

SCIENCE IN FOCUS

www.indiasciencefest.org



India Science Festival's
Science Photography and Illustration Competition

Science in Focus (SIF) is the flagship science photography and illustration competition of the India Science Festival, designed to ignite the visual creativity of students, researchers, and professionals. In the 4th edition of the competition, we invite all science enthusiasts to explore pressing contemporary themes and convey their unique scientific insights through **captivating images, illustrations, and science humour sketches**. Tell us your compelling science stories and simplify complex ideas that words alone can't do justice to. Let your creativity soar and contribute to a genre that not only enlightens but also inspires people to engage with science.

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 and drawings 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 and illustrators 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/pens/pencils because the best-of-the-best entries will be showcased in a dazzling exhibition at the ISF 2025. Your talent will be on display for all to see!

So folks, let the creative juices flow and ignite our imaginations, and embark on a visual journey that puts science in the spotlight.

Guidelines for SIF:

Category A: Photos of Science

- Images must be recent, preferably taken in 2024 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.
- 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.
- The image size should not exceed 10 MB.

Category B: Science Illustrations and Science Humor Sketches

- A scientific illustration must objectively and accurately represent the subject, which can be an animal, a plant, an object, complex concepts/processes, diagrams or any other element that requires a graphic representation. A good scientific illustration would be the one that manages to fuse the requirements and scientific needs in an image with technical virtuosity and artistic interpretation.
- Under this category, you may also submit science humour-based sketches or narratives in a comic design format.
- Comics shall not exceed 4 panels
- The artwork should be oriented in a square format, so that it could be printed on A1 size sheets.
- Make sure that your digital illustrations are in CMYK colour mode, must have a minimum resolution of 300 DPI (dots per inches) and should be submitted as a TIFF or PNG image.
- The image size should not exceed 10 MB.

- 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.
- Both categories will be judged by jury members with expertise in the area.
- Non-adherence to the above guidelines will result in disqualification.
- The top 15 entries in each category (Known as top 30 entries) will be selected for the final evaluation. These final entries will be displayed at the ISF 2025 exhibit.

Prizes

Evaluation:

- Category A Images will be evaluated for their technical quality, originality, composition, story & relevance to the theme, artistic element (creativity), and impact.
- Category B Illustrations will be evaluated for their technical quality, originality, composition, story & relevance to the theme, aesthetic appeal, and impact.
- The top 30 entries (Top 15 in each category) will be evaluated by jury members in each category. The scores will be averaged out to determine the top 2 entries from each category, which will receive cash prizes.
- The top two winners for each category will receive 30,000 INR and 20,000 INR respectively.

Additional information on the competition

- The finalists' entries will be displayed in an online exhibition as well as at the India Science Festival 2025 in Pune.
- The competition is free to enter, and open to all members of the public. Entries must be submitted by 29th August 2024, 11:59 PM IST. Submissions will not be accepted once the deadline passes.
- 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 and illustration 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, libelous, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, scandalous, inflammatory, pornographic, and/or profane content shall be automatically disqualified.

Timeline

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- 31 May '24**
Launch
 - 29 August '24**
Deadline
 - October '24**
Finalists announced
 - January '25**
Exhibit at ISF2025
 - February '25**
Winners Announced