Editorial

The *Journal of Earth System Science*, often abbreviated JESS, was spun off as an independent journal called *Proceedings of the Indian Academy of Sciences (Earth and Planetary Sciences)* in 1978 and got its current name in 2005. The journal is highly inter-disciplinary and is known for publishing quality articles in several domains: the solid earth, the hydrosphere (including cryosphere), the biosphere, the atmosphere and planetary and space sciences. The tie-up with Springer in 2007 led to the journal embracing online processing in 2007 and has considerably increased the journal’s visibility. The number of submissions tracks JESS’s growth over time: 32 in 2001, 51 in 2004, 97 in 2005, 148 in 2008, 302 in 2011, and 538 in 2015. In 2016, the submissions crossed 600. The number of articles published has also grown, but much more slowly, reflecting the stringent review process and raising of quality of the acceptance level. JESS published 37 articles in 2001, 50 in 2006, 85 in 2008, and 125 in 2015.

We are grateful to our authors and reviewers for their contribution and support to this growth of JESS over the years. Our efforts at improving the journal continue and we are excited that JESS is crossing another milestone by moving on to Continuous Article Publishing (CAP) mode in 2017. The CAP is becoming increasingly the norms of international publishing; having the dual advantage of shortening the time-lapse between acceptance and the article being published online and in ensuring that the complete citation information is available at the same time. In other words, the citation of an article can be done immediately after it is published online, without having to wait for the assignment of volume and page numbers, as was the case earlier. Each article appearing online under the CAP mode will be given a unique digital object identifier (doi) number and article citation ID (starting with page number 1). The accepted and proof-corrected articles will get published directly into the ensuing issue together with their complete citation information – all of which will be available online. We believe that the switch to the CAP mode will significantly benefit the authors and readers alike, and heralds a new era in the almost four-decade voyage of this journal.

We take this opportunity to wish our readers and reviewers a wonderful 2017 and trust that you will continue to extend the same patronage to JESS.

Editorial Team

*Journal of Earth System Science*