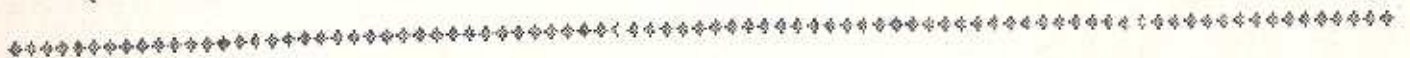




XXIV ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AERO MEDICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

Presidential Address

AIR VICE MARSHAL MULK RAJ PVSM AVSM PHS



AIR Marshal Nair, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,



It is my proud privilege to extend a very warm welcome to you to the 24th Annual Meeting of the Aero Medical Society of India. Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh, the Chief of the Air Staff, was to

have inaugurated this meeting. As you all know, he has had to go abroad due to urgent service exigencies. The interest of the Chief of the Air Staff in aero medical research and the affairs of the Society has been a source of encouragement and support to us.

Air Marshal EPR Nair, a distinguished flier, who has taken over as AOC-in-C, Training Command recently, has very kindly agreed to inaugurate this meeting on behalf of the Chief of the Air Staff. I am grateful to you, Sir, for this.

From a modest beginning in 1952, the Society has grown over the years and has now achieved a recognised, professional status amongst our scientific community. Today, the Society has more than 600 members, including members from foreign countries, drawn from different disciplines. The Society is engaged in aero medical research and development for promotion of flight safety and operational efficiency of the aircrew both service and civil. The Society publishes a scientific journal biannually which is on the mailing list of advanced countries and also listed with NASA.

It was due to the efforts of the Society that Aviation Medicine has now been accepted as a distinct speciality by Bangalore University, Medical Council of India and National Academy of Medical Sciences for award of Diploma, MD and MNAMS in Aviation Medicine.

The Institute of Aviation Medicine which is the hub of research and training activities in Aviation Medicine, has grown considerably and is now a recognised institute of national status. Doctors from many friendly countries of the Middle East and Africa are also trained here in Aviation Medicine. The demand from these countries for our Aviation Medicine specialists is so much that we are not able to fully meet their requirement. In fact, many of the developing countries prefer Indian Aviation Medicine specialists to specialists from advanced Western countries. One could, therefore, rightly claim that Aviation Medicine has come of age in this country.

Our Air Force is a formidable force with modern sophisticated weapons and delivery systems. The aviation industry has also advanced considerably to maintain the combat potential of the Air Force at all times. With these in view, the Institute of Aviation Medicine has been undertaking many projects in the field and of an applied nature. They have completed about 350 such projects many of which have a direct bearing to aircrew comfort and safety. The scientists at the Institute of Aviation Medicine work in close collaboration with the HAL to the mutual advantage of both and for the integration of man in the man-machine complex.

The Aero Medical Society of India is also seized of the problems connected with Civil Aviation. Medical personnel of Air India and Indian Airlines are active members of the Society. The Director General of Civil Aviation has entrusted the doctors of

Air Force with the medical evaluation of all civil flying personnel and their certification for fitness. The programme of enlarging the scope of Aviation Medicine in the field of civil flying is being broadened. We now have an Aviation Medicine specialist on deputation with Air India and this process will further expand, thus contributing to flying safety in civil aviation in the country.

The Aero Medical Society of India has undertaken the task of publishing a text book of Aviation Medicine as applicable to conditions in India and other developing countries. I am glad to report that the manuscript for this has been completed and we hope to publish the text book within a short period.

The programme of Scientific Sessions covers a wide gamut of aero medical activities. This morning we have a symposium on 'Jogging and Health'. Various aspects of physiology, training, safety and risk factors will be discussed. Jogging is a simple exercise of topical interest today for maintenance of physical fitness of individuals of all ages. I hope the symposium will be of interest to you. For the first time, this year we have included a session on Clinical Medicine.

I am grateful to Dr. MMS Ahuja, Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, for agreeing to deliver the Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee Memorial Oration. I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our distinguished guests for sparing their valuable time and gracing this occasion. I would now request Air Marshal Nair to inaugurate the meeting.

