

Editorial

On Improving This Journal

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The *Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy* dates back from 1935, the year in which the *National Institute of Sciences of India (NISI)* was established in Calcutta (now Kolkata). NISI's headquarters moved to New Delhi in May 1946. In 1970, NISI's name was formally changed to the *Indian National Science Academy (INSA)*.

Soon after its birth, the NISI decided to publish '*Transactions*' which included research papers read at its Special Research Sessions, and '*Proceedings of the National Institute of Sciences of India*' for publishing official reports of its meetings and summaries of papers presented at meetings of the Academy and its cooperating Academies, and an Annual Record of progress of science in India. The NISI started publishing 'Progress in Science in India' separately in 1939 to replace the 'Indian Science Abstracts' and at the same time decided to publish proceedings of various symposia etc as special bulletins rather than as part of the *Proceedings*. *INSA News* was started in 1948 as a News Letter to cover notes, news and views about activities of scientists and discussions held at general meetings of NISI, besides listing the new books and journals received in its library. Publication of '*Transactions*' was stopped in 1956. while the '*Proceedings*', which had become a bimonthly journal since 1946, was bifurcated into two parts, Part A for Physical Sciences and Part B for Biological Sciences. With the change in name of NISI to INSA in 1970, the journal also was renamed as *Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy*. In 1998, emphasis of the *Proceedings* was shifted from original research articles to Review articles on topics of contemporary interest and the journal was renamed as '*PINSA-A*' (for physical sciences) and *PINSA-B* (for biological sciences).

However, in 2001, the parts A and B were merged together and the journal renamed as *PINSA* to publish reviews on thematic issues. There was a change again in 2006. Since then each volume of the journal typically comprises of four issues, published in March, June, September and December every year and publishes reviews, original research papers, commentaries, book reviews etc. The name *PINSA* was replaced by the original full name, i.e., *Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy* in 2013. Since 2014, *INSA News* is merged with this journal so that readers get to know about various activities of INSA every three months.

The journal is again in a phase of transformation as its editorial team is striving hard to improve its global visibility and to make it a desired destination for submission and publication of high quality manuscripts. The journal now follows an online submission and reviewing system, which is expected to become smoother and more user-friendly as we move ahead. The diversity of articles that are published has also been expanded. Sustained efforts to arrive at a decision on the submitted manuscripts within a reasonable time have begun to pay dividends so that in most cases, authors hear the editorial decision within 4-6 weeks or sooner. The mandatory peer-review process is, however, not compromised for the sake of quick decision. We are trying to further reduce the time gap between submission and publication of accepted articles. We greatly appreciate the sincere efforts put in by the reviewers in providing detailed comments which are helpful to authors in revising their submissions and also when the manuscript is not accepted. The online 'ahead of print' publication of the accepted manuscripts makes the work available to readers many months before the

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final publication. During the past few years, the journal has published, besides the 4 regular issues every year, several special or thematic issues based on presentations at some important national/international conference or review/research articles on a specific theme collated by an expert in the field. Such issues are edited by a guest editor following the standard peer-review system. INSA and the editorial staff of the *Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy* (abbreviated as *PINSA*) are committed to providing complete free access to all the material published in this journal to all readers across the globe without any charges to authors (or their institutions) or readers.

It is satisfying to note that this journal is now indexed in major indexing databases and the quality of submitted articles is improving. However, we are conscious that this inter-disciplinary journal has a long way to go to become more visible and attractive, not

only to readers but also to desiring authors as well. This journal, like many other journals published by Academies and established Societies, does not indulge in aggressive marketing, and, therefore, falls victim to the vicious circle of poor recognition (in terms of the much mis-understood 'Impact Factor') and poor quality of submissions. The output quality of a journal, despite good editorial practices and policies, remains limited by the quality of submissions that come in. We request fellows of INSA and other researchers to submit some of their good quality manuscripts to this journal. We assure good quality peer-review and swift manuscript processing. Such joint efforts would indeed further improve the quality of this journal and make it a choice worth competing for.

We hope the year 2018 would indeed be a turning point for this journal as also for the scientific community.



Wishing all the readers a satisfyingly productive 2018!

