

Astronomical Society of India gets first woman president

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DR G C Anupama, Senior Professor (Dean) from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, on Monday became the first woman to be elected president of Astronomical Society of India (ASI), prime association of professional astronomers in the country.

She is the second Kannadiga after former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Prof U R Rao.

Anupama will be taking over charge on Tuesday.

Being in-charge of the Indian Astronomical Observatory at Hanle in Ladakh, she observes supernovae occurring in distant galaxies, millions of light years away — something

she has done for several years.

She is the India group head of an international team of scientists that is building a 30-metre telescope at a cost of over \$1 billion in Hawaii, USA.

Anupama told *The New Indian Express* that she was elect-

ed as the new president as the Society had faith in her abilities to fulfil her role in the premier Indian astronomical body.

She will succeed R K Tyagi as the new president of ASI.

Having been associated with

the telescope at the Hanle Observatory in Ladakh — one of the few telescopes to be located at such high altitudes in the world -- she studies the initial physical conditions after a supernova.

"We try and understand the outburst by analysing the type of star that might have caused it and other topics regarding the same," she said.

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Dr G C Anupama, Senior Professor (Dean), Indian Institute of Astrophysics

The New Indian Express, Bengaluru, Tuesday, February 19, 2019, pp-01