

In Memory of Professor Dr. Mahendra Kumar Rout

"There is no substitute for hard work"

Dr. M. K. Rout is a perfect example of all the virtues of a Professor, epitomizes brilliant efficient administrative skills required of a Principal, a very dynamic personality heading an eminent University such as Utkal University as a Vice-Chancellor. Simultaneously he was a multi-faceted genius and believed in the ethics of hard work and discipline. He walked the walk guided by the principle of the right to work only (Karmanye Badhikaraste) principle of the Bhagabat Gita. He inspired me to give my best efforts in everything I did as a student in Ravenshaw College. He was able to teach chemistry from I. SC. to M. Sc. every week over and above performing his own duties as a Principal. Students were serious attending his classes, because one would not know when he will call randomly (4th boy in 7th bench from the left) to answer his question. Students will run to be in his classes on time. The day will not be pleasant if one shows up late or is absent from his class if he knows or unable to answer his question correctly. He had a remarkable ability to know students by face and name. Despite his busy schedule as a Principal, teaching students above his prescribed duties completely on voluntary basis, he guided many students for Ph.D degrees and had an active research laboratory guiding early and established research scholars. Under his mentorship, he had a huge publication record and was well known in the field all over India. His commitment to research was paramount and unparalleled. In the evening, as a very inquisitive undergraduate student staying in west hostel, I used to look from a distance in the darkness Prof. Dr. Rout reading journals and discussing with research scholars. Some times I had noticed in late evening he used to walk with scholars around the Ravenshaw College campus. To this day after staying in USA for over 40 years, my memory of seventies, as a Ravenshaw College Student and an inmate of West Hostel, is still vivid of a person dressed in pristine white shirts and pants, everyday coming to office on time and trotting the corridors of Ravenshaw college. His presence in the Ravenshaw College from 1972-1979 was divine and will remain so for all time to come. His legacy as a Professor is ineffaceable.