

# For the love of science

Vigyan Prasar launches Internet-based channel to highlight India's achievements

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Vigyan Prasar, under the guidance of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched India Science (indiascience.in), an Internet-based science channel, to showcase the developments in science and technology, particularly from research institutions and laboratories based in India.

"The intent is to make science done in India accessible to a larger audience. All you need is an Internet connection to access the content using a smartphone and computer. [It will soon be



A screenshot of the India Science website.

available as a mobile App.] It will have live content every day and a library of theme-based programmes related to science and technology," says Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST. "We are now

asking feedback from people to improve the channel."

The bilingual channel (Hindi and English) will offer scheduled programming as well as video-on-demand facility. According to the India

Science website, it will cover the "entire landscape" of science and technology including engineering, health and medicine, natural science, environment and wildlife, agriculture among others. It will have documentaries, discussion, demonstrations/experiment shows and quizzes. The DST is also planning other initiatives on science communication. "We will soon have science programmes on DST National and in a year or two we want to start a 24-hour science channel that will have mix of news and other programmes," said Prof Sharma.

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PONNANI MUNICIPALITY

# Green Royalty scheme to honour dedicated farmers

Through its Green Royalty scheme, the civic body will give a monthly remuneration to those who conserve environment

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THE Ponnani municipality is all set to felicitate farmers and owners of farmlands, paddy fields, groves and ponds in a different way. Through its Green Royalty scheme, the civic body will give a monthly remuneration to those who conserve environment.

"We are planning to encourage environmental conservation activities by remunerating farmers and landowners, who become part of conservation efforts," said municipal chairman CP Mohamed Kunhi.

After it was denied approval by various district-level committees, the project was recently given nod by the state-level coordination committee presided over by Minister for Local Administration K T Jaleel.

"There are several people, who are reluctant to fill their land and earn profits. Those people should be admired as they are heroes who help us retain our ecosystem. We want to leave a strong message that farming and conservation of environment are jobs that should be provided with due admiration and remuneration," the chairman said.

As per the plan, farmers and owners will be given the first payment at a public function. The

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P Mohamed Kunhi, municipal chairman

civic body has so far allocated Rs 2 lakh for this. The amount will be revised soon as per the requirements.

"Governments and various agencies spend huge amounts to develop forests, farm lands and groves. But, they often fail to conserve the existing ones," he said.

With the assistance of Agricultural Department officers, the civic body has so far initiated a survey and identified the beneficiaries.

The municipality, according to Mohamed Kunhi, has received applications from 24 persons seeking royalty.

In the first phase, only farmers will be given royalty while others will be given recognition by the civic body once the allocated amount is revised. The amount, which is to be distributed to each farmer and landowner, will be decided by the committee of agricultural affairs here.