

# Geologic control on Geomorphology-A case study from the Pindwara region of southwestern Rajasthan

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**Abstract:** The Delhi Supergroup rocks are an important tectonostratigraphic unit of the Aravalli Mountain Belt which is divided into North Delhi Terrane (NDT) and South Delhi Terrane (SDT). The area of study lies in the southwestern part of SDT, and the rocks exposed are granitic gneiss, quartzite, marble, calc-silicate, and amphibolite's which are intruded by granite, dolerite, pegmatite, quartz, and calcite veins. The granitic gneiss occurs as a basement over which younger meta-sediments lie. Three generations of deformation are present in the area. The Pindwara region forms a sub-peneplain terrane with the granite, metavolcanic, arenaceous metasediments and calc-metasediments, outcropping as linear bands of marble in the west and a large granitic massif in contact with calc-silicate in the east. The rocks around Pindwara are metamorphosed from upper greenschist to lower amphibolite facies. Geomorphic units in the area are high rising steep slope hills, dissected hills, flat topography, linear low-lying hills, residual hills, and V-shaped valleys. The research objective is to determine the relationship between drainage patterns, geomorphic landforms, lithology, and structural pattern in the study area using geomorphological and geological analysis. The result of the study concludes that the geomorphic landforms and drainage of the area are controlled by the lithology and deformational feature.

**Index Terms:** Delhi Supergroup, South Delhi Terrane, Kumbhalgarh Group, Mesoproterozoic, Geomorphic landforms, Drainage pattern, Lithology, Structural pattern.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Mesoproterozoic Delhi Supergroup (DSG) which unconformably overlies the Aravalli Supergroup (ASG) of paleo-Proterozoic has been dated between 1800 and 1000 Ma (Pandit *et al.* 2003, 2011; Singh *et al.* 2010). The Delhi Supergroup (DSG) is divided into two major terranes in terms of their variation in litho-

assemblage, depositional environment, geochronology, deformational pattern, and grade of metamorphism into older North Delhi Terrane (NDT) and younger South Delhi Terrane (SDT) (Crawford 1970; Chowdhury *et al.* 1984; Sinha-Roy 1984; Volpe and Macdougall 1990; Tobisch *et al.* 1994; Deb M. 2001; Pandit 2010; Singh *et al.* 2010; Just *et al.* 2011; Chatterjee *et al.* 2020). The South Delhi Terrane (SDT) exists as a linear belt along the western fringe of the Aravalli Mobile Belt (Heron, 1953; Sen, 1981), and comprises extensive mafic volcanism and local felsic volcanism, argillaceous-arenaceous-carbonate accumulation deposited in shallow-marine to deeper water condition (Deb, and Sarkar 1990).

The rocks of NDT are early Mesoproterozoic in age (1700-1400 Ma) whereas the rocks of SDT are late Mesoproterozoic (1200-1000 Ma) (Mahadani *et al.*, 2013). Gupta *et al.*, (1980) classified the rocks of SDT into two groups i.e., Lower Gogunda and Upper Kumbhalgarh Group where the lower group is dominantly arenaceous, and the upper group is predominantly calcareous (Fig 1). The study area consists of litho units of Todgarh formation of the Kumbhalgarh Group.

The major trend of rocks of the Delhi Supergroup (DSG) is NE-SW. To study the impact of lithology and deformation on the formation of geomorphic landforms and drainage pattern, an area surrounding Pindwara region (in Sirohi district) and covering parts of the Sirohi, Udaipur, and Pali districts was selected for preliminary observations for drainage patterns. The study area mostly experiences a partially sub-humid climate with an average annual rainfall of around 613mm mostly during months of late June to mid-September. The monthly temperature varies from a maximum of 32.4°C to a minimum of 19.5°C (Upadhyay *et al.* 2019).

The Pindwara region forms the southwestern part of the South Delhi Terrane (SDT). The eastern half of the area is manifested by the sharp rising hill of granite, which is in contact with calc-

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silicate, the western part consists of low-lying ridges of granite, metavolcanic and calc-metasediments with bands of marble.

Landscape and drainage patterns present in the area are the result of the local climate of the area, underlying rock structure, and slope of the land. Pindwara region consists of sub-rounded, annular, and jagged landforms (CGWD, 2013).

Granite hills are numerous in Pali and Sirohi Districts also, where the hill slopes exhibit exfoliation and cavernous weathering features (Kar, 1995).

## II GEOLOGY OF THE STUDY AREA

The study area belongs to the Kumbhalgarh group of South Delhi Terrane where the eastern part of the study belongs to the Todgarh Formation and the western part shows rocks of the Basantgarh Formation (Fig. 1).

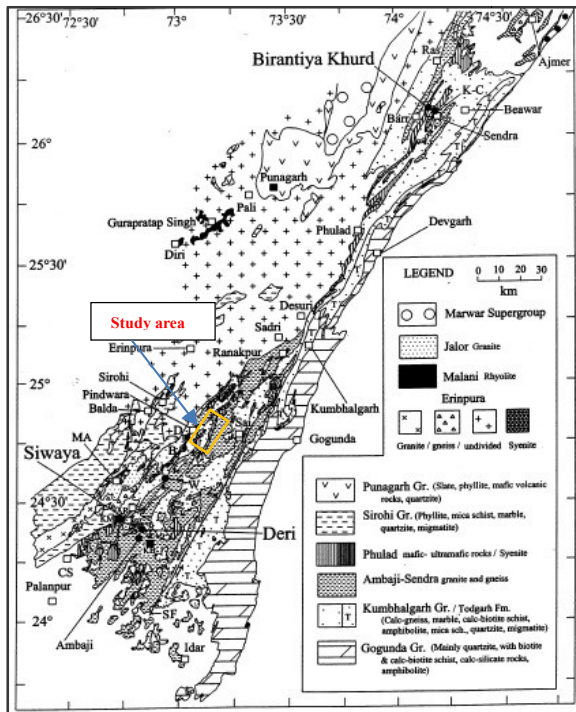


Fig. 1. Geological map of SDT (simplified from Gupta et al., 1997). AR- Abu Road; B- Basantgarh; CS- Chitrasani; D- Danva; KB- Kumbhariya; K- C- Kalabar-Chitar; KM- Khera Mawal; MA- Mount Abu; S-F- Sabarmati Fault; W- Watera.

The rocks of the SDT are characterized by greenschist to amphibolite facies metamorphism and multiple stage folding (Roy et al., 1985). The rocks type exposed in the Pindwara area includes granite schist and gneiss, migmatite, amphibolite, granulite, calc-silicate, marble, biotite schist, and quartzite. These are seen to be traversed by pegmatite and quartz veins. The calcite marble shows gradational variation from calc schist and calc gneiss along the strike of the area. Biotite schist

occupies the valleys and plains and is mostly exposed in the Nala cuttings.

The intrusive granite is younger than Calc-gneiss, Calcitic marble, Biotite-schist, Amphibolite and Quartzite, and ductile deformation often marks boundaries between them. The older lithological unit are showing imprints of varying degrees of deformation.

## III. METHODOLOGY

An automatic extraction technique has been used for the extraction of drainage/ stream data from the study area. Carto-DEM (Digital Elevation Model) downloaded from the BHUVAN portal was used for the purpose. The DEM was overlain on the LANDSAT-7 satellite imagery. The extracted basin and stream networks are projected to the regional projection (WSG 1984, UTM Zone 44N) using ArcGIS software. Rose diagrams of the structural data like bedding, foliation, and joint planes are prepared using GeoRoses software. Fresh representative and oriented rock samples were collected for thin section study under the microscope in the laboratory.

## IV. GEOMORPHIC VARIATIONS IN THE STUDY AREA

Morphologically the area is characterized by the undulating topography in the west, hilly in the north and east, pediments exposed along the hill slopes, and the flat land area in the central part. Alluvial plains lie along the west Banas and Jawai Rivers. The highest elevation in the area is 900m above mean sea level. The main drainage river of the area is West Banas and Jawai River.

### A. Landforms

As a result of the geomorphic operations under the semi-arid condition on a diverse group of rocks, the area has acquired a rugged topography. The Digital Elevation Model depicts the three-dimensional shape of the area which reveals the sharp high rising ridges and maximum positive relief present in the eastern part of the area (Fig. 2a). The geomorphic features present in the area are classified into different classes (Fig. 2b). The geomorphic variations are linear following the trends of the lithologies. The high-rising topography consists of dissected hills and valleys with quartzite and calc-silicate and the low-lying peneplain topography is occupied by granite gneiss.

Hills are classified as Dissected in granite near Kyari, Malera and Nislakhara village, Linear in calc-silicate, marble and quartzite near Ajari, Basantgarh, Kotal village, and Isolated hills of granitic gneiss, near Kundal, Thandiberi village.

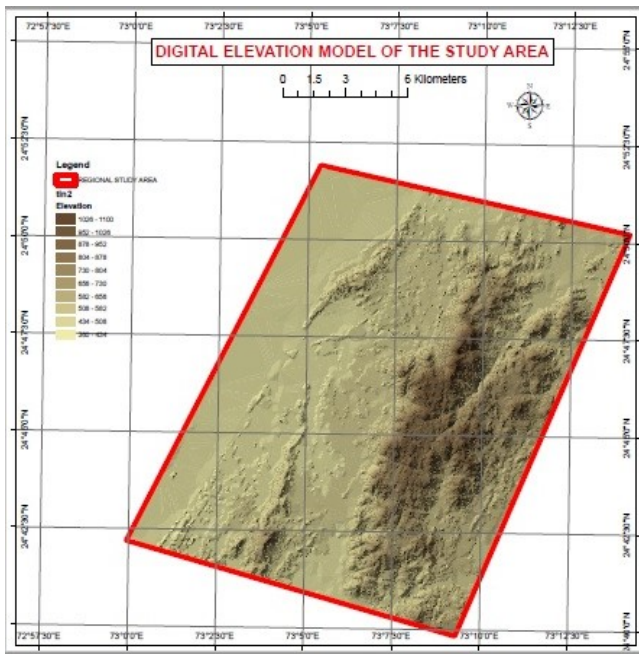


Fig. 2a. Map showing the Digital Elevation Model of the Pindwara area.

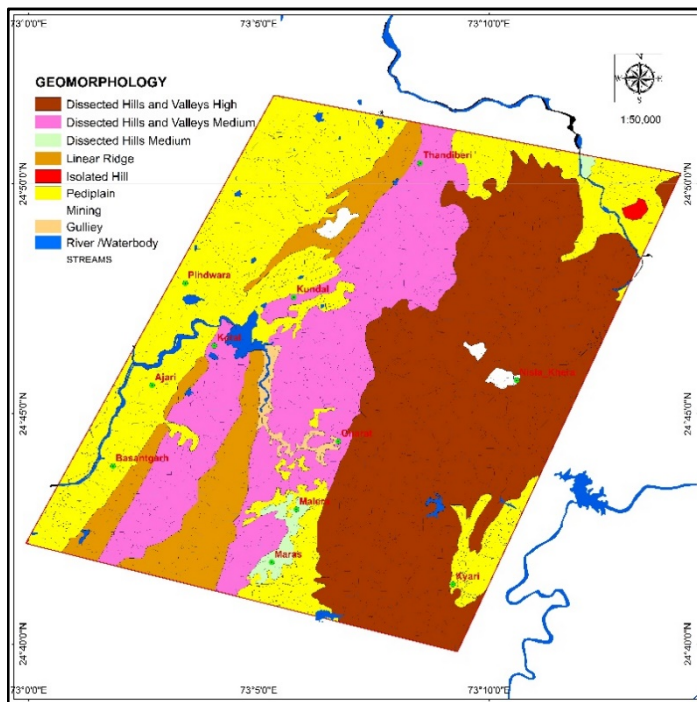


Fig. 2b. Map showing various geomorphic features in the Pindwara area.

### B. Drainage

The southwestern (SW) part of the area is mainly drained by West Banas, Divrot Nadi, and northeastern (NE) drained by Jawai, which are nourished by a few tributaries from the adjacent hillocks. The West Banas River merges near Pindwara and flows

in the southwest direction from its origin and the drainage length of the West Banas in the study area is 17 km. The Jawai River is the longest and largest river that joins the Luni River, and it is the main river in the northern part. Jawai River extends for a 9 km drainage length in the study area (Fig 3a). The major drainage trend of these rivers is NNE – SSW, a direction that is parallel to the regional strike of the outcrop. In the northeastern (NE) part of the area, tributaries of the Jawai River drain the area which trends in the NW-SE direction. In NW and SE parts of the area, the Kalumbri dam and Cheeniya Bandh store a considerable amount of water in a reservoir (Fig. 3b).

The trend of high-order streams is litho-contact controlled and runs parallel to the strike of the ridges. Low-order streams are fracture controlled and are usually perpendicular to the regional outcrop strike (Fig 4). Thus, generating different types of drainage patterns like Rectangular, Deranged, Dendritic, Trellis, and Radial. These are correlated with the lithologies in the area in (Table I) (Fig 4 and 5).

Table I. Drainage pattern in the area

S.No	Drainage Pattern	Lithology
1.	Rectangular Pattern	High-rising carbonate and quartzite
2.	Deranged Pattern	Calc- metasediments
3.	Dendritic Pattern	Parallel ridges of carbonate
4.	Trellis Pattern	Granite, Calc-silicate
5.	Radial Pattern	Granite and Quartzite

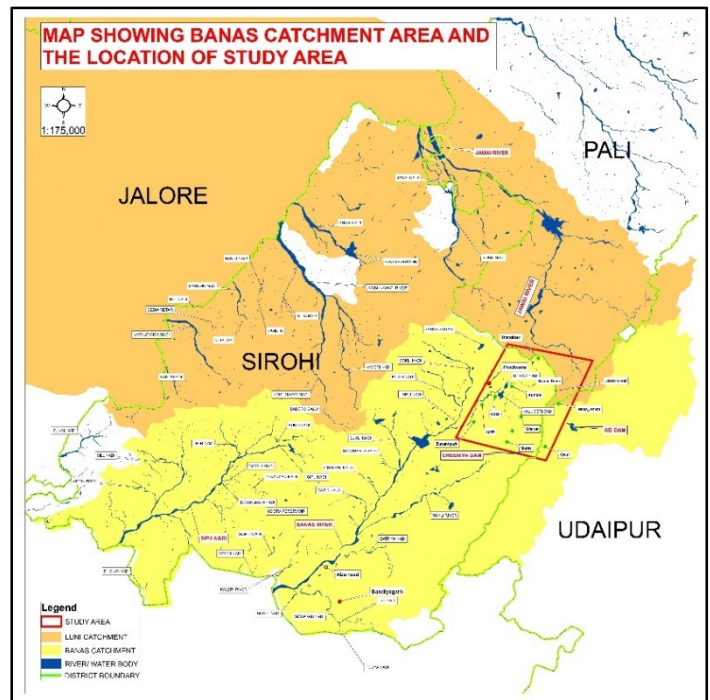


Fig. 3a. Map showing different watersheds present in the Pindwara area.



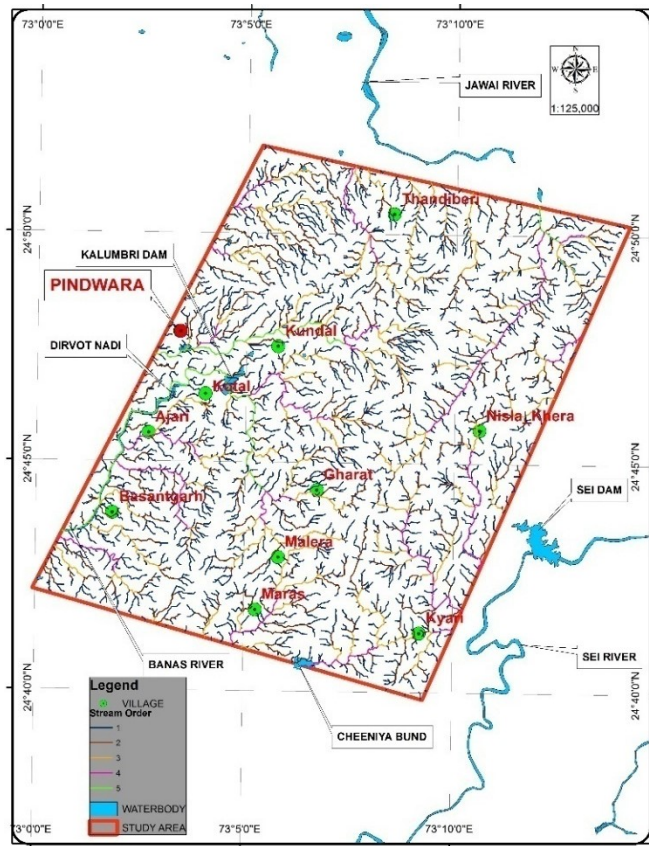


Fig. 3b. Map showing main rivers and their drainage pattern in the Pindwara area

Fig 4. Different generations of drainage in the Pindwara area.

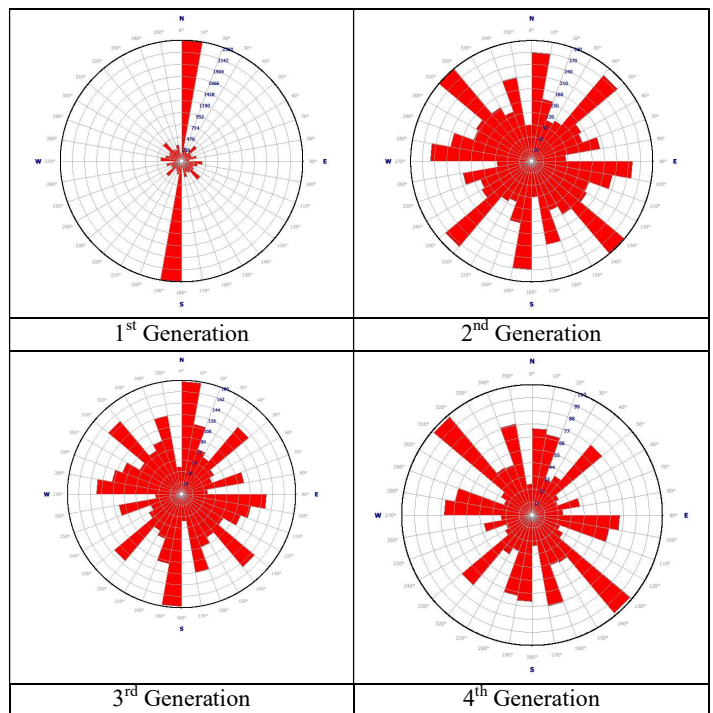


Fig. 5. Rose diagram of drainage showing four generations of streams of the Pindwara area.

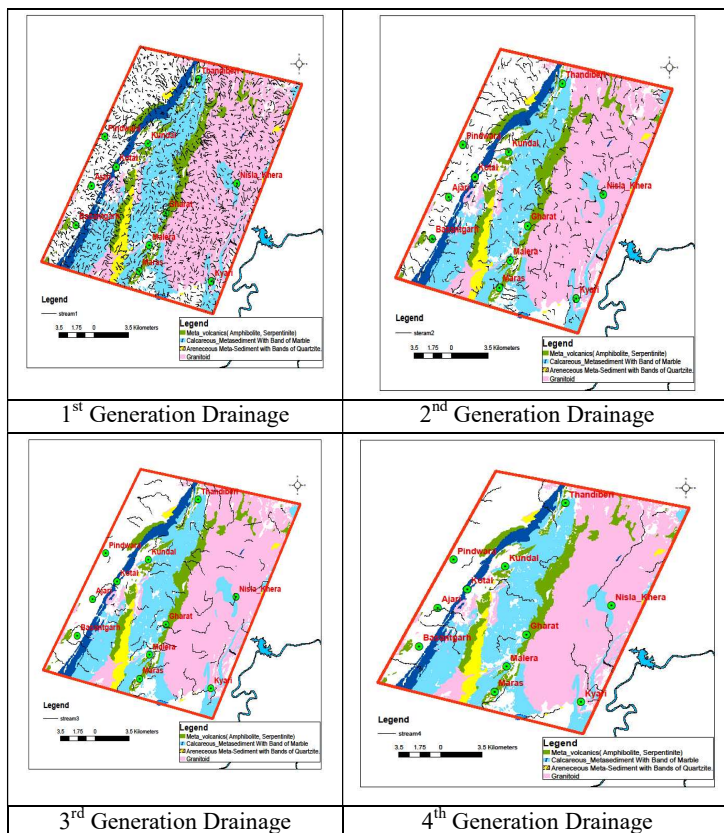
## V. LITHOLOGICAL AND PETROLOGICAL VARIATION IN THE STUDY AREA

The lithology present in the study area is Granitoid (granitic gneiss and granite), Arenaceous metasediments with bands of quartzite, calcareous metasediments with bands of marble, and metavolcanics (amphibolite, serpentinite, and chlorite schist) (Fig. 6). The thin section study has been done to understand the rheological nature of the rock type present in the area which is affected by the structural planes in the rocks for example the granite gneisses are more susceptible for weathering compared to massive granites. The secondary structures and the microstructures present in the rocks makes them more prone for directional weathering i.e., ease in formation of drainage.

### A. Granitic Gneiss

It is dark grey and is the most prominent lithology in the area. It occurs in a low-lying area in contact with calc-metasediments. The granitic gneiss is present on low-lying peneplain topography and granite occurs as a high-rising ridge. The peneplain topography is covered by a vast field of agricultural land. In some places, massive non-foliated granite is gradually transforming to the foliated gneissic character. Granitic gneiss also occurs as a banded texture where alternate bands of light and dark color mineral (Fig. 7a).

In thin sections, grains are elongated due to shearing,



myrmekitic or wormy texture, a strain feature is formed as an intergrowth of quartz and K-feldspar crystal which are most common in granites (Fig. 7b), myrmekitic intergrowth is inferred to as metamorphic event occurring post-dating emplacement.

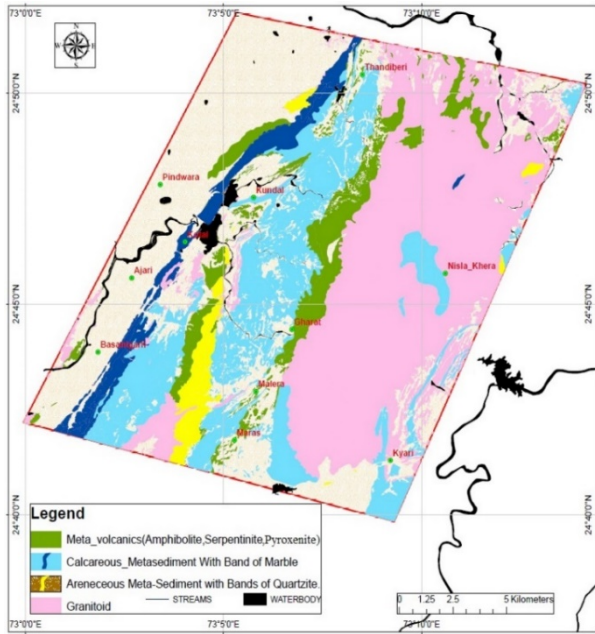


Fig. 6 Map showing the regional geology of the Pindwara area



Fig. 7 (a). Field photographs showing alternate bands of felsic and mafic minerals in Granitic Gneiss near Moras village

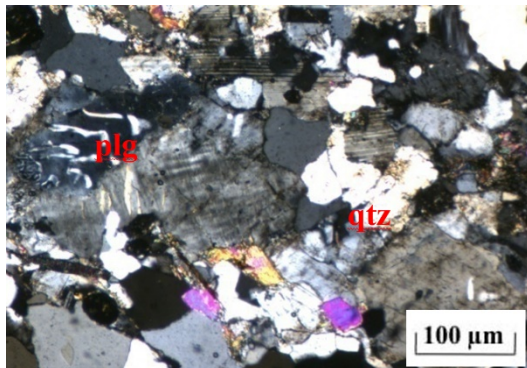


Fig.7 (b) Photomicrograph showing myrmekitic texture in Granite near NE of Moras village (Qt-Quartz, Plg-Plagioclase).

### B. Quartzite

Foliated and massive quartzite are observed near villages Moras and Malera. They are brownish grey to whitish pink to pinkish brown in color due to the variable amount of iron oxide in them. They are hard, compact, massive to bedded, and occasionally foliated or sheared, occurring as an isolated linear outcrop within schistose meta-sediments. Joints are common in them (Fig.8a). Under thin sections, rounded to elongated grains of quartz show undulate boundaries. The mineral constituents in them are quartz and feldspar where feldspar grains show cross-hatched twinning. Polycrystalline quartz aggregates and subgrain formation are indicative of recrystallization. In foliated quartzite, quartz grains are elongated and aligned along foliation planes (Fig. 8b).



Fig. 8 (a). Field photographs show grey quartzite with 3 sets of joints near east of Kotal village

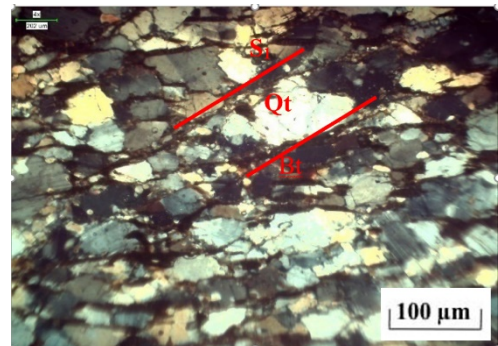


Fig.8 (b) Photomicrograph showing recrystallized grains of quartz and platy biotite mineral along the foliation near east of Kotal village (Qt-Quartz Bt- Biotite, S<sub>1</sub>-Foliation plane).



### C. Calc-silicate

The calc silicates occur as massive, banded rock containing linear bands of marble near the Kyari, Ajari, and Basantgarh areas. It is dark to light grey to white representing calcareous and siliceous beds (Fig. 9a). Under thin sections, calcite and quartz are the main constituents of calc-silicates. Quartz grains are elongated and aligned parallel to the bedding/ foliation plane. The interlocking arrangement is between quartz and calcite, with irregular boundaries showing recrystallization (Fig. 9b).



Fig. 9 (a). Field photographs show dark to light grey to off-white calcareous and siliceous beds near Kyari village

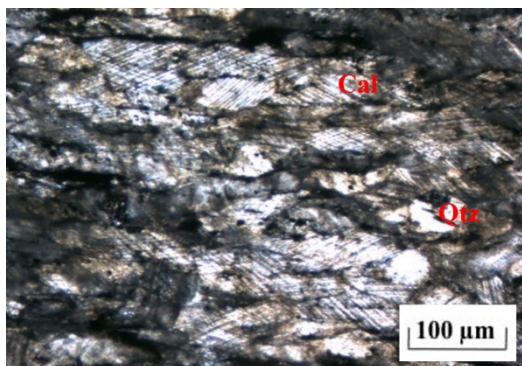


Fig. 9 (b). Photomicrograph showing the interlocking mosaic texture of quartz and calcite; irregular grain boundaries are due to recrystallization near Kyari village. (Cal-calcite, Qtz-quartz) (under X Nicols).

### D. Pyroxenite

Pyroxenite is a dark greenish to black colored rock, very coarse-grained, massive, and dominated by the needle-shaped crystal of pyroxene. Their fresh surface is dark green whereas the weathered surfaces have a pale brownish color (Fig. 10a). It occurs as massive outcrops along Ajari, Bansantgarh, and Kundal areas. Under thin section, pyroxene is the main constituent followed by plagioclase feldspar.

Larger crystals of pyroxene are present with some accessory minerals (Fig. 10b). Olivine is less than 10% in the

rock.



Fig. 10 (a). Field photographs show a dark-greenish shining surface of pyroxenite near north of Kundal village

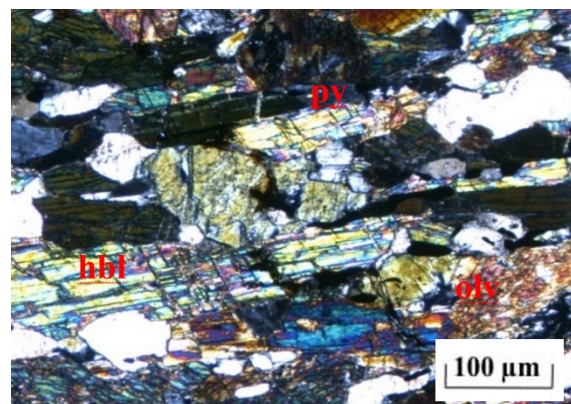


Fig. 10 (b). Photomicrograph showing laths of pyroxene near north of Kundal village. (Olv-olivine, Py-pyroxene, Hbl-Hornblende) (under X Nicols).

## VI. STRUCTURAL FEATURES PRESENT IN THE STUDY AREA

### A. Bedding

The bedding is the most prominent structural feature present in the area. The beds are indifferent shades of grey and light brown, and range in thickness from 1 to 2 cm and are seen in quartzite and carbonates.

The bedding plane is recognized as  $S_0$  for meta-sedimentary rocks and generally trends in the NE-SW direction. The penetrative bedding parallel cleavage ( $S_0 || S_1$ ) is also the dominating structural feature in the area (Fig. 11), except at the hinge zone where  $S_0$  is perpendicular to  $S_1$ . The orientation of  $S_0$  plane in the rose diagram is NE-SW direction (Fig. 12). The dip of the bedding plane is  $20^\circ$ - $30^\circ$ .



Fig. 11 Field photograph showing thick and thin beds on the marble near Ajarivillage. ( $S_0$ - Bedding plane).

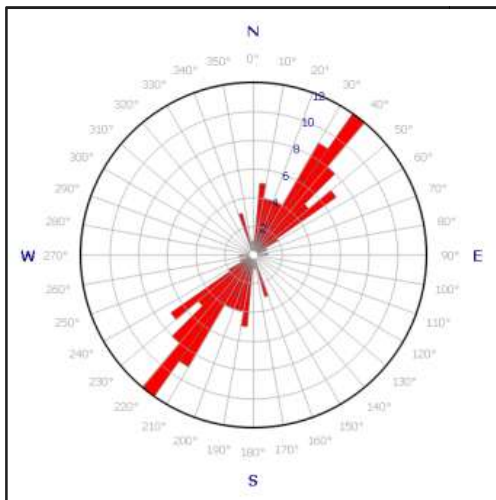


Fig. 12. Rose diagram of bedding plane showing dominant orientation in NE-SW direction.

### B. Foliation

The term Foliation has been used for the nature of fissility, weak planes along which rock split. It is a dominant planar feature in gneiss, schists, and mafics in the area. It is formed by recrystallization and parallel realignment of mineral grain during metamorphism. A general trend of foliation is in the NE-SW direction, also seen in the rose diagram (Fig. 13). Foliation ( $S_1$ ) is observed parallel to bedding ( $S_0$ ) i.e. ( $S_0/S_1$ ).

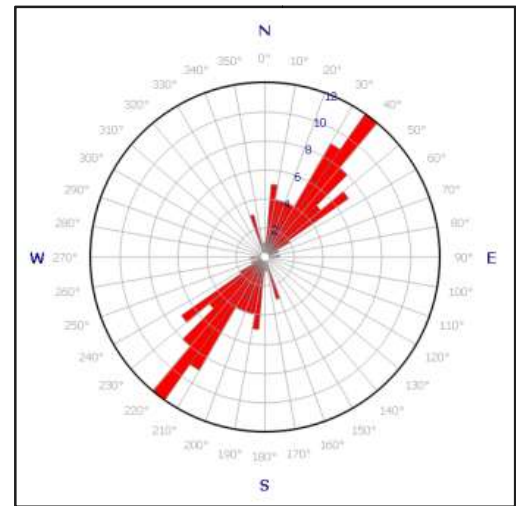


Fig. 13. Rose diagram of foliation plane showing dominant orientation in NE-SW direction

### C. Joints

Irregularly spaced planar features resulting from brittle deformation of rock are termed Joints. Two sets of prominent joints are seen in quartzite. One set is parallel to beds and the others are at angles to it (Fig. 14). Rose diagram of the joint planes are showing different orientations where  $J_1$  are NE-SW (Fig. 15a), and  $J_2$  are NW-SE (Fig. 15b). Penetrative joints are result into the formation of dissected hills and valley type of landforms. General attitude of  $J_1$  ( $50^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ / $40^\circ$ - $50^\circ$ -SE),  $J_2$  ( $110^\circ$ - $120^\circ$ / $55^\circ$ - $65^\circ$ -SW) in the area.



Fig. 14. Field photograph showing two sets of joints plane in quartzite ( $J_1$ -NE-SW trending,  $J_2$ - NW-SE trending), near Moras village



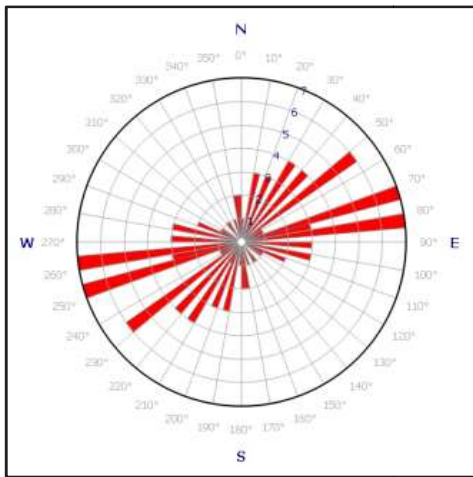


Fig. 15a. Rose diagram of Joint plane ( $J_1$ ) showing dominant orientation in NE-SW direction.

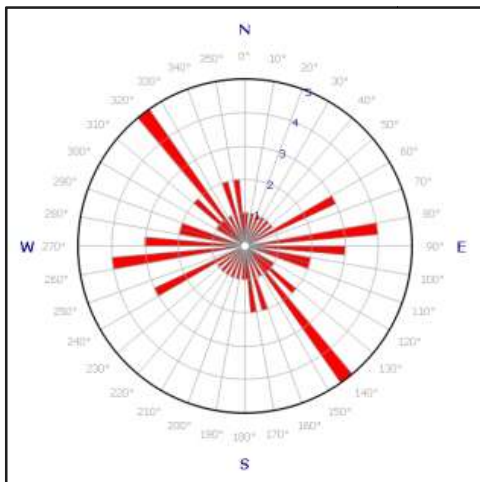


Fig. 15b. Rose diagram of the joint plane ( $J_2$ ) showing dominant orientation in NW-SE direction.

#### D. Fault

Faults are displacements of blocks and the zone between the blocks along which significant displacement has occurred is known as the fault plane. Small-scale micro-faults are observed near Kyari village within the calc-silicate rock (Fig 16).



Fig. 16 Field photograph showing reverse fault in the calc-silicate rock near north of Kyari village.

#### A. Shear Zone

A thick shear zone is observed locally in the western part of the study area. The shearing is along the NE-SW direction. Shear zones are the sites for intense weathering which result into hills and valley type of landforms. The shear zone is marked by the ductile deformation within amphibolite, carbonate, and granite. The ductile shear features are represented by boudins near Thandiberi. (Fig 17), rotation of porphyroblasts (Fig 18) and mylonitized zones (Fig 19).



Fig. 17 Field photograph showing boudins of granite in calc-silicate rock near Thandiberi village



Fig. 18. Field photograph showing dextral rotation of porphyroblasts in calc-silicate rock near South of Thandiberi village.



Fig. 19 Field photograph showing mylonitic foliation developed in sheared amphibolite near Gharat village.



### F. Fold

Three generations of folds ( $DF_1$ ,  $DF_2$ , and  $DF_3$ ) differing from each other in style and orientation are preserved. The first generation  $DF_1$  fold is tight to isoclinal, mostly recumbent/reclined fold with NE-SW trending hinge line (Fig20) resulting in bedding ( $S_0$ ) parallel to foliation ( $S_1$ ). The second-generation  $DF_2$  folds are asymmetrical open upright folds with NNE-SSW trending hinge lines with sub-horizontal to gently plunging fold axis and are easily observed in almost all the litho-unit (Fig21). The third generation ( $DF_3$ ) fold exists as an upright sharp-hinged fold (Chevron fold) with NW-SE trending axial plane (Fig22).

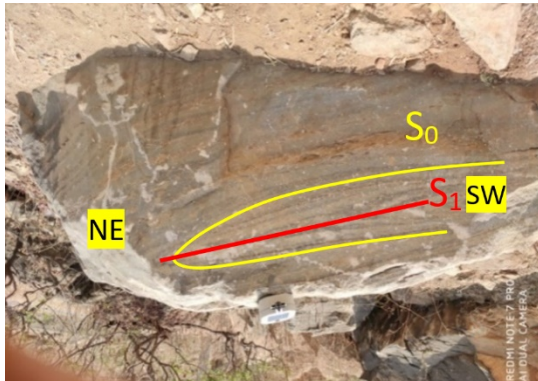


Fig. 20. Field photograph showing isoclinal fold ( $DF_1$ ) generation in Calc-silicate rock near north of Kundal village.



Fig. 21. Field photograph showing upright fold ( $DF_2$ ) generation in calc-silicate rock near north of Kyari village.



Fig. 22 Field photograph showing sharp hinged fold (Chevron fold) ( $DF_3$ ) generation in calc-silicate near Malera village

## VI DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The Pindwara area situated in the SDFB (South Delhi Fold Belt) comprising of granite gneiss and metasediments represented by quartzites, calc-silicates, and meta-volcanic rocks as pyroxenites and amphibolites have a general trend of NE-SW. These rocks have also undergone three episodes of deformation resulting in three generations of folding with their major axial traces trending in NE-SW, NNE-SSW, and NW-SE directions respectively (Biswal et al. 2022). Apart from the axial traces, joints associated with them are also present depending on the rheology of the rocks. The shear zones have developed in the calc-silicates. These structural trends have controlled the drainage.

Different types of geomorphic landforms like hills, hill slopes, valleys, and drainage patterns have developed in the region depending on the variability of rocks and the deformational features associated with them. The peneplained areas are the calcareous metasediments and mafic rocks which are easily susceptible to weathering. The massive granites are forming hills. Structural slopes are formed where the inner bedrock structure, such as bedding, or foliation plane is directly projected into the relief surface (Montgomery, 1997) and are forming slopes parallel to these features. The Parallel drainage patterns are formed along the bedding/ bedding joints or foliations plane. The Radial to Trellis drainage pattern has developed in granites and calc-silicates while the dendritic pattern is developed in parallel ridges of carbonates. The jointed quartzites have rectangular patterns of drainage. A comparative analysis was performed to understand the spatial relations of the linear

elements in the area. The drainage in the area is not only lithologically controlled but is also structurally inspired which means that the drainage depends upon the rock type as well as the deformation pattern present in the area. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> order streams are parallel to the dominant foliation direction in the granitoids. The J<sub>1</sub> and J<sub>2</sub> joints are the conjugate sets and have controlled the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation drainage in quartzites and carbonates.

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