

India Science Fest January 2022

SciWo

Science Word/Phrase of the Year

India Science Festival Science Word/ Phrase of the Year

Oxford Dictionaries chose “**CLIMATE EMERGENCY**” as the word of the year in 2019. In 2020, the Merriam Webster Dictionary declared “**PANDEMIC**” as the word of the year. Whereas, Collins Dictionary named “**LOCKDOWN**” the word of 2020.

These words captured the times, trended on social media, became buzzwords through the year and stayed in our collective memory.

Now, it's time to have **Science Word/Phrase of the Year**.

[India Science Festival](#) (ISF; under the aegis of [FAST-India](#)) is pleased to launch Science Word of the Year (**SciWo**) to get public's attention to scientific breakthroughs and create greater interest and appreciation for science in society. Through the SciWo, we aim to:

- embed science in popular culture and create a public memory of how science is evolving and shaping our lives and.
- provide an opportunity to the scientific community to reflect on scientific breakthroughs and how it may be shaping the world .
- get the general public excited about various advancements in science and technology and create an opportunity for them to contribute to the scientific discourse

SciWo will be announced in 5 major areas (may include sub areas) of STEM. It shall represent a new breakthrough concept/idea/process/thinking, something which had a wide impact on the field and/or led to greater interest/participation/translation of the field.

SciWo will be determined through a crowdsourcing process. We will invite everyone in the STI ecosystem to provide their suggestions on SciWo. It will take into account various parameters such as:

- # Number of votes for the word/phrase
- # Frequency of occurrence of word/phrase in scientific literature
- # Frequency of occurrence of word/phrase in popular media/internet
- # Expert view on the impact of the word/phrase on the field.

The final SciWo in each category will be decided by a panel of expert scientists and science communicators.

The Hunt for SciWo

ISF's science word/phrase of the year is a contest to bring to limelight a word or phrase (<4 words) which has caught or ought to catch the imagination of the scientific community and the public at large. We invite all scientists, STEM students, science communicators, industry personnel and members of public to help us hunt the SciWo for 2021.

What makes a SciWo?

* A new word/phrase which is a breakthrough new concept, technique, process, or way of thinking. (e.g., Deep Learning, CRISPR, Chandrayaan, Consciousness etc.)

* It could be a known word (idea), which has seen a breakthrough, a renewed scientific interest, or had a sudden impact on the public understanding of science. (e.g., causality, epidemiology, randomization, etc.)

* It could be a science word which sees huge public interest/impact, impact on society, industry or the economy.

The word or phrase should symbolize a defining idea in science that has created considerable impact. The continued usage and development of this word/phrase will have the capacity to create influence on multiple fields and ecosystems.

Categories:

The science word/ phrase of the year can belong to any one of the following categories:

Engineering and Computer Science
Life Sciences/ Biological Sciences
Physical Sciences
Mathematical Sciences
Interdisciplinary Sciences
Other

What if my word is selected?

You will be duly acknowledged during the festival with the 'word/phrase' announcement and also mentioned on our website. We will also make efforts to have you speak about the 'word/phrase' and why you chose it at various forums.

Submit now:

- Send us your entry on our website or email it to us at info@indiascience.org
- The science word/phrase can belong in any of the 5 categories mentioned above.
- Along with the word/phrase, an explanation in few lines (<150 words) of why it should be the Science Word/Phrase of the year should be added. Tell us why your science word/phrase is of interest and importance. What impact has the word created, what does the future hold in store for the word?
- Please mention the subfield for your submission.
- If you think your science word/phrase doesn't fit any of the given options, use the "Other" option.

Timeline:

- Submissions begin: 15th October 2021
- Submissions end: 5th December 2021
- Announcement of the SciWo: January 2022

For any queries, please write to us at info@indiasciencefest.org.