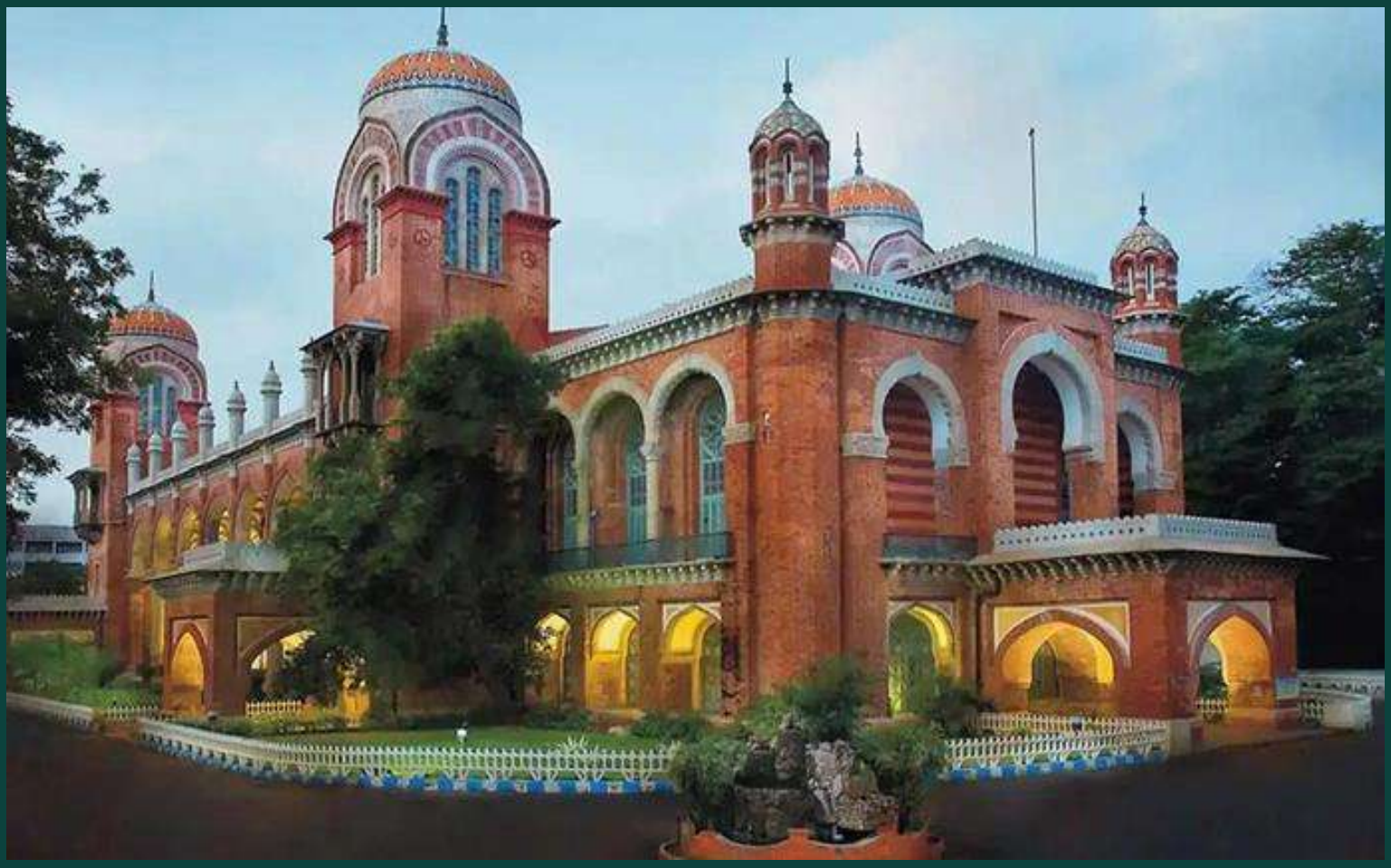
IGS CENTENARY CONFERENCE - 2026

International Conference on Geography & Geoinformatics for a Sustainable, Equitable and Resilient Future

28th – 30th December, 2026



Organized by

INDIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

&

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

CHENNAI 600 025

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THE INDIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

A Century of Excellence: The Indian Geographical Society (1926–2026)

Founded in 1926 in Chennai, the Indian Geographical Society (IGS) stands as the oldest professional geographical organization in India and a trailblazer across Asia. For a century, the IGS has been the cornerstone of geographical advancement, bridging the gap between rigorous academic research and meaningful public engagement.

Paving the Way for Geographic Thought

The Society's impact is anchored by its flagship publication, the Indian Geographical Journal. As one of the country's longest-running academic periodicals, it serves as a premier platform for diverse scholarship, spanning:

- Physical Geography: Environmental systems and natural landscapes.
- Human Geography: Social structures, demographics, and cultural dynamics.
- Applied Geography: Practical solutions for spatial planning and sustainable resource management.

Through a consistent schedule of prestigious conferences, seminars, and expert lectures, the IGS has nurtured generations of geographers and shaped the discipline's evolution in South Asia.

The Centenary Milestone: 2026

To honor its 100-year legacy, the Society is hosting a landmark event: ***The International Conference on Geography and Geoinformatics for a Sustainable Equitable and Resilient Future.*** This centenary celebration is more than a look back at a historic past; it is a forward-thinking assembly aimed at addressing the global challenges of the next century. It marks a historic milestone in India's journey toward spatial excellence and a resilient future.

INDIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
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Indian Geographical Journal (IGJ)

Editor	**: Prof. K. Kumaraswamy**

Chennai

Known as the "Detroit of Asia" for its industrial prowess and a UNESCO Creative City for its deep-rooted musical traditions, Chennai is a vibrant metropolis where antiquity and modernity coalesce. Strategically located on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal, the historic port city has evolved from the 17th-century colonial outpost of Fort St. George into a global hub for IT, healthcare, and education. As the capital of Tamil Nadu, India, it remains the soul of Dravidian culture, famously coming alive during the *Margazhi* season with the world's largest festival of Carnatic music and Bharatanatyam dance.

A Legacy of Geography and Spirit

The city holds a foundational place in the history of modern cartography; St. Thomas Mount stands not only as a spiritual landmark but as a primary triangulation point for the Great Trigonometrical Survey initiated by the British, which laid the mathematical basis for mapping the entire Indian subcontinent.

Chennai's landscape is further defined by a profound religious heritage: from the ancient, towering *gopurams* of the temples, to the historic Wallajah Mosque in Tiruvallikkeni, the architectural grandeur of the Thousand Lights Mosque, and the city's many iconic colonial-era churches.

A Future-Ready Metropolis

Today, Chennai is at a transformative "inflection point." Under the proposed Master Plan 2026, the city is looking to reinvent itself as a climate-resilient, future-ready urban center. With the expansion of its Metro Rail, the protection of eco-sensitive zones like the Pallikkaranai marshlands, and a thriving Geo-AI innovation ecosystem, the city embodies the very themes of this conference.

From the serenity of Marina Beach, the second-longest urban beach in the world, to the bustling tech corridors of OMR, Chennai offers an inspiring setting for scholars to explore the intersections of heritage, sustainability, and resilient urban growth.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

Established in 1857 the University of Madras stands as a venerable titan of Indian higher education, serving as the "Mother of Universities" in South India for nearly 170 years. Nestled in the port city of Chennai, along the iconic Marina Beach, its Chepauk campus is anchored by the breathtaking Senate House, a masterpiece of Indo-Saracenic architecture that reflects the institution's rich historical legacy. As a premier research-intensive university it has been a crucible for brilliance, boasting an unparalleled alumni roll that includes two Nobel Laureates—Sir C.V. Raman and Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar—the mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan, and several former Presidents of India. Guided by its motto, *Doctrina Vim Promovet Insitam* ("Learning promotes one's innate talent"), the university continues to bridge tradition with cutting-edge innovation, housing over 70 departments and multiple world-class centers, making it an inspiring backdrop for this international academic exchange.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Established in 1932, the Department of Geography at the University of Madras stands as one of India's most venerable institutions for geographical studies. From its foundational 1932 Diploma and 1940 M.Litt. programs to the commencement of its Ph.D. curriculum in 1964, the Department has maintained a distinguished legacy of academic excellence. Over nine decades, it has evolved from a center of traditional regional studies into a premier global hub for Geospatial Technology and Applied Geography.

The Department has been a national trendsetter in integrating sophisticated computational tools with geographical inquiry. It was among the early adopters of GIS, Remote Sensing, GNSS, and Digital Cartography, ensuring its curriculum remains at the vanguard of the discipline. Today, it offers specialized M.Sc. in Applied Geography, M.Tech. in Geoinformatics, and robust Ph.D. programmes to address the complexities of the 21st century.

Research Excellence & Global Synergy

The Department's trajectory is defined by aggressive infrastructure modernization and high-impact international partnerships. Key milestones include:

Strategic Funding: Recipient of prestigious UGC-SAP, DST-FIST grants, UGC – CPEPA and UKEIRI, facilitating world-class laboratory facilities and innovative academic programmes.

International Collaborations: A history of cross-border synergy, from the CIDA-funded Waterloo Geospatial Lab to MoUs with the Universities of Salzburg, Austria and University of Northampton & Staffordshire.

With a faculty of seasoned experts and a culture of rigorous inquiry, the Department actively leads discourse on climate resilience, sustainable urbanization, and spatial inequality. By bridging the gap between foundational theory and cutting-edge technology, the University of Madras continues to shape the future of India's geospatial research landscape as it enters its second century.

HOW TO REACH

By Air

The *Chennai International Airport* is approximately *18 km* from the Chepauk campus.

•**Metro Rail:** This is the most efficient option. Take the **Blue Line** directly from the Airport Metro Station to the *Government Estate* station. From there, the campus is about a *10-15 minute walk* or a quick auto-rickshaw ride away.

•**Taxi/App-Based Cabs:** Prepaid taxis, Uber, Ola and Rapido are available at the airport. The drive typically takes *45–60 minutes* depending on traffic.

•**Bus:** You can take bus *21G* from the airport (Thirusulam) bus stop, which goes toward Broadway and stops at the *Madras University/Chepauk* stop.

By Rail

Chennai is served by two major long-distance railway stations, both very close to the campus.

•**From Chennai Central:**

- •**Local Train (MRTS):** Walk across the road to the *Park Town* station and take a train toward Velachery. Get down *at Chepauk Station*. The campus is just a 5-minute walk from the station exit.
- •**Bus:** Take bus *2A* or *L18* from the stop opposite the station and get down at the *Madras University* stop.
- •**Auto/Taxi:** The distance is only about *3–4 km*. (Use Booking Apps for reasonable Fares)

•**From Chennai Egmore (MS):**

- •**Bus:** You can take buses like *27B or 29A* which lead directly to the campus area.
- •**Auto/Taxi:** The distance is roughly 4 km. (Use booking apps for reasonable Fares)

By Road

The campus is situated on *Wallajah Road* and *Kamrajar Salai,* right next to the M.A. Chidambaram (Chepauk) Cricket Stadium.

•**MTC Buses:** The campus is a major hub for city buses. Any bus heading toward *Anna Square or Marina Beach* will stop right at the University gates. Common routes include *102, 109, 12G, 21G*, and *25*.

•**From Mofussil Bus Terminus (CMBT/Koyambedu):** You can take bus *27B* directly to the Chepauk stop. Alternatively, take the Green Line metro to Central and switch to the **Blue Line** for Government Estate.

•**Landmarks:** If you are driving, look for the *Kamarajar Statue* or the *Ezhilagam building*, adjacent to the campus or Anna Square which is situated directly opposite the main campus entrance.

An Appeal to the Global Community of Geographers

As we stand at the threshold of the Indian Geographical Society's (IGS) Centenary in 2026, we find our discipline at a pivotal moment both in thought and research. The upcoming International Conference on Geography and geoinformatics for a Sustainable, Equitable, and Resilient Future is not merely a commemorative gathering; it is a vital intervention in a world increasingly defined by polycrisis—climate instability, deepening spatial inequalities, and the fragile nature of our global social fabric.

The Imperative of the Geographical Lens

For a century, the IGS has championed the power of spatial thinking. Today, that perspective is more than relevant; it is indispensable. The themes of this conference—Sustainability, Equity, and Resilience—represent the three pillars upon which the future of human habitation rests.

- ***Sustainable Development:*** Beyond a policy buzzword, sustainability in geography requires a rigorous re-examination of resource metabolism and land-use ethics. We are tasked with mapping the transition from extractive economies to regenerative systems.

- ***Spatial Equity:*** In an era of "just places," geographers must lead the charge in identifying and dismantling the cartographies of exclusion. From urban service gaps to global climate injustice, our role is to visualize and advocate for an equitable distribution of opportunity.

- ***Societal Resilience:*** Resilience is not a passive state but a dynamic capacity. Our discipline offers the multi-scalar tools; from GIS-driven risk modeling to deep ethnographic studies of community adaptation—necessary to build societies that can withstand and thrive amidst environmental and social shocks.

Why Now?

The year 2026 marks the final push toward the UN 2030 Agenda. As geographers, we possess the unique ability to unify the natural and social sciences. This conference provides the intellectual "laboratory" to synthesize these disparate threads into actionable frameworks. We invite you to contribute your scholarship to this historic milestone. Your presence in Chennai will not only honor 100 years of geographic tradition but will also help define the new spatial contract for the century to come.

THEME OF INDIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY CENTENARY CONFERENCE

The centenary year of the Indian Geographical Society (IGS) culminates in a thematic focus on ***"Geography and Geoinformatics for a Sustainable, Equitable, and Resilient Future,"*** a vision that repositions spatial science at the heart of global problem-solving.

This theme transcends traditional environmentalism to address the intricate "human-nature" nexus through a lens of systemic endurance and social justice. By integrating Sustainable Development, the conference explores how the optimization of natural capital and the blue economy can coexist with human advancement.

The pillar of Equity demands a critical analysis of spatial justice, ensuring that energy transitions, urban-rural syncretism, and technological dividend - such as those from Geo-AI and Big Data are accessible to marginalized populations.

Finally, building Resilient Societies involves architecting adaptive infrastructures and governance models capable of absorbing socio-economic shocks and climatic volatility. Together, these elements form a holistic framework for re-envisioning geography as a proactive, interdisciplinary strategy for an inclusive and enduring future.

Panel Discussion Theme

Integrating Geospatial Intelligence, Climate Action, and Social Equity for Global Sustainability

Conference Themes

1	**Geospatial Science for SDGs Localization**: Spatial monitoring of SDGs using GIS & Remote sensing; SDG indicators mapping and geospatial dashboards; Regional disparities and place-based policy planning.
2	**Climate Change, Blue Economy & Coastal Resilience:** Coastal vulnerability mapping and sea-level changes; Marine spatial planning and blue economy governance; Nature-based solutions (mangroves, coral reefs, artificial reefs); Climate migration and coastal community adaptation.
3	**Spatial Inequality, Social Justice & Inclusive Development:** Urban–rural divide and regional imbalance; Access to infrastructure, healthcare, education; Gendered geographies and marginalized communities; Spatial justice and participatory governance.
4	**Urban Systems, Smart Cities & Informal Settlements:** Smart cities, digital twins & urban analytics; Slums, informality and housing inequality; Urban heat island mapping and mitigation; Sustainable mobility and urban resilience.
5	**Geospatial Health, Epidemiology & Environmental Justice:** Spatial epidemiology and disease mapping; Pollution exposure and health inequality; Healthcare accessibility modelling; Climate-health nexus.
6	**Water, Energy, Food & Resource Nexus (WEF Nexus):** Integrated resource management ; Agricultural vulnerability and food security; Groundwater mapping and water governance; Renewable energy siting and planning.
7	**Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Resilience:** Multi-hazard risk mapping and early warning systems; AI-based disaster prediction; Post-disaster recovery planning; Community-based resilience frameworks.

Conference Themes

8	**Geospatial Technologies & GeoAI:** Artificial Intelligence in GIS (GeoAI) UAVs, LiDAR, IoT and real-time spatial data; Big geospatial data analytics; Digital Earth and spatial decision-support systems.
9	**Remote Sensing & Environmental Monitoring:** Land use/land cover change detection: Forest and biodiversity monitoring; Wetland and coastal ecosystem mapping: Carbon accounting and climate mitigation.
10	**Digital Divide, Data Governance & Geospatial Ethics:** Data privacy, ethics and surveillance; Open data and spatial data infrastructures (SDI); Digital inequality and access to geospatial technologies; Ethical AI in geospatial science.
11	**Indigenous Knowledge, Cultural Landscapes & Political Ecology:** Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK); Community-based conservation; Land rights and environmental conflicts; Cultural geography and heritage mapping.
12	**Geopolitics, Geostrategy & Environmental Security:** Climate geopolitics and resource conflicts; Border studies and strategic geography; Ocean governance and maritime security; Environmental diplomacy
13	**Geography Education, Capacity Building & Policy Integration:** Geographic education and curriculum innovation; Skill development in Geospatial Technologies, Policy integration of geospatial science; Citizen science and participatory mapping.
14	**Sustainable Development Practices:** India & Global South Perspectives; Case studies from India and developing countries; Local innovations for sustainability; South-South cooperation; Policy frameworks and success models
15	**Biodiversity Conservation & Ecosystem Restoration:** Habitat mapping and conservation prioritization; Ecosystem services valuation; Restoration ecology (forests, wetlands, coral reefs) Biodiversity credits and nature finance.
16	**Geo-Spatial Economics & Sustainable Livelihoods:** Spatial economics and regional development; Livelihood mapping (fisheries, agriculture); Blue and green economy valuation; Poverty mapping.
17	**Climate Finance, Carbon Markets & ESG Mapping:** Carbon stock assessment; Climate finance tracking; ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) spatial metrics; Carbon credit and biodiversity credit frameworks
18	**Emerging Technologies & Future Geographies:** Extended Reality for GIS, Metaverse and spatial simulation; Digital twins of cities and ecosystems; Quantum GIS (emerging frontier)
19	**Mobilizing Geographical Networks for Equitable Development**: The Role of Geographical Societies in promoting ideas from Geography & Geoinformatics for a Sustainable, Equitable and Resilient Global Future

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

On its Centenary Year, the **Indian Geographical Society (IGS)**, in association with the **Department of Geography, University of Madras**, invites original research papers, case studies, posters, and conceptual contributions for its landmark **International Conference**.
Centered on the theme **"Geography and Geoinformatics for a Sustainable, Equitable and Resilient Future,"** this hybrid event marks a century of excellence by positioning spatial science as a critical tool for systemic change and aligning with the UN 2030 Agenda (SDGs).
We welcome hybrid submissions from academicians, researchers, professionals, and students employing diverse methodologies—from qualitative field studies to advanced Geo-AI and remote sensing—to address complex global challenges.

Selected papers will be published in the Indian Geographical Journal – Special Centenary Issue (2026).

- **Format:** Word document
- **Font:** Times New Roman
- **Word Limit:** Maximum 500 words
- **Language:** English
- **Submission link:** https://forms.gle/NKoUdS4WMLVq8jEV8
- **Abstract Deadline:** November 25, 2026
- **Full Paper / Poster Deadline:** 15th December 2026
- **Email:** igscentenary2026@gmail.com

Abstract Selection Intimation – 05th December 2026.

Your submission must include the following information:
•Author's name, designation, and affiliation, Email ID and WhatsApp number followed by Relevant sub-themes and keywords

Selection Intimation & Final paper submission link – 05th December 2026.

Registration Fee Payment Details (To be Paid on or before 25th November 2026)	
Account Name: The Registrar, University of Madras	**Name of Bank: State Bank of India**
Subject Line: IGS Centenary Conference*	**Branch: Madras University Branch**
Account No.: 10067584438	**IFSC: SBIN0002234**
Mode Of Payment: ONLINE ONLY	

Registration Details			
Categories	**With Accommodation**	**Without Accommodation**	**Registration Deadline**
General Attendees	Rs. 3500/-	Rs. 2500/-	November 15th 2026
Research Scholars/Students	Rs. 2500/-	Rs. 2000/-	
Accompanying Persons	Rs. 2500/-		
Foreign Attendees	USD 300		
Foreign Attendees SAARC	USD 150		

* - Soft Copy

** - Mention this in Subject Line while Making Payment - Mandatory

IGS MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

The Indian Geographical Society (IGS) offers a structured hierarchy of memberships designed to foster collaboration, support spatial research, and advance geographic education across various professional and academic levels. These tiers are systematically categorized into Individual, Institutional, and Philanthropic streams. Individual options cater to active geographers, educators, and researchers seeking long-term professional networking and scholarly resources, while Institutional packages allow university departments, libraries, and schools to integrate with the society's academic network. For organizations and individuals looking to make a substantial impact on the discipline, the society offers dedicated donor and patron tiers that provide vital financial backing for geographic advancements, conferences, and publications.

Type Of Membership	Membership Fee
Individual (a) Annual (b) Life	(a) Rs. 500/- (b) Rs. 3,000/-
Institutional (a) Annual (b) Permanent (10 years)	(a) Rs. 1,000/- (b) Rs. 10,000/-
(a) Donor (b) Patron Member	(a) Rs. 20,000/- (b) Rs. 40,000/

IGS Membership Payments to be made only to account given below

IGS Membership Fee Payment Details	
Account Name: The Indian Geographical Society	**Name of Bank: State Bank of India**
Subject Line: IGS Centenary Conference*	**Branch: Madras University Branch**
Account No.: 10067583751	**IFSC: SBIN0002234**
Mode Of Payment: ONLINE ONLY	

1. Send the membership form along with necessary Online Banking information/ payment receipt to the Treasurer, The Indian Geographical Society, Department of Geography, University of Madras, Guindy Campus, Chennai - 600 025, INDIA.
2. For enquires, kindly contact the General Secretary / Treasurer.
3. Application form on the following page or visit IGS Visit



(Regd.256/72)

The Indian Geographical Society
Department of Geography, University of Madras
Guindy Campus, Chennai - 600 025, INDIA

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name / Name of the Institute:

Date of Birth and Age / Year of Establishment:

Academic Qualification(s) * :

Designation * :

Field(s) of Interest * :

Present Address with Email ID and Phone / Mobile number:

Permanent Address with Email ID and Phone / Mobile number:

Nature of Membership: Annual / Life / Institutional Annual / Institutional Permanent/
Donor Member / Patron Member

I wish to join The Indian Geographical Society as a Member. I herewith remit the membership fee through Online Banking **or by** sending Cheque / Demand Draft payable to "*The Indian Geographical Society*, *Chennai*".

I will abide by the rules and regulations of the Society

Station :

Date : Signature:

IGS Awards

The Indian Geographical Society, in honor of the distinguished senior geographers and with the idea of encouraging young scholars in geography, has taken up the efforts to institute endowments and awards to young geographers. The initiation came from Prof. K.V. Sundaram of FAO, Rome, who took active interest in instituting an endowment in the name of Prof. V.L.S. Prakasa Rao and it was made possible with a generous grant from the Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi. Prof. N. Ananthapadmanaban, then Director of Collegiate Education, Government of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the institution of this award on 19th March, 1985.

The 1986 Annual Convention, of the Indian Geographical Society held at Madurai during March 8-9, constituted a committee with Prof. N.B.K. Reddy, then President of the Society as chairman and Dr.S. Subbiah, the Editor of the Indian Geographical Journal as the convener, to organize the endowments in the name of Prof. B.M. Thirunaranan and Prof. A.R. Irawathy, two eminent senior geographers in this part of the country. The generous and spontaneous contributions from fellow geographers and well-wishers from all over the world have helped the Indian Geographical Society to organize two endowments in honor of these two great scholars, Hon'ble Thiru C. Ponnaiyan, then Minister for Education and Law, Government of Tamil Nadu has inaugurated the institution of these endowments during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Society on 11th December 1987.

IGS AWARDS

Prof. V.L.S. Prakasa Rao Award

Prof. B.M. Thirunaranan Award

Prof. A Irawathy Award

IGS TALENT TEST

The IGS Talent Test (State-level Talent Test for Young Geographers), inaugurated in 2011, serves as a premier intellectual platform for the geographical community in Tamil Nadu. As a flagship initiative of The Indian Geographical Society, the test is meticulously designed to identify and celebrate the next generation of young academic leaders. This rigorous evaluation reflects the collective vision of the Society and is anchored in a deep legacy of scholarly excellence.

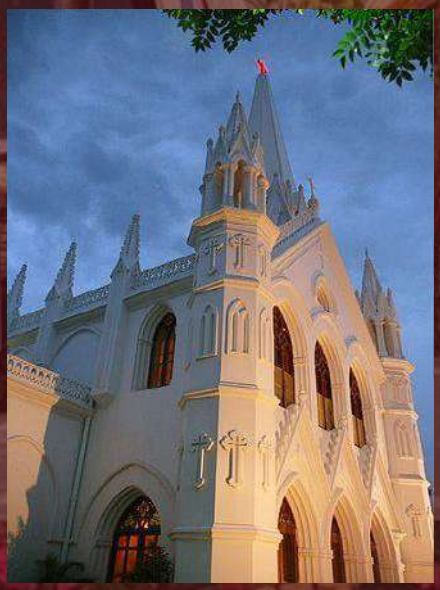
The competition's most prestigious honors pay tribute to two foundational figures in Indian Geography. The *Prof. N. Subrahmanyam Award* for Undergraduate mastery commemorates the visionary who founded the Madras Geographical Association in 1926 and transformed geography into a rigorous academic discipline. Alongside it, the *Prof. A. Ramesh Award* for Postgraduate achievement honors a transformative former Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Madras, known for modernizing the field. Together, these awards bridge the gap between foundational learning and advanced research.

The continued success of this initiative is a testament to the dedicated stewardship of the Society's senior academics. Initiated under the guidance of Prof. K. Kumaraswamy, Editor IGJ, former Professor and Head of the Department of Geography at Bharathidasan University, who has served as the Coordinator since inception, the test has undergone a significant metamorphosis. The talent test, conducted annually without fail since 2011, has evolved from its traditional manual roots into the sophisticated, statewide digital format that defines its current stature, ensuring it remains a modern benchmark for academic achievement.

Chennai Diaries: Culture, Coast & Charm



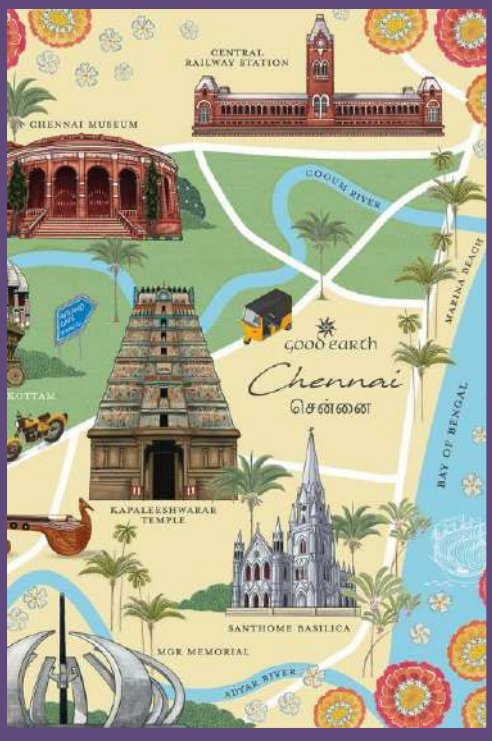
M. A. Chidambaram Stadium
Distance from Chepauk:0.5 km
Home of IPL matches, especially Chennai Super Kings, showcasing strong fan culture and urban identity. Match days create vibrant street life, food stalls, and collective celebrations.

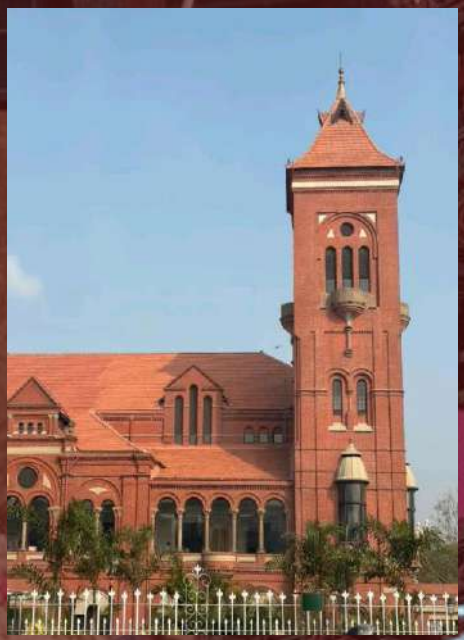


Kapaleeshwarar Temple
Distance from Chepauk:3km
A cultural hub where the famous 63 Nayanmars (Arubathimoovar) festival takes place with grand street processions. It reflects Tamil religious traditions, local markets, and community participation.



Santhome Basilica
Distance from Chepauk: 4 km
A significant Christian pilgrimage site built over St. Thomas's tomb. It represents colonial architecture and the religious diversity of Chennai.





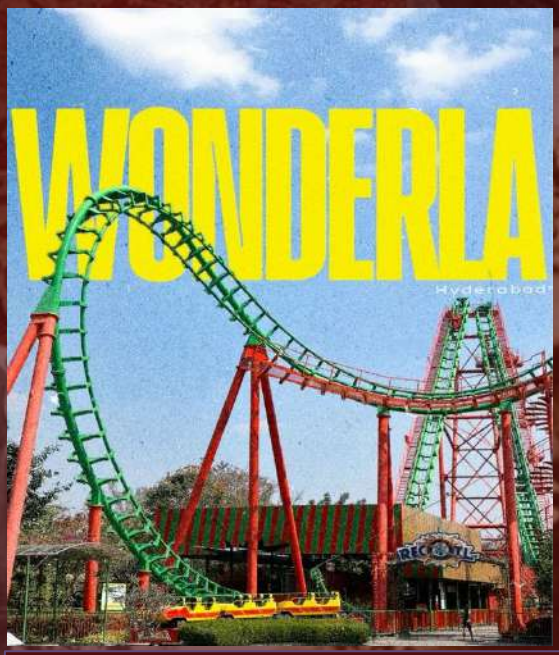
Victoria Public Hall
Distance from Chepauk: 3 km
A colonial-era building known for public gatherings and performances. It highlights British architectural influence and early civic culture.



Sowcarpet

Distance from Chepauk: 5 km
Famous for North Indian street food and wholesale markets. It reflects migrant culture,activities, and vibrant street-based economy.





Mahabalipuram

Distance from Chepauk:60 km
A UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its rock-cut temples, especially the Shore Temple and intricate stone carvings from the Pallava period. It is a major coastal tourism spot known for its architecture, history, and scenic beach views.

Tamil Nadu Retro Heritage Bus

Starts/operates around central Chennai (~0 km base)
Launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu, this retro-style bus promotes affordable city tourism with a ticket fare of Rs.50. It offers a guided cultural experience covering major attractions in Chennai.

WONDERLA

Distance from Chepauk: 35 km
A modern amusement park offering recreational tourism experiences. It reflects contemporary leisure culture and urban entertainment trends.





Semmozhi Poonga

A beautifully landscaped botanical garden in the heart of the city, known for its exotic plants, themed gardens, and peaceful environment ideal for relaxation and photography. Located about 4–5 km from Chepauk, it takes around 15–20 minutes by road, making it a quick green escape for youngsters.

Printed Material

Book Post
Indian Geographical Society, Chennai
IGS Centenary Conference, Chennai, Tamilnadu

To

From
Dr. R. Jaganathan
Convenor, General Secretary, IGS
IGS Centenary Conference 2026
Professor and Head (Retd.)
Dept of Geography
University Of Madras
Chennai 600 025
Email: igscentenary2026@gmail.com