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Preface

This issue of Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions, Volume 29, Issue 3, comprises a collection of papers presented on the following topics:

- Galaxies
- Astrometry and celestial mechanics

The issue also includes:

A report entitled:
Isaac Newton Institute of Chile: first twenty years of its Moscow branch
N.N. Samus

An overview of the activity of the Moscow branch in the fields of globular cluster studies, extragalactic astronomy and other areas of astrophysics.

An additional paper entitled:
An overview of high-altitude balloon experiments at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics
M. Safonova, A. Nayak, A.G. Sreejith, J. Mathew, M. Sarpotdar, S. Ambily, K. Nirmal, S. Talnikar, S. Hadigal, A. Prakash, J. Murthy

The authors present an overview of the high-altitude ballooning programme with the objective of developing and flying low cost scientific payloads on balloon-borne platform. The main aim is the observation of extended nearby objects (e.g. comets) and of diffuse sources (e.g. airglow) with wide field of view UV instruments from near space.

N.G. Bochkarev