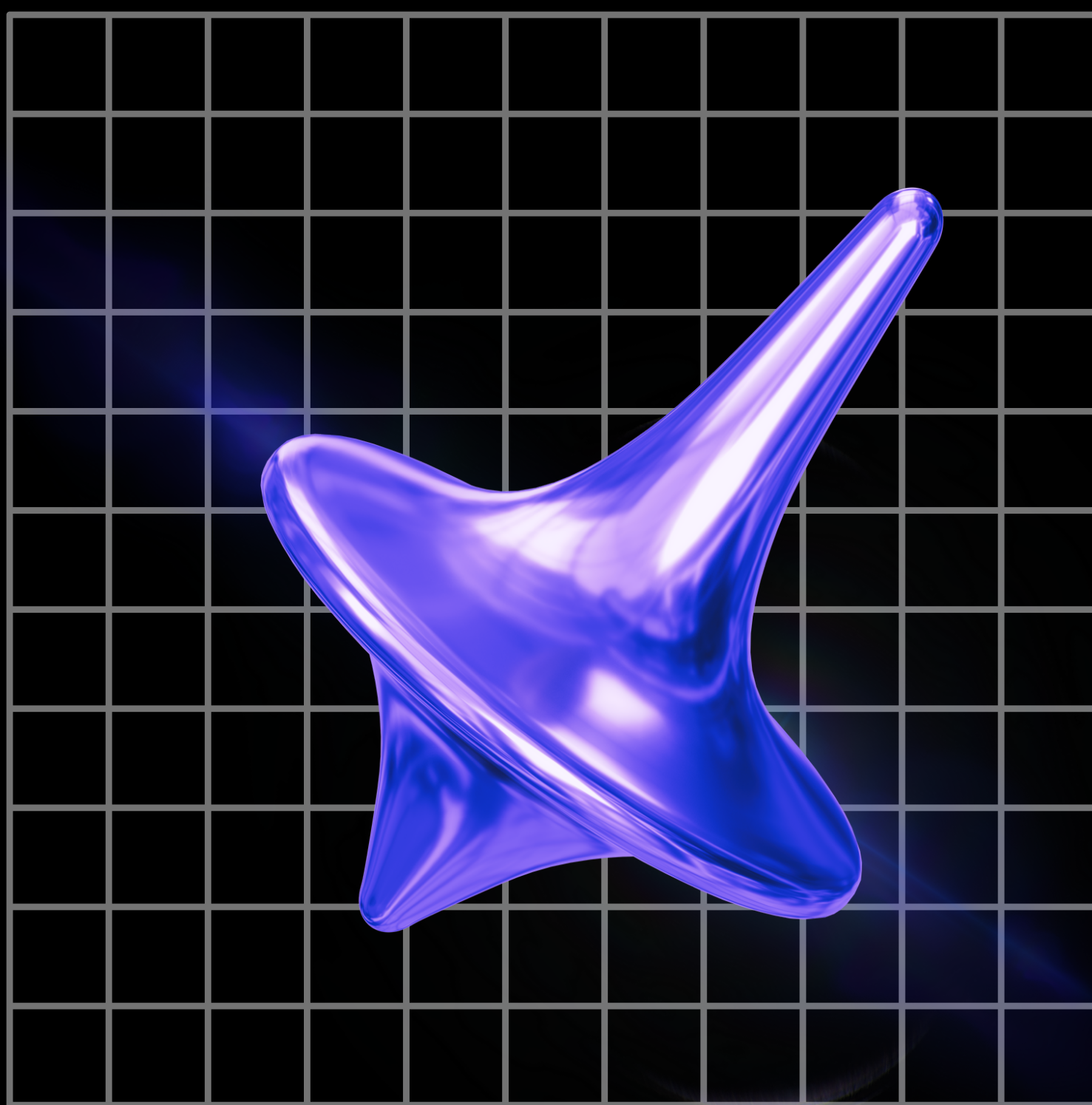


SPIN YOUR SCIENCE

indiasciencefest.org/spin-your-science/



India Science Festival's
Science Fiction Writing Competition

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 dystopian!

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 to.

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



Fantastical creatures inspired by robots, space shuttles off to discover a 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.

Who is eligible to participate?

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, and humor...we're game for all of it! Let your thoughts run free, for imagination knows no bounds.

Guidelines for participating:

- 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 have been previously submitted to any competition (online or offline). In short, we need you to be as original and imaginative as possible!
- Fully AI-generated stories cannot be submitted and will be disqualified.
- AI-aided submissions are allowed where AI is used to enhance or augment stories. However, you must notify us in your entry “AI aided writing” so we know that these tools were part of the process.
- We reserve the right to use tools to detect AI writing.
- AI-aided submissions are still bound to one submission per person.
- Bot submissions are not allowed as every submission must be made by a person manually.
- 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!
- We will be accepting entries in English, however, you are encouraged to submit your work in regional languages. If you wish to submit a story in another language, please write to us. We will do our best to accommodate your request
- Get a chance to attend an illuminating session (webinar) with the luminaries of sci-fi writing on the do's and don'ts of spinning a story or weaving poetry!
- The deadline for sending the entries is **13th October 2023, 11:59 PM (IST)**.

What is the judging criteria?

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 the poem or the story/ Narrative:

Fiction can flow freely, but a little structure, a definitive plot, and a narrative go a long way in leaving an impact on the readers – so do keep in mind that structure matters.

Imagination/Creativity:

Let your imagination run amok, and let your creative juices flow, for science, fiction, and writing know no boundaries,

Context:

While the context could be anything from a subatomic particle to the entire universe, stories woven around lives and circumstances, of the larger community, will have our special interest.

How will my entry be evaluated?

The evaluation of entries will be done in two rounds.

Round 1:

All the entries will be processed by the internal jury in the first round. The top 20 finalists will be selected through this internal jury.

Round 2:

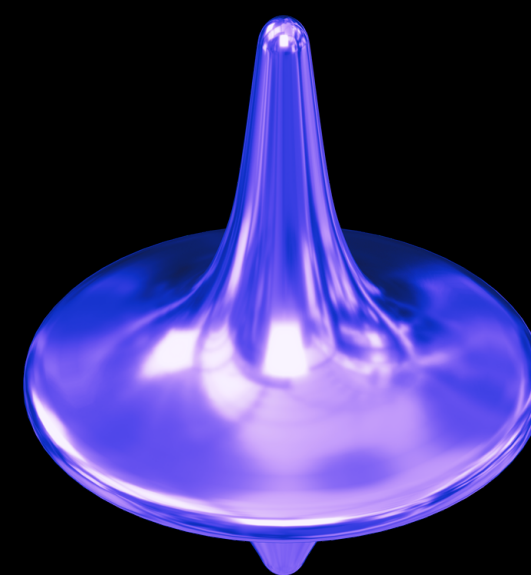
The top 20 finalists' entries will be shared with our external jury who will be deciding the top 3 winners for the Spin Your Science Competition

India Science Fest will be awarding the top three winners with cash prizes as listed below:

1st Prize: INR 30,000

2nd Prize: INR 20,000

3rd Prize: INR 10,000



How to submit your entry:

The story/poem should be submitted in both Word and PDF formats with the following typeface:

Font: Arial

Size: Title - 12, Body - 10 Margins: 2.5 cm

Spacing: 1.0

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

Full Name

Institution

Occupation

Contact information (Email and phone number)

While writing might be considered a loner's job, we allow teams of up to TWO participants. Feel free to tell a story through your collective imagination!

ISF will select the top 20 finalists, who shall be known as the ISF fellows, through a competitive process of evaluation. The finalists will receive detailed feedback from our esteemed jury and will get to attend an online workshop by luminaries of sci-fi writing.

The top 20 selected stories/poems will be published on our website, social media handles, and our annual magazine.

Based on the evaluation done by the jury, the top three winners will be declared in December 2023

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.

Resources:

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!

ISF Resources:

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



[India Science Festival – 2022 webinar on science fiction writing](#)



Online publications and magazines



Daily Science Fiction

Over twelve years Daily Science Fiction published more than 3,000 science fiction stories. They are all available in the archive. Happy Reading!



East Of the Web

Large online library of short stories with monthly features and additions. Classics and new writing - includes summaries, biographies and analysis.



Escape Pod

A podcast magazine of science fiction short stories that explores the range of the genre, but do not include fantasy, magical realism, or more than a tinge of horror.



LightSpeed Magazine

A digital science fiction and fantasy magazine covering science fiction: from near-future, sociological soft SF, to far-future, star-spanning hard SF—and fantasy.



Strange Horizons

A weekly magazine of and about speculative fiction that publish fiction, poetry, reviews, essays, interviews, and art.



Abyss & Apex Magazine

A long-running, semi-pro online speculative fiction magazine. The title of the zine comes from a quote by Friedrich Nietzsche, "And if you gaze long into the abyss, the abyss gazes also into you."

Articles:

- [The 10 Best Sci-Fi Stories You Can Read Online For Free](#)
- [Very Short Science Fiction Stories Online](#)
- [11 Sci-Fi Short Stories To Read If You Don't Have Time For A Full Book Right Now](#)
- [Science fiction writing tips: Ideas from 8 authors](#)

