

February 12, 2010



P JAWAHAR

**MOULDING THE FUTURE:** Former President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam interacting with students at the Stella Maris College for Women in the city on Thursday

## Agni-V possible in a year: Kalam

Express News Service  
Chennai, February 11

Agni-V, the intercontinental ballistic missile being developed under the integrated guided missile programme by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) may be ready for testing by next year, said the former president and missile man of India A P J Abdul Kalam on Thursday.

"With the kind of scientists we have, it is highly possible that Agni-V will become a reality by next year," he said at a function held in Stella Maris College. Kalam also highlighted the work of Rohini Devi, the senior

most woman scientist with DRDO in making AGNI-III a success.

Answering a question from a student on demand for newer states, the former president said that new states would accelerate development; however, he cautioned that the trend will lead to increased conflicts for natural resources.

"Development should be equitable and sustainable for which we need to bridge the urban-rural divide," he said. Kalam also said that if the PURA (Providing urban access in rural areas) programme is implemented properly, India will not have to wait till 2020 to become a developed nation.