



Prof D Balasubramanian's Diamond Jubilee celebrations as a mentor at CCMB

Hyderabad, 22nd February, 2026: CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) celebrated its 10th Founder's Day on 22 Feb on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr PM Bhargava, Founding Director of CCMB. This year, CCMB with its alumni body decided to celebrate the day by felicitating scientists who have contributed to the life and legacy of the institute. This year, CCMB celebrated the day with felicitation of Prof D Balasubramanian who was at the institute from 1982-1998 as a faculty member, including as its Director from 1992-1998. He was one of the first hiring as senior leadership at CCMB as its Deputy Director when the Dr Bhargava had received the permission to build CCMB as an independent national research laboratory for biology – a first of its kind in the country.



Dr Vinay Nandicoori felicitating Prof D Balasubramanian, joined by his family

On the occasion, Prof Balasubramanian recounted his time at CCMB and emphasized the culture of science and arts co-existing at the institute, one that he also took ahead to LVPEI. Scientists from CCMB and across the country had gathered to share their memories of working with Prof Balasubramanian in their younger days as their friend, colleague, teacher and mentor. This included Dr GN Rao, Founder of LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad, Prof KN Ganesh, Founder Director of IISER-Pune and later Director of IISER-Tirupati, Prof LS Shashidhara, Director of the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Prof Anuradha Lohia, Founder CEO of DBT/Wellcome India Alliance and Chairperson of Manovikas Kendra, Prof P Balaram, former Director of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Prof

Dipankar Chatterji also from IISc among many others. They reminded how Prof Balasubramanian built a culture of science beyond his roles at CCMB – be it his seminal contribution in building a research vertical at a hospital like LVPEI or at Manovikas Kendra that started as a school for children with special needs or his continued dedication to popular science communication.

Prof Balaram's remark that the celebration is one of Prof Balasubramanian's 60 years of being a mentor to the community is a suiting summary of the event. In 1966, Prof Balasubramanian had taken up his first faculty member role at IIT-Kanpur, where his academic mentor had formally begun. And, the event captured the many lives that he touched in his scientific journey.

"CCMB was conceived as and grown into a place where ideas and thinkers are fostered. It could become a place as that because of contributions of veterans like Prof Balasubramanian. We couldn't be more grateful for their generosity," said Dr Vinay K Nandicoori, Director, CCMB.