

## Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the 29th meeting of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI) held at Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University from the 23rd to the 25th of February 2011. While the proceedings of the 25th meeting of ASI, held at the Department of Astronomy, Osmania University, Hyderabad from 7th to 9th February 2007, were published as a special issue of the Bulletin of the Astronomical Society of India (BASI), guest edited by Kandaswamy Subramanian and D.J. Saikia, publication of proceedings of conferences as part of BASI has stopped since 2008. This is the first proceedings of an ASI meeting to appear as part of the Astronomical Society of India Conference Series, which was started in 2010. Thanks to the efforts put in by the editors of this volume, Pushpa Khara and C.H. Ishwara-Chandra, it has been possible to bring out the proceedings within about a year of the meeting. We will endeavour to bring out rapidly the proceedings of the future major meetings of the Society which are held every alternate year, as part of the ASI Conference Series.

The main objective of the ASI Conference Series (<http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/~basi/asics.htm>) is to make the proceedings of conferences, held either within or outside the country, available rapidly to the community. All papers in the Conferences Series are refereed, and its publication is overseen by the Editorial Board of BASI. The Conference Series volumes are available via our web pages as well as the SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System. Proposals are welcome from the organisers of astronomical meetings and/or editors of the proceedings. Please contact us at either [basi@ncra.tifr.res.in](mailto:basi@ncra.tifr.res.in) or [basi@iiap.res.in](mailto:basi@iiap.res.in). Forthcoming volumes are listed in our web page. We thank the astronomical community for the support we have received so far, and look forward to receiving its continued support.

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