

**Society for Promotion of Horticulture (SPH)**  
**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (AGM)**

Date: Friday, 17 October 2025 | Time: 11:00 AM

**Venue:** Dr. G. S. Randhawa Auditorium, ICAR-IIH, Bengaluru (Hybrid Mode)

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## **1. Opening of the Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 11:00 AM under the chairmanship of Dr. S. D. Shikhamany, Founder President and Chief Patron. The General Secretary, Dr. G. Karunakaran, welcomed all members and outlined the agenda.

### **Dignitaries present:**

- Dr. S. D. Shikhamany - Founder President, SPH
- Prof. Tusr Kanti Behera - President
- Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh - Vice President
- Dr. T. H. Singh - Vice President
- Dr. G. Karunakaran - General Secretary
- Dr. Dhananjaya M. V. - Joint Secretary
- Dr. Sridhar Gutam - Joint Secretary
- Dr. Smitha G. R. - Treasurer
- Dr. Rajiv Kumar - Editor, JHS
- Life Members, Fellows, Awardees, and other participants (online & offline)

## **2. Condolences**

The House observed a two-minute silence in memory of:

- Dr. Krishan Lal Chadha, Former DDG (Hort.), ICAR
- Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan, Former DG, ICAR

Their service to horticultural science was acknowledged with deep respect.

## **3. Confirmation of Previous AGM Proceedings & Action Taken Report**

The proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 30 May 2024 were confirmed unanimously.

The Action Taken Report was presented, the House noted the report with appreciation.

## **4. Report of the General Secretary (2024-25)**

### **4.1 Membership**

Membership was reviewed, including Life, Corporate, and Institutional Members.

Membership growth from Oct-Dec was noted, with updated figures recorded.

The initiative to encourage authors of JHS papers to become SPH members was endorsed.

### **4.2 SPH Awards 2024-25**

The House ratified the awardees already felicitated.

### **Honorary Fellowship:**

- Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh

### **Fellow of SPH:**

- Dr. K. Dhinesh Babu
- Dr. G. Karunakaran



**Associate Fellow of SPH:**

- Dr. Ajit Arun Waman
- Dr. D. C. Manjunatha Gowda

**Smt. Anne Shikhamany Memorial Best Paper Award:**

- Lokesha, A.N. et al.

**Dr. G. S. Randhawa Best Thesis Awards:**

- Fruits & Plantation Crops: Dr. Amaresh Hadimani
- Vegetables & Tuber Crops: Dr. Harsha S. G.
- Flowers/Medicinal/Spices: Dr. Chandana S.

**4.3 Foundation Day**

A report on Foundation Day 2025 was presented.

The Foundation Lecture was delivered by Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR.

**5. Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Dr. Smitha G. R., presented the audited financial statements for FY 2024-25.

**Decisions:**

- The House approved the audited statement.
- The Society will appoint a new Chartered Accountant; quotations (3 firms) received will be evaluated.
- Income Tax matters (exemptions, settlements) to be reviewed with the new CA.
- FCRA compliance will be undertaken with CA guidance.

**5.1 New Financial Resolution**

- Fresh Fixed Deposits will be created.

**6. Report of the Editor-in-Chief, JHS**

The Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, presented updates on review timelines, indexing, and enhancement strategies.

**Publications and Outreach**

The House noted progress on:

- Editorial improvements and policy tightening (discouraging honorary authorship)
- Raising manuscript word limits
- Proposal to launch an **SPH e-Newsletter** by the end of 2025 → **Approved**

**Decisions:**

- Editorial sections will be expanded to strengthen the review process. Section Editors may be increased with EC approval.
- Editor-in-Chief will be **NOMINATED** (not elected).
- Editor / Assistant Editor post will be filled through election. However detailed modalities for editor elections will be drafted by a committee.



## 7. Executive Committee (2025-2027)

The House recorded the EC election results declared on 12 June 2025. The new EC assumed office on 1 July 2025.

### Office Bearers

- **President:** Dr. T. K. Behera
- **Vice Presidents:**
  - Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh
  - Dr. T. H. Singh
- **General Secretary:** Dr. G. Karunakaran
- **Joint Secretaries:**
  - Dr. M. V. Dhananjaya
  - Dr. Sridhar Gutam
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Smitha G. R.
- **Editor-in-Chief, JHS:** Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- **Zonal Councillor**
  - Dr. Anjani Kumar Jha, North Zone
  - Dr. Dinesh Babu, West Zone
  - Dr. Pooja Bohra, East Zone
  - Dr. Hemla Naik, South Zone

## 8. Governance Resolutions

- Minimum 50% of EC members must be retained in the next EC.
- No EC member shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same post.
- EC meetings shall be conducted periodically.
- Committees would be formulated for Arka Vyapar App, Awards & Scorecard and Elections. Detailed report / guidelines and modalities to be drafted and tabled before the EC

## 9. Forthcoming Events

The following events were announced:

- **3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access**
  - 2-6 February 2026, UAS Bengaluru
  - In collaboration with ICAR-IIHR, ICAR-DKMA, and UAS Bengaluru
  - SPH will be the lead host and provide seed money
- **PGR Conference**

## 10. Fellowship/Endowment Award Proposals:

- Contribution from Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh (₹1,00,000) → Fruit Science Award
- Contribution from Dr. Madhavi Reddy → Prof. K. V. Peter Memorial Award (Vegetable Science)
- Contribution from Dr. R. B. Tiwari → S. B. Mani Award (Post Harvest Technology)
- Contribution from Dr. Sridhar Gutam → Award for Basic Sciences
- Contribution from Dr. Hima Bindu → Dr. Janaki Ammal Memorial Award (Medicinal/Aromatic)



- Dr. Sumangala to contact the Attavar Family regarding the Shri. Manmohan Attavar Floriculture Award.
- Letter to Dr. K. V. Peter's family seeking consent for the Memorial Award.
- Letters to all award sponsors who announced contributions in the AGM.

## **11. Any Other Matters**

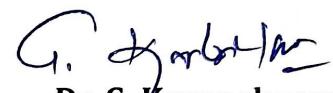
With permission of the Chair, the following matters were taken on record:

- Review of Society registration / renewal under **state rules**.
- Amendments to the bylaws

## **12. Vote of Thanks**

Dr. M. V. Dhananjaya, Joint Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.

The meeting concluded on a cordial note.



**Dr. G. Karunakaran**  
General Secretary, SPH



**Dr. T. Kanti Behera**  
President, SPH