

discussed in a most scientific way. The simple language, neat diagrams, huge data base and upto date information on recent cyclones and earthquakes in the world, as well as India, are some of the salient features of this book.

The cover photograph of Bheraghat Marble Gorge is very attractive. The utility of the book however could have been increased by

giving an index and the list of reference books. The book will be quite useful to students and teachers of Geography as it is like a ready reckoner to Physical elements of Geography.

S. N. Karlekar

India – “A regional interpretation” : Professor C.D. Deshpande Published by
Indian Council of Social Science Research and Northern Book Centre,
New Delhi, 1992, pp. 330, Price Rs. 310/-

Professor Deshpande has brought out the above book, which gives a different dimension of regions and regionalization in India. Professor Deshpande's earlier book - "Western India", was more an analysis of physical than historical, cultural and economic aspects. The present book deals with not only the physical aspects but also the historical and cultural factors along with economic setting. A classification, suggested by the author, may lead to better understanding of different parts of India, their environmental setting and the problems raised by human interaction with nature related to growing population and poverty, and also sometimes due to wrong priorities. This has been admitted by the author himself.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I deals with the classification and its basis including the role played by physical aspects as well as climatic and biotic factors. Part II - "Regions" deals with physical characteristics along with the environmental and cultural aspects, and more emphatically socio-economic problems of the dominant community in each region. The last part is concerned with the "Inter Regional and National" outlook, which takes into account combined regions

within the framework of the nation and suggests reorganization with a federal structure of states as well as sub-states. The author hopes that this new division would make India politically stable and socio-economically dynamic. It also takes into account the regional aspirations of various communities in the states, especially the big states, such as, U.P. and Bihar.

The regions, as described by the author in Part II, deal with the historical, political, cultural and socio-economic aspects which *inter alia* breaks a fresh ground in some respects. The last chapter entitled "Towards a Better Federalism" attempts to give a new dimension to the centre-state relations, while advocating smaller states.

The author during the last several years had visited most parts of India and closely observed the physical landscape and man-environment interaction. During the writing of the present book, he had undertaken a journey to Ladakh region and travelled from Ladakh region to Shrinagar by a truck, which must have been quite an adventure. Thus the regional characteristics have been brought out by the author through his personal experiences

and observations as well.

Though the book is embellished with several figures, diagrams and maps, unfortunately the details are not legible because of the size of the maps and this is a real constraint in understanding the maps and the text especially. Figure 5 : India-Resource Development Regions : RDR, taken from the Planning Commission, makes an interesting reading. The first order, second order and third order regions have been analyzed in detail and form the basis of the suggested new federal structure involving more states than what they are to-day.

Overall, the book breaks a fresh ground in understanding the historical, cultural and socio-economic aspects of India. Fig. 3, which depicts tribal regions, cultural course and industrial complexes, is quite noteworthy. It is hoped that the book will inspire other geographers and economists to think about regionalization in the new context of modern India and its economic development.

P. R. Karmarkar

Geography of Minerals of the Oceans : Atar Singh Yadav; Concept Publishing Co.,

New Delhi, 1992; pp. 103, Rs. 200/-.

This booklet based on articles, pamphlets and books gives a summary account of the geography of oceans, their biotic and abiotic resources, exploitation of ocean minerals and the Indian efforts, both scientific and techni-

cal, to exploit the resources of the oceans. The book is handy and makes an easy reading. For its size it is over-priced.

K. R. Dikshit

BIHAR : Geographic Information System : Manosi Lahiri; Popular Prakashan,

Bombay 1992; pp. 197, Rs. 200/-.

The book, which one may also call an atlas, is the outcome of painstaking research by its author Ms Lahiri. Unlike other state planning and resource atlases, the present one has involved a far greater enterprise in developing the Geographical Information System (GIS) and Cartographic Data Base (CDB) of Bihar, from the stage of conceptualization to the installation of necessary hardware, choosing suitable software packages and finally developing the requisite GIS and presenting them cartographically, through a series of graphs, maps, cartograms and thematic

maps. The project, funded by International Development Research Center (IDRC), an agency of the Government of Canada, and centred at Kirori Mal College, Delhi, where Ms Lahiri has a full time teaching assignment, has been well designed, meticulously executed and sets a model for all those interested in the study and application of GIS system. The reviewer has not come across any other book of this kind and hopes that this becomes a trail blazer to be followed by books presenting India and individual states through the GIS system.