

Contents

Abstract	1
Introduction	3
Principles of Paleoclimatology	4
Principles of Paleobiogeography	6
Chronology of the Tectonic Evolution of the Indian Plate	10
Terrestrial Tetrapod Horizons in India	11
The Permian Period: The Beginnings of Gondwana Sedimentation	15
Late Paleozoic Ice Age	15
Early Permian Biogeography	16
The Return of Terrestrial Life to Glaciated India	17
Late Permian Biogeography	21
End-Permian Extinction and Faunal Turnover	22
The Triassic Period: Pangean World	24
Early Triassic Panchet and Kamthi Tetrapods	25
Early Triassic Biogeography	26
Middle Triassic Yerrapalli and Denwa Tetrapods	27
Middle Triassic Biogeography	29
Late Triassic Maleri, Tiki, and Lower Dharmaram Formations	29
Lower Maleri Tetrapods (Late Triassic, Carnian)	30
Late Triassic (Carnian) Tiki Tetrapods	32
Late Triassic (Carnian) Biogeography	32
Carnian–Norian Faunal Turnover	33
Upper Maleri Tetrapods (Late Triassic, Norian)	35
Lower Dharmaram Tetrapods (Late Triassic, Rhaetian)	35
Late Triassic (Norian–Rhaetian) Biogeography	35
End-Triassic Mass Extinction and Faunal Turnover	36
The Jurassic Period: Time of the Giants	37
Upper Dharmaram Tetrapods (Early Jurassic, Hettangian)	38
Lower Kota Tetrapods (Early Jurassic, Sinemurian–Toarcian)	39
Early Jurassic Biogeography	43
Upper Kota Tetrapods (Middle Jurassic)	43
Middle Jurassic Biogeography	45
Upper Jurassic Bagra Tetrapods	45
The Cretaceous Period	46
Early Cretaceous Sediments and Rajmahal Volcanism (ca. 120 Ma)	48
Rifting of Madagascar from India (ca. 88 Ma)	50
Collision of India with the Kohistan-Ladakh (KL) Island Arc (ca. 85 Ma)	53

Late Cretaceous Tetrapods	55
Nimar Sandstone (Cenomanian) Tetrapods	55
Late Cretaceous Tetrapod Fauna from the Deccan Volcanic Province	56
Late Cretaceous Biogeography	64
End-Cretaceous Mass Extinction and Faunal Turnover	67
The Paleocene Period	70
Separation of Seychelles from India (ca. 65 Ma)	70
Acceleration of the Indian Plate (ca. 67–52 Ma)	73
Noah’s Ark versus Passenger Ship	73
Paleocene Vertebrates	75
The Paleocene–Eocene Transition: Initial Collision with Asia	76
The Onset of India-Asia Continental Collision during the PETM (ca. 55 Ma)	77
Paleocene–Eocene Thermal Maximum	80
Geologic Setting of the Cambay Shale Formation, Vastan Lignite Mine, Gujarat	85
Early Eocene Tetrapods	86
Nonmammalian Tetrapods	86
Early Eocene Mammals	91
Afrotheria	92
Laurasiatheria	92
Ferungulata	93
Euarchontoglires	98
Early Eocene Biogeography	100
Origin of Modern Orders of Placental Mammals	101
Great Indo-European Interchange	103
The Making of the Himalayan Mountains and the Tibetan Plateau	103
Pre-Collisional Tectonics	104
Postcollisional Tectonics	105
Geology and Major Structures of the Himalaya	105
Tectonic Evolution of the Himalaya	107
The Rise of the Himalaya	112
The Coupling of Indian Subduction and the Tectonic Evolution of the Tibetan Plateau	114
Timing of the Tibetan Uplift	117
Neogene Siwalik Group	118
Siwalik Stratigraphy	118
Axial Paleodrainage of the Siwalik River	119
Siwalik Mammals	123
Siwalik Paleobiogeography	126
Late Pleistocene Extinction of Siwalik Megafauna	127
Paleoclimate Proxies of the Siwalik Group	128
Origin of the Himalayan River Systems	129
Evolution of Indian Summer Monsoons	131
Mountains and Monsoons	133
Link between Himalayan Exhumation and Monsoon Intensity	134
Conclusions	135
Acknowledgments	136
References Cited	137