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Research Article

A Scientometric Analysis of Data Science Research in India (2014-2024)

Bikramaditya Barman*

The Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati, Assam, INDIA.

ABSTRACT

The current study gives a scientometric analysis of data science research in India for a period of 10 years (2014-2024), and reflects the trends in its growth, the leading contributors and the impact of citation on it. In this analysis, we see high growth in research output across scientific domains, with data science for India dominated by the fields of Engineering, Chemical Sciences and Biological Sciences. Strong increase in research production on applied STEM fields, especially around AI and machine learning. This citation analysis indicates the significance of the Indian research organizations like the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) which contribute significantly towards funding and the development of data science research in India. RSC Advances and PLOS ONE were identified as top journals for high-impact publications. The study further details that government agencies such as DST, UGC, and DBT are now entering as key players in supporting research funding. The results highlight India as an increasingly attractive hub for global data science research deliberations, building on an interdisciplinary tradition, increased government funding, and international collaboration.

Keywords: Data Science, Dimensions.AI Database, India, Research Trends, Scientometric Analysis.

Correspondence:
Bikramaditya Barman
The Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati, Assam, INDIA.
Email: barmanbikramaditya215@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

The research output in data science and related fields such as computer science and big data has shown consistent growth over the years. For instance, the computer science domain has been extensively analyzed, revealing a substantial increase in publications and citation impact (Singhal *et al*., 2015; Banshal *et al*., 2015). Thematic trends indicate a focus on emerging technologies and interdisciplinary research, with keywords such as "big data" and "artificial intelligence" frequently appearing in publications (Barman and Hoque, 2025; Bankar and Lihitkar, 2021; Shrivastava and Mahajan, 2016). Collaboration with international institutions has been a significant factor in enhancing the research impact. Countries like the USA, South Korea, and Germany are prominent collaborators, contributing to the increased visibility and citation impact of Indian research (Mahala and Vishal, 2021; Chin and Ratnavelu, 2024). Institutional collaborations within India, particularly among top universities and research institutions, have also played a crucial role in advancing data science research (Sarangapani, 2025; Sahoo *et al*., 2021). Leading institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been at the forefront of data science research, contributing significantly to the overall research output and impact (Sahoo *et al*., 2021; Shrivastava and Mahajan, 2016). The University of Delhi and Anna University are among the top contributors, with a high number of publications and collaborations (Mahala and Vishal, 2021; Shrivastava and Mahajan, 2016). While the growth in data science research in India is commendable, challenges remain in terms of enhancing the quality and impact of research. There is a need for improved analytical techniques and global collaborations to fully realize India's potential in the global research landscape. Additionally, focusing on underrepresented areas such as mathematics within data science could further bolster research outcomes and innovation (Chin and Ratnavelu, 2024).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Indian institutions have shown significant contributions to data science research, with institutions like the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) playing a pivotal role in research productivity (Kumar and Senthilkumar, 2019). Collaboration at the institutional level is common, although international collaborations are less frequent (Singh and Singh, 2017). Conferences and seminars are key platforms for fostering social connections and interactions within the research community (Singh and Singh, 2017). The analysis highlights the importance of big data, data analysis, and machine learning as emerging themes within the data science research

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landscape (Juliardi and Malik, 2023; Barman and Rahman, 2025). There is a noted application of data science in various fields, including health sciences and life sciences, although these areas are less explored compared to social and physical sciences (Singh and Singh, 2017). While India has made significant strides in data science research, the USA remains a leader in terms of the number of publications and citations (Barman *et al*., 2025; Sarkar and Pal, 2019; Bora and Barman, 2017). This highlights the competitive global landscape in which Indian researchers are operating. The growth in data science research in India is part of a broader trend of increasing digitalization and data generation worldwide, necessitating advancements in data science methodologies and applications (Emmert and Dehmer, 2018).

Research gap

Although several scientometric and bibliometric studies- at the global level as well as India level- have been conducted on various databases (for example, Scopus and Web of Science), relatively few have used the Dimensions.ai database to present a consolidated view for over a decade by analysing publication trends, thematic evolution, citation impact, and collaboration networks within the Indian AI research ecosystem. Prior reviews are often temporally focused, do not connect publications with related grants or patents, and rarely consider the relationship between broad national level policy initiatives, sector-level applications and changing research fronts. Yet, there is a dearth of analyses connecting scientometric mapping with the rich funding and policy document data that Dimensions.ai provides, leaving unknown the contours of the broader research-innovation-policy nexus around India's AI development in 2014-2024. This study aims to fill such gap- a cohesive, database-integrated approach is used to provide practical implications for researchers, institutions, and policymakers.

METHODOLOGY

This study makes a big data analysis, i.e., a quantitative scientometric approach, to hunt the growth and trends of Data Science research in India from 2014 to 2024. The data were extracted from the Dimensions.ai database with the keyword "Data Science" searched and journal paper having an Indian institution affiliation. From this dataset. Citation analysis- Citations per document and Citations by author CSV export format of bibliographic data was used and was processed for VOSviewer to create authorship and so on. This kind of visual maps helped in identifying key research clusters, collaboration patterns and thematic trends over the Indian Data Science research landscape. Results were presented using descriptive statistics and graphical representation (pie charts and bar diagrams). The entire publication strength in the area of Data Science in India found in the Dimensions.ai database across the years 2014 to 2024 is 72,567.

OBJECTIVES

- Analysis of the temporal growth trends of Data Science research publications from India during 2014-2024 using Dimensions.ai database.
- Identify and rank the Fields of Research (FoR) contributing to Data Science output in India by total publications and analyse changes in their relative prominence over 2014-2024.
- Tips to identify highly cited publications, prolific authors in the evaluation of citation impact and research influence.
- Top 10 funding agencies, Top 10 source titles, Top 10 publisher, Top 10 research organisations supporting Data Science research in India.

Data analysis

Year wise distribution

A scientometric analysis using Dimensions database of all years of research articles in data science (2014-2024) shows impressive growth across all major categories of science in India (Figure 1). Research output was quite modest in 2014, with most publications in Chemical Sciences (6,282) and then Biological Sciences (3,696) and Engineering (4,465). Over the years, the publishing volume had grown to quite the significant extent seen in 2024 with Engineering leading the growth factor (17,023 publications: almost four times), which was indication of the role engineering is playing in data science. Chemical Sciences (13,523 publications) also more than doubled, as it is more integrated with computational methods and data-driven experimentation. Although most applied data science papers are relatively new (many written by computer scientists), a few fields such as genomics, bioinformatics, and healthcare are beginning to adopt these kinds of approaches in what we observe from the 8,880 papers published during the described time-period in Biological Sciences. The highest growth of output was in Biomedical and Clinical Sciences where it tripled from 2384 to 6309 publications that reflect a significant move toward AI-driven diagnostics and the analysis of medical graph data. The largest rise in the proportion of thousands was in Physical Sciences (1,799 and 5,700 publications), indicative of growing dependence on simulation, modelling and big data methods. The decade-long trend also reinforces the strong engagement of India with data science over diverse areas of research, even as Engineering and Chemical Sciences stand out as the fields with the most prolific contributions.

Field of research

Horizontal bar chart, from Dimensions.ai (Figure 2) Using the data obtained from CORE (exported August 11, 2025),

filtered for only AI-related contents with "Data Science" used as a keyword and the left-hand side publication year buttons set to either 2024 or 2014, we see that India has a very uneven distribution with the lion share of AI research output located in STEM areas. After that comes Engineering with 21,488 publications, then Chemical Sciences (19,805), and Biological Sciences (12,576), showing healthy applied and fundamental science outputs. Other fields contributing in the mid-tier include Biomedical and Clinical Sciences (8,695), Physical Sciences (7,499), Agricultural, Veterinary and Food Sciences (4,877), and Information and Computing Sciences (4,307). Outputs are moderate in Environmental Sciences (2,962) and Mathematical Sciences (2,210), but humanities, arts, and social sciences produce much smaller numbers of publications, such as Human Society (568), Built Environment and Design (510), Psychology (485), and Commerce and Management (461) The other fields such as Economics (182), Education (134), History (84), Philosophy (65) and Creative Arts (52), are the least represented probably due to the dataset used here is oriented to "Data Science." In conclusion, CORD-19 data speaks about the dominance of ST projects among all funded projects in India, whereas very few from Non-ST disciplines.

Publications for each research category by funding agency

This heatmap, derived from Dimensions, in Figure 3. However, in examining two specific fields of study- across various dimensions of these and many other specialties like areas of interest, types of research, and funding levels- AI data filtered for Data Science (Publication years 2024 or 2014, export date August 11, 2025) identified that India appears to have most of its government research funding and publication output in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)- with particularly high counts top-line in Engineering (Department of Science and Technology (DST) 6612; Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) 5872; University Grants Commission (UGC) 3641), Chemical Sciences (DST 7111; CSIR 5834; UGC 6413), and Biological Sciences (UGC 3202; DST 3030; Department of Biotechnology (DBT) 3498) for biological sciences; high (biomedical and clinical sciences) found strong support from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) 2266; and DBT 1786 also supporting; while, Physical Sciences (DST 2441; CSIR 2382) and Materials Engineering (DST 2289; CSIR 2263); with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) 1477 primary provider of Agricultural, Veterinary and Food Sciences; while As Technical Report: AI data filtered for "Data Science Publication years 2024 or 2014, Export date August 11, 2025, AI data filtered for "Data Science (Publication years 2024 or 2014, export date August 11, 2025)] Inorganic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Macromolecular Chemistry, and Nanotechnology available appear concentrated in (DST and CSIR); Microbiology, Mathematical Sciences, and Condensed Matter Physics appear with fewer publications overall, while humanities/social sciences are absent as through STEM-focused filter to find by large, with various agencies like DST and CSIR emerging found generally as the largest contributors across most fields, UGC, as major role in Chemical Sciences, Biological Sciences, and Engineering, and domain-specific agency information like DBT, ICMR, and ICAR largely remain usefully would still largely useful to top of aggregate description of funding analysis of specific research areas).

Citation with document

The network is represented by nodes (authors), and the publication year for their work is represented in parentheses in the diagram (Figure 4). As an illustration, authors like "Konwar (2014)" and "Maharana (2014)" clustered in the same cluster, indicating their collaboration or citation relationships. There is a strong co-citation relationship between the authors ("Mishra (2014f)" and "Ali (2014)") Authors such as "Madhura (2014)" and "Nagamani (2024)" are situated in their own bucket, which indicates different areas of research or less engagement with other authors. The colours of the clusters relate to different research themes or topics, while the lines show co-authorship or citation

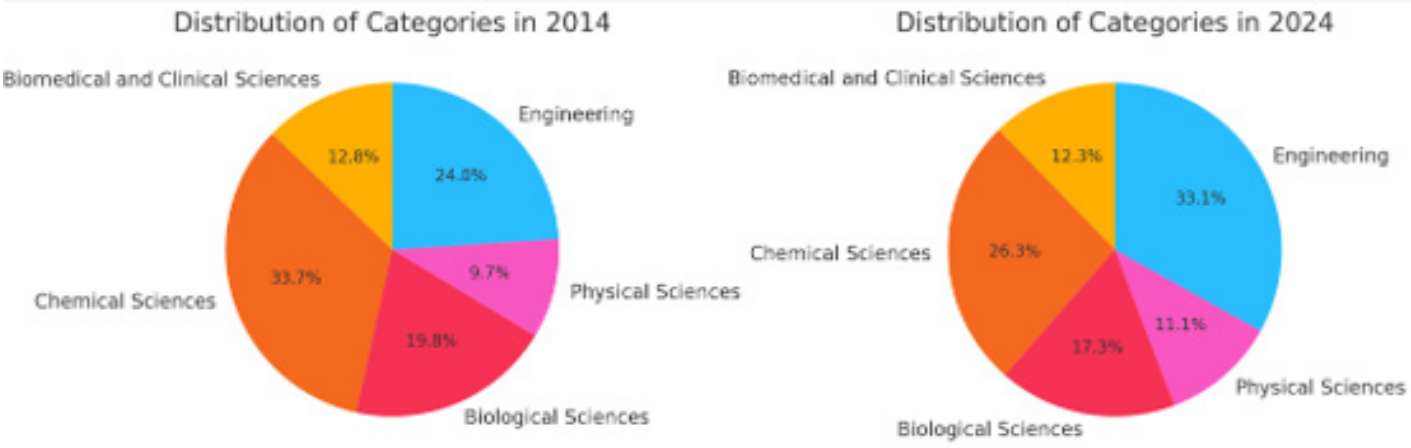

Figure 1: Year wise distribution.

patterns between the authors, and the structure of a scholarly network.

Citation with author

Data visualization based on citation and co-authorship relationships among scholarly authors shows as a network (Figure 5) that was drawn by VOSviewer. In the left-hand side, the size of the nodes represents the number of citations per author, and emphasis is drawn to how the names of the three authors; "Kumar, Amit," "Kumar, Sanjay," and "Kumar, Sunil", are prominent in the centre of the network. Node colours represent research clusters (potentially different research areas or topics). Singh, S. P., Singh, Kuldeep, Sharma, Amit can also be observed as closely connected authors in the network. The clumps in the structure of the network are a reflection of the coteries of authors who collaborate and cite each other frequently, giving them an outsized impact in the academic ecosystem.

Top Source Titles

Table 1 presents the top journal source titles, which demonstrate a broad range of impact in literature; "RSC Advances" is the most cited title with 25397 citations, and it has a citation mean of 27.46, which further indicates a notable dispersion of its reach. Next is "PLOS ONE", which has a high average citations of 34.78 and a total of more than 18,000 citations, so is obviously internationally relevant. Citations of over 6,000 also show great reach for

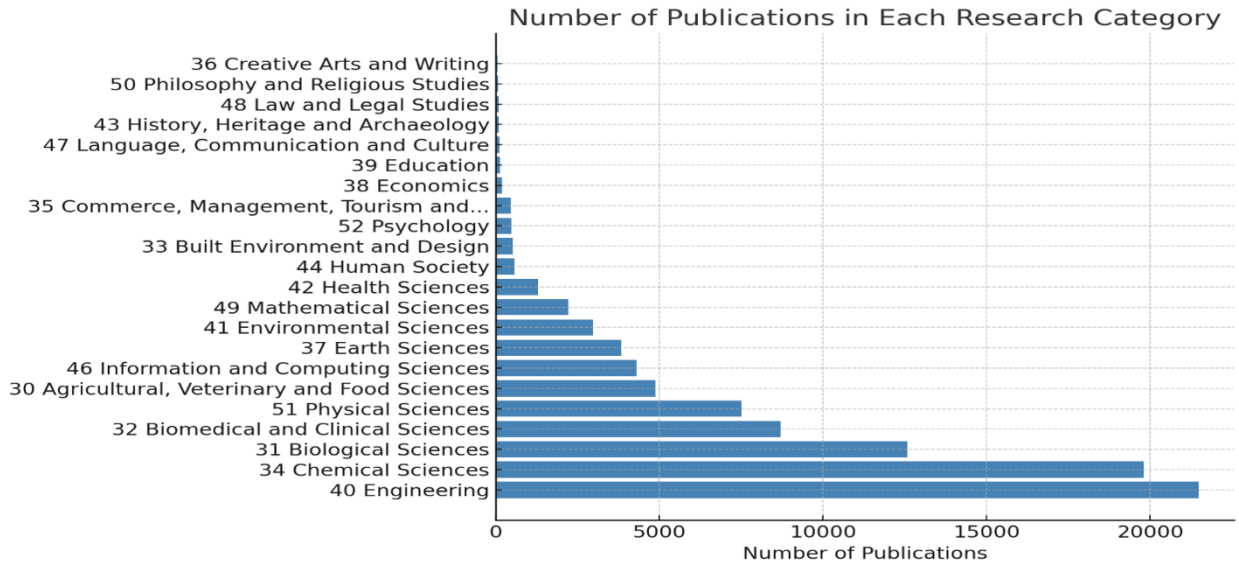

Figure 2: Number of publications in each research category.

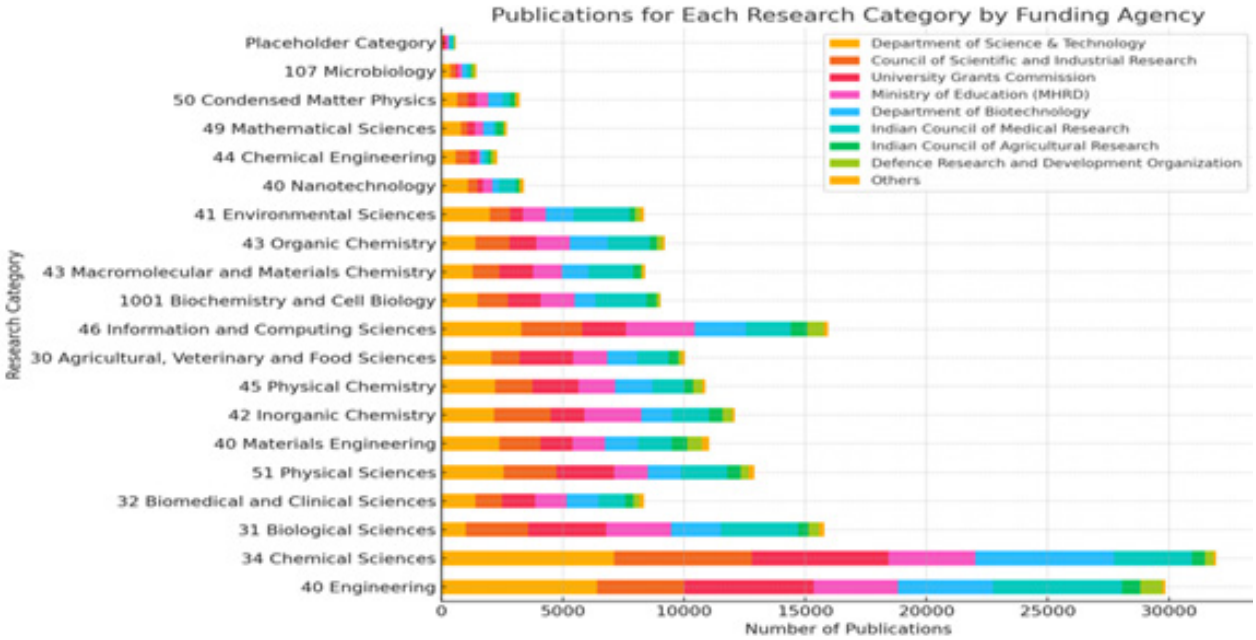

Figure 3: Publications for each research category by funding agency.

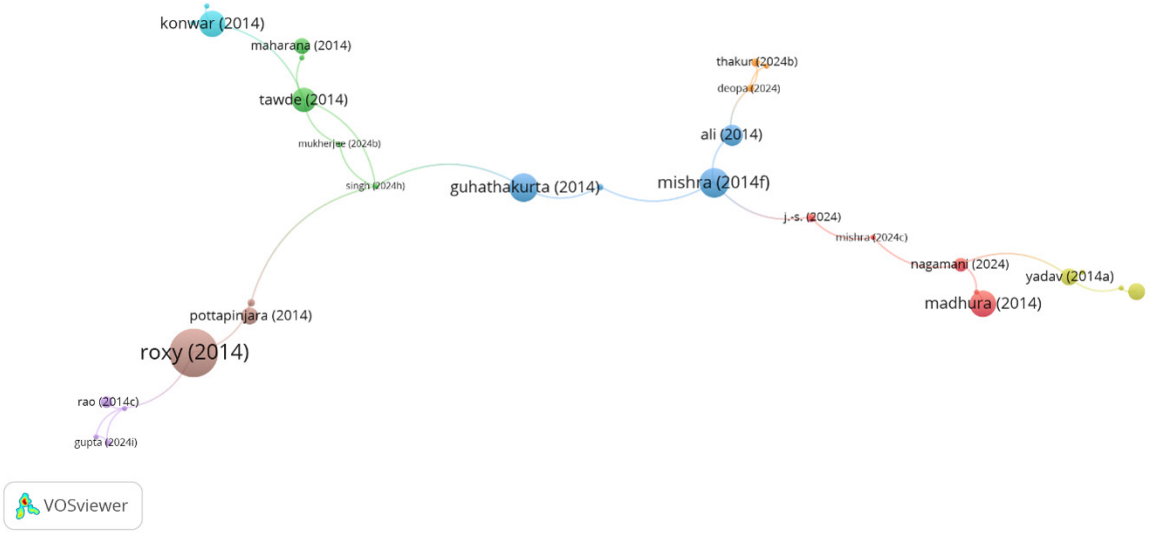

Figure 4: Citations with documents.

"Scientific Reports" and "International Journal of Biological Macromolecules," with citation means of 11.00 and 13.02, respectively, still below those indicated above. At the low end of the ranking, "bioRxiv" is least cited with just 504, but its extremely low citation mean of 0.54 (compared to most others in the dataset in the low tens at least) suggests an in-principle stage or audience, with many findings being pre-publication (but still problematic) contributions. More niche journals such as "Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Electronics" and "Journal of Molecular Structure" have considerable publication counts too, but smaller citation counts and means. With citation means of 1.97 and 2.17, respectively, "Chemistry Select" and "Physica Scripta" are also among the least cited journals, reflecting more specialized and less widely cited research within these journals. Anyway, all these journals really add value in each area of research.

Top 10 Publishers

Table 2 displays the top 10 publishers in fluctuating levels of research output and impact. In terms of authors, there are 21,976 publications and 357,599 citations for the top publisher, this is "Elsevier", which has a high mean citation of 16.27, which indicates this publisher is one of the major players in academic publishing. In the second place, "Springer Nature" ranks with 16,717 publications and an impressive 140,556 citation count, but a lower citation mean of 8.41, which implies that its publications on average are not cited as much as those of Elsevier. On the other hand, "Wiley" is between them with 5878 publications and 58562 citations (mean citation of 9.96) indicating a medium level of impact.

Specialized publishers like "American Chemical Society (ACS)" and "Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)" are found to have higher citation means appearing in the top two citation means of 17.71 and 18.69 respectively (5)(7), which leads to the conclusion that these publishers have their works never to be missed from citation, highlighting their quality and the impact factor of their research outputs. Even though "Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)" has an appreciably high number of publications (3,515) the citation mean is quite low (4.44), indicating its publications may be relatively specialized or lower impact. Other publishers with a more moderate citation mean are also smaller (by volume) - e.g., "Taylor & Francis," "IOP Publishing," and "American Physical Society (APS)"- but again, "Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory" emerges as having the very lowest citation mean, and thus, most re-citations mean (0.72), although a low citation mean may simply imply newer publications which are simply being cited overall relatively less than average again (albeit within context of total volume published).

Top 10 Funding organizations

Table 3 lists Top 10 funding organizations. It can be seen that there is a prominent difference in the number of publications as well as citations in the top 10 Indian research organizations presented in the Table 3. Department of Science and Technology (DST) scores the most number of publications (20,329) and citations (313,610) and a high citation mean of 15.43, illustrating it is a central agency in the realm of science research promotion and funding. Trailing behind is "Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)" making the top citation number of 272,175 and an equally high citation mean of 17.62 which shows that the research outputs of the institution are very well cited and impactful.

Other major funders corresponding to the citation means include "University Grants Commission (UGC)" and "Department of

Biotechnology (DBT)", having a substantial citation mean (15.78 and 15.43, respectively), implying that the research work they funded is published in a large number of journals with high citation. However, "Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)" has lower citations (n=101,604) and a low citation mean (6.33), which could be a result of more niche research or fewer citations when compared to other organizations.

Other organizations such as the "Ministry of Education (MHRD)," "Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)" and "Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)" show different citation core, which certainly speaks about them as less universal but significant players- I would say, individual chapters of the broad Indian research story. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) also have a moderate number of total publications and citations with citation means of 10.27 and 11.24, respectively, indicating that both focus on category-related research in the agriculture and defence sector, respectively.

Top 10 Research Organizations

In Table 4 the top 10 research organisations are included, that signify their various contributions and research impacts. With 1582 publications, University of Delhi" has the highest citation mean of 16.68, although lower publication numbers,

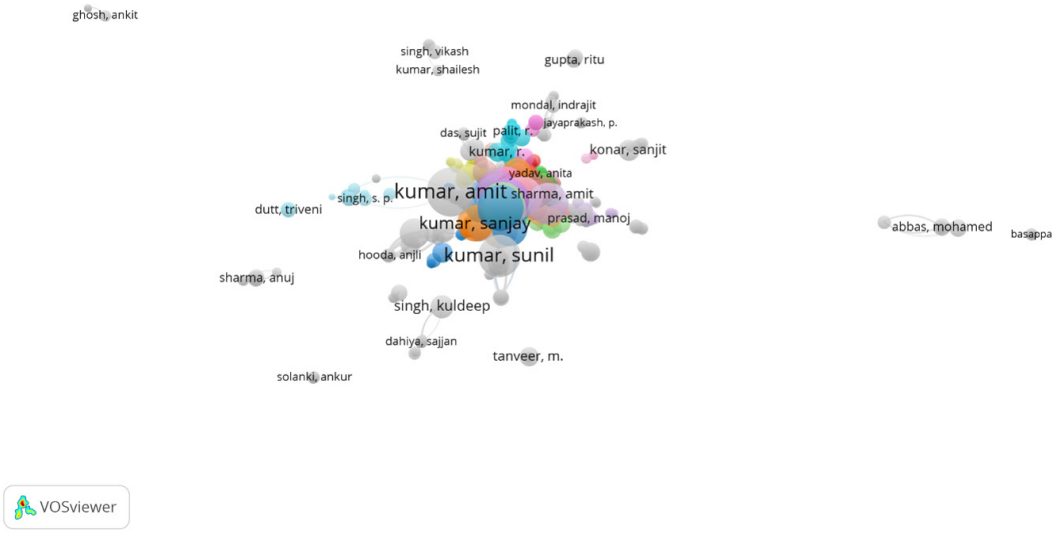

Figure 5: Citation with author.

Table 1: Top 10 Source titles.

Sl. No.	Journal Name	Publications	Citations	Citations mean
1.	bioRxiv	942	504	0.54
2.	RSC Advances	925	25397	27.46
3.	Scientific Reports	630	6930	11
4.	International Journal of Biological Macromolecules	536	6981	13.02
5.	PLOS ONE	527	18328	34.78
6.	Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Electronics	475	2638	5.55
7.	Journal of Molecular Structure	418	3363	8.05
8.	Chemistry Select	395	780	1.97
9.	Environmental Science and Pollution Research	378	3589	9.49
10.	Physica Scripta	337	730	2.17

Table 2: Top 10 Publishers.

Sl. No.	Name	Publications	Citations	Citations mean
1.	Elsevier	21976	357599	16.27
2.	Springer Nature	16717	140556	8.41
3.	Wiley	5878	58562	9.96
4.	American Chemical Society (ACS)	4422	78301	17.71
5.	Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)	4058	75853	18.69
6.	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)	3515	15604	4.44
7.	Taylor & Francis	3257	28900	8.87
8.	IOP Publishing	1303	8031	6.16
9.	American Physical Society (APS)	1105	16387	14.83
10.	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	1074	771	0.72

Table 3: Top 10 funding organizations.

Sl. No.	Organization	Country	Publications	Citations	Citations mean
1.	Department of Science and Technology (DST)	India	20329	313610	15.43
2.	Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)	India	16044	101604	6.33
3.	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	India	15447	272175	17.62
4.	University Grants Commission (UGC)	India	13039	205699	15.78
5.	Ministry of Education (MHRD)	India	10801	88422	8.19
6.	Department of Biotechnology (DBT)	India	6671	102962	15.43
7.	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)	India	4422	49982	11.3
8.	Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)	India	4001	53229	13.3
9.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)	India	3247	33347	10.27
10.	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	India	2499	28083	11.24

and therefore, lower citations, but also showing the influential nature of their research among them. They also have very high citation means (13.93 and 11.98 respectively) which indicates that they have high research output, as well as significant citation impact within their area of expertise. Similarly, the others such as "Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)" and "Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) " also preserve common citation counts in a decent steady style with mean of 10.81 and 10.34, respectively. On the other hand, "Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR)" has the lowest citation mean value which is 7.25 with it using a more niche model of research. With a mean of 15.46, "Banaras Hindu University (BHU)" also does well, indicating a heavy citation weighting in domains for the papers produced at this institute as well. On the whole, these institutions represent the broad base of education with which India has entered the race, with varying degrees of impact based on the size and nature of research.

FINDINGS

The ambitious work illustrates considerable development in data science research with intervening years from 2014-2024 in India. With a strong focus on STEM- Engineering publications alone have seen four times more titles published than 20 years ago, while Chemical and Biological Sciences is also strong. In India, funding for data science research is largely initiated through government agencies such as the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and these are major funding agencies for various fields. When it comes to citation impact, the institutions such as University of Delhi and IIT Bombay show the high citation means indicating the influential research, and the publishers such as Elsevier and Springer nature dominate the publishing. Journals with high citation counts such as "RSC Advances" and "PLOS ONE" are particularly impressive in terms of coverage and impact. In a nutshell, data science research in India is fast growing although largely restricted to applied and computational sciences where its success can be attributed to identifiable contributors from academia and funding organizations.

Table 4: Top 10 Research Organizations.

Sl. No.	Organization	Country	Publications	Citations	Citations mean
1.	Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR)	India	3161	22907	7.25
2.	Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (IISc)	India	2564	33550	13.09
3.	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)	India	1810	25208	13.93
4.	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT KGP)	India	1713	20529	11.98
5.	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)	India	1697	18341	10.81
6.	University of Delhi	India	1582	26392	16.68
7.	Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)	India	1570	16230	10.34
8.	Banaras Hindu University (BHU)	India	1502	23220	15.46
9.	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)	India	1395	14793	10.6
10.	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)	India	1289	14596	11.32

CONCLUSION

To summarize, with contributions from Engineering, Chemical Sciences, and Biological Sciences, India stands to have made significant contributions to data science research in the period from 2014 to 2024, also receiving strong support from government agencies DST and CSIR. Lychnis is now becoming an increasingly important field with high citation impacts from top academic institutions and mainstream publishers. The future holds even more promise for interdisciplinary collaboration, especially between data science and other emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, health, and environmental sustainability. Future funding and research efforts should focus on improving the data-sharing platforms, developing computational methods, and providing targeted funding to underrepresented fields to maintain and build on this momentum. The second area will be to strengthen international partnerships and continue to provide young researchers with specialized training and grants to keep India at the forefront as the industry evolves globally in data science developments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author likes to acknowledge Dimensions.ai database, digital science for accessing in this regard.

ABBREVIATIONS

AI: Artificial Intelligence; **STEM:** Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; **DST:** Department of Science and Technology; **CSIR:** Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; **UGC:** University Grants Commission; **DBT:** Department of Biotechnology; **IITs:** Indian Institutes of Technology; **IISERs:** Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research; **IISc:** Indian Institute of Science; **FoR:** Fields of Research; **ICMR:** Indian Council of Medical Research; **ICAR:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research; **ACS:** American Chemical Society; **RSC:** Royal Society of Chemistry; **IEEE:** Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; **IOP:** IOP Publishing; **APS:** American Physical Society; **SERB:** Science and Engineering Research Board; **MHRD:** Ministry of Education; **DAE:** Department of Atomic Energy; **DRDO:** Defence Research and Development Organisation; **AcSIR:** Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research; **IITB:** Indian Institute of Technology Bombay; **IIT KGP:** Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur; **IITD:** Indian Institute of Technology Delhi; **IITM:** Indian Institute of Technology Madras; **IITR:** Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee; **IITK:** Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur; **BHU:** Banaras Hindu University; **CSC:** Cancer Stem Cell; **CORD-19:** COVID-19 Open Research Dataset; **NIRF:** National Institutional Ranking Framework; **DESIDOC:** Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre; **DJLIT:** DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author do not have any conflict of interest.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The datasets generated during and or analyzed during the current study are available from the Dimensions.ai database.

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