

Contents

Acknowledgements.....	i
Abstract.....	iii
Contents	v
Chapter - 1	
Introduction.....	1
1.1 The youngest period of the Earth.....	2
1.2 Sediment provenance and Landscape evolution	2
1.3 Quaternary of Western India.....	5
1.4 Quaternary sedimentary deposits of Western India	7
1.5 Objectives and Approach.....	10
1.6 Thesis outline	10
Chapter - 2	
Methodologies.....	12
2.1 Field studies	13
2.2 Pre-treatment of samples before analysis.....	14
2.3 Geochronology.....	15
2.3.1 C-14 dating.....	15
2.3.2 Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating	16
2.3.3 Ar-Ar dating of Detrital Muscovite.....	16
2.4 Trace element analysis	17
2.5 Analysis of Radiogenic Isotopes.....	18
Chapter – 3	
Evolution of the Ghaggar river system in NW India and its archaeological connection	20
3.1 Introduction.....	21
3.2 Background and earlier work.....	24
3.2.1 Palaeo-hydrological condition of the Ghaggar	24
3.2.2 The Harappan settlements along the Ghaggar	25
3.3 Results and Discussion	28
3.3.1 Facies architecture of the Ghaggar alluvium	28
3.3.2 Antiquity of the Ghaggar alluvium	34
3.3.3 Ar-Ar geochronology of detrital muscovite.....	36

3.3.4 Geochemistry of the Ghaggar alluvium	39
3.3.5 Isotopic Fingerprinting of Kalibangan Potteries	46
3.3.6 The River – Culture – Climate connection	47
3.4 Summary and Conclusions.....	50
Chapter - 4	
Provenance of mid-Holocene sediments in the Great Rann of Kachchh	57
4.1 Introduction.....	58
4.2 Geology of the Great Rann of Kachchh.....	60
4.3 Stratigraphy and Sample Details.....	63
4.3.1 Sampling in the Kachchh Basin	63
4.3.2 Sampling of Sediment Sources	64
4.4 Results and Discussion	65
4.4.1 Alluvial deposits of Eastern GRK.....	65
4.4.2 Alluvial deposits of the Western Great Rann of Kachchh	71
4.5. Conclusions.....	79
Chapter - 5	
Geochemistry of Quaternary alluvium in the Luni River Basin	87
5.1 Introduction.....	88
5.2 Alluvial stratigraphy, the catchment and the study area of the Luni basin	89
5.2.1 Stratigraphy of the Luni Alluvium.....	90
5.2.2 Catchment of the Luni river	92
5.2.3 The Study Area	94
5.3 Results and discussion	94
5.3.1 Trace element geochemistry	94
5.3.2 Sr-Nd isotopic fingerprinting	97
5.4 Conclusions.....	99
Chapter - 6	
Geochemical Provenance of the Thar Desert Sand.....	104
6.1 Introduction.....	105
6.2 Geology and Geomorphology of the Thar Desert.....	106
6.3 Results and Discussion	107
6.3.1 Trace element geochemistry	107
6.3.2 Sr-Nd isotopic compositions	109
6.4 Conclusions.....	112

Chapter – 7

Summary and Conclusions	116
7.1 Region specific conclusions.....	117
7.1.1 The Ghaggar river alluvium.....	117
7.1.2 The Great Rann of Kachchh.....	118
7.1.3 The Luni river alluvium	119
7.1.4 The Thar desert	119
7.2 Quaternary sediments and landscape evolution of NW India	120
7.3 Summary of the thesis work.....	122
7.4 Recommendations for Future Studies	123
References.....	124