

OCTOBER 10, 1999

Kalam urges scientists to lay stress on 'core competence'

DH News Service

BANGALORE, Oct 9

Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, scientific adviser to the defence minister today urged scientists to develop "core competence" in various areas of science and technology including management and to excel in them.

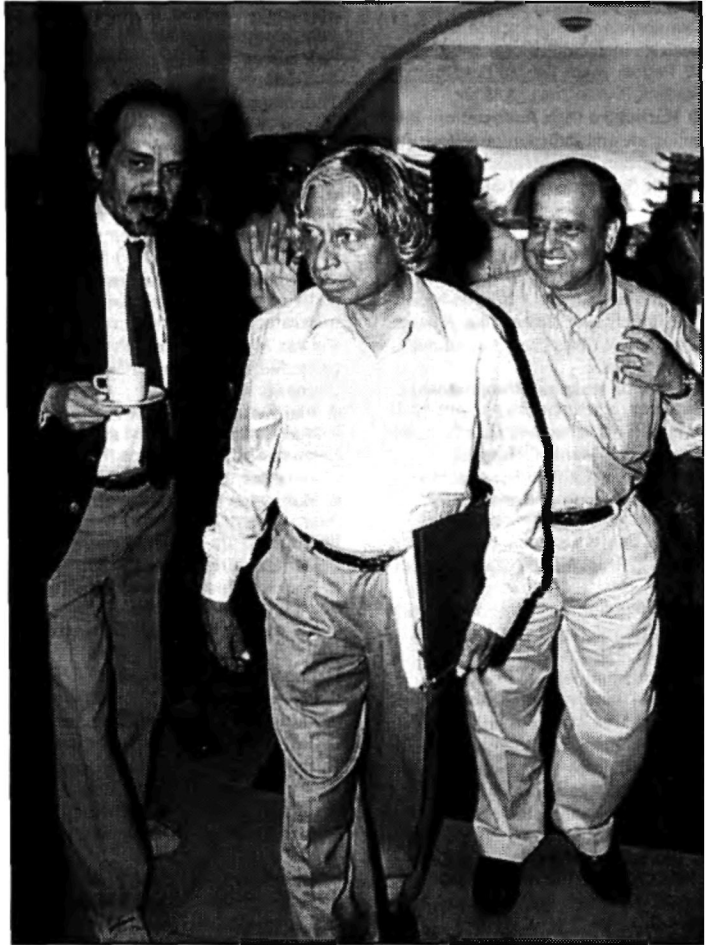
Delivering the valedictory address at a four-day orientation course at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) for scientists and engineers of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Dr Kalam said that scientists should excel in core competence areas and translate thoughts into action so that the country could surge ahead to the top technological position.

As an example, Dr Kalam referred to global competition for slots in the geostationary orbit in space. He said that besides technological skills in the space segment, scientists should also become efficient professionals to retain such slots for their satellites.

He termed the geostationary orbit as a "business orbit" of the future as the new generation commercial satellites will be launched to this orbit. "We have to make determined efforts to stay ahead in this area", he said.

Dr Kalam lamented that India suffered from a "fourth country syndrome" as the country despite its vast technological manpower, was managing to oscillate between fourth and sixth position in developing technologies. "We were the fifth country to launch a satellite in space, the fourth to test fire a missile. The time has come for the country to excel in various fields and emerge as the number one country", he said.

Referring to a recent report



Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, scientific adviser to the defence minister, Prof Narasimhan, NIAS director, and Dr Kasturirangan, ISRO chairman, at the valedictory of the orientation course for ISRO scientists on Saturday in Bangalore. DH photo

about a developed country coming out with laser weapon that could destroy satellites, he asked the participants whether scientists should come out with satellites which have counter measures to electronic warfare in the space or the country should ensure that the

comity of nations did not extend warfare into space.

Chairman of ISRO, Dr K Kasturirangan urged the space scientists to come out with a vision document for the space department. Director of NIAS, R Narasimha was also present.