}$  and  $Sl_{FS+VFS}$  that show very leptokurtic distribution where they are extremely peaked having better sorting at centre then at the tails (Fig.6D).

#### Other Plots

The other five statistical parameters that we considered are difference in standard deviation (S1-S2), difference in kurtosis (K1-K2), mean/ kurtosis ratio (M/K), 1/kurtosis (1/K), standard deviation/kurtosis (S/K). Plotting these parameters against the depth (Fig.7) captures the time line (bottom, oldest; top, youngest) suggesting changes at the time of deposition (Tenner, 2007a).

The plot of S1-S2 with depth suggests distinct changes at 120 cm, 145 cm, 360 cm, 410 cm, 495cm, 565 cm, 585 cm, 605 cm. Additionally, K1-K2 plot identifies changes at 310 cm and 330 cm. Above 605 cm / 610 cm the sequence

identifies 3-5 minor changes. These relative changes correlate with sediment facies contacts.

The plots of M/K, S/K, 1/K signify relative change as well as relative elevation (higher or lower topography) at the time of deposition of sediments. The M/K ratio suggests  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies (Fig.7; from 0 to 120 cm),  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies and  $St_{MS+CS}$  subfacies (Fig.7; from 145 cm to 350 cm) that was deposited at lower elevation. On the other hand,  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}$  (T) subfacies (from 120 cm to 145 cm and 365 cm) and  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}$  (O) subfacies along with  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  subfacies were deposited above 610 cm at a relatively higher elevation within the channel. The subfacies  $Sm_{FS+MS}$  and  $Sl_{FS+VFS}$  that dominate from 410 cm to 600 cm occur at a transition elevation compared to the other discussed sediment facies. The ratios S/K and 1/K further distinguish between  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies and  $St_{MS+CS}$  subfacies suggesting that  $St_{MS+CS}$  subfacies were deposited at a relatively higher elevation than  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies. Possibly, the  $St_{MS+CS}$  subfacies represent accumulation of coarser facies during high energy condition or due to removal of finer sand under high energy conditions.

#### Depositional Model for Uchediya Sequence

The late Holocene sediment sequence (802 cm thick) under present study, along the southern bank of Narmada, west of Kaveri River, near village Uchediya represents a flood plain, the most conspicuous landform that gets submerged in the monsoon season during floods. The sequence comprises suites of seven subfacies that intercalate each other. The suites of subfacies are primarily inferred

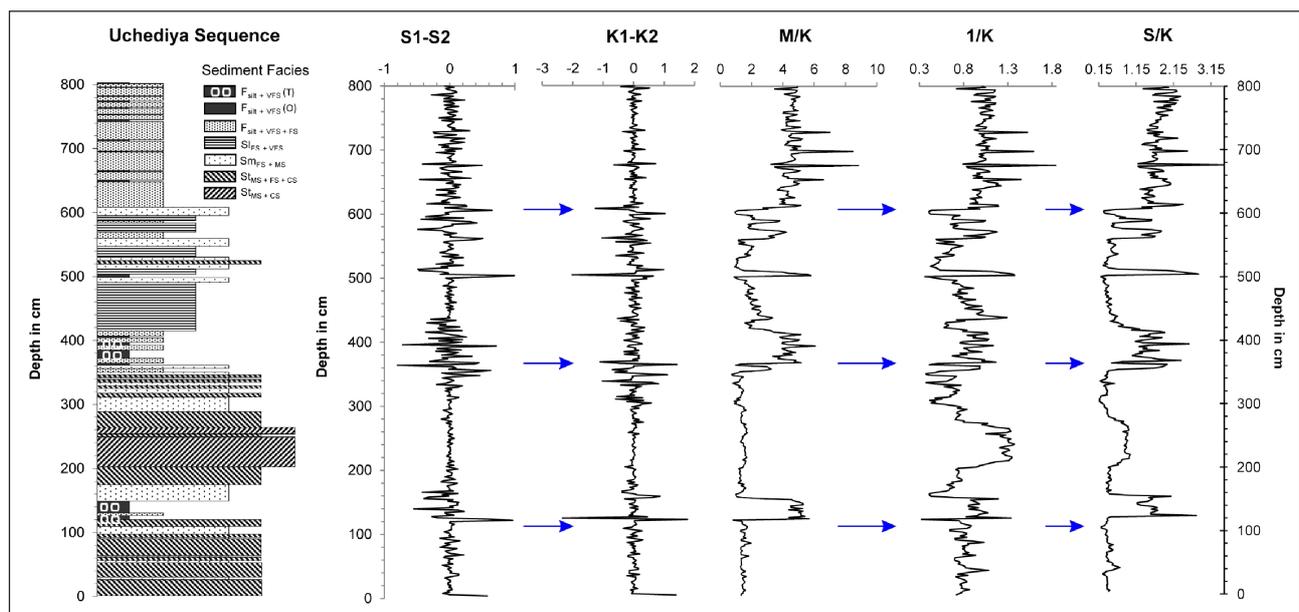


Fig.7. Other plots and its relation to individual facies in a vertical sequence. See text for details.

applying cluster analysis to high resolution granulometric record supplemented with field sedimentological data at same resolution. The subfacies are further distinguished along bivariant asserting hydrodynamics. We plot ratios of few statistical parameters along depth to decipher relative changes and position during deposition. The depositional model for a flood plain is inferred in various phases.

The conditions prior to initiation of sediment deposition are inferred from plots of M/K, S/K and 1/K. The plots suggest the sediments were deposited at relatively lower elevation compared to overlying  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(T)$ . We infer that the  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies were deposited in a shallow channel environment. Cross trough structures and pebbles embedded in them suggest that the sediment was transported under traction as bed load. The shift in the thalweg line exposed the channel bed. High tidal influx deposited  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(T)$  subfacies with a sharp contact to the adjacent previously deposited channel facies. Further changes in channel reinstalled prior channel conditions. Sandwiching of  $St_{MS+CS}$  subfacies within  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  subfacies suggests accumulation of coarser sediment or erosion of finer sediment under flood conditions. Shift in thalweg line changes the permanent channel away from the present site of deposit. Intercalation of  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(T)$  and  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  shows mixed depositional environment such as tidal and overbank flood deposits. Further aggradations resulted in a prominent point bar depositing  $Sl_{FS+VFS}$  subfacies. Interaction of  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(O)$ ,  $Sl_{FS+VFS}$  subfacies and  $Sm_{FS+MS}$  subfacies thereafter suggest point bar accretion and stabilization. Finally the point bar bounded the southern bank of channel during non-monsoonal phases. During monsoons, floods submerged the point bar and deposited  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  subfacies capped with a thin  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(O)$  facies as observed at the present time. Numerous floods over a period accreted 200 m of over-bank deposits. The landform thus accreted bounds the southern bank of present Narmada channel.

### CONCLUSION

1. High resolution quantitative granulometric record

gave a large sample population to decode a suite of sediment facies, subfacies, facies association and facies transitions.

2. The plot of mean phi size and weight percentage, mean size and sorting and mean size and kurtosis indicates the mechanism of transportation of individual facies namely,  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(T)$  and  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(O)$  facies represents a deposition in suspension mode;  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  in both suspension and saltation mode;  $Sl_{FS+VFS}$  and  $Sm_{FS+MS}$  deposited in saltation and traction mode; and  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  and  $St_{MS+CS}$  represents deposition in traction mode.
3. The hydrodynamic conditions for the given suite of sediment facies were derived from mean/ kurtosis ratio (M/K), 1/kurtosis (1/K), standard deviation/kurtosis (S/K) along depth capturing the time line (bottom, oldest; top, youngest) suggesting changes at the time of deposition.  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$ ,  $St_{MS+FS+CS}$  and  $St_{MS+CS}$  were deposited in a lower elevation relative to the water level in a channel;  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(T)$ ,  $Fm_{SILT+VFS}(O)$  and  $Fm_{SILT+VFS+FS}$  facies were deposited at a relative higher elevation within the channel; and  $Sm_{FS+MS}$  and  $Sl_{FS+VFS}$  subfacies have shown a relatively intermediate elevation of the deposition.
4. Landform accretion model is suggested based on the understanding of mode of transportation and relative variation of the elevation of depositions from river channel. The study suggest seven stage multi-process evolutionarily model for aggradation of Late Holocene flood plain in LrNV.

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