

## IIA completes 200 years

BANGALORE, Jan. 6.

The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), a premier research institute under the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology, has completed 200 years of its existence.

Prof. M. G. K. Menon, Science Adviser to the Prime Minister unveiled a commemorative plaque at the IIA here today to mark the occasion. The day also marked the first anniversary of the naming by the Prime Minister of the institute's Vainu Bappu Observatory and the 2.3 metre Vainu Bappu telescope.

Later, Prof. Menon gave the first IIA bi-centennial commemorative public lecture on 'International Cooperation in Science'. The origin of the institute goes back to the private observatory set up in 1786 at Madras by William Parrie, an officer of the East India Company, and the astronomy activity of the observatory later shifted to Kodaikanal in 1899. The Kodaikanal observatory became the IIA in 1971.—Our Staff Reporter