

GUIDELINES FOR THE KERALA STATE YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD 2026

Name of the Award: Kerala State Young Scientist Award.

Scope: The Kerala State Young Scientist Awards by the KSCSTE are intended to honour talented young Scientists in recognition of their outstanding contributions in any branch of science and technology coming within the purview of the Council. The research carried out independently in Kerala by young scientists who are Indian citizens, hold a Ph.D. in any branch of Science and Technology, and have been working in Kerala for the past three years will be considered for the award.

Number of Awards: Awards are offered in each of the 14 subject disciplines listed on Page 2. However, if no suitable candidate is found in a particular discipline, no award will be given in that discipline. Each award will be conferred on only one individual and will not be shared by two or more persons.

Age Limit: 37 years as on 31st December, 2026 (Nominees with date of birth on or after 31-12-1989 are eligible)

Qualification: Ph.D. with 3 years, Post-Doctoral experience

Experience: Working experience in any R&D/Academic institution in Kerala continuously for the last 3 years.

Application/Nomination Procedure:

Candidates may be nominated by Vice-Chancellors of Universities in Kerala, Directors of Research Institutes/R & D Centres of Industries, Heads of University Departments, Principals of Colleges with approved centres of research, Fellows of the Indian National Science Academy, Indian Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, India, Indian National Academy of Engineering and Indian Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Applicants must complete and submit the online application, along with the Nominator's Declaration and all supporting documents, through the KSCSTE website (www.kscste.kerala.gov.in) on or before **16 October 2026**.

Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the due date will not be considered.

Selection Procedure

Candidates recommended by the screening committee after a rigorous criteria-based screening will be invited for presentation of their research work. The candidates will be informed of their selection for the award individually by mail. The awards will be distributed during the inaugural session of the Kerala Science Congress. The Awardees have to make a presentation of the award-winning work in the Plenary Session of the Kerala Science Congress.

Cash Prize, Research & Travel Grant

Each Awardee will be presented with a certificate, Chief Minister's Gold Medal and a cash prize of Rs. 50,000/-. In addition, the recipient may be considered by the Council for a research grant after due consideration of the research project with the help of an expert committee. The awardee has to submit the research proposal on or before 31st August of the award presenting year. The Awardee, within 3

years of the receipt of the award, will be considered for a visit abroad for presenting the research work at a conference.

SUBJECT AREAS

1. *I - Mathematical Sciences*

Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Theoretical Computer Science, Statistics

2. *II - Physics*

Astronomy, Astrophysics, Condensed Matter Physics, Nuclear and High Energy Physics, Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics, Statistical Physics, Space Physics

3. *III- Chemical Sciences*

Analytical, Inorganic, Organic, Physical and Theoretical Chemistry

4. *IV - Earth & Planetary Sciences*

Surface and Solid Earth Science, Atmospheric Science, Ocean Science and Planetary Science

5. *V - Engineering Sciences & Technology*

Electronics, Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical, Civil, Aeronautical, Telecommunication and other branches of Engineering, Computer and Information Sciences and Technology Development

6. *VI – Materials Science*

Materials including composites, Nano Materials, Biomaterials, Materials chemistry and Materials Engineering

7. *VII -Plant Sciences*

Taxonomy, Structure, Function, Physiology, Development, Genetics, Ecology and Evolution of Plants

8. *VIII - Animal Sciences*

Taxonomy, Structure, Function, Physiology, Development, Genetics, Ecology Behaviour and Evolution of Animals

9. *IX - Microbiology and Immunology*

Biology of viruses, Bacteria and Parasites, Microbial Genetics and Genomics, Immunology

10. *X- Cell and Biomolecular Sciences*

Biochemistry, Biophysics, cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Structural Biology, Bioinformatics, Systems Biology, Biotechnology

11. *XI - Health Sciences*

Basic and Clinical Medical Sciences, Anthropology, Psychology, Human Genetics, Public Health, Nutrition

12. *XII- Agricultural Sciences & Forestry*

Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Veterinary Science, Agriculture Engineering

13. *XIII- Science Teaching and Science Education*

14. *XIV- Regional Science & Science Policy*