

INS DAG Tech-Journal of Steel Construction and Engineering (IJSC)

A Peer-Reviewed Quarterly Technical Journal

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

1. General Information

IJSC welcomes original and unpublished manuscripts that advances knowledge in steel construction. By submitting a manuscript to IJSC, authors confirm that the work is original and unpublished, that it is not currently under review or in press at any other journal or publication, and that all authors have approved the final version submitted. Simultaneous submission of the same manuscript to another journal constitutes a breach of publication ethics and will result in immediate rejection.

The journal accepts the following types of contributions:

- Articles — Original experimental or analytical studies in steel construction supported by validated results and conclusions
- Review Papers — Comprehensive, critical assessments of existing literature on a defined topic.
- Technical Notes — Short communications on focused technical observations or preliminary findings.
- Case Studies and Project Features — Documentation of real-world steel construction projects of engineering significance, including new construction, rehabilitation, and retrofitting of existing steel structures.
- Discussions — Responses to papers previously published in IJSC.
- Research Posters: A visual presentation of ongoing or completed work, displaying key objectives, methodology, and findings in a concise format.

2. Scope of the Journal

IJSC wishes to publish original contributions across all aspects of steel construction, structural engineering, and related fields. The journal welcomes manuscripts addressing, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Structural analysis and design of steel structures
- Steel–concrete composite structures — analysis, design, and behaviour
- Cold-formed steel structures and pre-engineered buildings (PEB)
- Green and sustainable buildings using steel
- Fabrication, erection, and construction technologies
- Sustainability and circular economy in steel construction
- Structural health monitoring of steel structures

- Life-cycle assessment of steel buildings and infrastructure
- Steel applications in industrial and infrastructure projects — bridges, transmission towers, industrial sheds
- Seismic, wind and Blast/explosion behaviour of steel structures
- Connections, joints, and fastening systems in steel construction
- Fire performance and protection from Fire and Corrosion of steel structures
- Case studies of significant steel construction projects in India and abroad

3. Submission of Manuscripts

Author(s) are requested to submit their manuscripts by e-mail to the journal office at journal@insdag.com. All communications related to manuscript submission, peer review, revision, acceptance, and publication will be conducted through e-mail correspondence. Authors are advised to ensure that the submitted manuscript and accompanying documents are complete and clearly identified. In the case of multiple authors, the corresponding author shall not be changed after submission and shall remain the same until completion of publication

Page Limit: Manuscripts are restricted to a maximum of **12 pages** (including figures, tables, and references). Manuscripts exceeding this limit will be subject to an additional page charge of **₹1,000 per excess page**, payable to INSDAG prior to publication.

The submission package must include:

- The main manuscript file (Microsoft Word format, .docx), with all figures, photographs, illustrations, and tables inserted directly in the manuscript at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi for photographs and 1200 dpi for graphs, and schematics. No separate figure or table files will be considered.
- A separate title page containing author names, affiliations, postal addresses, email addresses, and designation of the corresponding author.
- A completed and signed Copyright Transfer Agreement (CTA).
- A signed Declaration of Originality confirming the work is original and unpublished.
- A plagiarism report generated from a recognised plagiarism detection tool (such as Turnitin, or equivalent), with a similarity index not exceeding 15%.
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- Permission letters for any copyrighted material reproduced from third-party sources (if applicable).

Authors are encouraged to suggest two to three potential reviewers who have the relevant expertise to evaluate the manuscript. For each suggested reviewer, authors must provide the full name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address. Suggested reviewers must not have any conflict of interest with the authors, must not be from the same institution as any of the authors, and must not have collaborated with any of the authors within the preceding five years. The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or disregard reviewer suggestions at its sole discretion.

4. Manuscript Preparation

4.1 Language and Style

Manuscripts must be written in English. Indian Standard English (consistent with British English conventions) that is preferred throughout. Authors are encouraged to have manuscripts reviewed for

language quality before submission. Non-discriminatory and inclusive language must be used at all times.

4.2 Format and Typesetting

- Paper size: A4
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt for body text.
- Line spacing: Double-spaced throughout.
- Margins: 2.5 cm on all sides.
- All pages must be numbered consecutively.
- File format: Microsoft Word (.docx) only.

4.3 Manuscript Structure

Manuscripts should be organised in the following order:

1. Title Page (separate file) — title, authors, affiliations, corresponding author details.
2. Abstract
3. Keywords
4. Main Text (Introduction; Methodology; Results; Discussion; Conclusions)
5. Acknowledgements (if any)
6. Appendices (if applicable)
7. References
8. Tables (with captions above)
9. Figures and Figure Captions

4.4 Title and Abstract

The title should be concise, informative, and reflective of the manuscript's content. Abbreviations in the title may be avoided.

An abstract of approximately 200 words is mandatory for all manuscript types. The abstract should briefly describe the objective, methodology, principal results, and conclusions of the study. It must be self-contained and not contain references, footnotes, or undefined abbreviations.

4.5 Keywords

Provide five keywords that represent the key concepts of the paper. Keywords should aid discoverability and align with standard terminology in the field of steel construction and structural engineering.

4.6 Headings and Subheadings

Section headings should be numbered (e.g., 1., 1.1, 1.1.1) and kept concise. A maximum of three levels of headings is recommended.

4.7 Mathematical Notation and Equations

- Use SI units throughout. Unit symbols should not be italicised.
- All mathematical symbols and Greek letters must be clearly identified.
- Principal equations should be displayed on separate lines and numbered sequentially at the right-hand margin, e.g., (1), (2).
- Subscripts and superscripts must be clearly distinguishable.
- A zero must precede all decimal fractions, e.g., 0.85, not .85.
- The following parenthesis hierarchy should be used in equations: { [()] }.

5. Tables

Tables should be used only where they offer a clearer presentation than running text. Each table must be numbered in the order it appears in the text (e.g., Table 1, Table 2) and accompanied by a concise descriptive caption placed above the table. All column headers and units must be clearly indicated. Footnotes to tables should be identified using lowercase superscript letters.

6. Figures and Illustrations

Figures must be submitted in the highest resolution possible to ensure quality reproduction. The following specifications apply:

- All figures, photographs, and illustrations must be inserted into the manuscript at their original resolution, with a minimum of 300 dpi for photographs and greyscale images and 1200 dpi for line drawings, graphs, and schematics. Authors should ensure images are not compressed during insertion by disabling automatic image compression in Microsoft Word before inserting figures (File → Options → Advanced → Image Size and Quality → Do not compress images in file).
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- Figures should remain clear even when printed in grayscale.

Figures must be numbered sequentially in the order of their appearance (e.g., Fig. 1, Fig. 2). Multi-part figures should use sub-labels (e.g., Fig. 1(a), Fig. 1(b)). Figure captions must be compiled as a separate numbered list at the end of the manuscript, after the tables.

7. References and Citations

7.1 In-Text Citations

An author–date citation system shall be used. In the body text, cite by author surname(s) and year of publication. Examples:

- Single author: Sharma (2021) demonstrated that... or ... as shown in recent studies (Sharma, 2021).
- Two authors: Always cite both: (Reddy and Patel, 2019).
- Three or more authors: Cite the first author followed by 'et al.': (Kumar et al., 2020).

- Multiple citations: List chronologically, separated by semicolons: (Bose, 2015; Nair et al., 2018; Singh, 2022).
- Specific location in source: (Agarwal, 2017, p. 45) or (Mehta, 2016, Sec. 3.2).

7.2 Reference List Format

All references cited in the text must be listed at the end of the manuscript in alphabetical order by the first author's surname. Authors are fully responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their references. All references must include: author name(s) and initials; year of publication; full title; journal title or book/proceedings title; volume and page numbers; and DOI or URL where available.

Reference Examples

Journal Article (one author):

Rama, P. V. (2018), 'Fatigue behaviour of welded steel connections under variable amplitude loading', Journal of Constructional Steel Research, 142, pp. 88–97. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcsr.2017.12.003>

Journal Article (two authors):

Iyer, R. and Bhaskar, S. (2020), 'Seismic performance of steel moment frames with semi-rigid connections', Engineering Structures, 215, pp. 110–124.

Book:

Narayanan, R. (Ed.) (2012), Steel Designer's Manual (7th edn.), Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Chapter in Edited Book:

Gupta, M. and Verma, S. (2016), 'Design of steel roof trusses', in A. Sharma and B. Nair (Eds.), Advances in Steel Structures (pp. 145–178), New Delhi: CRC Press.

Conference Paper:

Chatterjee, D. and Mishra, A. (2019), 'Behaviour of cold-formed steel sections under combined loading', Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Steel Structures, Chennai, India, pp. 321–330.

Standard:

Bureau of Indian Standards (2007), IS 800: General Construction in Steel — Code of Practice (3rd revision), New Delhi: BIS.

Thesis:

Pillai, S. U. (2014), Experimental Investigation on Composite Steel–Concrete Beams under Cyclic Loading, Ph.D. thesis, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai.

Web / Electronic Resource:

INS DAG (2023), Steel in Infrastructure: A Practitioner's Overview. Retrieved 10 January 2024, from <https://www.insdag.org/resources/infrastructure>

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All manuscripts submitted to IJSC are subject to a rigorous double-blind peer review. The identities of both authors and reviewers remain confidential throughout the review process. Manuscripts are evaluated on the basis of originality, technical merit, clarity of presentation, relevance to the journal's scope, and adherence to these instructions.

Based on reviewers' assessments, the Editorial Board may accept the manuscript, request revisions (minor or major), or decline the manuscript. Authors of manuscripts requiring revision will be notified of the specific changes required and given a defined period to resubmit. Revised manuscripts should be accompanied by a point-by-point response to reviewers' comments.

IJSC aims to complete the initial editorial screening within two (2) weeks of submission. Manuscripts sent for peer review will ordinarily receive a first decision within eight (8) weeks. Authors of manuscripts requiring revision will be given four (4) weeks to submit a revised version. The journal endeavours to communicate a final decision within twelve (12) weeks of the original submission date. These timelines are indicative and may vary depending on reviewer availability and the complexity of revisions required.

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- Ensure that all work presented is original and free from plagiarism. Appropriate attribution must be given to all sources.
- Disclose any conflicts of interest (financial, professional, or personal) that may influence the findings or interpretation of the manuscript.
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13. Publication Charges

IJSC does not levy submission fees or publication charges. However, manuscripts exceeding 12 pages will attract an additional charge of ₹1,000 per excess page.

Upon publication, the corresponding author will receive a PDF of the published article by e-mail. The published article will be freely accessible online at the IJSC website

14. Contact and Correspondence

All editorial enquiries, including those related to manuscript submission, peer review, and publication, should be directed to:

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AUTHOR SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Manuscript in .docx format, A4, Times New Roman 12 pt, double-spaced, 2.5 cm margins
- ☐ Separate anonymised title page with author affiliations and corresponding author details
- ☐ Reviewer Suggestions
- ☐ Abstract of approximately 200 words
- ☐ Five keywords provided
- ☐ All figures numbered and captioned; resolution ≥ 300 dpi
- ☐ All tables numbered and captioned; units included
- ☐ SI units used throughout; equations numbered at right margin
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