



# दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

CB-I/111/Guidelines/2026/1908

Dated: 01.10.2026

The Principal/Director  
College/Institution,  
University of Delhi,  
Delhi/New Delhi.

**Subject: Guidelines for Consideration of Publications for Academic Purpose – reg.**

Madam/Sir,

This is with reference to this office letter No. CB-I/111/Guidelines/2026/906-2 dated 08.05.2026 on the subject cited above.

2. In this connection, I am directed to inform you that:

- (a) The date of implementation of the aforesaid guidelines as mentioned in para 2 of the said letter, be read as "01.01.2026" instead of 12.01.2026 (in accordance with E.C. Res. 57(57-4) dated 12.12.2025.
- (b) A copy of Notification Ref. No. R&P/17/2026/222 dated 02.09.2026 regarding **Amendments to the Guidelines for Consideration of Publications for Academic Purpose**, issued by the University in accordance with E.C. Resolution No. 3 dated 29.04.2026 and E.C. Resolution No. 18 (18-01) dated 30.07.2026, is enclosed herewith for your information and necessary compliance.

3. Further, it is reiterated that these guidelines are not applicable to promotions under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for college teachers, and the guidelines circulated vide University Notification Ref. No. Estab-IV/O17/2018-2020/9 dated 27.08.2020 shall continue to remain in force for this purpose.

4. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Registrar (Colleges)



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CB-I/111/Guidelines/2026/906-2

Dated: 08.05.2026

The Principal/Director  
College/Institution,  
University of Delhi,  
Delhi/New Delhi.

Madam/Sir,

This is to bring to your attention the notification no. R&P/17/2026/159 dated 12.01.2026 regarding guidelines for consideration of publication for academic purposes (copy enclosed).

2. In this connection, it is reiterated that the Executive Council of the University vide its E.C. Res. 57(57-4) dated 12.12.2025, resolved that these guidelines are valid for direct recruitment in the University & its colleges and for promotions under CAS in the University Departments only, implemented w.e.f. 12.01.2026.

3. Accordingly, these guidelines are not applicable to the promotion (under CAS) of college teachers.

4. For promotion (under CAS) of college teachers, the guidelines circulated vide University's Notification Ref. No. Esab-IV/017/2018-2020/9 dated 27.08.2020 are valid.

5. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

Joint Registrar (Colleges)



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## UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Ref. No. R&P/17/2026/222

Date: 02.09.2026

### NOTIFICATION

**Subject: Amendment in Guidelines for Consideration of Publications for Academic Purposes**

The Guidelines for Consideration of Publications for Academic Purposes approved by the Executive Council vide Resolution No. 57 (57-4) in its meeting held on 12.12.2025 were notified vide Ref. No. R&P/17/2026/159 dated 12.01.2026.

The Executive Council has amended the said guidelines in its meetings held on 29.04.2026 vide E.C. Resolution No. 3, and on 30.07.2026 vide E.C. Resolution No. 18(18-01). The amendments are as follows:

| EC Resolution No.         | Existing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Amended                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 57(57-4)<br>(Appendix-18) | <p>1.1 For Faculties of Science, Interdisciplinary &amp; Applied Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Technology, Social Sciences, Applied Social Sciences and Humanities, Commerce &amp; Business Studies, Education, Law, Management Studies, and Medical Sciences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publications must appear in journals indexed in the Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Arts &amp; Humanities Citation Index, or Social Sciences Citation Index), or Scopus, or any other equivalent indexing database as may be approved by the University of Delhi from time to time.</li></ul> | <p>1.1 For Faculties of Science, Interdisciplinary &amp; Applied Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Technology, and Medical Sciences:</p> <p><b>No Change</b></p> |

*[Handwritten signatures]*



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|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p><b>1.2 For Faculties of Arts, Music, Social Sciences, Education and Law:</b></p> <p>Publications must meet at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appear in journals indexed in the Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Arts &amp; Humanities Citation Index, or Social Sciences Citation Index) or Scopus; or</li><li>• Be published in peer-reviewed journals shortlisted by the concerned department and approved by the IQAC, University of Delhi, in accordance with the parameters outlined in the section "Comprehensive Journal Evaluation Framework" (refer Appendix A).</li></ul> | <p><b>1.2 For Faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, Applied Social Sciences and Humanities, Commerce &amp; Business Studies, Education, Law, Management Studies and Music:</b></p> <p>Publications must meet at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appear in journals indexed in the Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Arts &amp; Humanities Citation Index, or Social Sciences Citation Index) or Scopus; or</li><li>• Be published in peer-reviewed journals meeting a minimum of 120 points out of 150 in accordance with the parameters outlined in the section "Comprehensive Journal Evaluation Framework" (refer Appendix A). The claim of meeting 120 points shall be verified by the IQAC of the College / University. After the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, the said journal shall be added to the list of University-approved journal for that department.</li><li>• Be published in reputed high-quality peer-reviewed journals of the concerned department, which do not meet the minimum threshold of 120 points out of 150 in accordance with the parameters outlined in the section "Comprehensive Journal Evaluation Framework" (refer Appendix A). For inclusion of the said journal in the University</li></ul> |
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|--|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | <p>approved list, the following assessment shall be carried out:</p> <p><b><u>1. Assessment at the level of Faculty/Department</u></b></p> <p>Following committee shall make the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Dean of the Faculty – Chairperson,</li><li>ii) Head of Department – Convener,</li><li>iii) 03 senior most Professors on rotation basis for a period of two years,</li><li>iv) 02 senior most Associate Professors on rotation basis for a period of two years,</li><li>v) 02 senior most Assistant Professors on rotation basis for a period of two years.</li></ul> <p>The recommendation of the above committee shall be submitted to the IQAC of the University</p> <p><b><u>2. Assessment at the level of University of Delhi</u></b></p> <p>Following committee shall consider the recommendations of the Faculty / Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Vice-Chancellor's Nominee – Chairperson,</li><li>ii) Director, IQAC – Convener,</li><li>iii) 02 subject experts nominated by the Vice-Chancellor,</li><li>iv) Joint / Deputy / Assistant Registrar, IQAC – Secretary.</li></ul> <p>The above recommendations shall be placed before the Vice-Chancellor for approval.</p> |
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|  |  | After the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, the said journal shall be added to the list of University-approved journal for that department. |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The amended notification is annexed herewith for information and compliance.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
02/09/2026  
उप-कुलसचिव (भ. एवं प्रो.)  
Deputy Registrar (R&P)

Copy to:

1. Director, Delhi University Computer Centre: For uploading on the website of the University
2. Joint Registrar (Teaching): For information to the Heads of the Departments of the University
3. Office of the Vice-Chancellor: For kind information
4. Office of the Registrar: For kind information
5. Joint Registrar (Teaching): For circulation to the Colleges
6. Guard file

  
Section Officer  
(Recruitment & Promotion Branch)



## **NOTIFICATION**

### **Subject: Revised Guidelines for Consideration of Publications for Academic Purposes**

The Guidelines for Consideration of Publications for Academic Purposes approved by the Executive Council vide Resolution No. 57 (57-4) in its meeting held on 12.12.2025 were notified vide Ref. No. R&P/17/2026/159 dated 12.01.2026. (Annexure-1)

The Executive Council has amended the said guidelines in its meetings held on 29.04.2026 vide E.C. Resolution No. 3 (Annexure-2) and on 30.07.2026 vide E.C. Resolution No. 18(18-01) (Annexure-3). The amendments have been incorporated in the guidelines, and the revised guidelines are as follows:

#### **1. Applicable Publication Criteria**

- To ensure consistency and academic rigor, only publications from credible indexing sources or approved peer-reviewed journals shall be considered.

##### **1.1 For Faculties of Science, Interdisciplinary & Applied Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Technology, and Medical Sciences<sup>1</sup>:**

- Publications must appear in journals indexed in the *Web of Science* (Science Citation Index Expanded, Arts & Humanities Citation Index, or Social Sciences Citation Index), or *Scopus*, or any other equivalent indexing database as may be approved by the University of Delhi from time to time.

##### **1.2 For Faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, Applied Social Sciences and Humanities, Commerce & Business Studies, Education, Law, Management Studies and Music<sup>2</sup>:**

Publications must meet at least one of the following criteria<sup>3</sup>:

- Appear in journals indexed in the Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Arts & Humanities Citation Index, or Social Sciences Citation Index) or Scopus; **or**
- Be published in peer-reviewed journals *meeting a minimum of 120 points out of 150* in accordance with the parameters outlined in the section "Comprehensive Journal Evaluation Framework" (**refer Appendix A**). The claim of meeting 120 points shall be verified by the IQAC of the College / University. After the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, the said journal shall be added to the list of University-approved journal for that department.
- Be published in reputed high-quality peer-reviewed journals of the concerned department, which do not meet the minimum threshold of 120 points out of 150 in accordance with the parameters outlined in the section "Comprehensive Journal Evaluation Framework" (**refer Appendix A**). For inclusion of the said journal in the University approved list, the following assessment shall be carried out:

<sup>1</sup> E.C. Resolution No. 3 dated 29.04.2026 (Annexure-2)

<sup>2</sup> E.C. Resolution No. 3 dated 29.04.2026 (Annexure-2)

<sup>3</sup> E.C. Resolution No. 18 (18-1) 30.07.2026 (Annexure-3)



**1. Assessment at the level of Faculty/Department**

Following committee shall make the assessment:

- |                                                                                      |   |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| i) Dean of the Faculty                                                               | – | Chairperson, |
| ii) Head of Department                                                               | – | Convener,    |
| iii) 03 senior most Professors on rotation basis for a period of two years,          |   |              |
| iv) 02 senior most Associate Professors on rotation basis for a period of two years, |   |              |
| v) 02 senior most Assistant Professors on rotation basis for a period of two years.  |   |              |

The recommendation of the above committee shall be submitted to the IQAC of the University.

**2. Assessment at the level of University of Delhi**

Following committee shall consider the recommendations of the Faculty / Department:

- |                                                           |   |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| i) Vice-Chancellor's Nominee                              | – | Chairperson, |
| ii) Director, IQAC                                        | – | Convener,    |
| iii) 02 subject experts nominated by the Vice Chancellor, |   |              |
| iv) Joint / Deputy / Assistant Registrar, IQAC            | – | Secretary.   |

The above recommendations shall be placed before the Vice-Chancellor for approval.

After the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, the said journal shall be added to the list of University approved journal for that department.

**1.3 For Indian Languages:**

Publications must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Appear in journals indexed in the *Web of Science* (Science Citation Index Expanded, Arts & Humanities Citation Index, or Social Sciences Citation Index) or *Scopus*; or
- Published in peer-reviewed journals shortlisted by the concerned department and approved by the IQAC, University of Delhi, in accordance with the parameters outlined under the section “**Comprehensive Journal Evaluation Framework**” (refer Appendix A); or
- Appear in journals published by the Central or the State Government bodies.

**2. Journal Evaluation Criteria**

To standardize the assessment of peer-reviewed journals, the following criteria are used:

**2.1 Preliminary Journal Standards**

**Purpose:** To verify the authenticity, transparency, and scholarly infrastructure of journals.

**2.1.1 Title & ISSN:**

*A unique and verifiable journal identity strengthens trust and traceability.* The journal must have a unique, verifiable ISSN (print and/or online) matching the title listed on ISSN databases (ISSN Portal, NSL ISSN Process).



**2.1.2 Minimum Publication History:**

*Publication history reflects editorial maturity.*

Journals must demonstrate at least 3 years of consistent publication.

**2.1.3 Publication Frequency:**

*Regular publishing ensures predictability and accountability.*

Journals must specify and adhere to a consistent schedule as declared in the ISSN records.

**2.1.4 Publisher Transparency:**

*Clear publisher information strengthens legitimacy.*

Clear identification of publisher, physical address, society affiliations (if any), and verifiable contact details.

**2.1.5 Peer Review Policy:**

*Transparent review processes uphold scholarly rigor.*

The type of review (e.g., single/double-blind) must be explicitly stated, and all research publications must undergo peer review.

**2.1.6 Website & Hosting:**

*Digital professionalism reflects academic credibility.*

Websites must be secure, up-to-date, and linked to publisher platforms.

**2.1.7 Access Policy:**

*Clear access models aid authors and readers alike.*

Journals must specify if they follow open access or subscription-based models, and list any applicable fees.

**2.1.8 Repository Integration:**

*Linkages with repositories improve discoverability and citation.* It is desirable that Journals are connected to platforms like CrossRef, ORCID, ONOS, OpenDOAR, CORE, PMC, or Zenodo.

**2.1.9 Digital Identifiers (DOIs):**

*DOIs ensure persistent linking and proper citation.*

All articles must be assigned valid, verifiable DOIs.

**2.1.10 Reputed publisher**

*Ensures quality scientific journal*

A journal published by a reputed publisher is generally regarded as a quality scientific journal. However, its mere inclusion in a publisher's catalogue alone does not guarantee its quality. Therefore, the journal must also meet the evaluation criteria outlined in these guidelines.

**2.2 Editorial Board Evaluation**

**Purpose:** To assess the editorial integrity, academic leadership, and transparency of the journal's governing structure.

**2.2.1 Board Composition:**

*Editorial boards reflect academic stewardship.*

Full names, roles, affiliations, and identifiers (ORCID/ResearcherID) of all editorial members must be listed. Editorial members should have recognized academic standing aligned with the journal's scope.



**2.2.2 Diversity & Expertise:**

*Academic diversity enhances global relevance.*

Board members must represent multiple institutions and geographies and align with the journal's scope.

**2.2.3 Editorial Independence:**

*Independence prevents undue influence and bias.*

Efficient, impartial peer review workflows with documented timelines and responsiveness to reviewer feedback

**2.3 Editorial and Ethical Policies**

**Purpose:** To ensure alignment between editorial policies, declared aims, and ethical best practices.

**2.3.1 Aims and Scope:**

*Clarity of focus ensures scholarly relevance.*

Journals must declare specific thematic and disciplinary coverage.

**2.3.2 APCs and Fee Transparency:**

*Hidden fees undermine trust.*

Article Processing Charges must be clearly stated. Excessively low or high charges should be flagged.

**2.3.3 Publishing Timeline:**

*Timeliness enhances author satisfaction.*

Journals should declare and adhere to realistic submission-to-publication timelines.

**2.3.4 Acceptance Rate:**

*Selectivity reflects review rigour.*

Acceptance statistics should be disclosed and should reflect genuine screening.

**2.3.5 Ethical Alignment:**

*Global standards ensure responsible publication.*

Adherence to COPE or equivalent standards must be reflected in journal policies.

**2.4 Content Quality Standards**

**Purpose:** To evaluate academic originality, policy relevance, and conformity to journal scope.

**2.4.1 Research Contribution:**

*Publications must demonstrate innovation and scholarly merit.*

Articles should reflect theoretical advancement, evidence-based analysis, and real-world applicability.

**2.4.2 Scope Conformity:**

*Consistency across title, theme, and output is essential.*

Published articles must align with the journal's stated scope and thematic priorities. The journal should maintain a consistent theme.

**2.5 Presentation and Technical Standards**

**Purpose:** To uphold credibility and ensure optimal dissemination of scholarly work through design, accessibility, and consistent publishing practices.



### 2.5.1 Citation Format:

*Accurate and uniform citation practices strengthen academic attribution and traceability.*

Journals should use a standardized referencing style (e.g., APA, MLA, Vancouver) and include a “Cite as” recommendation in each article to promote consistent citation usage.

### 2.5.2 Design & Readability:

*A professionally formatted journal enhances readability and reflects editorial integrity.*

Journals must use legible fonts, consistent formatting, and adequate spacing. High-quality visuals such as tables, graphs, and infographics must be clearly labelled and support the article’s content.

### 2.5.3 Archiving & Accessibility:

*Long-term preservation and ease of access are essential for sustained research visibility.*

Journals should provide full-text content online. Subscription-based journals must list article metadata, while open-access journals must ensure complete availability. Archival mechanisms (e.g., LOCKSS, Portico) should be clearly documented.

### 2.5.4 Multilingual Availability:

*Language diversity enhances inclusivity and local research impact, especially in the Indian context.*

Journals are encouraged to publish in Indian languages in addition to English to broaden accessibility.

### 2.5.5 Submission Platform:

*Secure and structured submission systems foster transparency and process integrity.*

Manuscripts must be submitted through an online submission portal. Journals accepting submissions via email should be excluded from consideration.

### 2.5.6 Avoidance of Rapid Publication Claims:

*Unrealistic promises of quick publication often signal compromised peer-review processes.*

Journals that highlight “rapid review” or “instant publication” as marketing claims should be avoided unless backed by transparent editorial policies.

### 2.5.7 Print Continuity:

*Print consistency demonstrates editorial discipline and enhances the journal’s professional identity.*

Journals with print editions should maintain uniformity in layout, design, and formatting across all issues.

### 2.5.8 PDF Accessibility and Permissions:

*Unrestricted access to published content facilitates academic sharing and citation.*

Journals must not use copy-protected or locked PDFs. Downloadable, citation-friendly formats must be provided.

## 2.6 Research Ethics and Compliance

**Purpose:** To ensure that journals adhere to established ethical frameworks, protect academic integrity, and promote responsible research practices.



**2.6.1 Ethical Guidelines for Authors:**

*Authors must adhere to clear publication ethics as defined by the journal.*

Journals must publish and enforce comprehensive ethical policies. Journals should have formal structures to oversee ethical compliance.

**2.6.2 Plagiarism Prevention:**

*Maintaining originality and academic honesty is paramount.*

Journals must ensure strict compliance with UGC Level 0 plagiarism norms (Less than 10% similarity).

**2.6.3 Conflict of Interest Disclosure:**

*Transparent disclosure practices uphold integrity across stakeholders.*

Any potential conflicts involving authors, editors, or reviewers must be declared.

**2.6.4 AI Content Disclosure:**

*Responsible use of AI in research must be clearly disclosed.*

Journals should require authors to disclose any AI-generated or AI-assisted content.

**2.6.5 Research Integrity Policy:**

*Journals must align with globally accepted codes of research conduct.*

Endorsement of standards like COPE, WAME, or the Declaration of Helsinki must be visible.

**2.6.6 Intellectual Property:**

*Respecting ownership and licensing enhance academic trust.*

Policies on copyright, licensing, and author rights must be clearly outlined.

**2.6.7 Post-Publication Corrections:**

*Timely corrections ensure reliability of the scholarly record.*

Retraction and correction procedures must be publicly available.

**2.6.8 Data Sharing and Reproducibility:**

*Encouraging open science practices benefits the wider research community.*

Journals should support data availability, replication, and reuse.

**2.6.9 Complaints and Appeals:**

*Fair and documented grievance mechanisms promote accountability.*

A transparent process must exist for handling complaints and appeals. Allegations of misconduct must be addressed using COPE or equivalent guidelines.

**2.7 Journal Visibility and Impact Metrics**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the reach, academic influence, citation performance and influence of journals within the scholarly community.

**2.7.1 Indexing in Reputed Databases:**

*Indexing enhances discoverability and academic credibility.*

Journals should be listed in databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), PsycINFO, HeinOnline, or LexisNexis.

**2.7.2 Impact Metrics:**

*Impact metrics serve as indicators of scholarly reach.*

Valid Impact Factor (Clarivate), CiteScore (Scopus), or SJR. Journals using misleading or unverified metrics (SJIF, Cosmos, GIF, etc.) will be disqualified.



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### 2.7.3 Citation Rate:

*Citations reflect the utility and relevance of published work.*  
Journals should demonstrate citation frequency commensurate with their scope.

To have a quantifiable evaluation of Peer-reviewed Journals based on the detailed parameters discussed above, the following Comprehensive Journal Evaluation Framework shall be used by the concerned departments.

### 3. Comprehensive Journal Evaluation Framework

To ensure objective assessment, departments must use the accompanying 150-point framework across six categories:

| Evaluation Domain                        | Maximum Points |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Journal Identification & Authenticity | 30             |
| 2. Editorial Board & Governance          | 30             |
| 3. Peer Review & Publishing Process      | 30             |
| 4. Website & Infrastructure              | 20             |
| 5. Metrics & Indexing                    | 20             |
| 6. Ethics & Compliance                   | 20             |

#### Scoring Guidelines

- **Total Points: 150**

- **Minimum Acceptance Threshold: 120/150**

*Journals meeting a minimum of 120 points out of 150 are acceptable only.*

- **Automatic Rejection Triggers:**

*Journals exhibiting any of the following fundamental flaws shall be automatically excluded from consideration:*

- Invalid or fake ISSN;
- Anonymous or unverifiable publisher;
- Absence of a clearly stated peer review policy;
- Absence of an appropriate Manuscript submission mechanism;
- Use of non-standard or predatory metrics (e.g., Scientific Journal Impact Factor (SJIF), Cosmos Impact Factor, Cite Factor, General/Global Impact Factor (GIF), AE Global Index);
- Absence of a publicly available research ethics and publication policy;
- Use of cloned or deceptively similar journal titles mimicking reputed journals;
- Inclusion in recognized blacklists (e.g., Beall's List, Cabell's Predatory Reports, DOAJ's list of journals claiming to be indexed in DOAJ or the UGC CARE Excluded List);
- Not included in the various databases mentioned on the journal website;



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- Engagement in unethical research or publishing practices.

**For detailed scoring rubrics and indicators under each evaluation domain, refer to the attached “Comprehensive Journal Evaluation Framework” (Appendix A).**

**Power to remove difficulties:** If any doubt or difficulty arises in the interpretation of or giving effect to the provisions of these guidelines, the competent authority may do anything deemed necessary to remove such doubt or difficulty, within the power invested to it by the Act, Statutes and Ordinances of the University of Delhi, as amended from time to time.



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### Appendix A

#### Comprehensive Journal Evaluation Framework

| Sub-Criterion                                                | Evaluation Method                                                                                | Max Points | Quantitative Indicator                                | Red Flags                          | Verifiable Sources                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Journal Identification &amp; Authenticity (30 pts)</b> |                                                                                                  |            |                                                       |                                    |                                                                                                                                      |
| ISSN Verification                                            | Must match across all sources                                                                    | 5          | ISSN match<br>Yes = 5<br>No = 0                       | Not found on ISSN portal           | <a href="https://portal.isn.org">https://portal.isn.org</a> ,<br><a href="https://nsl.niscpr.res.in/">https://nsl.niscpr.res.in/</a> |
| Distinct Title                                               | Matched via similarity checks                                                                    | 5          | Unique = 5<br>Cloned = 0                              | Mimics known titles                | Scopus, WoS, ERIC, PsycINFO, IEEE Xplore, DOAJ                                                                                       |
| Publisher Legitimacy                                         | Verify with Goods and Services Tax (GST), Registrar of Companies (ROC)                           | 5          | Registered = 5<br>Anonymous = 0                       | No legal identity                  | GST, ROC                                                                                                                             |
| Journal History                                              | Verified 3+ years of issues                                                                      | 4          | >3 yrs = 4<br>2-3 yrs = 3<br>1-2 yrs = 2<br><1 yr = 1 | New/discontinued                   | Archive.org, journal archive                                                                                                         |
| Publisher Transparency                                       | Must list the owner, address, and contact details                                                | 4          | Full = 4<br>None = 0                                  | Shell/anonymous                    | Publisher's site, CrossRef <a href="https://google.be/maps/">google.be/maps/</a>                                                     |
| DOI Verification (if applicable)                             | Must resolve through DOI.org                                                                     | 4          | Valid DOI = 4<br>Fake = 0<br>If not applicable = 4    | Broken links                       | CrossRef, DOI.org                                                                                                                    |
| Reputed publisher                                            | Must be published by professional publishers, Learned or scholarly societies, University Presses | 3          | Yes = 3<br>No = 0                                     | Not published by reputed publisher | -                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>2. Editorial Board and Governance (30 pts)</b>            |                                                                                                  |            |                                                       |                                    |                                                                                                                                      |
| Verified Affiliations                                        | 50% sample cross-check                                                                           | 4          | ≥90% = 4<br>Otherwise = 0                             | Fake/Fabricated board              | ORCID, Institution sites                                                                                                             |
| Geographic & Institutional Diversity                         | ≥3 countries (for International)<br>5+ institutions (for National)                               | 4          | 3+/5+ = 4<br>In-house = 0                             | Monolithic board                   | Editorial Page                                                                                                                       |
| Editor-in-Chief Visibility                                   | h-index check                                                                                    | 6          | h-index ≥15 = 6<br>10-14 = 4<br>5-9 = 2<br><5 = 0     | Inactive/unknown                   | Google Scholar, Scopus                                                                                                               |
| ORCID/ID Availability                                        | ≥50% members                                                                                     | 3          | ≥50% = 3<br>Otherwise = 0                             | None                               | ORCID, Publons                                                                                                                       |



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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Special Issue Editors    | Named with affiliation                        | 3 | Yes = 3<br>No = 0                  | Guest editors hidden | Journal Issues       |
| Editorial Activity       | 3–5 years of publication/research involvement | 4 | Verified = 4<br>None = 0           | Dormant              | Grants.gov, websites |
| Independence Declaration | Policy on editorial freedom                   | 3 | Yes = 3<br>No = 0                  | Publisher control    | Journal policy page  |
| Author-Editor Overlap    | <10% per issue                                | 3 | <10% = 3<br>10–20% = 1<br>>20% = 0 | >20%                 | Article review data  |

### 3. Peer Review & Publishing Process (30 pts)

|                                              |                                |   |                                                             |                        |                       |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Type of Review                               | Specified clearly              | 6 | Double-blind/Single-blind = 6<br>Unclear = 0                | No peer review         | Review Policy Page    |
| Reviewer Pool Acknowledged                   | Publicly listed                | 2 | Public pool = 2<br>Sample = 1<br>None = 0                   | No reviewers shown     | Journal page          |
| Review Timeline                              | Submission to the decision     | 6 | More than four weeks = 6<br>1 to 4 weeks = 3<br><1 week = 0 | Unrealistic durations  | Article metadata.     |
| Peer Review History                          | Timeline published             | 4 | ≥80% of articles = 4<br>50–79% = 2<br><50% = 0              | No data                | Metadata fields       |
| Acceptance Dates Consistency                 | Submission precedes acceptance | 4 | Yes = 4<br>No = 0                                           | Backdated acceptances  | Article dates         |
| Appeals Process                              | Clear process posted           | 4 | Yes = 4<br>No = 0                                           | No grievance route     | Submission guidelines |
| Retraction/Correction Policy for publication | Public COPE-aligned policy     | 4 | Yes = 4<br>No = 0                                           | No retraction protocol | Journal policy        |

### 4. Website & Infrastructure (20 pts)

|                                             |                                |   |                                         |                                                                            |                      |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Language Quality                            | Checked for grammar/plagiarism | 3 | Clean = 3<br>Major = 0                  | Major issues                                                               | Grammarly, Copyscape |
| Metadata Standards                          | Schema.org, OAI-PMH used       | 3 | Full = 3<br>None = 0                    | None                                                                       | OAI-PMH validators   |
| Citation Format                             | Standardized style             | 3 | APA/MLA = 3<br>Unclear = 0              | Inconsistent                                                               | Author guidelines    |
| Archive Access                              | ≥5 years of content            | 2 | ≥5 yrs = 2<br>2–4 yrs = 1<br><2 yrs = 0 | No archive                                                                 | Journal site         |
| Author-oriented rather than reader-oriented | Journal site                   | 3 | Yes = 0<br>No = 3                       | Submission possibilities are highlighted. Information regarding publishing | Journal site         |



|                      |                              |   |                               |                                                            |                  |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
|                      |                              |   |                               | possibilities, such as quick peer review, are foregrounded |                  |
| Search Functionality | Article search works         | 2 | Yes = 2<br>No = 0             | Broken search                                              | Homepage         |
| Article Licensing    | License clearly stated       | 2 | Yes = 2<br>No = 0             | None                                                       | Article/PDF      |
| Custom CMS           | Unique platform, not generic | 2 | Customized = 2<br>Default = 0 | Basic template                                             | Page source code |

### 5. Metrics & Indexing (20 pts)

|                             |                                                                      |   |                                   |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Indexing in Major Databases | Verified in Scopus, WoS, DOAJ/ERIC/ PsycINFO/ HeinOnline/ LexisNexis | 6 | Yes = 6<br>No = 0                 | Not indexed | Index sites<br><a href="https://doaj.org/">https://doaj.org/</a><br><a href="https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo">https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo</a><br><a href="https://eric.ed.gov/">https://eric.ed.gov/</a><br><a href="https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo">https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo</a><br><a href="https://home.heinonline.org/">https://home.heinonline.org/</a> |
| Misleading Metrics Used     | e.g., SJIF, GIF, Cosmos                                              | 6 | None used = 6<br>Used = 0         | Fake metric | Homepage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Google Scholar Citations    | 20 latest articles                                                   | 6 | >100 = 6<br>50–100 = 3<br><50 = 1 | Low impact  | Google Scholar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| h5-index                    | Verified via Google Scholar                                          | 2 | h5 > 10 = 2                       | Low ranking | Google Scholar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

### 6. Ethics & Compliance (20 pts)

|                        |                                                                                                                                                 |   |                               |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Research Ethics Policy | Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)/ International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)/ World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) | 6 | Yes = 6<br>No = 0             | None           | COPE ( <a href="https://publicationethics.org/membership">https://publicationethics.org/membership</a> ), ICMJE ( <a href="https://www.icmje.org/">https://www.icmje.org/</a> ) WAME ( <a href="https://www.wame.org/">https://www.wame.org/</a> ) Journal website |
| AI Disclosure          | Mandatory in the author guidelines                                                                                                              | 3 | Yes = 3<br>No = 0             | Unclear policy | Policy page                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Plagiarism Check       | iThenticate/ Turnitin                                                                                                                           | 6 | Regular check = 6<br>None = 0 | No screening   | Similarity report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



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|                             |                            |   |                   |                      |          |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Community Standards         | COPE Core Practices linked | 3 | Yes = 3<br>No = 0 | Not compliant        | COPE.org |
| Conflict of Interest Policy | Journal site               | 2 | Yes = 2<br>No = 0 | Unclear or no policy | Homepage |