

(ICI) developed by the Knowledge Foundation has not made any significant progress since its inception.

We must also nurture the regional language scholarly publication ecosystem to sustain the diversified cultural ethos of our country. Regional language publications must be made available in English at least abstract of the full-text articles, and vice versa. Social media platforms or other communication channels like blogs/online portals can be leveraged for communicating scientific results in jargon-free regional language and in English. The online publication platform Confluence (<http://confluence.ias.ac.in/>), an editorially moderated discussion forum of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru is a notable example in this direction.

Finally, Indian research and academic institutions should encourage and promote open scholarship practices among researchers. It was evident during the COVID-19 pandemic that open science platforms like preprints (e.g. bioRxiv and medRxiv) and open data repositories (e.g. GISAID) have played a significant role in making available vital research results and data to the scientific community and the general public⁴. This has resulted in rapid innovation in vaccine development and repurposing existing drugs and also non-therapeutic interventions for COVID-19. We need to

encourage our researchers to submit their research results to preprints. So that it increases the visibility of their work and provides a platform for greater scientific collaboration. *Nature* and *Science* have been accepting preprints for publications in their journals for a long time now.

The Indian Draft 5th National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2020 has made recommendations to promote open access and establish the Indian Science and Technology Archive of Research (INDSTA) to make available all publically funded research open access. This is an encouraging move and policymakers should make it a reality at the earliest to enhance the quality and visibility of Indian research publications.

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4. Fraser, N. *et al.*, *PLoS Biol.*, 2021, **19**(4), e3000959.

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Response

Vasantha Raju has shared some valuable opinions, views and ideas on improving and enhancing the quality and visibility of Indian S&T journals. He includes imparting writing skills, a more transparent peer-review process, recognizing peer reviewers, enhancing access to e-resources, introducing new journals, creating a national-level journal aggregation system, archiving in repositories, using social media, and so on. However, we need to remember that the quality of the Indian journals is inextricably linked to the assessment and evaluation systems and practices followed in Indian academia and research. For now, our research assessment places a premium on publication in foreign journals. We need to closely look at our research assessment and evaluation methods. Any attempt to enhance the quality and visibility of Indian journals should be holistic in approach.

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