

Calcutta Research Group's Founder President Tapan K. Bose Passes Away

Tapan K. Bose (1946–2025)

Renowned documentary film-maker, human rights and peace activist known across South Asia, but to all who have met him, Tapan Bose has been a friend for life, is no more. He breathed his last on 30 January 2025 at his residence in Delhi leaving behind a legacy of solidarity and the strength and will to stand against injustice. He was the founder President of the Calcutta Research Group as the institution started its journey in 1996 as forum for policy discussions on peace, human rights, justice—values that resonated and will continue to inspire generations from Tapan Bose's works. He started his activism during the political Emergency period in late 1970s, and later filming the victims of Bhagalpur blindings, Bhopal disaster, fighting the human rights violations in Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir. He became an important member of the people's groups that tried to stop the 1984 Riots in Delhi and was part of the support group for the Sikh community in the city and in Punjab. He was in Kathmandu at a time when the region was gripped with one its worst political crises, and brought together impacted communities from across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Burma, Afghanistan, etc. Whether it was Babri Masjid demolition or the Godhra carnage and anti-Muslim pogrom, he was there with the communities fighting for survival, dignity, human rights and peace. His friendships across Balochistan, Burma, Kashmir, Naga areas and Tamil movement in Sri Lanka are well known. From the earlier part of his life when he made documentary films as a medium to counter undemocratic forces, he shifted to being an activist and a mentor to younger generations in resistance. His knowledge of South Asia made him a recognised author with many academic publishers across the world and many younger film-makers. He committed himself to being available for communities and people who opposed the capitalist plunder of the earth and colonisation of resources and people. He extended his support to the trade union movement and was a close advisor to the fisheries peoples, forest workers movements.

Tapan Bose will always be a friend cherished in memories and through his works and a comrade who believed in equality for all.

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