

Candidate for IUGS Executive Committee

Position: Councilor (2026-2030)

Name: Dr. Hema Achyuthan

Affiliation:

Centre for Environmental Studies,
Anna University, Chennai 600025

Nominating Organization:

The Geological Society of India, Bangalore



Biography:

Born in Srirangam, a temple town in southern Tamil Nadu, India, I later pursued my education in Pune, where my father worked as a scientist at the Hindustan Antibiotics Penicillin Manufacturing Company. Both my undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Geological Sciences are from Nowrosjee Wadia College and the University Department for Geology, Pune University. My Ph.D. thesis, completed in 1987 at Deccan College Pune, involved excavating a geoarchaeological site in Didwana, western Rajasthan, where I applied various techniques, including soil micromorphology. I also had the opportunity to be a visiting student in Paris through the CIES fellowship in 1985.

I progressed from a Lecturer to a Professor at Anna University, where I served for nearly 27 years, including stints as the head of the Department and director of the Centre for Women Empowerment. Currently, I am working as a Professor Emeritus at the Centre for Environmental Studies. Throughout my career, I have received numerous awards, including the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) Young Scientist Award in 1985 and a Fullbright Post-Doctoral Fellowship in 1995. My research has taken me across the globe, working on projects funded by organizations such as NSF and ICTP, Trieste.

Specializing in Late Quaternary Soil geomorphology and landscape evolution, I focus on reconstructing paleo monsoons and paleoenvironments. My work extends beyond India, collaborating with institutions like Cambridge University in Kenya. I have supervised over 25 Ph.D. students and co-supervised two others from prestigious universities (Oxford and Cambridge Universities), publishing more than 150 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. Engaging with international geological groups has been integral to my career, fostering collaborations and joint research efforts.

Currently serving as the Foreign Secretary of the Geological Society of India and Associate Editor of several international journals, I continue to interact with scholars worldwide. My nomination for the IUGS committee stems from my longstanding international collaborations and commitment to advancing scientific research. Working with students and researchers brings me immense joy and satisfaction, motivating me to serve on the committee.

Statement:

In my roles as the Foreign Secretary of the Geological Society of India, National Coordinator of the International Earth Science Olympiad, and Associate Editor for respected international journals like Episodes and Quaternary International, I've interacted with scholars and students worldwide, fostering extensive international relationships and scholarly exchanges. This experience has fueled my commitment to global collaboration, leading to my nomination for the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) committee by the Geological Society of India. Throughout my career, I have built a network of colleagues across the globe, many of whom have become lifelong friends. I support students and researchers, aiding in their scientific pursuits and guiding their work, which brings me profound satisfaction and fuels my dedication to the scientific community. My passion for fostering international partnerships, nurturing the next generation of geoscientists, and advancing scientific endeavors motivates my desire to serve as an IUGS committee member, where I aim to contribute my expertise, enthusiasm, and international perspective to further its mission of promoting geoscience research and education globally.