

RULES & REGULATIONS OF SCIENCE DRAMA FESTIVAL 2023-24

Genesis

Science and Technology are advancing and changing our lives in many ways. There are wholly positive outcomes but areas of ethical concerns too. People at large including students need to be made aware about these through science communication. The aims of science communication are also expressed in a variety of ways. One objective is to communicate scientific knowledge as such, and a distinction was made between purely factual information, versus placing the information into the context of daily life. An appreciation of the social and economic impact of science was also considered important, as was the more personal impact – incorporating science into everyday activities and communicating the relevance of science to everyday life.

The government is pushing hard to use Science and Technology for making lives of people better. Several programmes and schemes e.g. swachh Bharat, Digital India, Digital Economy, Cyber Security, Genetically Modified Food, Genome based Medical Therapy and so on need public understanding, appreciation and participation. Science drama can play effective role in taking these messages to the masses. Science Centres/Museums under National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) started a contest based on enacting science drama covering themes directly relating Science & Society. Initially it was done at individual unit level successfully. Its success and effectiveness in communicating sensitive, controversial and difficult subjects, including those considered as taboo in society, prompted NCSM to take it to the National Level Contest in the year 2001. Now it has become really a National Event being held in almost all states and union territories of the country.

National Science Drama Festival (NSDF) is an event where one can experience the extraordinary fusion of science and drama in delivering scientific knowledge to the community in an accepted comprehensive manner. This event celebrates the power of drama to make complex concepts accessible, engaging and captivating audiences of all backgrounds.

NSDF showcases how drama can bring science to life through storytelling, dynamic performances, and creative stagecraft. By incorporating elements of theatre, such as dialogue and characterization, science dramas create relatable experiences that connect audiences to scientific ideas on an emotional level. The performances demystify scientific principles while entertaining and educating. They bridge the gap between the scientific community and public, fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of science.

The Festival is organized by the Council every year. It provides an opportunity to bring the students of different states, languages and cultures to explore theatre as a medium to express and communicate. Hence, we invite the institutions to guide and encourage their students to participate in this refreshing experiment of comprehending and communicating science ideas through this creative art-form.

The Science Drama Festival is to be held as per following:

- 1. Taluka (Town) level**
- 2. District level**
- 3. State level**
- 4. Zonal level**

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The competition is open to the school students from **6th to 10th Standard.**

Nehru Science Centre Mumbai
(A Unit of National Council of Science Museums)
Dr. E. Moses Road, Worli
Mumbai 400 018

THEME / TOPIC OF THE DRAMA

The topic/subtopics for the year 2023-24 are:

Main Theme: Science & Technology for the benefit of mankind

Sub Themes:

Sl. No.	Topic in English	Topic in Hindi (Suggested)
1.	Millets - The Superfood	श्री अन्न (मिलेट्स) - श्रेष्ठ आहार
2.	Food Security	खाद्य सुरक्षा
3.	Modern Technology in Daily Life	दैनिक जीवन में आधुनिक तकनीक
4.	Current Advances in Health Care	स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में वर्तमान प्रगति
5.	Superstitions in Society	समाज में अंधविश्वास

Please note that the play could be based on any one of the above topics and should convey a definite scientific message.

INSTRUCTIONS

For Script Writer:

1. The drama should not be like a boring school lesson. It should make the actors and the audience feel emotions and enjoy the performance.
2. The drama should fully capture the audience's attention and teach them something important in a clear way. Both the actors and the audience should feel happy to have learned something.
3. When writing the play, pay attention to the settings, how long the play will be, and how many actors will be part of it, so that it is interesting and enjoyable for everyone.

For Participants:

1. The duration of the play should not be more than **30 minutes**.
2. There should not be more than **08 actors** (including male & female) as a team for easy mobility. The team will have maximum 10 participants (Max. 08 actors, a Director and a Script Writer)
3. It should convey scientific message.
4. The drama team should be able to set up and stage the play quickly.
5. The language should be easy to follow (more of visuals preferred).
6. The drama can be in any Indian language (official).
7. The drama can have costumes, dance, music, mime and also models to enhance the quality and credibility of the drama.
8. Written posters / banners / A.V. aids / backdrops can be used for illustration.
9. If presented in any language other than in English, or Hindi, the participating school has to submit an authentic Hindi / English translation of the script to the organizer well before staging the drama.

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Judging Criteria: Total Marks: 100

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| a. Presentation of the drama | - | 50 Marks |
| b. Scientific content in the drama | - | 30 Marks |
| c. Effectiveness of the drama | - | 20 Marks |

PRIZES

The following prizes will be awarded as per the judge's decision

Sr. No.	Prize	State/ UT level	Western Zonal level (to be borne by Nehru Science Centre)
1.	Following three prizes in order of merit	As decided by State / UT organizers in consultation with NCSM unit in the State wherever applicable.	
	1 st Prize		Rs. 8,000/-
	2 nd Prize		Rs. 6,000/-
	3 rd Prize		Rs. 4,000/-
2.	Best Direction (one prize)		Rs. 1,000/-
3.	Best Script (one prize)		Rs. 1,000/-
4.	Best Actor (one prize)		Rs. 1,000/-
5.	Best Actress (one prize)		Rs. 1,000/-

NOTE:

Each State / Unit / UT shall select only **one** best team for Zonal Level participation. However, **two** best teams selected from Zonal Level competition shall participate at National Level festival.

SCHEDULE

The State / Unit / UT Level Science Drama competition may be completed by first week of **October 2023**, and the Zonal Level competition will be held on **25th November 2023**. National Level Science Drama Festival will be held in **January 2024** at Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai.

TRAVEL EXPENDITURE

NCSM shall bear the travelling expenditure restricted to sleeper-class rail / bus fare from the place of residence to the place where Zonal / National Competition is held. No travel cost shall be paid for unit / state level competition by NCSM. However, respective State / UT could consider payment of travel expenses from their budget for State / UT / Unit level competitions. Prizes at State / UT level are also to be borne by the respective State / UT.

BOARDING & LODGING

The participants will be given two days free boarding & lodging facility at Zonal / National level competition by NCSM.

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