

SOCIETY NEWS
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XXVIII Annual Meeting, 21-22 January, 1986

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Air Marshal KD Kapur, PHS

President, Aero Medical Society of India and Director Medical Services (Air)

Air Marshal Vir Narain, distinguished guests and members, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my proud privilege to welcome you all to the 28th Annual Meeting of the Aero Medical Society of India. I wish to express my sense of gratitude to Air Marshal Vir Narain who agreed to inaugurate this conference at short notice.

The Aero Medical Society of India was formed in 1952 and since then has grown in stature with participation of a number of doctors and scientists interested in various human factors associated with flying. We were closely associated with the recent Indo-Soviet space mission and are now associated with the forthcoming ISRO-NASA project during which an Indian Scientist is scheduled to be a Payload Specialist in

the space shuttle later this year. Our national policy on aviation currently aims at a big expansion programme. Newer generations of aircraft, with superior technology and capabilities are being inducted. In commercial and civil flying, a second domestic air service has been introduced and a National Flying Training Institute is being established. Air traffic requirements for off-shore oil exploration have also attained significant proportions. Thus, the field of activities has enlarged considerably leading to the requirement for more doctors trained in Aviation Medicine.

The Institute of Aviation Medicine conducts different indoctrination and training courses for aircrew and doctors. Besides Armed Forces doctors, a number of foreign and civilian doctors including some from Air India

and Indian Airlines have successfully completed their training. Specialist training course for doctors consists of a three year MD Degree course of Bangalore University. Recently, our Society has instituted a Gold Medal for the best MD student and the first such medal will be awarded this year.

Most of the research in Aviation Medicine is being conducted at the Institute which has the required expertise as well as laboratories and simulators for evaluation, trials and testing. With the recent spurt in R&D activities and indigenous development of aircraft, many of the facilities are being expanded for our future needs. Close collaboration is being maintained with organisations such as Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., National Aeronautical Laboratory and Aeronautical Development Agency.

I take this opportunity to stress a point on medical care. A practitioner of Aviation Medicine must also remain a keen clinician and keep updated with modern developments in therapeutic and investigative procedures. He must strive to reduce the period of non-effectiveness in work and diminish the number of false positive cases. This will go a long way in maintaining efficiency and

optimum utilisation of trained manpower.

I appreciate the participation of Civil Aviation Department, Air India and Indian Airlines in this conference. These organisations responsible for the entire commercial and civil flying in our country have a significant role to play in our Society's activities.

There have been tremendous advances in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery. Eye standards for aircrew fitness are very rigorous. Technological advances of ophthalmic evaluation may help in optimising certain standards without compromising flight safety. This year's Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee Oration dealing with many of these aspects will be delivered by Dr Madan Mohan, an eminent Ophthalmologist of our country. I am sure that the Oration will help us to understand the problems better and update our knowledge.

A symposium on Antarctica has been included in the Scientific Sessions. Some of our members who took part in the expeditions to the icy continent will be presenting their experiences.

I request Air Marshal Vir Narain to inaugurate the 28th Annual Meeting of the Aero Medical Society of India.