



INDIA SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2023



SPIN
YOUR
SCIENCE

A SCIENCE FICTION STORY/POEM WRITING COMPETITION

SPIN YOUR SCIENCE INDIA SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2023

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!

Let the #voiceofscience reach far and wide
Join us on this adventurous science ride!

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

1. Your science story/poem should be strictly under 1500 words. Entries exceeding the word limit will be automatically disqualified.
2. 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!
3. 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!
4. 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.
5. The deadline for sending the entries is **15 November 2022, 11:59 PM (IST)**.
6. 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
7. At the end of the story/poem the document should contain the following information:
Name
DOB
Institution
Occupation
Contact information (Email and phone number)
8. While writing might be considered a loner's job, we are allowing teams of up to TWO participants. How about a writer teaming up with an illustrator?
10. 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 an online sci-fi writing workshop and will have their entries published on our website, on our social media handles as well as our annual magazine.
11. All submitted stories/ poems will be published on our website after quality assurance.
12. 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 entries [here](#).

ALL THAT YOU NEED TO KEEP IN MIND!

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

2. 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](#)

3. In case you're nervous about reading your story/poem out loud for an audience, don't worry, that's what your mentors will prepare you for. They will also help you improve your entry - give you feedback on concepts and writing. We're here to help you too!

4. India Science Festival reserves the rights 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.

EVALUATION

ROUND 1:

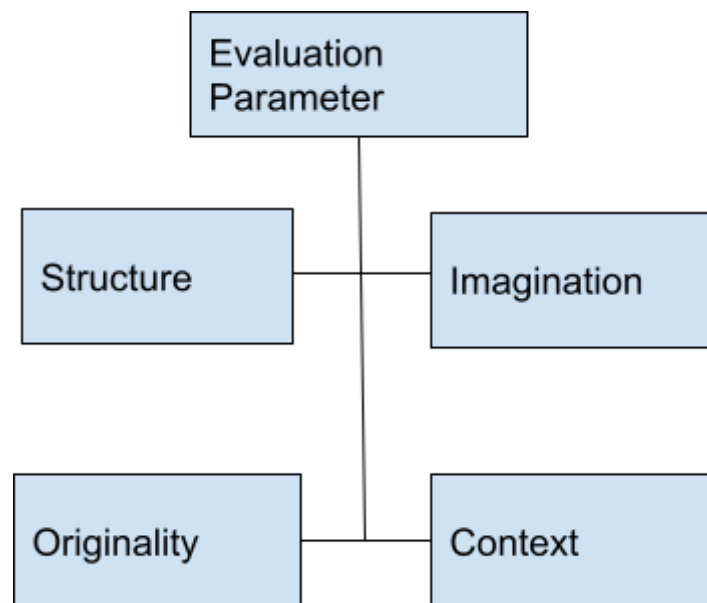
All the entries will be processed by the internal jury in the first round. The top 10 finalists will be selected through this internal jury.

ROUND 2:

The top 10 finalists' entries will be shared with our external jury.

75% weightage will be given to external jury's marks.

25% weightage will be based on public voting (The entries submitted by participants will be uploaded on our social media channels and will be open to online voting).



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!

Structure of poem or the story/Narrative

Fiction can flow freely, but a little structure, a definitive plot and a narrative – these matter to us.

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.

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 with cash prizes as listed below:

1st Prize: \$450

2nd Prize: \$250

3rd Prize: \$150

TIMELINE:

Date	Description
August	Portal opening for entry
15 Nov 2022	Deadline for submission
15 Dec 2022	Top 10 finalists declared
Jan 2022	Workshop and detailed feedback for top 10 finalists
Feb 2022	Top 3 winners declared & release of booklet

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

- ❖ Can I participate along with a friend?
Yes, we are permitting individual as well as team entries. However, each team can have a maximum of 2 people.
- ❖ Will all entries receive feedback from ISF's mentors?
No, only the TOP 5 finalists will be mentored by ISF.
- ❖ Will I have to go anywhere for the final round of SYS?
No. Our competition 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 us at info@indiasciencefest.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, there is no age limit.

Have another doubt? Require some information/queries/help?
Write to us at: info@indiasciencefest.org

SIGNED DECLARATION FOR ISF's 'Spin Your Science' COMPETITION

(Kindly attach this document with your final application)

India Science Fest has permission to post my story/poem created for 'Spin Your Science' competition online on its YouTube channel, website or social media channels publicly.

Signature of Applicant:

Name:

Organisation/ Institution:

Date: