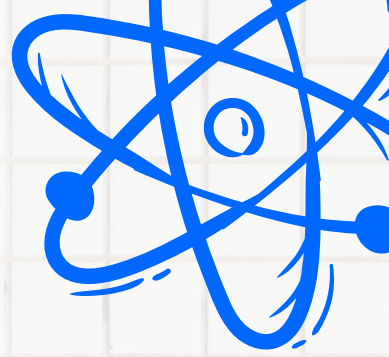


Birbal Sahni



Birbal Sahni (1891–1949) was a prominent Indian paleobotanist and geologist renowned for his groundbreaking work on fossil plants, particularly those found in the Indian subcontinent.



Key Highlights :

- *Pioneering Paleobotany:* Sahni is widely recognized as the founder of paleobotanical research in India, establishing it as a distinct scientific discipline.
- *Study of Indian Gondwana plants:* He made significant contributions to understanding the ancient flora of the Indian Gondwana formations.
- *Discovery of Pentoxylales:* Sahni discovered a new group of fossil gymnosperms, which he named Pentoxylales.
- *Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany:* In 1946, he founded the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany in Lucknow, India, an institute dedicated to the study of fossil plants and other palaeosciences.
- *Contributions to Geology and Archaeology:* He also displayed a keen interest in geology and archaeology, making contributions to these fields as well.
- *Developing Indian Science Education:* Sahni played a role in the development of science education in India, serving as President of the National Academy of Sciences in India and Honorary President of the International Botanical Congress in Stockholm.

Background :

- *Born in Bhera, a town in what is now West Punjab, Pakistan, on November 14, 1891.*
- *His father, Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni, was a science teacher, and his mother was Shrimati Ishwar Devi.*
- *He pursued higher studies at Cambridge University and received his B.Sc. degree from London University.*
- *He conducted research under the renowned palaeobotanist Sir Albert Charles Seward, whom he considered his mentor.*

Birbal Sahni's dedication to research and his efforts in establishing the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany left a lasting impact on the study of paleobotany and palaeosciences in India. His legacy continues to inspire scientific exploration and discovery.

