

Planetarium to be ready by September

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PUDUCHERRY: The Department of Science and Technology is giving final touches to its Sub-regional Science Centre and Planetarium project, which will be used to “make science fun” and teach adults and children alike the wonders of science. The science centre is expected to be inaugurated by September.

The project is the first of its kind in the Union Territory and there is educational as well as tourism potential in the science centre and planetarium. The project is a joint

venture between the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Puducherry, and the National Council of Science Museum (NCSM), Ministry of Culture.

The science centre will be located on a 1.5-acre plot on Ponniamman Koil Street, Kurinji Nagar in Lawspet, just off the airport road.

The project was announced in the 2012-13 budget in the Assembly and has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 4 crore, of which the government share is Rs. 2.7 crore. The science centre is funded partially by the Union gov-



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ernment, while the planetarium is fully funded by the Government of Puducherry.

According to the Director of DSTE, M. Dwarakanath, the construction of the building has been completed. Some work on electrical wiring and installation of exhibits are yet to be completed.

Planetarium machinery is yet to arrive.

Technical knowhow and design of the planetarium and the science centre is being done by the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum in Bangalore. Some staff from the DSTE have also been sent to Kolkata to receive training on how to run the museum from the NCSM.