# Supplementary Data #2:

# Lithostratigraphic Data of Deccan Volcanic Province

### 2.1 DISTRICT-WISE LITHOSTRATIGRAPHIC COLUMNS

The lithostratigraphic classifications of the DVP were first formally proposed by officers of the Geological Survey of India in their internal reports (not available publicly), but published in parts in the Special Publication of the Gondwana Geological Society (Deshmukh and Nair, 1986).

This was subsequently expanded, elaborated and compiled in the form of District Resources Map series of the Geological Survey of India which are listed in the reference listing given below. Although published at different times between 1999 and 2005, we have collectively cited them in the main paper as Geological Survey of India, (2001).

This lithostratigraphy for the Deccan Volcanic Province is based on the field mapping of the characters and exposed continuity of the basaltic flows. The attached Ms Excel file (*Data\_Repository\_File\_DR4.xlsx*) gives the district-wise stratigraphy across the DVP, for the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh compiled from the DRM series of maps.

Four Groups have been recognized in different sectors of the DVP by GSI (2001) as against only one Group identified on the basis of chemostratigraphy (Subbarao and Hooper, 1988). GSI (2001) has not elaborated upon the relative stratigraphic positions of these Groups with respect to each other barring exceptional cases. For example, the Upper Ratangarh Formation of Sahyadri Group occurs below the Ajanta Formation of Satpura Group (in the Aurangabad DRM), suggesting that the Upper Ratangarh Formation may provide a basis for lateral equivalence between them. Similar examples exist but are rare.

The lowest and highest elevations of the Deccan flows occurring in a particular district are captured using elevation data from Google Earth & Survey of India toposheets, with limited inputs from actual field studies where the contact elevations have been captured using GPS. We have reliable elevation controls across the Western and Southern parts of DVP, Satpura, Narmada – Tapi valleys and southern parts of the Malwa subprovinces. Similarly, for the Mandla and Kutch subprovinces, published literature provided validations for this data.

This database (*Data\_Repository\_File\_DR4.xlsx*) also gives the underlying stratigraphic unit in the district where the Trap-basement is exposed. Large parts of the DVP do not expose the base of the Deccan Traps; and it is only along the fringes that this can be established. Some inputs are also available on the Trappean thickness from geophysical studies and the drilling through them (e.g. West, 1958,

Kaila, 1988, Sengupta and Deshmukh, 1996, Harinarayana, et al., 2007; Gupta, et al., 2015).

Based on the characters of the basaltic flows listed in the DRM maps, as well as additional inputs from field studies by us, we have classified the flows in the individual formations into 4 basic classes. Much of this classification in the DRM sheets, into types of flows is based on the descriptions given by Deshmukh (1988). Mixed flows imply that within the same formation compound as well as simple flows are present. There are some limitations in this classification from the volcanological perspective as discussed in the main text. We have not inserted our observations in this database to ensure that it reflects the undiluted views of GSI (2001). They are color coded in the attached database spreadsheet as follows:

1. Simple / a'ā flows	
2. Compound pāhoehoe flows	
3. Mixed (Simple and Compound)	
4. Unclassified / Not defined	

It is noted that DRM sheets are not available for some newly formed districts like Alirajpur (split from Jhabua), Burhanpur (split from Khandwa), and Mandla, and hence their separate lithologs are not plotted, but are represented in their parent district. This compilation has some inherent limitations that we have taken into account in our work.

- 1. Some of the DRM sheets do not have any stratigraphic names assigned, and the basaltic flows are simply listed as Deccan Traps. We have not included any stratigraphic name in such cases.
- 2. No equivalences between the Groups from different provinces is elaborated in GSI (2001), barring the continuity of some formations in exceptional cases as mentioned above. No stratigraphic equivalence between different Formations or Groups from adjoining districts in the spreadsheet is implied other than that given the DRM sheets.
- 3. The descriptions of the flow-types are limited to the Index of the DRM sheets where one of the first three types is listed or no descriptions are available. No additional elaboration is available. When plotting the lithologs (given below), we have included our observations that are based on volcanological considerations; but they are not covered in the spreadsheet.
- 4. Megacryst flows (GPBs) have been marked separately in many DRMs. We have not included them in the spread-sheet, but have plotted them in the lithologs. It is significant that the mappable megacryst basaltic flows have been denoted as M1, M2, M3 and M4 in the Western and some parts of Central DVP, where they have been used as stratigraphic markers. In other parts of the DVP, their presence has been recorded in the DRMs, but they

have not been assigned any name, and have been designated in the logs with the tag 'M??'.

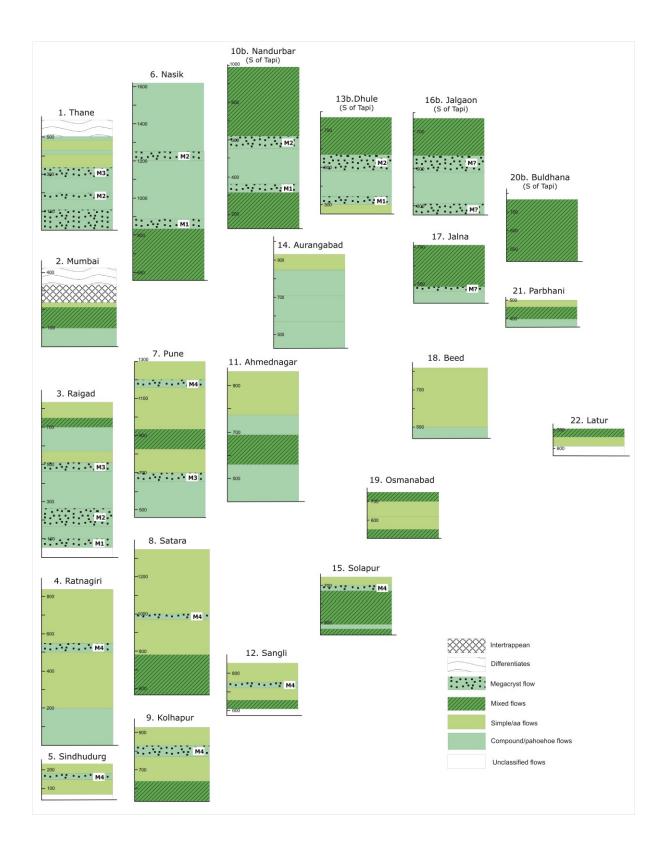
**5.** Intertrappean beds are recorded in the DRMs from the Malwa, Mandla, Central and Eastern subprovinces. They have been included in the lithologs (given below) but not in the spreadsheet database. The same is the case with the magmatic differentiates present in some parts of the DVP.

## 2.3 LITHOLOGICAL / STRATIGRAPHIC LOGS

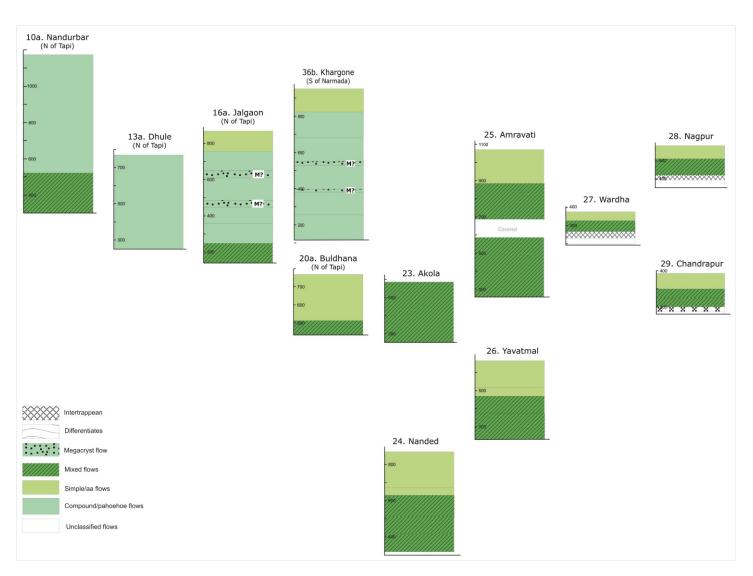
The thickness of the Deccan Basalts in each district (based on maximum and minimum elevations of the exposures as listed in the database) is used to plot the stratigraphic litholog of the district (Figs. SD#2 1- SD#2 4). Most of the DRM sheets list the character of the flow and the number and thickness of the flows present in a given Formation. Where this information was lacking or vague, data from published literature, descriptions in the DRMs of adjoining districts and our observations have been used. Note that some of the districts in the DRM database (*Data\_Repository\_File\_DR4.xlsx*) are not represented as logs (eg: Betul, Mandla, etc), since we do not have sufficient field inputs or other inputs to enable reconstruction of the logs.

Thickness of individual formations in these logs is based on either the DRM index, elevation-differences based on Google Earth overlays, published literature or our observations. Within individual districts as well as across districts, the thicknesses of individual flow packets tend to vary because of pinching out or swelling of the flow-fields. Therefore, the thicknesses displayed in these logs are proportionate to the log thickness and indicative only.

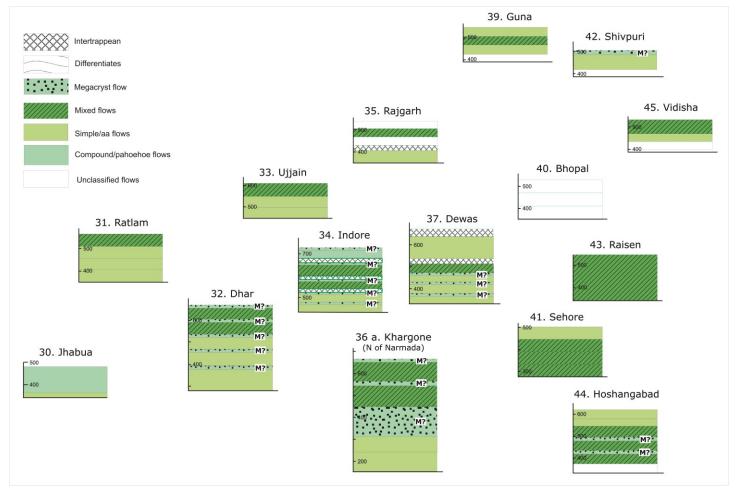
The intertrappean beds and the non-basaltic differentiates of the Deccan Traps whenever present have also been included in these lithologs in the appropriate stratigraphic position.



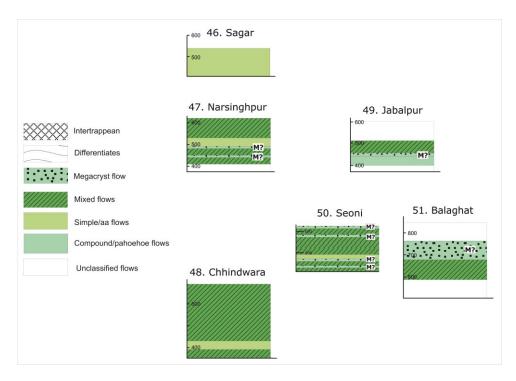
SD#2 Fig.1: Lithologs of the successions of Deccan Traps of Western DVP classified into different types of flow fields (flow packets) based on the DRM sheets (after GSI, 2001) modified with inputs of field observations by the authors. All elevations given are in meters above mean sea level.



**SD#2 Fig.2**: Lithologs of the successions of Deccan Traps of Central DVP classified into different types of flow fields (flow packets) based on the DRM sheets (after GSI, 2001) modified with inputs of field observations by the authors. All elevations given are in meters above mean sea level.



SD#2 Fig.3: Lithologs of the successions of Deccan Traps of Malwa Subprovince (excluding Narsimhapur and Sagar) classified into different types of flow fields (flow packets) based on the DRM sheets (after GSI, 2001) modified with inputs of field observations by the authors. All elevations given are in meters above mean sea level.



SD#2 Fig.4: Lithologs of the successions of Deccan Traps Mandla sector of DVP (& the Sagar and Narasimhapur districts from the Malwa province included here for space considerations) classified into different types of flow fields (flow packets) based on the DRM sheets (after GSI, 2001) modified with inputs of field observations by the authors. The Hoshangabad, district has been replicated here for enabling comparison. All elevations given are in meters above mean sea level.

#### Bibliography for Lithostratigraphy, volcanological characters and the DRM sheets

### [Note: All the citations

"xxx.... (200x) District Resource Map xxxxx District, xxxx, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata"

have been collectively clubbed in the main paper under the citation: "

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