than 100 m above sea level, have flat topography and a substrate of soil rather than rock or gravel[29]. Duncan *et al.*[30] reported that sea water irrigation on turf grass is feasible in coarse, sandy soil profiles. Most of the lands fringing the coastal zones in the Arab Gulf region could be landscaped with potential halophytic plants that have the features of ornamental plants. However, it is important to adopt sea-water surface (flooding) irrigation strategies that keep salts moving with regular leaching events and keep the soil profile uniformly moist to minimize concentrated salts from rising into the root zone. In addition, proper subsurface drainage designs should be installed to minimize waterlogging and salt accumulation in the upper layer of the soils.

Both sea-water surface irrigation and subsurface drainage that could be used for sea-water landscaping are simple and cost-effective, compared to other irrigation and drainage techniques[31]. Consequently, using sea-water landscaping in arid regions could be a cheaper option for sustainability of the limited freshwater in these regions. In addition, the resistance of the native halophytes to most of the pests and other pathogens will reduce the use of the dangerous chemicals that affect both human and environment health. Furthermore, using native halophytes in landscaping would reduce the cost of maintenances and minimize the use of machines that emit gaseous pollutants, which cause global climate change. To conclude, it is important that countries with arid climate should plan for using their native halophytes as a partial approach for sustainability of their urban areas.

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Do cover page papers get more citations?

Many journals choose to highlight one or more papers on their cover pages. The criteria for deciding cover page papers are not clear. However, it can be presumed that the editorial assessment of an article as having more value than the others, or the sheer availability of a photograph or illustration in an article that makes a visually appealing cover could be the reasons.

It is well known that scientists and academicians are usually judged by their list of publications, where impact factors of the journals and citation counts of the articles are the common indicators for

Table 1. Publications and citations of ACS journal cover page papers

Journal	Papers		Citations received (2008–13)		Average citation	
	All	Cover page	All	Cover page	All	Cover page
Accounts of Chemical Research	173	13	28,669	1,859	166.7	143
ACS Nano	344	38	21,718	2,469	63.1	65.0
Analytical Chemistry	1,334	38	42,200	1,189	31.6	31.3
Bioconjugate Chemistry	326	11	10,001	591	30.7	53.7
Crystal Growth and Design	751	12	19,823	375	26.4	31.3
Inorganic Chemistry	1,479	25	38,053	922	25.7	38.4
Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling	227	13	4,967	372	21.9	28.6
Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation	221	13	11,115	860	50.3	71.7
Journal of Organic Chemistry	1,513	23	35,518	852	23.5	37.0
Nano Letters	825	12	67,486	1,394	81.8	116.2

assessing their works[1]. Scientists and researchers usually highlight the cover page articles in their list of publications to convey the recognition that the paper has received.

Several factors that contribute to citations include foreign collaboration[2], publishing in high impact journals[3], articles that are discussed in media[4], article stirring up controversies[5], Matthew effect[6], downloads[7], social media and on-line attention[8], open access[9], articles having a long list of references[10], etc. However, it has not been analysed if articles appearing on cover pages receive more citations.

We considered the American Chemical Society (ACS) journals for the year 2008 and identified the articles that have appeared on the cover pages and noted the citations received by them during the period 2009–2014. For comparison, we also noted citations received by all the papers in the identified journals.

ACS published 37 journals in 2008 (as covered in the *Web of Science*) and we found from ten ACS journals (on-line versions) that had distinctive journal cover pages (Table 1).

It can be seen that except for *Accounts of Chemical Research* where average cover page paper citations was lower than the journal average, all the others had higher average cover page citations compared to the journal average. For *Analytical Chemistry*, the average cover page citations and journal average were almost equal.

So it does appear that cover page articles do tend to get more citations.

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Rise of Indian science – a bibliometric analysis

India is now recognized worldwide as a rising star in science and technology[1,2]. This is reflected by publicly accessible bibliometric data available at the SCImago website (http://www.scimagojr.com) in the Journal and Country Rank section. I have utilized these data to analyse the growth of Indian science in the last 15 years (1998–2013). This analysis suggests tremendous growth in the number of publications originating from India (Figure 1). The country was ranked 13th in the world in 1998, accounting for 1.8% of the total published work. By 2013, India climbed to the seventh rank, accounting for more than 4% of total published work worldwide (Figure 1). Although 4% represents a small fraction of the total publications and India should target a much higher share of publications, this growth rate clearly suggests that policies governing and regulating Indian science are leading to an increase in research output.

Interestingly, India's share of publications has persistently increased for the last several years and has not yet reached a plateau. The trend of the three-year moving average publication rate further suggests that the rate of Indian publications will further grow and India's rank in world science and its share of total publications will further increase in the coming years (Figure 2 *a*). Based on the current rate of publications, it is not overly optimistic to say that India could be among the top five nations in the next 5–7 years. The rate of growth of Indian publications was then compared with those from several developed countries. The analysis revealed that the rate of growth of publications from India is