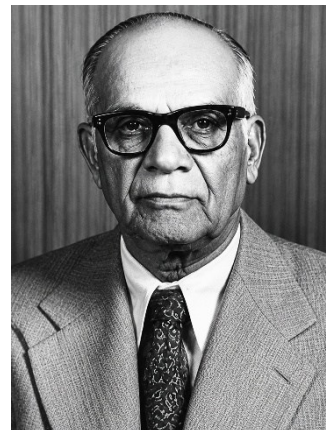




THE PALAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

(Department of Geology, University of Lucknow, Lucknow-226007)

Professor **Ramesh Chandra Misra**, F.N.A., Fellow of the Geological Society of India, a renowned geologist and the former Head of Department of Geology, University of Lucknow, breathed his last at 6.00 p.m. on 6th June 2002. He joined the University of Lucknow as a Lecturer in 1943, the year when the Department of Geology was founded by the late Prof. Birbal Sahni, F.R.S. He took over as Professor and Head of the Department in 1958 and served the university till 1975.



Ramesh Chandra Misra
1913-2002

Prof. Misra was born in 1913 in Mukteshwar in the Kumaun Himalaya. The scenic beauty of the mountains enkindled in him a lasting love for nature and mountains and was thus attracted by geology. He obtained his M.Sc. degree in 1935 from the Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu

University, where he also worked as a Lecturer. In Lucknow, he worked in close association with Prof. Birbal Sahni, the then Head of the Department of Botany and Geology, Lucknow University. He worked very hard in both teaching and research, and initiated research in many diverse fields of geology such as sedimentology, petrology and economic geology. He inspired generations of students into research and scholarship. Many of his students made notable contributions and rose to great heights in their respective fields and departments.

Prof. Misra made outstanding research contributions to Indian geology. He initiated a detailed and systematic study of the Bundelkhand Gneissic Complex and discovered the minerals pyrophyllite and diaspore from the Bundelkhand region. He added a new dimension to the studies of the rock's sedimentology, petrography, evidences for early life, etc.

Such studies virtually constituted a base for further studies on modern lines. His Presidential address at the Indian Science Congress in 1969 presented an exhaustive and systematic study on the Vindhyan System and is considered as an excellent reference on this topic. He initiated geological studies on the Himalaya in his Department. Today, the Department of Geology is known internationally for his work. He was a motivating force behind the creation of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology which was initially housed in the Department of Geology, University of Delhi but later on shifted to Dehra Dun.

The outstanding research contributions of Prof. Misra brought him laurels in his career. He was elected a Fellow of INSA (F.N.A.), President of the Geology-Geography Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1969, President of the Biology Section of the National Academy of Sciences held at Roorkee in 1970, President of the First Indian Geophytological Conference held at Lucknow, and Chairman of the governing bodies of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology and Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany. He was



a member of several learned societies, namely, Geological Society of India, Palaeontological Society of India, Indian Science Congress, Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Society of India etc. He held important positions in several scientific committees of both state and central governments. At the University of Lucknow, he held several important positions.

Prof. Misra had great love for reading and had a gifted memory. He kept himself abreast with the latest developments in earth science. As such, he was considered a storehouse of geological information. Sincerity in work and punctuality were his important assets which he practiced in letter and spirit and emphasized others to follow the same. He was friendly to his colleagues and always encouraged the younger teachers by generation enthusiasm and interest in teaching and research. He loved his students very much. To most of his students, he was not only a teacher but also a friend and had the unique quality of identifying talented Students whom he encouraged and helped to achieve their best. With his fine qualities of head and heart, he left an indelible impression on everyone who came in contact with him. He was a great lover of nature and had a good collection of roses in his garden. By nature, he was sensitive and soft-spoken and lived a graceful life.

Founder Member of the Palaeontological Society of India. Also, Treasurer from 1956-1964 & Vice President from 1965-1972.

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