




KERALA STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Kerala State Council for Science, Technology & Environment has instituted the Kerala State Young Scientist Award to honour talented Young Scientists in recognition of their outstanding contribution in Science & Technology. Research work carried out independently in Kerala by Young Scientists of Indian origin below the age of 37 with Ph. D., who is working in Kerala for the last three years were considered.

Nominations received for the year 2013 were scrutinized and shortlisted by a committee of experts. From among the shortlisted, the committee selected the following candidates for the Award.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of selected Candidates
1.	 <p>Dr. Ravi Shankar L Scientist, Agroprocessing and Natural Products Division NIIST, CSIR, Pappanamcode, Thiruvananthapuram</p> <p>Dr. Ravi Shankar has made attempts to synthesize biologically relevant molecules using novel synthetic methodologies and tested their biological properties in vitro. He has been working on isolation and structural elucidation of natural products from aqueous extracts which are usually less pursued due to challenges associated with purification and identification.</p>
2.	 <p>Dr. Mahesh Hariharan Assistant Professor, School of Chemistry, IISER, Thiruvananthapuram</p> <p>Dr. Mahesh Hariharan has made significant contributions in several areas of photo sciences and biomolecules and currently focusing on light-matter interaction at ultrafast timescale. His findings on breakdown of exciton splitting through electron donor-acceptor interaction caution, for the first time, against the indiscriminate use of the exciton chirality method, particularly in systems like DNA and proteins containing polarisable chromophores that can interact with reporter transition dipoles.</p>
3.	 <p>Dr. Vineeth Chandrasekharan Nair Scientist SD, Space Physics Laboratory, VSSC, ISRO, Thiruvananthapuram</p> <p>Dr. Vineeth Chandrasekharan Nair reported the connection between the Equatorial Upper-Atmosphere and polar-Stratosphere during the unique geophysical events called the polar Stratospheric Sudden Warmings. This study is very important for developing a forecasting model for the Indian region, which can improve the accuracy of the navigation based on GPS system.</p>

The Award carries a grant of Rs. 50,000/-, a start up research grant and travel support for a visit abroad for presenting the research work at a conference. The Award will be given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala on the 28th January 2014 during the inaugural session of the 26th Kerala Science Congress. The awardees will have to make a presentation of their work during the plenary session of the 26th Kerala Science Congress.