

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

CENTRAL OFFICE

Ajoy Bhavan, 15 Com. Indrajit Gupta Marg, New Delhi - 1100 02
E-mail : cpiofindia@gmail.com, nationalcouncil@communistparty.in, Web : www.communistparty.in

Tele. : 23232801
23235546
23235058
23235099
Fax : 23235543

D. RAJA
General Secretary



CPI condolences:

Com PK Balkrishnan (Balan) passes away

New Delhi: Com PK Balakrishnan Nair, popularly known as Balan, the famous CPI librarian, passed away here on July 20 at a local hospital after a period of illness, at the age of 82. He had a fall in his house recently and got multiple fractures on his left side, and was being treated in the hospital. He was brought back home but soon his health deteriorated and he died while being taken to the hospital.

CPI general secretary D Raja, along with national secretariat members Dr BK Kango and Binoy Viswom, rushed to late com Balan's residence. Many comrades from Ajoy Bhavan also rushed to his house. National secretariat member Pallab Sengupta helped make necessary arrangements. D Raja and others paid their homage to the departed comrade and offered condolences to the family members. Comrades from Delhi party also reached his residence soon after receiving the news.

Binoy Viswom said in his condolence that Com Balan was officially the librarian in Ajoy Bhavan but was much more than that. He was a moving encyclopedia of CPI history, who has been unsung hero of the Communist movement, who had seen generations of Communist leaders.

Balan was born in 1940 in Kunnoor, Kerala, in a family of established Communists. He formally became a party member in 1958.

Balan has been the librarian of CPI Library at Ajoy Bhavan for more than five decades. He was associated with the work of collecting and copying the documents of history of CPI,

headed by Dr G Adhikari, who got several volumes of it published. Balan did lot of work on the microfilm reader in the CPI office when it was in the RPD Bhavan (PPH house) in Jhandewalan. Dr Adhikari's research unit used to be located in the PPH building in the late 60s-early 70s.

All the books and research materials were shifted to Ajoy Bhavan after its construction was completed in 1970. Since then the materials, books and journals of the history of Communist, workers', peasants', youth, student, women's etc movement grew rapidly. Com Balan practically became the custodian of this rich collection of books and materials. Research scholars and students from far and wide including from abroad keep coming to consult this rich collection.

Balan worked under and in cooperation with generations of CPI leaders in Asaf Ali Road office and Ajoy Bhavan, such as PC Joshi, BTR, SA Dange, EMS, Ajoy Ghosh, C Rajeshwara Rao, Dr Adhikari, Mohit Sen, Bhowani Sen, Indrajit Gupta and many others. As a result, he could collect lot oral and printed information about the incidents and events in the Communist and related movements. He wrote several interesting and useful articles, books and booklets including the compilation of party congresses titled 'Communist Party of India: At a Glance', which is a collection of details about the office bearers elected at various congresses. He wanted to write his reminiscences of party history as he saw while working within the CPI.

He used to take dictations from and interact with such leaders as PC Joshi, Ajoy Ghosh, CR and others. He wanted to jot down all the important details. Under his guidance CPI library grew into a famous library on this subject. The party drew liberally on the materials and photos available in the library whenever a party congress was held or some important event, such as foundation day etc was held.

Com Balan came to Delhi from Kerala as a young whole-timer of the party in roughly the middle of the 1950s. Since then he remained an inalienable part of the central party apparatus, helping work of the central CPI office. He was very simple and humble and never ran after any positions and posts. He was elected secretary of the PHQ party branch on several occasions. He saw with his own eyes the attack on CPI Headquarters in Asaf Ali Road in 1963 by the Jan Sangh goons. He just escaped being fatally attacked.

During the recent lockdown he had an attack of Covid, from which he recovered, but suffered a lot.

In his demise, the CPI has lost a rich source of history of Communist and workers' movement. Ideologically and politically, he was very alert.