

## Obituary



**Prof. K. P. RODE**  
(1902 – 1985)

Professor K. P. Rode is no more. He expired after a short illness on December 2, 1985. In him we have lost a man whose dedication to Earth Science was total and unique. Keshav Prabhakar Rode was born on November 8, 1902, at Chindwara in a family known for erudition. After his graduation from the Banaras Hindu University, he joined the same University as a lecturer. In his early years, his research activity was directed to Palaeobotany. He published a number of papers on plant fossils and biostratigraphy.

He sailed for Europe in 1937, and joined Professor Paul Nigli's laboratory at Zurich. His doctoral dissertation on 'The geology of Norcote Peninsula and the petrochemistry of the porphyry magma of Lugano' was acclaimed by the scientific community as a fine piece of research. On his return to India, he joined the Andhra University. Very soon he left that University and joined Dalmias as their Chief Geologist. This marked a great unconformity in the career of one who was to become a doyen of non-conformists later. This hiatus, however, was of short duration and in June 1950, he joined the University of Rajasthan as the first Head of the Department of Geology. The early fifties was the gestation period of his magnum opus, the movement and evolution of continents. The fundamental conception of his theory was that the continents had expanded by repeated movement of sheets which originally were closely packed like playing cards piled up together within the region of the Tibetan Himalayan mountain system. He enunciated his theory before the International Geological Congress at New Delhi in 1964. This was also the theme of his Presidential Address at the section of Geology and Geography of the 49th Indian Science Congress held at Cuttack in 1962.

It is perhaps too early to evaluate the full impact of his work and philosophy. His message to his students was never to take anything for granted. He had an unshakable faith in God. He very truly loved every moment of his life. In his last days he became as restless as his 'sheets' and breathed his last on December 2, 1985.

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