Q: Describe the landforms associated with Aeolian cycle of erosion. 10

Ans:

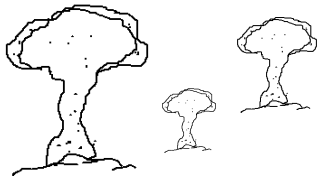
- The process of erosion caused by the wind is called "Aeolian cycle of erosion".
- It is common in desert areas.
- **The deposition made by wind is called "Aeolian Deposit**."
- Landforms associated with Aeolian Cycle of erosion are as follows:

A) **Erosional Landform** &

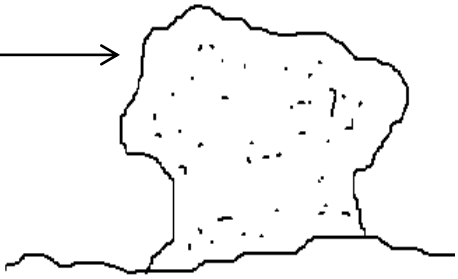
B) Depositional Landform

A) Erosional Landforms:

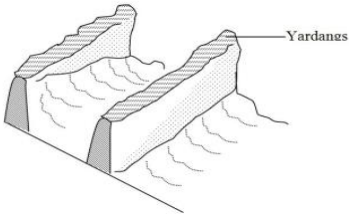
1. **Deflation basin**:
   - It is also known as "Blow out".
   - Wind removes the particles and hollows are formed.
   - The hollows may be small to many kilometers
2. **Mushroom rocks**:



   - Wind eroded rocks looking like mushroom.
   - Upper portion is large like an umbrella.
   - They are caused by abrasion.
3. **Inselberg**:



   - Inselberg is an isolated hill found in the desert.
   - It is stands above the sandy plain alone.
   - Looks like an island rising above the sea.
4. **Zeugen**:
   - They are the table shaped rock surface.
   - Soft rocks are eroded soon. But the hard rocks remain like a furrow of ridges.
5. **Yardang**:



   - Yardangs are steep walled rock surface.
   - They are sharp irregular ridges.
   - Formed in the prevailing wind direction

6. **Ventifacts**:
    - Ventifacts are the rock that has been polished by wind.
7. **Playa**: Playas are the dry lakes formed by wind in desert.

B) Depositional Landform:

1. **Sand dunes**:
    - Sand dunes are formed by wind deposition.
    - They are not permanent.
    - Shifted by wind action.
2. **Barchan (Barkhan)** :
    - Barkhans are crescent shaped sand dunes.
    - They have steep slope on leeward side and gentle slope on windward side.
    - Big barkhans are called “Oghards”.

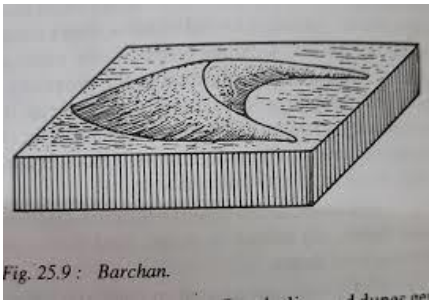


Fig. 25.9 : Barchan.

3. **Seif:**
    - Seifs are narrow dunes
    - Looking like a sword

4. **Loess**:
    - Loess is a mixture of quartz, feldspar, mica and calcite.
    - Its colour is yellow due to oxidation.
    - Loess if fine dust blown sediment.
    - They are deposited in a wide region. They are very fertile.
    - Vast deposit of loess is found in China (Gobi Desert).