



# JAPI: Its Journey towards the Platinum Peak

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The Journal of the Association of Physicians of India, the erstwhile “MEDICINE”, has come a long way since its inception on a busy morning in 1952. The association had been founded in 1944 by a band of visionaries who felt that physicians needed a platform for academic exchange and enrichment. It took another eight years to conceptualize and bring out the Journal of API, then named simply “MEDICINE”. It was a treatise that would be the mouthpiece of the physicians of India, the medium of dissemination of new information, research, and the wisdom of the times.

## THE PAST<sup>1,2</sup>

The first editor was Prof. SS Misra, from King George Medical College, Lucknow. As the lore goes, Prof. Misra had requested Dr JC Patel, then the Secretary of API, to donate funds to run this journal. The whole fund that belonged to the association—a total of. ₹ 1000/- was utilized to launch their dream “A Journal of their own”.

Initially, it was a quarterly journal, and Prof Mishra envisioned it to publish “original articles, along with reports on clinicopathological conferences, extracts from current modern literature, and association notes”—his exact words as he penned down his thoughts in his first editorial.

However, the publication was discontinued after three issues due to a lack of funds. The Journal rose from the ashes in 1955 when it was resurrected by Dr George Coelho from Bombay. He was appointed the second editor of The Journal that now had a new name, “Journal of the Association of Physicians of India,” JAPI.

Dr Coelho, the then superintendent of Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital, the first children’s hospital in India, steered the Journal from 1955 to 1971 with able dexterity, converting it to a monthly journal eventually from 1961.

The journal got indexed in SCOPUS in 1961 and thereafter in PUBMED in 1965, both during the editorship of Dr Coelho.

## THE PRESENT

The journal continued to flourish from less than 500 pages per year to the current average of more than 1200 a year. Side by side, from printing monthly 3,000 copies in 1982, the copy numbers have multiplied exponentially, trying to cater to the ever-expanding member pool, touching 26,000 in the current year.

The Journal receives over 600 manuscripts annually, and it is a veritable challenge to publish them in a stipulated time. Taking into account the piling backlog of articles, online supplement publication had been started from 2025.

Professor SS Misra belonged to Lucknow. He was the only editor in the past to hail from outside of Mumbai, as all successive editors operated from the head office of API at Mumbai, where subsequently dedicated staff for JAPI have been employed.

The most historic fallout of the COVID pandemic was the development of the internet revolution. The lockdown had forced people to remain indoors. But the world had to go on. Hence, the online versions of books, newspapers, movies, and television serials. So why would journals be far behind?

Thus, from January 2026, the 13th editor of JAPI took over from West Bengal. The daily operation of JAPI is now a combined

dedicated effort of the Mumbai-based staff, the Bengal-based Editor, the editorial committee, and reviewers from all over the nation connected through the ethereal waves of modern technology.

## THE FUTURE

JAPI has expanded not only in volume but also in stature and prestige. However, medical science is progressing at an explosive speed with the advent of artificial intelligence. The journal has to keep up and reinvent itself to flourish and shine.

The article turnover needs to build up, shortening processing time with prompt reviews and decisions. We should aim for better reach of the journal, a more inclusive author profile, and publication of articles enriched in scientific rigor and variety.

Now in June 2026, we are at the threshold of the platinum jubilee of JAPI, its morale soaring high and resolve ironclad to excel in the academic stratosphere! All we need is the goodwill, support, and insights of API members in its journey forward.

## REFERENCE

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