

Asia's biggest telescope

VELLORE, December 24 (PTI): The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will inaugurate Asia's biggest telescope at Kavalur, 95 km from here, on January 6, according to the North Arcot district collector, Mr E.S. Daniel Gunanidhi.

Arrangements were being made to enable landing of the Prime Minister's helicopter inside the Kavalur observatory complex, the collector said. Mr Gandhi might also address the tribal people during his visit.

The chief secretary to the Tamil Nadu government, Mr T.V. Antony, has arrived at Kavalur to inspect the arrangements.

In 1968 when the Kavalur observatory was set up, it had a 38 diameter reflector telescope to which a 102 cm one was added in 1972.

The new telescope, about 2.34 metre in diameter, will be able to obtain stellar images 20 times bigger than what can be seen by the naked eye.