Major Developments in Indian Geology in the 20th Century

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The establishment of the Geological Survey of India in the second half of the 19th century marked the beginning of geological activities in the modern sense, in India. R.D. Oldham's study of the Assam earthquake of June 12, 1897 and its eventual publication propounding the existence of P, S, and L waves was the first major development of the 20th century, to be succeeded by an equally important contribution by Archdeacon Pratt on Isostasy and theory of compensation. Sir Sydney Burrard of the Survey of India deduced the presence of Hidden Range and Hidden Trough, both named after him. The classification of the Dharwar system into two by Smeeth in 1915 and into three by Rama Rao in 1940 is a landmark in the Archaean Geology of India, while the overhauling of the century-old stratigraphic classification of the Cuddapah basin of King by Rajurkar and Ramalingaswamy in 1975-78 and the tripartite classification of the earlier two-fold classification of the Gondwana system of Feistmantel and Vredenberg is another landmark in Indian Geology. The discovery of the world's largest barytes deposit by Karunakaran and the location of bauxite deposit on the east coast of India, discovery of oil fields off the west coast that brought about a change in the industrail and economic scence of India, are major developments. At least two of the expeditions to the Antarctica were led by geologists/geophysicists is a tribute to the progress made by geology in India.