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Workshop for scientists ends

India victim of 4th country syndrome: Kalam

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore, Oct. 9: India suffers from a "fourth country syndrome," it is usually the fourth or fifth country to record major scientific achievements, scientific adviser to the defence minister, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam said on Saturday.

In a veiled reference to a recent US military weapons test where a ballistic missile was intercepted and destroyed by satellite guided weapon, Dr Kalam criticised the move to develop such technology. "We must not take a war that is

fought on the earth to space.

There are several ways of looking at applications of space technology including electronic counter measures and information warfare.

But we must resist the urge to use such technologies," he said during his valedictory address at a workshop on Indian space enterprise at the National Institute of Advanced Studies.

According to Dr Kalam, the Indian space research programme should not pursue such applications, instead scientists at the Indi-

an Space Research Organisation should develop commercial aspects of satellite technology.

"The geo-synchronous satellite system is a business venture with many possibilities. As information technology depends on geo-synchronous satellites, Isro should concentrate on research in this area and offer cost effective alternatives to clients," he said.

"We should break away from this fourth country syndrome and concentrate on our core competence," he added.

Elaborating on the "syndrome,"

Dr Kalam said India was the fifth country to develop the satellite launch vehicle in 1979-80, the fourth country to develop re-entry technology for a ballistic missile and the sixth nuclear power.

Chairman of Isro, Dr K. Kasturirangan, who was present at the function said the workshop would help his colleagues develop Isro into a leading space agency.

The workshop at Nias was attended by 50 Isro employees who were schooled in political, economic, social, commercial and other aspects of space enterprise.