

# Journal of Palaeosciences: journal of the new era and newer multidisciplinary dimensions

TEAM JPS–BSIP

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## VISION

**T**HE Journal of Palaeosciences ([www.jpsonline.co.in](http://www.jpsonline.co.in)) is the new online version of ‘The Palaeobotanist’, the journal of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP). Ever since its inception in 1952, many thematic issues, proceedings’ volumes, and significant contributions have been brought forth in The Palaeobotanist. The main goal then was to investigate and advance palaeobotany as a science in itself, realizing its potential for addressing challenges related to the origin and evolution of plant life as well as other geological problems, such as the search for fossil fuels and coordinating with other palaeobotanical and geological research centers.

The present–day need is to reinvent ourselves so that we can provide an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to make palaeoscience more relevant and holistic in the times to come. Seeing the advancement of techniques, multiple proxies being used and software for climate and fossil studies that have immensely increased over the past two decades, the scope of the journal was widened and it was renamed as ‘Journal of Palaeosciences’ in 2021. The journal addresses the amalgamation of Palaeobotany, Geology, Palaeontology, Geophysics, Geochemistry, and Palaeogenomics to tackle problems pertaining to palaeoclimate, palaeoceanography, palaeoenvironment, palaeogeography, evolutionary biology, early human history and climate change. Palaeosciences not only unearths the secrets of our past (spanning back 4.6 billion years), but it also has the power to make significant and positive changes today and beyond. Keeping this in mind, the Journal of Palaeosciences is working towards becoming an accessible forum for disseminating knowledge with diversified and enhanced quality content. The journal aspires to be a global platform for the publication of palaeoscience research around the world.

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The Journal of Palaeosciences focuses on various topical aspects in the form of original research articles, review articles, short articles, reports and special issues.

The Journal accepts research papers on the evolutionary processes (the timing of evolutionary events, mapping the global geographic distribution of fossil taxa, investigating the nature of functional morphology, and exploring critical innovations in morphological evolution), palaeoenvironmental, palaeoecological, palaeoclimatic and palaeogeographic themes (the understanding of earth systems, ecosystems and biodiversity), distributed over each of the entire geological time scales, right from the Precambrian to the Quaternary (i.e., recent).

Contemporary environmental concerns and issues such as monsoonal variability, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather patterns, heat waves and drought, along with changes in biodiversity, ecosystem and ecosystem services fall within the scope of this journal.

Special issues are an effective way to communicate current knowledge regarding relevant fields of research with the scientific fraternity. Proposals for special issues are welcome throughout the year. Papers for the special issue may be invited or openly submitted. There are a few guidelines for Special Issues which make the publishing process more efficient.

Reports relating to new research applications (scientific and technical) as well as from various conferences/symposiums/field reports are accepted.

### **PLAN AS THE JPS TEAM**

The learned and enthusiastic team is delighted and honoured to serve the Journal of Palaeosciences to the best of their capacity. The Chief Editor, Editor and Assistant Editors in the editorial team, along with the Editorial Board members, have been curated to provide insights and expert advice on the broad range of the journal. Teamwork and the commitment of the team to our authors, reviewers, academics and readers globally holds up publishing ethics and timely publications.

The first volume of the rechristened journal 'Journal of Palaeosciences' as a Platinum Jubilee Special Volume—'Palaeosciences—Horizons Crossed and Beyond' (Volume 70), was published in 2021. It is an integrated volume encompassing sixteen detailed research articles by experts in their respective fields.

The team of editors and technical staff has worked hard to maintain the legacy of the journal and the JPS team will continue to strive and enhance the journal to extraordinary levels of excellence with global recognition.

### **OPEN ACCESS AND DATA SHARING**

#### *What is Open Access?*

Open Access is an international movement that strives to make academic content available for free online. It is focused on making observations and findings derived from scientific methods and activities so that anyone can examine and reuse them.

JPS has adopted the Open Access policy to provide the researchers with the means for publishing new and intriguing studies and advancing the understanding of earth systems, ecosystems and biodiversity. One of the key goals of making open data available in research is to provide transparency and verification of scientific claims by allowing others to examine the results' repeatability and enabling the synthesis of data from many sources to produce new knowledge.

Data sharing is important in today's internet centric world. A novel aspect of scientific communication that has an impact on researchers, instances of publication, indexation, and assessment of science is research data management. This will also have other advantages, as it will allow for: (a) The deposition of data in a repository that mints a permanent record (DOI) allowing the authors and other researchers to appropriately cite the papers; (b) to develop an ecosystem for data interchange that would motivate researchers to adhere to best standards for data storage and publication; (c) data deposition aids in the long-term preservation of data, and (d) research data that are more widely accessible to the public will help it become more practical.

Citing data is considered to be excellent research practice and is a component of the academic environment that encourages data reuse.

Open Access journals strategically placed have a higher likelihood of being read by a wider audience, reaching masses with minimal resources. Yes, there may be some reluctance on the part of researchers to publish in open-access journals due to concerns about the calibre of the papers or the fact that these publications may not be as well-known as traditional journals. JPS guarantees you that our Journal does not compromise on the integrity of research submissions that are accepted for publication, and the 71 volumes that have already been released since 1952 demonstrate the journal's heritage.

### **BENEFITS**

#### *Why publish with us?*

We are trying to provide an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to make Palaeosciences which is very relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Journal of Palaeosciences will be a channel for the dissemination and popularization of scientific knowledge. This includes research on a range of broad topical aspects, both applied and basic, cutting-edge research on the linkages between the biotic and abiotic factors in various ecosystems and anthropogenic stress on regional and global climate change promoting organized, objective, and imaginative scientific research aimed at addressing societal issues.

As we have adapted the open access policy, all the accepted submissions are instantly made freely available to everyone, enabling research to reach a larger audience. Every article published in the Journal of Palaeosciences is freely and indefinitely available online without a subscription.

Analyzing the long history of our journal will allow you to gauge its reputation. The journal's vast reach gives academics the chance to publish a variety of geological, biological, and geographical topics, making it truly multidisciplinary. Capturing these experiences has a lot of value, including several cross-cutting themes that should benefit the palaeosciences community as a whole.

We invite authors to submit original research and review articles and shorter perspective papers. Each paper that has been submitted has to undergo careful peer-review evaluation. High quality editorial work is a sign of our sincere responsibility; it is also the main strategy for luring submissions of works with better academic standards.

### ADVICE TO EARLY AUTHORS

A crucial talent for scientists to master is the capacity to convey accurate and intelligible information to other scientists and the general public. The intention is to write arguments that combine your observations with concepts from diverse sources in the scientific literature. A greater level of learning than just providing data in a lab report is represented by this synthesis.

Researching, writing, and preparing a manuscript for publication can be challenging, laborious and time consuming. However, seeing the final product is the most rewarding part. When you are at the start of a career as a research scholar, there is anxiety about publishing your findings, but the ambitions, creativity, curiosity and capabilities of early authors are remarkable.

An intelligent manuscript may be framed in large part by constructive criticism, valuable ideas, and mentoring from the editors, reviewers, and their guides. We suggest these young, blooming scientists of the future keep in mind a few points:

1. Research is only effective when the researcher has a comprehensive understanding of the subject, which can be achieved by reading journals/articles related to the study indexed according to their impact and references.
2. The length of that journey from completing an article to submitting it to a journal and waiting for a response from editors can be frustrating. For this reason, it is crucial for us as researchers to be aware of the editorial processes that a scientific paper goes through.
3. When submitting a manuscript, it's important to pay attention to the paper's format and structure, as well as its original, innovative, and pertinent research. Detailed author guidelines are provided on the website and should be adhered to rigorously. (<https://jpsonline.co.in/index.php/jop/information/authors>)
4. Writing should always be done carefully, succinctly, and clearly. Ideas should be supported by clear and logical reasoning, without extraneous padding or repetition of material.
5. The majority of editors and reviewers favour original and excellent research and are attentive to criticism. They frequently ask insightful questions and offer helpful feedback and recommendations. Through the review and revision process, be assertive and open with editors and reviewers.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

Despite the many challenging circumstances yet to come, we are optimistic and want to advance our Journal to exquisite heights by publishing distinctive and captivating research articles. Our wide perspective will accommodate the diverse palaeosciences methodologies. *Do publish with us.*