

## ATTENTION!

Are you a science fiction enthusiast?  
Do you enjoy writing sci-fi stories and poems?  
Looking for a platform that brings you glory?

**Look no further, for ISF is back with  
SPIN YOUR SCIENCE!**

# Spin Your Science

## India Science Festival - 2022

### Tell a tech-tale, Spin a sci-verse

India Science Festival is back, and this time 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 lays 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, sensationalize 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 portal for submitting your entries will open on **1st September 2021**.  
The deadline is **31st October 2021**.

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**



8. At the end of the story/poem the document should contain the following information:

**Name**

**DOB**

**Institution**

**Occupation**

**Contact information (Email and phone number)**

9. 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. Along with your story / poem, you can send ONE illustration. This will be an attractive addition to your entry, and will definitely grab our attention. Don't worry if you don't have an illustration though, we will not penalize stories without artwork.

11. The stories and poems will be evaluated by a professional jury, consisting of experts in science, art, literature and story-writing. For **round 1**, the jury's decisions will carry 70% weightage. The remaining 30% will be done through public polling. We will be opening up the entries on our social media channels and audiences will be able to vote for their favourite stories/poems.

12. ISF's panel of judges will be selecting the top 5 finalists through a competitive process of evaluation. These 5 finalists will get a chance to attend a Sci-Fi writing workshop, and will have the option to read out their stories/poems in front of a live online audience at ISF in January 2022. The finalists will further compete for **the top three positions!**

13. All submitted stories/ poems will be published on our website after quality assurance.

**So take the first step in order to participate in the competition, register on our website: <https://www.indiasciencefest.org/participate>.**



## 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!

[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 concept 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

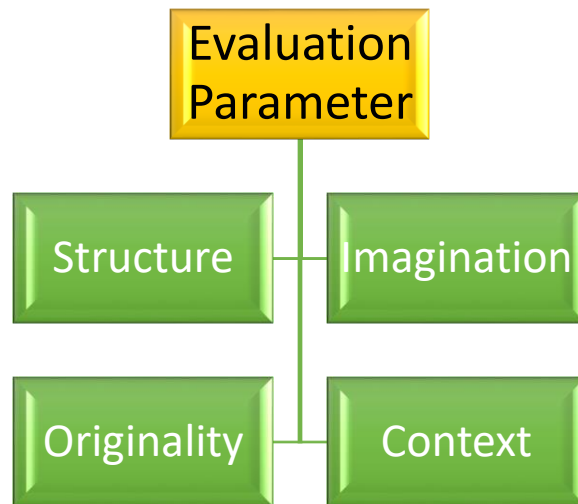
## ROUND 1:

75% weightage for jury's marks

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

## ROUND 2:

Top 5 will be ISF Fellows will be mentored by our jury to polish their stories/poems. ISF fellows will have the option to read their story/poem at our festival, and our jury will choose the top 3!



### 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, may be 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 the context of our lives and circumstances, of our larger community, including the rural and marginalised communities, will be of special interest to us.

# 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:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$450**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$250**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$150**

## TIMELINE:



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 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 festival 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:

Organization/Institution:

Date:

