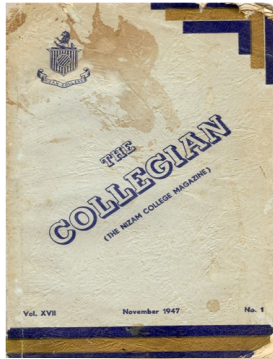


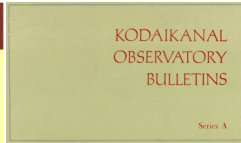
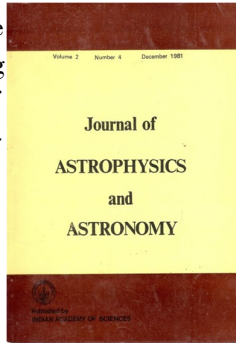
Bappu at IIA, Bangalore

Bappu chose the present location at Koramangala, Bangalore for setting up the Institute and the laboratories way back in 1972.

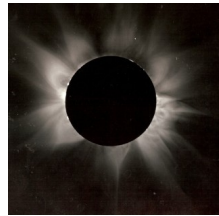
He laid special emphasis in developing a strong theoretical group in various topics in astronomy in addition to creating an observatory which could match any leading astronomical centre of the world in its capability to achieve results in observational astronomy.



From editing a college magazine to becoming the founding editor of Journal of Astrophysics & Astronomy, an international astronomical journal – the brain child of Bappu.



Bappu revived the Kodaikanal Observatory Bulletin Series A, to publish the findings of scientific and technical works done at IIA.



Bappu at the 1980 Total Solar eclipse camp at Jawalgera.



Prime minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi names the 2.3m telescope after M K Vainu Bappu.

Awards and Honors



Donhoe medal



Bappu receiving Bhatnagar award from Prime minister

Bappu received several awards

He was elected as President of IAU in 1979.

Bappu receiving Padma Bhushan award from President Sanjeeva Reddy in 1981

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
UNION ASTRONOMIQUE INTERNATIONALE

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Dear Dr. Bappu,

On behalf of the IAU Special Nominating Committee, whose task it is, as you know, to advise the Executive Committee of the IAU on the candidature for the Officers and Vice Presidents for the term to start in 1979, I have the pleasure to ask you whether you are willing to be a candidate for the Presidency for which the election will take place at the General Assembly in Montreal.

Yours sincerely,

A. Blaauw

A. Blaauw,
President.

From IIA Archives & Library, Bangalore



Vainu Bappu, the versatile Astronomer (1927-1982)

A glimpse of the exhibits on display at the Library, IIA, Bangalore on Founder's day 2013

Early days



Manali Kallat Vainu Bappu was born on Aug 10, 1927 in Madras. He spent his early years in Hyderabad. Bappu joined Nizam's College at Hyderabad in 1942

Short-Wave Reception And Solar Phenomena.
By
Venu Bapu M.Sc. Final.



Young Bappu with his parents

Hyderabad to Harvard

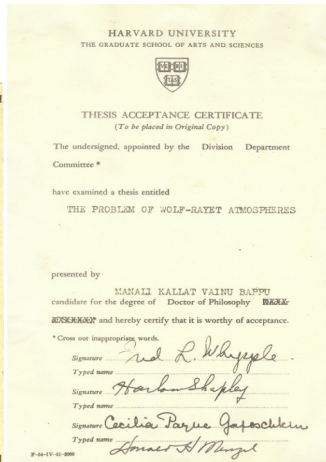
In 1949, Bappu received a Government of Hyderabad scholarship to pursue his doctoral studies at Harvard University, USA. Within two months of arrival at Harvard, he discovered a comet during a routine sky observation, which was named



Bappu-Bok-Newkirk comet.

Harvard Tyro Finds Comet

By the Associated Press
Harvard, Mass.
Imagine taking up astronomy and then, on your first night as an observer, discovering a new comet?
That's what happened to M. K. Vainu Bappu, a Harvard University graduate student from Hyderabad, India, when he came to the Harvard University Observatory's Oak Ridge station in this little town—which carries the name of Harvard.
The story of the discovery of the new comet on July 2, came today from a veteran Harvard astronomer, Bart J. Bok. And, incidentally, the comet is still too faint to be seen by the unaided eye, being of the 13th magnitude—and what its direction will be and whether it will approach the earth cannot be known for at least two days more.
It is in the Constellation Cygnus (Northern Cross) and can best be observed with a strong telescope around midnight.
Toward dawn, as Mr. Bappu was completing his watch, he took a 60-minute photographic exposure of the sky. Such photographs are usually sent back to the main observatory in Cambridge for developing, but Dr. Bok suggested that Mr. Bappu see what his own plate looked like.
After it was developed and came out of the fixing bath, Mr. Bappu—with the customary "first night" excitement—announced he was "going to look for comets."
"Ha, ha, I told him," Dr. Bok said, "Everyone looks for comets." But then as the doctor, Mr. Bappu, and Gordon Newkirk from Orange, N.J., a Harvard student, studied the plate, they noticed a strange trail and that was how the new comet was discovered.



He received his doctorate in astronomy in a record time.

In 1953 Bappu returned to India and a year later joined UPSO, Varanasi as chief astronomer. Bappu was responsible for choosing Manora Peak near Nainital as the suitable location for the observatory in 1955. He also led an expedition to observe the total solar eclipse of 1955 in Sri Lanka. Under his guidance UPSO became a well-established observatory.

Bappu in Kodaikanal

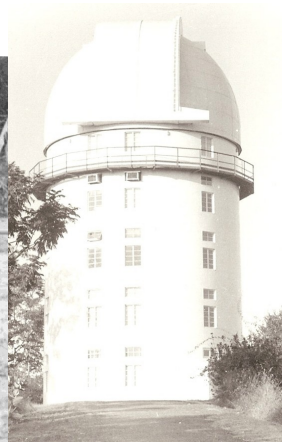
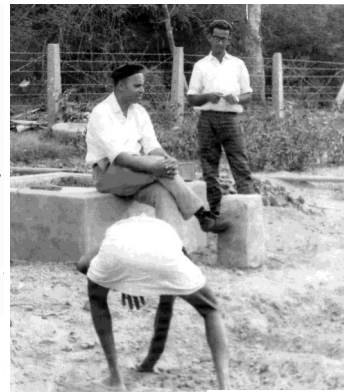
Bappu left Nainital on April 1, 1960 when he was offered the directorship of Kodaikanal Observatory.

He worked towards modernization of the existing solar telescope and other observational facilities in Kodaikanal. Due to his efforts, the observatory attained autonomy in 1971 and came to be known as the Indian Institute of Astrophysics. He was also instrumental in establishing the Gauribidanur Radio telescope in collaboration with Raman Research Institute.

During his Directorship at Kodaikanal many ministers and important dignitaries like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prof. Homi Bhabha, and Prof. S. Chandrashekar visited the observatory.

From Palani hills to Javadi hills

KAVAZUR in the Javadi Hills of Tamilnadu, where the lone eagle soars high in the clear sky, the peacock struts glamorously in her surroundings, and where astronomers of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics probe the mysteries of the Universe.
M K Vainu Bappu



And in a year or two Kavazur will have another major facility that will help its astronomers probe farther into the Universe.



Uranus with its rings painted by Dr. M K V Bappu



Bappu had a great love for nature and the beautifully laid gardens in Bangalore and Kavalur stand testimony to his interest.

