

## BOOK REVIEWS

**THE OTHER SIDE OF SCIENCE**, (1994), by K.A.V. Pandalai, DRDO, Monograph Series, New Delhi, 56 pp.

The above book written by a former Director of the IIT, Madras and an Aeronautical Engineer, attempts to take a balanced view of the legacy of science. Science has been responsible for both spectacular advances and horrifying destruction.

Dr. Abdul Kalam in his Preface to the book points out that "it is very difficult to see science in isolation from cultural ethos and without ideological contamination". Scientists do not work in a vacuum - their work does impinge on the society around them, sometimes blatantly, and sometimes less directly.

Prof. Pandalai traces the changes wrought by Science and Technology in this country. Relativity, Quantum Mechanics, Artificial Intelligence and Biotechnology are some of the areas focused on. Dr Pandalai also laments about "man's tribal and selfish nature to exploit, to abuse and to misuse any body of knowledge that he acquires".

The role of Science in developing weapons of mass destruction is highlighted by Dr. Pandalai. The book ends with the hope that mankind will eventually emerge from the tunnel of darkness to establish a more humane world with Science and Technology playing a vital role. The book is heartily recommended to all those interested in the wider ramifications of Science and Technology and the future of mankind. It is hoped that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) which has brought out this volume will continue to bring out thought provoking reflections by distinguished men of Science and Engineering for the benefit of the wider public.

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**GEOLOGY, SEDIMENTATION AND ECONOMIC MINERAL POTENTIAL OF THE SOUTH-CENTRAL PART OF CHATTISGARH BASIN (1996)** by K.S. Murti, Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, v.125, 139 pp; Price Rs.87/-, \$ 31.30.

Good reports by professional geologists generally contain detailed information on the field relations and features that are observable on the ground. Research papers by academicians on the same area will deal with a variety of laboratory studies made on samples collected, with an analysis of the results using the latest concepts. The publication under review, however, is a welcome blend of detailed field data and laboratory studies that could be made on the different samples collected, within the limitations of the facilities available to the author.

Chattisgarh basin is one of the larger Proterozoic sedimentary basins not much affected by tectonism, except along the fringes. The author successively deals with stratigraphy (with a good geological map of the south-central part of the basin), sedimentary structures (including stromatolites), paleocurrents, sedimentation, chemical and isotopic studies, and economic mineral potential (building materials and limestone). Both the data collected in the field and obtained by the laboratory analyses are presented on conventional lines and the inferences drawn seem to be quite justifiable. As there will always be scope for further research on any area, the detailed field data presented (on maps as well as tables)