Kalam for action plan to develop Naxalite areas

New Delhi, August 18

FORMER President A P J Abdul Kalam on Wednesday favoured an action plan for development in Naxalite-affected areas with special focus on employment generation programmes. Delivering a lecture on 'Sustainable development and leadership' here, the 'Missile Man of India emphasised the need for equitable distribution, adequate access to energy and quality water, eradication of poverty, illiteracy and corruption and reduction of rural-urban divide for a prosperous India.

In an interactive session after the 11th D T Lakdawala memorial lecture organised by the Institute of Social Sciences, he also said the priority should be on evolving a society that will 'respect and celebrate differences', will have tolerance for people's opinion, belief systems and culture. That is the hallmark of a civilised society, he said. Lord Bhikhu Parekh, centennial professor of London School of Economics, said time has come for a moral and political audit of what the country achieved since independence. He spoke against the mindset of looking at poverty and corruption as something which is acceptable, the growing consumerism in society and instances of trampling upon civil liberties and harassing minorities. Dr George Mathew, Institute Director, also spoke. Kalam released a volume consisting of the past 10 D T Lakdawala lectures. PTI

![Lecture Picture]

Writer U R Ananthamurthy, APJ Abdul Kalam, Bikhu Parekh and Dr George Mathew at the D T Lakdawala memorial lecture in New Delhi on Wednesday