

## PM asks Indian scientists' to return home

KAVALUR, Jan. 6. — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi today appealed to Indian scientists settled abroad to return to their motherland so that the country could achieve greater heights in the new frontiers of science and technology in the world.

These scientists should take the example of the father of Indian astronomy and astro-physics, Mr. Vainu Bappu, who had inspired Indian astronomers after his return to India from abroad, the Prime Minister said while renaming the 94-inch Rs. 6.5 crore indigenously fabricated giant telescope at the Astronomical Observatory here, after Mr. Bappu.

He said whenever a nation looked to new areas it invariably drew inspiration from an individual who gave the necessary direction. "For Indian astronomy, Mr. Vainu Bappu gave this direction," he observed.

Mr. Gandhi exhorted scientists and others at the observatory to carry on their efforts in the same spirit.

Mr. Gandhi said Mr. V. Bappu had made a name for himself not only in India, but all over the world.

The new telescope has an aperture of 2.3 metres and the largest of its kind in Asia.

Mr. Gandhi was confident that this computer-controlled telescope would enable astronomers to rise to greater heights and would help India to achieve the kind of glory it enjoyed in the field of astronomy hundreds of years ago.

The Prime Minister also inquired about the welfare of Mrs. V. Bappu who was present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister then drove a short distance to another dome-like structure containing a one metre-aperture telescope which was commissioned in 1972.

The clear skies enabled Mr. Gandhi to see the planet Jupiter and the Andromeda Galaxy through the telescope. He also viewed Halley's comet, a phenomenon visible once in 75 years. He showed keen interest in the work of the scientists.

The Kavalur Observatory, which has an array of telescopes of various apertures is located amidst picturesque hills at a height of about 2,300 feet above sea level. — PTI & UNI.