

Minutes of the General Body Meeting of the Society for Polymer Science, India (SPSI) held on December 15, 2025, 18:00 hrs at the Raman Hall, IIT Kharagpur Research Park, Kolkata

Members present: ~63 Life Members attended the Meeting.

1. Minutes of the GBM held on December 10, 2023, 17:30 hrs at the Bhupen Hazarika Auditorium, IIT Guwahati, were confirmed.

2. Prof. Anil Kumar, President, SPSI, warmly welcomed all members of the Society and formally initiated the General Body Meeting. He then requested the members to observe two-minute silence in memory of the departed SPSI members, Prof. H. Kothandaraman, Department of Polymer Science, Anna University, Madras, who played a key role in the creation of the Society for Polymer Science India (SPSI) in March 1979 at Madras, and Prof. Kannan, Department of Physical Chemistry, University of Madras, and past President of the SPSI Chennai Chapter.

3. Prof. S. Sivaram recalled his association with Professor Kothandaraman and his stellar contributions to both polymer science research and education, as well as nurturing SPSI in its formative years.

2. 4. In his introductory remarks, Prof. Anil Kumar summarized the activities of the Society over the past three years. He expressed his appreciation to the SPSI Guwahati Chapter for the successful organization of “SPSI-MACRO 2023” and commended the local chapters for conducting various meetings aimed at popularizing polymer science in India. He also announced the institution of an Endowment Lecture in honour of Prof. Indra Kumari Varma, a retired professor at IIT Delhi, from 2025. He also briefed the members about the rules and regulations of the formation of new chapter under the SPSI.

3. A detailed discussion was held on the formation of local chapters of SPSI. Several members expressed interest in establishing local chapters at various locations across the country. Members from Kanpur conveyed their intention to renew their local chapter and sought support from SPSI. It was also noted that members from Mohali, Roorkee, and Mandi would initiate the process for forming a North Region (North Chapter), in addition to proposed chapters at Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, and Gujarat. SPSI requested the concerned members to expedite the process for the formation of these local chapters.

4. A detailed discussion was also held regarding the establishment of a permanent office for SPSI. It was proposed to deliberate further on this matter and take it forward by generating additional revenue for the Society through the induction of new members, enhancement of life membership fees, and the introduction of a student membership category. The responsibility for pursuing these initiatives was assigned to the newly constituted Executive Committee.

5. It was also suggested that all newly formed local chapters utilise the SPSI headquarters bank account and PAN for conducting their activities, instead of opening separate bank accounts.
6. It was decided to constitute a committee to address matters related to the industrial awards (GHARDA and PIDILITE). The committee was entrusted with reformulating the guidelines for the Dr. K. H. Gharda Industrial Innovation Award in Polymer Science to encourage a greater number of applications. The committee was also requested to liaise with Gharda Chemicals to secure advance funding for the smooth conduct of this award during the SPSI-MACRO conferences.
7. It was decided that, in cases where the awardees' institutions do not approve the receipt of cash awards, the prize may be given in kind.
8. Dr. E. Bhoje Gowd, Hon. Secretary, made a brief presentation on the activities of the Society which took place during and after the SPSI-MACRO-2023 at IIT, Guwahati, as detailed below:
 - A new website for SPSI (<https://spsi.org.in/>) has been launched, featuring online membership enrolment and online submission of award applications.
 - An Endowment Lecture has been instituted in honour of Prof. Indra Kumari Varma, former Professor, IIT Delhi. The first Prof. I.K. Varma Endowment Lecture was awarded to Prof. Padma Gopalan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, in 2025.
 - In collaboration with local colleges and universities, the SPSI Chennai chapter organized several events to popularize polymer science including special lecture on "Polymer Science: The Future is Flexible" on 10th October 2024 at the Department of Chemistry, WCC Chemistry Club, National Seminar on Green Polymers for Future Generations on 12th March 2025 at the Department of Chemistry & Loyola Institute of Frontier Energy (LIFE), Loyola College, Chennai, National Conference on New Frontiers in Polymer Chemistry for a Sustainable and Green Future on 23-24 January 2025 at Women's Christian College, Chennai and National Seminar on Advancement in Polymeric Nanomaterials - A New Era of Innovation on 28th March 2025 at R.V. Government Arts & Science College, Chengalpattu.
 - SPSI Thiruvananthapuram Chapter organized a one-day conference on Polymer Materials jointly with the Department of Chemistry, Kannur University. Conducted a technical lecture on Polymer Nanocomposites and Interpenetrating Polymer Networks for Multifunctional Applications by Dr. Debducta Ratna (NMRL) on 4th July 2023 at Hotel Horizon. Recognized outstanding research in polymer science by presenting the 2022 and 2023 Best Ph.D. Thesis Awardsto Dr. Rajalakshmi and Dr. Jeemol, respectively. This chapter is also actively participated in community support initiatives.

- SPSI Calicut Chapter organized a national programme CROSSLINKS, including the National Conference on Polymer Science 'Crosslinks-2024' during 12-13 July 2024 at NIT Calicut, Kerala, participated in the GIAN programme BIOCOMPOSITES: Development, Characterisation and Applications at the Department of Chemistry, NIT Calicut, during 17-20 March 2025.
 - SPSI Pune Chapter organized multiple events jointly with CSIR-NCL and IISER Pune. A three-day lecture series on "Plastics and Circularity: Challenges and Opportunities" during 28-30 May 2025 at SSBLT, PAML Building, CSIR-NCL Pune. National Conference and Workshop on Polymer-Based Additive Manufacturing (NCW-PAM 2025) on 8-9 October 2025 at SSBLT, PAML Building, CSIR-NCL, Pune. International Symposium on Designer Polymers & Materials (ISDPM-2025) from 23-25 October 2025, jointly organized by IISER Pune, CSIR-NCL, and SPSI-Pune Chapter.
 - SPSI Mumbai Chapter in collaboration with Somaiya Vidyavihar University, organized a week-long orientation programme "Explore the World of Polymers" from 2-6 June 2025.
9. During SPSI-MACRO 2025, Prof. Tanja Junkers from Monash University, Australia, delivered the fifth Sivaram Endowment Lecture, while Prof. S. Ramakrishnan from IISc Bangalore delivered the fifth Palit Memorial Lecture. Prof. Padma Gopalan from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, delivered the first Prof. I.K. Varma Endowment Lecture. The SPSI award lectures were also presented by the award winners. The Professor M. Santappa Award 2025 was jointly awarded to Prof. Priyadarshi De of IISER Kolkata and Prof. M. Jayakannan of IISER Pune. The Kaushal Kishore Memorial Award Lectures 2025 were delivered by younger colleagues Prof. Uttam K. Manna of IIT Guwahati and Prof. Sanjib Banerjee of IIT Bhilai. The President appreciated the committee members for their selection of the named lecture speakers and congratulated all the award winners on behalf of SPSI.
 10. A brief report of the audited accounts of the Society for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 were presented by Dr. Samir Chikkali, Treasurer, SPSI. A copy of the audited accounts has been uploaded on the web site.
 11. The SPSI Thiruvananthapuram chapter, along with the proposed Hyderabad chapter, expressed interest in organizing the 19th International Conference, SPSI-MACRO 2027. After deliberations, the general body recommended that the SPSI Thiruvananthapuram chapter organize the MACRO-2027 conference. It was also decided that the organizers of SPSI-MACRO conferences must follow SPSI guidelines and maintain regular communication to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.
 12. The following new executive committee has been proposed by the president of SPSI.

Designation	Executive Committee SPSI (2026-27)
President	Prof. Tarun K. Mandal (IACS, Kolkata)
Past President	Prof. Anil Kumar (IIT Bombay)
Vice President	Prof. M. Jayakannan (IISER, Pune)
Vice President	Prof. Bimlesh Lochab (Shiv Nadar University, NOIDA)
Secretary	Dr. Bhoje Gowd (NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram)
Treasurer	Dr. Samir Chikkali (NCL, Pune)
Members	Prof. Garima Agrawal (IIT Mandi)
	Prof. Vimal Katiyar (IIT, Guwahati)
	Prof. Uma P. Ojha (IIT, Bhubaneswar)
	Dr. G Padmanaban (Asian Paints)
	Prof. Raj Kumar Roy (IISER Mohali)
	Dr Anubhav Saxena (Pidilite Ltd, Mumbai)
Ex-Officio Members	
	Prof. Suryasarathi Bose (IISc Bangalore) Prof. G. Unnikrishnan (NIT Calicut) Prof. E. Murugan (Anna University) Prof. Mangala Joshi (IIT Delhi) Prof. Nikhil Kumar Singha (IIT, Kharagpur) Prof. Dipankar Chattopadhyay (Calcutta University) Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai (Somaia Vidyavihar University) Dr. S.K. Asha (CSIR-NCL, Pune)

Prof. Sivaram seconded the proposed amendments and General Body unanimously approved the proposed Execom SPSI.

In conclusion, President Prof. Anil Kumar thanked the members and local chapters for contributing to various activities of the SPSI. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Secretary Dr. Bhoje Gowd.

SPSI-MACRO-2025
Attendance

Sr. No.	Name	SPSI member Yes/No	Mobile Number Sign
1	S. Renuka Devi	Yes	9449518794
2	Shresh Varliyanneethil	No	+65 90174532
3	N.K. Singha	Yes	9434369872
4	Muralikrishnan	Yes	9446387517
5	Dr. Rajeev R.S	Yes	9495110733
4	Suraj. S	Yes	8129073310
5	Dr. Sreejith M.	Yes	9745069030
6	Tushar JANA	Yes	
6	G. Urvanishwan MIT CALICUT	Yes	9846764238
7	UTTAM MANNA	Yes	7086691176
8	RAJ KUMAR ROY	Yes	9679936646
9	Asish Pal	Yes	8284860330
10	N. Rajendiran	Yes	9176141843
11	RAMKRISHNA SARKAR	Yes	8951087482
12	G. PADMANABAN	Yes	9624055118
13	Leena Nebhani	Yes	9599225174
14	Subrata Chattopadhyay	Yes	7761919211
15	Arindam Chakrabarty	Yes	7718168992
16	Shreyam Chellappa	No	+81-80-5184-9165
17	Sanjib Senijer	Yes	9674857330
18	Debasis Samanta	Yes	9789073297
19	Jit Sankar	Yes	8100614831
20	Prakash P. Wadgaonkar	Yes	8482908123
21	Pralay Maiti	Yes	9935141321
22	Umaprasanna Osha	Yes	9305140380
23	Biswajit Ray	Yes	9451622447
24	Raju Bej	NO	7585919392

SPSL-MACRO-2025

Attendant

Sr. No.	Name	SPS22-member Yes/No	Mobile No	Signature
25	Yash Ganesh WADGARKAR	NO	+33 609222652	
26.	SAGAR POL	Yes	9471191529	
27.	DEBAPRASAD MANDAL	YES	9417008480	

SPSI-MACRO-2025 Attendance

Sr. No.	Name	SPSI member Yes/No	mobile No.	Signature
1	E. Bhaje Gowd	Yes	9048427911	Bhaji
2	Samir Chikali	Yes	9765462176	Samir
3	Tarun K. Mandal	Yes	9433408482	T. Mandal
4	S. SWARAM	Yes	9860799954	SSuj
5	Prof. E. MURVAYAN	Yes	9444275889	Prof. E. Murvayan
6	Tushar Jana	Yes	9440127018	Tushar
7	Dr. A.V. Gesta Sainath	Yes	9440732018	A. V. Gesta
8	Priyadarshi Chakraborty	Yes	9434616214	P. C
9	Dr. SUTAPA GHOSH	No	9440698067	Sutapa
10	DR. GARIMA AGRAWAL	YES	9317957305	Garima
11	PRIYADARSI DE	YES	9674629345	P. Dey
12	DIBAKAR DHARA	YES	9474758784	D. Dhara
13	RAJA SANNMUYAM	YES	9746897367	Raja Sannmuyam
14	Bimlesh Lochab	Yes	9899915584	Bimlesh
15	Asha Syamakumari	Yes	9420482376	Asha
16	Manickam Jayalcanan	Yes	9420482379	Manickam
17	MANGKA JOSHI	YES	9818927946	M. Joshi
18	Paramita Das	Yes	9582350263	P. Das
19	Amisha	No	9667139118	Amisha
20	Anupama Devi	No	8081664077	Anupama
21	NABANITA SAHA, MSc, PhD	NO	+420 608040134 +91 9733643826	N. Saha
22	Dr. GUN Rathna	Yes	9561343825	G. Rathna
23	Sonu Kumar	Yes	82870 95205	S. Kumar
24	Ketan Patel	Yes	8806304887	K. Patel
25	Shilpi Kushwaha	Yes	8554982810	Shilpi

S.No	Name	SPSI Member Yes/No	Mobile & Signature.
26	Dr. Dibyendu Sekhar Bag DMSRDE, Kamrupe	Yes	6307628924 <u>Sag</u>
27.	Dr. C.V. AVADHAN/ (ENCL), SOMAIYA, Mumbai	Yes	9890640888 <u>AV</u>
28	SHIVKUMAR GHUGARE	No	9408017486 <u>Sh</u>
29	RAHUL SHINGTE	Yes	9924148952 <u>RSh</u>
30	PRADIP DEY	No	8334076980 <u>Pr</u>
31	Yogesh. Chandrasekaran	No	8762903597 <u>Yog</u>
32	SUMAN KUMAR SEN	YES	9886 904 920
33.	Dr. Arindam Samgrahi	Yes	8452016344
34.	Dr. Mijanur Rahman	Yes	9239018512 <u>MR</u>
35.	Dr. Goutam Ghosh	Yes	9007873603 <u>GH</u>
36.	Dr. Suman Kalyan Samanta	Yes	7063505424 <u>SuS</u>