



INDIA SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2023



SPIN
YOUR
SCIENCE

A SCIENCE FICTION STORY/POEM WRITING COMPETITION

India Science Festival is back, and this time it is going to be bigger and better!
We're inviting entries for Spin Your Science, our flagship science fiction story/poem
writing competition!

Why should science be limited to a lab
Or textbooks which are ever-so-drab

Science bears fruits for society to relish
Science is for everyone to celebrate and cherish

A sprinkle of creativity, a dash of innovation
Merge a science topic with your imagination

Give an enjoyable to spin to science,
Let your inner genius blow our minds!

Pen down a poem or spin up a science story,
This is the platform that brings you glory!

ABOUT

Spin Your Science is ISF's flagship science fiction writing competition. Tell us a short story or a poem which brings to life technologies that may have existed in the past, how deeply science interacts with our present or a vision of what lies in the dystopian future...

What is science fiction? Does it serve any purpose?

Science fiction is a genre of writing based on the amalgamation of science with imagination and fantasy! It is based on scientific theories, inventions, discoveries, ideas, and principles, while sometimes being speculative, abstract, presenting ethical dilemmas and even being dystopian!

Think Isaac Asimov's 'Foundation', Jayant Narlikar's 'The rare idol of Ganesha', James Cameron's 'Avatar' or Netflix's 'Dark'!

Science fiction can tell us how to conceive the impact of science on our lives today, but also suggests what the future might look like. Science fiction is said to have a vision that is almost 'prophetic'! It's a genre that appeals to both science buffs as well as literature enthusiasts, so there's a larger audience to cater for.

Sci-fi explores possibilities that exist beyond the universe, with a combination of imaginative and realistic. It can provide insight into implications of scientific discoveries (think Star Wars, Matrix, Transformers, Wall-E).

Fantastical creatures inspired by robots, space shuttles off to discover parallel universe, perhaps somewhere inside a black hole? UFOs delivering messages from aliens, humans teleporting from one place to another...

Sci-fi is not just about the future. It could also be a realistic depiction of society's interaction with science or an inflated view of how it exists in our day to day life. For example, it could be a mystery involving a rare disease, or a person who befriends an AI-bot.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to all sci-fi enthusiasts! There are no restrictions on age, background, education, or nationality! We're looking at bringing attention to all you talented people, who can combine science with creativity.

Give us a mix of science, innovation, philosophy, mystery, fantasy, humour...we're game for all of it! Let your thoughts run free, for imagination knows no bounds.

GUIDELINES

- Your science story/poem should be strictly under 1500 words. Entries exceeding the word limit will be automatically disqualified.
- All entries must be original. This means that your poem or story should not have been published elsewhere, in any form. The entry should not be previously submitted to any competition (online or offline). In short, we need you to be as original and imaginative as possible!
- The story or poem can be based on any science topic. If you are using a current science or tech concept in your story, do make sure to give an accurate representation. We wouldn't want to misinform our audiences, sensationalise an issue or propagate fake science!
- We will be accepting entries in English primarily. If you wish to submit a story in another language, please write to us. We will do our best to accommodate your request.
- The deadline for sending entries is **31st October, 2022**.
- The story/poem should be submitted in both Word and PDF format with the following typeface:

Font: Arial

Size: Title – 12

Body - 10

Margins: 2.5 cm

Spacing: 1.0

Please ensure that no personal information is included in the Word and PDF.

- While writing might be considered a loner's job, we are allowing teams of up to TWO participants.
- ISF will be selecting the top 10 finalists, or the ISF fellows, through a competitive process of evaluation. The finalists will receive detailed feedback from our esteemed jury, will get to attend online sci-fi writing workshops and will have their entries published on our website, on our social media handles as well as our annual magazine.
- Based on the evaluation done by the jury (70%) and public voting (30%), the top three winners will be declared in January 2023.
- Submit your entry [here](#).

ALL THAT YOU NEED TO KEEP IN MIND!

Think when you are writing your story, try to think, will a 12-year-old understand this? If yes, you're good to go.

Wondering where to start, but not too sure? We've compiled a list of online resources for you to have a look at. Happy reading!

[India Science Festival – Spin Your Science \(Entries from previous years\)](#)

[Daily Science Fiction](#)

[East of the Web](#)

[EscapePod](#)

[Lightspeed Magazine](#)

[Strange Horizons](#)

[Abyss and Apex](#)

[Bustle](#)

[Owlcation](#)

[Chicago Review of Books](#)

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Originality:

While we're all for inspiration, if your story/poem reminds us a little too much of a famous movie, series, novel or story, maybe your imagination didn't take a plunge deep and wide enough. Do be mindful, for originality matters!

Imagination/Creativity

We are on the lookout for the most imaginative minds out there. Science knows no boundaries, let your creative juices flow!

Our context:

Stories in context of our lives and circumstances, of our larger community, including the rural, will have our special interest. But do not let this hamper your creativity.

PRIZES

Along with the coveted title of becoming an ISF Fellow, the exposure as well as the mentorship, India Science Fest will be awarding the top three winners with cash prizes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ❖ Can I participate along with a friend?
Yes, team entries are permitted. However, each team can have a maximum of 2 people.
- ❖ Will all entries receive feedback from ISF's mentors?
No, only the TOP 10 finalists will be mentored.
- ❖ Will I have to go anywhere for the final round of SYS?
No. All workshops will be held online.
- ❖ Can I write in a language other than English?
We want to encourage as much participation as possible. If you wish to write in a vernacular language, please reach out to Utsav Thapliyal at utsav@fast-india.org and we will try our best to facilitate the same.
- ❖ I am not in India currently. Am I eligible to participate?
Yes. We're inviting applications from all over the world.
- ❖ My nationality is not Indian. Am I eligible to participate?
Yes! Please feel free to send in your application.
- ❖ Is there an age limit for participating?
No, this competition is open to all.
- ❖ If my original story/poem has already been published, can I send in the same?
No, we will not be accepting previously published entries.

DISCLAIMER:

The Foundation for Advancing Science and Technology (FAST India) will be storing contact information and competition entries as part of the India Science Fest database. Shortlisted entries will be publicized on ISF's various social media handles, the ISF blog page and our annual magazine.

Though all efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the contents on this festival, the same should not be construed as accurate reproduction of the text for use for any legal purposes.

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All entries obtained through unauthorized sources or which are incomplete, illegible, mutilated, altered, reproduced, forged, irregular, or fraudulent in any way or otherwise are automatically void.

The entry must not contain any provocative, objectionable, or inappropriate content.

India Science Festival organizers shall have no liability whatsoever for any inconvenience/loss directly or indirectly caused to any Participant due to such modification of rules/cancellation of competition and the Participants shall accordingly not be entitled to raise any claims pertaining to the same.

FAST reserves the right to:

*modify the judging criteria,
modify rules of the competition,
not award any prizes if no suitable entries are forthcoming,
disqualify incomplete applications,
publish the entries on our website/social media channels.*

Participants shall preserve the confidentiality of all communication & information and shall not use the same for any other purpose whatsoever. If any question, dispute or difference arises between the applicant and FAST the decision FAST is final and binding.

All the entries submitted by the contestants will only be used for this program, and participants consent to use of information submitted by them.