From the Editor's Desk

From the response of the readers and contributors, it is heartening to know that the new look MJAFI has had the desired impact by stirring up readers' interest and authors' enthusiasm. This is a great source of inspiration for the Editorial Board. In our constant endeavour to meet quality standards and time deadlines, certain impediments, inherent to our environment have to be overcome. We wish to share some of the most commonly occurring ones with an aim to minimize their impact through mutual understanding.

From receipt of an article to its final publication takes 6 months to one year, if the article is of good quality. Every article received is sent for peer review, provided it meets all the criteria laid down in the "Instructions to Authors" of January 2004 issue. When an article falls short of these criteria, it is returned to authors for rectification and resubmission. On the other hand, an article meeting these criteria is reviewed by the Editorial Board and sent to referees for peer review. Observations and queries raised by Editorial Board and referees are then again routed to authors for reply. Once a satisfactory reply has been received and accepted by referees, articles are screened by Editorial Board for selection. Hence, it is obvious that transit time is one major factor in delay. Transfers, postings, temporary duties and annual leave of authors and referees further delay processing. In order to minimize this time lag, a few simple solutions will go a long way and benefit all. Towards that end, we request authors and referees to carefully follow all the instructions, be always aware that spoken and written language differ considerably and be prompt and precise in their replies to raised issues. We are confident that with a more responsive attitude the time lag can be further trimmed down and participative enthusiasm shored up.

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Editor-in-Chief