

the boundaries of knowledge, we also love those who can educate and inspire. We should not forget that Shakuntala Devi may not be a great mathematician, but she has inspired many children to love mathematics. We should recognize such nodes of knowledge-networks, including friends, teachers, parents, newspapers, television and books that provide support for learning⁹.

To conclude, by engaging children and general public with mathematics, with its innately beautiful problems and with its intrinsic appeal to solicit solutions to those problems, we can hope to make mathematics a way of life for Indians. With such support we may aspire to win the Fields medals and many such honours. When more and more stories of

such awards coming to India are published in journals and newspapers, there will be no reason to complain that children do not know the name of even one recipient of the Fields medal or the Rolf Nevanlinna Prize¹⁰.

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2. Arunachalam, S., *Curr. Sci.*, 2002, **83**, 353–354.
3. Chatterjee, D., *Curr. Sci.*, 2001, **81**, 1152.
4. Raghunathan, M. S., *Curr. Sci.*, 2003, **84**, 285–290.
5. Ascher, M., *Mathematics Elsewhere: An Exploration of Ideas Across Cultures*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2002, p. 219.

6. Selin, H., *Science*, 2002, **298**, 969–970.
7. Pandey, P. D., *Curr. Sci.*, 2002, **83**, 104–106.
8. Mitra, A., *J. Socio-Econ.*, 2002, **31**, 443–456.
9. Pandey, P. D., *Conserv. Ecol.*, 2003 7(1): r2. See <http://www.consecol.org/vol7/iss1/resp2>.
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Measuring and assessing science beyond *SCI*

The editorial on measuring and assessing science by Balaram¹ has focused on a number of issues associated with this non-desirable exercise of science and technology evaluation. As the scientific community is not satisfied with the existing quantitative indices like the *SCI* and its twin publication the *JCR*, the Vienna-based VICER Publishing has come out with a new index called the European Factor (EF) – a new journal quality factor analysing the best European biomedical journals². The 2002 EF list provides more than 520 European journals with a different formula to compute the EF from the Impact Factor (IF). The top ranking journal, *Lancet* has the EF of 106.06 followed by *Nature* (55.00). Interestingly, the 2001 IFs of these top-ranking journals of the EF database *Lancet* and *Nature* are just 13.251 and 27.955 respectively. Table 1 lists the EF of the top 10 journals as also their 2001 IFs. However, the 2001 edition of the *SCI/JCR* lists a total of 5748 journals from all fields of science and technology, with the highest IF of 46.233 for the journal *Annual Review of Immunology*. The previous attempt on the so-called prestige

Table 1. European factor of top 10 journals as also their 2001 impact factors

Rank	Journal	European factor	2001 impact factor ⁴
1	<i>Lancet</i>	106.06	13.251
2	<i>Nature</i>	55.00	27.955
3	<i>EMBO Journal</i>	27.77	12.459
4	<i>Biochimica et Biophysica Acta</i>	25.65	2.371*
5	<i>Brain Research</i>	25.06	2.489
6	<i>Journal of Molecular Biology</i>	22.71	5.826
7	<i>FEBS Letters</i>	22.63	3.644
8	<i>British Medical Journal</i>	22.33	6.629
9	<i>Chemical Communications</i>	19.42	3.902
10	<i>European Journal of Biochemistry</i>	18.87	2.849

*BBA – General subjects.

factor has already disappeared from the scene within a short span of a year or so³, one only hopes that this new initiative will stabilize in the time to come.

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2. Euro-Factor (EF) – The European Journal Quality Factor (<http://www.vicer.org/VICER-EUROFACTOR.pdf>, as accessed on 17 March 2003).
3. The Prestige Factor is gone (<http://www.infoday.com/it/may02/hane1.htm>, as accessed on 17 March 2003).

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