



ALL INDIA STATE BANK OFFICERS' FEDERATION



(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No: 727/MDS)

Central Office: State Bank Buildings, St. Mark's Road, Bangalore-560 001

Registered Office: 22, Rajaji Salai, Chennai- 600 001

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TO ALL OUR AFFILIATES

Com. M. Balakrishnan, Former President, AISBOF – A Towering Trade Union Leader bids adieu



It is the sunny morning of June the 12th that overshadowed by the cloud of eternal grief, accentuating an untimely sunset heralding the sadful demise of Com. M. Balakrishna, the champion of trade union movement who dared to mark a footprint on the roads less travelled and at times unexplored.

The sadful event left our heart choked and tongue wanting to convey the message to our members just to enable them pay a last homage to the connoisseur Com. M. Balakrishnan the former President of AISBOF,

General Secretary of SBIOA (Chennai Circle) and one of the most distinguished crusaders of the Officers' Trade Union Movement.

With his attaining the eternal peace, the trade union movement as a whole and the Bank Officers' fraternity in particular has lost one of its most galactic leaders, an accomplished negotiator, a gifted orator, a committed organizer and above all, a tireless champion of the cause of bank officers.

Com. M. Balakrishnan joined the State Bank of India on 16th July 1962 as a Clerk and was promoted to the Officers' Cadre on 11th November 1968. From the very beginning of his banking career, he displayed an exemplary commitment to the trade union movement and dedicated his life for safeguarding the interest of the officers' fraternity and for strengthening the organization.

He served SBIOA, Chennai Circle, in various capacities and was elected as General Secretary in May 1986, a position he held with exceptional distinction and dedication. His archetypal leadership and organizational abilities earned him recognition all across the country. He was co-opted as President of AISBOF on 1st September 1997 and was subsequently elected to the position by the General Council.

Throughout his illustrious journey in the trade union movement, Com. Balakrishnan held several important positions, including Vice President of AISBOF, State Secretary of AICOBBO, Executive Committee Member of AIBOC, and Joint Secretary of AIBOC. His profound understanding of service conditions, wage structures, and industrial relations enabled him to effectively resolve members' issues and secure significant collective bargaining gains for officers.

A master strategist and an exceptional negotiator, he possessed the rare ability to combine deep technical knowledge with practical wisdom. His contributions towards improving service conditions, addressing anomalies and protecting officers' rights remain landmarks in the history of our movement.

As a Defence Representative, he guided and defended countless of officers during difficult times and trained numerous activists in disciplinary proceedings and defence representation. His expertise extended beyond our organization and benefited the broader banking trade union movement. An eloquent speaker and inspiring educator, Com. Balakrishnan was a respected faculty member and resource person in several educational and training institutions. He also played a significant role in the growth of the SBIOA Trust and the SBIOA Institute for Trade Union Education and Research, where he nurtured future generations of trade union leaders.

His lifelong commitment to cooperative institutions and his active participation in the historic struggles of the banking fraternity, including the Indefinite Strike of 1969, reflected his resolute dedication to the principles of trade unionism. The life of Com. M. Balakrishnan stands as a shining example of commitment, sacrifice, integrity and service. His immense contributions have left an indelible imprint on AISBOF and the officers' movement across the country. His demise has created a void that will be difficult to fill. However, his ideals, wisdoms, and contributions will continue to inspire generations of trade union activists. His name shall forever remain etched in golden letters in the glorious history of our Federation.

AISBOF pays its respectful homage to this legendary leader and dips its Federation Flag as a mark of mourning and respect. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty to grant them strength and courage to bear with this irreparable loss.

Com. M. Balakrishnan will continue to live in our hearts, shall remain ever fresh in memories and in every struggle, we venture into, he shall be one of the guiding ideals that shall lead us to the light of dignity.

Red Salute, Comrade!



(Rupam Roy)
General Secretary

At the Service of Members for more than 6 Decades

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