

PRESS RELEASE

FAST India announces the seventh edition of the India Science Festival on 10th and 11th January 2026 at IISER Pune.

Pune | 20th Nov, 2025: The Foundation for Advancing Science & Technology (FAST India), in partnership with Bajaj Auto Limited, will host the India Science Festival (ISF) 2026 at IISER Pune on 10th and 11th January 2026.

FAST India is committed to building a robust ecosystem that bridges science, society, and innovation. Hosting the India Science Festival is a cornerstone of this mission making science accessible, sparking curiosity, and inspiring action. Now in its seventh edition, ISF is India's largest non-government platform celebrating science. With a focus on deep innovation in science and technology, ISF 2026 highlights the transformative role of science in solving real-world challenges and improving lives.

The festival brings together key stakeholders from the scientific community, fostering dialogue and collaboration to advance science and technology across the nation. The goals of ISF include presenting the best of global science to young adults, facilitating discussions among scientists and policy experts on science and technology challenges, and strengthening the practice of science communication.

As the largest science communication platform in the country, ISF has reached over 100,000 individuals over the past six years. Notably, 85% of attendees have rated the festival as "Excellent" or "Very Good," and 100% of speakers have expressed a desire to participate again. ISF is free and open to all, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility.

ISF 2026 is expected to host approximately 25,000 attendees, 60+ speakers, and 30+ exhibits and workshops. Attendees can look forward to expert talks, panel discussions, and fireside chats on topics ranging from AI, Space Tech, Defence Tech, Green Vehicles, and Quantum Computing to Chemistry and Mathematics. Notable speakers include Subhanshu Shukla (Group Captain, IAF), Prof. Venki Ramakrishnan (Nobel Laureate), Ashish Vaswani (CEO, Essential AI), Eshan Chattopadhyay (Gödel Prize Winner), Akshata Krishnamurthy (NASA), Kush Varshney (IBM Fellow), and Prof. Nikku Madhusudhan (Cambridge University).

Speaking on the collaboration, **Varun Aggarwal, Co-Founder of FAST India**, said: *"ISF has become India's most trusted platform for public engagement in science. Returning to IISER Pune, our long-standing partner strengthens our shared mission of making science accessible and inspiring young minds. ISF 2026 will spotlight deep tech, scientific inquiry, and innovation as India moves toward a knowledge-driven future."*

Prof. Arnab Mukherjee, Dean (International Relations and Outreach) at IISER Pune, added: *"We are delighted to host the India Science Festival 2026 at IISER Pune. As an institute*

committed to excellence in science education and research, we see ISF as a powerful platform to ignite curiosity, broaden scientific thinking, and create meaningful interactions between scientists, students, innovators, and the public. We look forward to welcoming thousands of young minds to our campus for two days of learning, exploration, and inspiration.”

The festival will also feature exhibits and workshops organized by leading corporate houses and academic institutions, including Bajaj Auto Limited, Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd., TIFR NCRA, IISER Pune, and many more.

Exciting events such as a debate on *“The world is an illusion: A Quantum Perspective,”* a science theatre performance, a dance performance, and science quizzes and games will further enrich the festival experience. Competitions with prizes totaling over INR 2 lakh will also be held. The *Best of Unbounded Science India (BoUnSc India)* will showcase three flagship science communication competitions: Talk Your Thesis, Science in Focus, and Spin Your Science.

About FAST India:

The Foundation for Advancing Science and Technology (FAST India) is a non-profit trust dedicated to advancing Science & Technology (S&T) in India. The initiative is led by Ashish Dhawan (Founder, The Convergence Foundation) and Varun Aggarwal (Founder, Aspiring Minds and The Change Engine). FAST India is supported by a distinguished Board of Advisors, including Prof. Tarun Khanna (Harvard Business School), Prof. K. VijayRaghavan (Former Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India), and Dr. Soumya Swaminathan (Former Chief Scientist, WHO).

About India Science Festival (ISF):

The India Science Festival, hosted annually by FAST India, celebrates science and technology while fostering public engagement with the scientific community. With a mission to inspire and nurture scientific curiosity among young people and the general public, ISF acts as a catalyst for public understanding of science. The festival brings together diverse stakeholders, breaking silos within the scientific ecosystem and building a strong public narrative around science and technology in India.

About Bajaj Auto Limited:

Bajaj Auto Limited is India’s No. 1 motorcycle exporter, with two out of three bikes sold internationally carrying a Bajaj badge. The company is also the world’s largest manufacturer of three-wheelers. It is the first two-wheeler company in the world to have reached a market cap of INR one trillion and continues to be the world’s most valuable two-wheeler company. Through its CSR initiatives, Bajaj Auto focuses on skilling in STEM, promoting science and technology to build a future-ready workforce for the nation.

About IISER Pune:

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune, established in 2006, is one of India's premier institutions dedicated to high-quality science education and cutting-edge research. Recognized as an Institute of National Importance, IISER Pune integrates undergraduate and postgraduate teaching with advanced research across disciplines.

The institute is home to state-of-the-art laboratories, internationally recognized faculty, and vibrant student-led scientific communities. With a strong focus on interdisciplinary research, innovation, and public engagement, IISER Pune has emerged as a leading hub for scientific excellence and a nurturing ground for the next generation of researchers and innovators.

For further details on ISF 2026, visit <https://www.indiasciencefest.org>.

Learn more about FAST India and its initiatives at <https://www.fast-india.org>.