

## Today's Paper » NATIONAL » KERALA

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### Eco-awareness to the fore



Scientific minds: Education Minister M.A. Baby with various award winners at a function organised by KSCSTE as part of National Science Day celebrations in the city on Thursday.

Special Correspondent

*National Science Day celebrated at several venues in the city*

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Lectures, awareness programmes and competitions marked the National Science Day celebration in the city on Thursday.

The theme of this year's National Science Day celebration was 'Understanding Planet Earth.'

Inaugurating a function organised by the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE), Minister for Education M.A. Baby stressed the need for better emphasis on basic science. He cautioned youth to be wary of pseudo sciences like astrology.

Mr. Baby called for popularising science through the Malayalam language. The Minister presented science literature awards to K. Pappooty, P.S. Gopinathan Nair and Surendran Chunakara. The winners of this year's Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award, A. Ajayaghosh and K. George Thomas, both scientists at the National Institute of Interdisciplinary Sciences and Technology (NIIST), and Anil Bharadwaj, head, Planetary Sciences branch, VSSC, were honoured at the function. The Minister also distributed prizes to winners of the State-level science quiz competition organised in connection with the National Science Day celebrations.

Executive vice-president, KSCSTE, E.P. Yesodharan; principal scientific officer V. Ajit Prabhu and scientific officer Binuja Thomas were present on the occasion.

The State office of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-India and Energy Management Centre (EMC) - Kerala organised awareness programmes and competitions on the theme 'Energy conservation to combat climate change.'

The programme was inaugurated by L. Radhakrishnan, Secretary, Department of Power. V.K. Damodaran, vice-chairperson, EMC, presided. Mr. Radhakrishnan explained the power situation in the State due to the increasing energy demand from various sectors and detailed out how at various levels, the students can take small initiatives to conserve energy and thus make a change.

Renjan Mathew Varghese, State director of WWF-India delivered the keynote address on the theme 'Climate change.'

The technical session on 'Domestic Energy Conservation' was led by EMC director Dharesan Unnithan, followed by a video show on climate change. A quiz competition and painting contest on the theme of the day was also conducted. Jayaprasad, member secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, was the chief guest for the valedictory session.