Impact Factor of Indian journals

Of the 47 Indian scientific journals that find place in the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR) on CD-ROM – 1999 Science Edition*, *Current Science* tops the tally amongst Indian journals with an Impact Factor (IF) of 0.567. It is not only the most cited Indian Journal (1766 citations in 1999), but also the largest journal in terms of number of articles (464) published during 1999. The other end of the 1999 spectrum includes the *Indian Journal of Agronomy* (lowest IF, 0.032), *IETE Journal of Research* (least cited with 7 citations) and *Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy* (smallest journal in terms of number of articles, i.e. 6 during 1999). Specifically, only four journals received more than 1000 citations: *Current Science* (1766), *Indian Journal of Chemistry B* (1686), *Journal of the Indian Chemical Society*

Table 1. *Journal Citation Reports (JCR) on CD-ROM – 1999 Science Edition* journal rankings sorted by Impact Factor (Filtered by India)

Rank	Journal abbreviation	ISSN	1999 Total cites	Impact Factor	1999 Articles
1	*Curr. Sci. India*	0011-3891	1766	0.567	464
2	*Indian J. Biochem. Biophys.*	0301-1208	473	0.430	66
3	*J. Genet.*	0022-1333	595	0.419	14
4	*J. Biosci.*	0250-5991	257	0.370	59
5	*Indian J. Med. Res.*	0971-5916	904	0.365	71
6	*Natl. Med. J. India*	0970-258X	100	0.363	34
7	*J. Geol. Soc. India*	0016-7622	737	0.355	129
8	*J. Polym. Mater.*	0970-0838	186	0.352	36
9	*Indian J. Chem. B*	0376-4699	1686	0.346	310
10	*J. Plant Biochem. Biot.*	0971-7811	69	0.340	24
11	*Proc. Indian Acad. Sci. (Chem. Sci.)*	0253-4134	301	0.339	72
12	*Bull. Mater. Sci.*	0250-4707	299	0.319	158
13	*Indian J. Chem. Technol.*	0971-457X	135	0.317	57
14	*Indian J. Chem. A*		1382	0.304	268
15	*J. Astrophys. Astron.*	0250-6335	139	0.286	6
16	*Pramana – J. Phys.*	0304-4289	401	0.278	170
17	*Orient. Insects*	0030-5316	30	0.276	18
18	*Proc. Indian Acad. Sci. (Earth Planet. Sci.)*	0253-4126	133	0.229	17
19	*Indian J. Pure Appl. Phys.*	0019-5596	589	0.228	169
20	*J. Appl. Anim. Res.*	0971-2119	59	0.214	55
21	*J. Sci. Ind. Res. India*	0022-4456	319	0.201	101
22	*J. Indian Chem. Soc.*	0019-4522	1422	0.192	166
23	*Bull. Electrochem.*	0256-1654	251	0.165	77
24	*Indian J. Heterocycl. Chem.*	0971-1627	136	0.163	85
25	*Asian J. Chem.*	0970-7077	205	0.159	283
26	*Sadhana – Acad. Proc. Eng. Sci.*	0256-2499	52	0.144	21
27	*Indian J. Fibre Text*	0971-0426	62	0.137	39
28	*J. Camel Pract. Res.*	0971-6777	31	0.132	28
29	*Indian J. Eng. Mater. Sci.*	0971-4588	36	0.126	56
30	*J. Food Sci. Technol. Mysore*	0022-1155	474	0.112	107
31	*IETE Tech. Rev.*	0256-4602	33	0.108	20
32	*J. Environ. Biol.*	0254-8704	73	0.107	68
33	*Indian J. Anim. Sci.*	0367-8318	744	0.101	361
34	*Indian J. Pure Appl. Math.*	0019-5588	194	0.098	124
35	*Defence Sci. J.*	0011-748X	55	0.086	49
36	*IETE J. Res.*	0377-2063	7	0.080	8
36	*Indian J. Mar. Sci.*	0379-5136	354	0.080	87
38	*Ann. Arid Zone*	0570-1791	59	0.078	
39	*Indian J. Agric. Sci.*	0019-5022	392	0.076	251
40	*Neurol. India*	0028-3886	90	0.057	79
40	*Trans. Indian Inst. Met.*	0019-493X	133	0.057	45
42	*Indian Vet. J.*	0019-6479	625	0.050	372
43	*Natl. Acad. Sci. Lett.*	0250-541X	72	0.048	23
43	*Proc. Indian Acad. Sci. (Math. Sci.)*	0253-4142	61	0.048	40
45	*Met. Mater. Process*	0970-423X	9	0.045	
46	*J. Adv. Zool.*	0253-7214	24	0.036	13
47	*Indian J. Agron.*	0537-197X	328	0.032	48

Source: *Journal Citation Reports (JCR),* Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia, USA.

Table 2. Impact Factor of *Current Science* (1990–1999)

Year	Impact Factor
1999	0.567
1998	0.515
1997	0.376
1996	0.364
1995	0.292
1994	0.271
1993	0.376
1992	0.253
1991	0.126
1990	0.076

Source: *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*, ISI, Philadelphia, USA.

(1422) and *Indian Journal of Chemistry A* (1382), and 15 journals published more than 100 articles during 1999 (Table 1).

It is indeed creditable that *Current Science* is slowly approaching the magic IF figure of 1.000, it being just 0.076 in 1990 (Table 2).

The *JCR on CD-ROM – 1999 Science Edition* covered a total of 5550 scientific journals, including 47 from India, *Annual Review of Immunology* being the top-ranking journal in terms of IF (47.564). The coverage of Indian journals in the *JCR on CD-ROM – 1995–1998 Science Edition* was as follows: 42 Indian journals out of a total of 4623 in 1995, 38 of 4779 in 1996, 37 of 4963 in 1997 and 51 of 5467 in 1998.

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A case for History and Philosophy of Science in Indian universities

Indian universities have failed to establish full-fledged departments of History and Philosophy of Science. Indians were the forerunners in the field of Astronomy and Mathematics. There are at least half a dozen centres of research in Europe and America, which specialize in oriental studies, but hardly any in Indian universities. What are the reasons for this neglect?

We have a National Commission on History of Science to promote education and research in Indian universities. It was set up jointly by University Grants Commission (UGC) and Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi under the guidance of D. S. Kothari. A national workshop was held in September 1974 at INSA, New Delhi to prepare a draft proposal for implementation of History of Science programme in Indian universities. As a consequence, some half a dozen universities started teaching History of Science courses at various levels. The prominent among them were Delhi University, Aligarh Muslim University, BITS Pilani, Guru Nanak Dev University and Panjab University. This experiment failed after a few years, as there was neither demand for this course nor support from UGC or INSA for providing infrastructure to the universities.

INSA had a one-man cell to carry on History of Science programme in India under the National Commission. It brings out *Indian Journal of History of Science* with contributions from historians of science from both India and abroad. It highlights the Indian contribution in science and technology to the world civilization. Research projects are offered by INSA to Indian scholars and some financial support is provided to publish their reports. But there is no concerted effort made to set up chairs in some universities to promote teaching and research. INSA has published more than a dozen volumes on various aspects of Indian History of Science and Technology. Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi also brings out a Journal *Studies in History of Medicine and Science* and published some treatises on the ancient system of medicine. The Indian Society for History of Mathematics has been quite active and brings out its journal *Ganita-Bharti*, *Bulletin of Indian Society of History of Mathematics*. During 1974, Indian Association for History and Philosophy of Science (IAHPS) came into existence with V. R. Shastri as its founder general secretary. It organized some meetings at ISCA venues as an annual ritual, but failed to make an impact.

In my view, History and Philosophy of Science is an important area of knowledge, which needs to be promoted as an academic discipline in our colleges and universities. From my experience as a teacher of science, the students are quite responsive and evince a keen interest in the topic when its history is narrated as introduction to a topic. It adds flavour to the otherwise dull and drab routine teaching based on abstract mathematics. Philosophy of Science is a topic for serious students only and the response was lukewarm. History and Philosophy of Science should be introduced as an interdisciplinary course for students of science and humanities. It will broaden the vision of non-science students and create a scientific temper in young minds. A case for introduction of these topics in academic curricula of Indian universities should be prepared by the National Commission on History of Science.

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