SCIENCE IN FOCUS

Ready to capture the extraordinary science in your everyday adventures? Get your cameras/microscopes/telescopes ready because ISF 2024 is launching an epic imaging/photography (micro/macro) competition that celebrates the marvels of science in the real world.

Science isn't just for nerdy labs or stuffy classrooms—it's the key to unlocking a better understanding of the world and solving the problems that challenge us. And guess what? Photography/imaging is here to save the day! It allows us to tell captivating stories about science and simplify mind-boggling ideas that words alone can't capture.

At **Science in Focus** or **SIF**, we're on the hunt for jaw-dropping visual tales of science and research. Whether it's a serendipitous encounter or a mind-blowing experiment or an expression of your imagination, we want your shots to make our jaws drop and our minds explode with wonder!

But that's not all! We've got some seriously cool science (professional) photographers onboard to judge your entries and inspire you with their experience through interactive sessions. So not only do you get a shot at winning awesome prizes, but you'll also have the chance to rub shoulders with the pros!

And, if that's not enough, hold onto your cameras/microscopes/telescopes because the best-of-the-best entries will be showcased in a dazzling exhibition at the **ISF 2024 at IISER Pune on 20th and 21st January 2024**! Your talent will be on display for all to see!

So, folks, let's turn up the shutter speed, ignite our imaginations, and embark on a visual journey that puts science in the spotlight.

Guidelines for SIF

- Images must be recent, preferably taken in 2023 itself.
- Images should be supplied at as high a resolution as possible (for printing up to A1 minimum), suitable for printing in media and an exhibition. Make sure that they are clean, i.e., **they contain no text, watermarks, symbols, or borders**. Images should be squared, preferably 2000x2000 pixels in JPEG file format. Images should be no smaller than 1 MB and no larger than 10 MB.
- Each participant can submit up to two images. Evaluation will be based on a single image, not a series of images.
- Using processing techniques such as cropping and adjustments to refine exposure or enhance colors, is allowed, as long as it does not involve manipulation such as the addition, removal, or distortion of significant content.
- AI- and software-generated images are not allowed at all in the competition. Entries found to have used AI and/or software for image generation will be disqualified.
- Each image must be accompanied by the name of contributor, the title of the image, and the story behind the image (a brief description of the image which should incorporate the scientific concept/science behind the image, preferably in the form of a story), in not more than **80 words**. These details should be submitted in the respective fields in the Google form.

Evaluation

- Images will be evaluated for their technical quality, originality, composition, story & relevance to the theme, artistic element (creativity), and impact.
- Non-adherence to the above guidelines will result in disqualification.
- The top 30 entries will be selected for the final evaluation. These final entries will be displayed at the ISF 2024 exhibit.
- The top 30 entries will be evaluated by a jury comprising five members. The scores will be averaged out to determine the top 3 entries, which will receive cash prizes.

Additional information on the competition

- The finalists' entries will be displayed in an online exhibition as well as at the **India Science Festival 2024 in Pune.**
- The contest is free to enter, and open to all members of the public. Entries must be submitted by **13th October 2023, 11:59 PM IST**. Submissions will not be accepted once the deadline lapses.
- ISF may run a rating process (online and offline at the festival) whereby members of the public may vote for their favourite photograph/image.
- Basic editing, including colour enhancement, the use of filters, and cropping is acceptable. Advanced editing to create illusions, deceptions, and manipulations, and the adding/removing of significant elements within the frame is prohibited.

- The decision of the jury and the ISF team is final, and no negotiation will be entertained with respect to any such decision.
- Photograph/image entries will be stored in the ISF image database and duly acknowledged if used for organisational or educational purposes.
- Entries containing any infringing, threatening, false, misleading, abusive, harassing, libellous, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, scandalous, inflammatory, pornographic, and/or profane content shall be automatically disqualified.

TIMELINE

9th Aug 2023 — LAUNCH

11:59 PM IST — 13th Oct 2023 — LAST DATE

15th Nov 2023 — FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

20–21st Jan 2024 — EXHIBIT AT ISF 2024

Feb 2024 — WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Prizes

Exciting cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 entries.

1st prize: INR 30,000
2nd prize: INR 20,000
3rd prize: INR 10,000

FAQ

- *Do I need to have to be a professional photographer or science imaging expert to participate?*
  The competition is open to all.

- *Do I need to have a professional camera/equipment to participate?*
  You can use any photography equipment – this includes DSLR, digital camera, mobile phone, light microscope, electron microscope, or telescope.

- *Will ISF get the copyright for my photograph/images?*
  No, you will retain the copyright of their entries. Neither FAST India nor ISF will not claim copyright over the photographs/images.

- *Can I submit entries in black and white?*
  Yes

- *Can I enter a photograph/image that I have submitted for other competitions?*
  No

- *Can I participate in teams for this competition?*
  No, only individuals are allowed to participate.

- *Can I submit this image for other photography competitions?*
  Yes, if your photograph/image did not win the SIF competition, you are free to enter it in other photography/image competitions.

For any queries, please contact Charu Seth at indiasciencefestival@fast-india.org