

ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF 70TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY" ORGANISED BY THE AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA AT THE HINDUSTAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, MGR AUDITORIUM, PADUR CHENNAI ON 21.02.2020 AT 11.00 AM

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Dr. R.K. Tyagi

President, Aeronautical Society of India

Dr.V.K. Saraswat

Member, NITI Aayog

Dr. K. Sivan

Chairman, ISRO

Dr. Anand Jacob Verghese

Chairman,

Aeronautical Society of India, Chennai Branch

Dr. Lalit Gupta,

Hon. Secretary General,

Aeronautical Society of India

Dr. R. Asokan,

Hon. Secretary,

Aeronautical Society of India,

Chennai Branch

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today at the inauguration of 70th Annual General Meeting and National Conference on "**Recent Developments in Aerospace and Defence Technology**".

As we all know that the Aeronautical Society of India was established as early as in the year 1948 to promote the advancement

and dissemination of knowledge of Aeronautical and Aerospace Sciences and Technologies, and to strive for the elevation of the Aeronautical and Aerospace profession. The Patron-in-Chief of the Society is the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. I am happy to say that you are doing a great job.

I was told that the Hindustan Group of Institutions started by Dr. K.C.G. Verghese, in the 1960s by training a few students in aviation has grown over the years producing hundreds of engineers with skills in aerospace and aviation.

The great visionary **Dr. Vikram A. Sarabhai** embarked upon space research activities in the country and envisioned that **“we must be second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real problems of man and society”**.

India is one among a select club of three to four nations which have several achievements in the area of aerospace. We are proud that the list of achievements has been growing over the years.

The Indian Aerospace establishment, especially the ISRO, has made very creditable achievements over the past few decades. I appreciate ISRO's sense of service and applaud the excellent work that the organization has been performing in the country such as:

- India has established its supremacy in the satellite launch vehicle space with the ever reliable PSLV. The services of ISRO are much sought after, even by advanced countries for launch of their vehicles.
- India has developed and launched a completely indigenous Cryogenic engine against great odds and stiff opposition from countries which did not want to see India develop self-reliance in the area.

- India has also developed the capability to launch communication satellites in the six tonne class using the GSLV Mark-III vehicle.
- With the Mars Orbiter Mission, India became the first country to deploy a spacecraft in an orbit around Mars in the first attempt.
- Achieved the unique record of putting more than a hundred satellites into space in one attempt.
- The Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2 missions established India's name in the scientific community worldwide.

Among future projects, a Lunar Polar Exploration Mission in partnership with Japan has been proposed for 2024. Gaganyaan, India's planned mission to take humans to space will open up huge commercial opportunities in the space sector. Space tourism is purported to be the next feat of India after the successful GSLV MKIII, which lands with three men into the space.

I would like to mention few notable achievements of DRDO such as India's first light weight, multi-role, combat aircraft Tejas which has been inducted into 45th Squadron of Indian Air Force. Model of the Naval version of LCA which successfully landed onboard INS Vikramaditya at sea using arrested hook. The Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&C), Unmanned Aerial Aircraft (Rustom-II), Advanced Pilotless Target Aircraft (Lakshya-II), Heavy Drop System (HDS). India's first ASAT missile used in Mission Shakti to demonstrate anti-satellite precision strike capability.

The idea of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) was conceptualized by the former President and eminent scientist, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The objective of this program was to enable India to attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology. Starting from Prithivi short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile,

India has travelled up to Nirbhay, the long range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile.

The above salient highlights stand to prove that India has a strong space odyssey, which can be matched with any other developed country. Our scientist have already proved our space dominance through their innovative findings and I am proud to point out that India as nation is second to none in the space.

India has the definite advantage to commercial accomplishment in the space arena. The contribution of the aviation and aerospace industry to the overall economic development of the country and its defence capabilities has been immense. These range from remote sensing capabilities to communication, earth sciences, navigation, weather forecasting, and disaster management. There have also been immense contributions to the advancement of space science and solar physics.

By 2025, India is expected to surpass the U.K. as the world's third largest market for commercial airline operations. India's passenger traffic is projected to surge to 278 million annual passengers while also accounting for 19.1 million new aviation jobs according to the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) global forecast. It is expected that the market for aerospace composites in India including export potential is likely to reach a value of 302.5 million US dollar in 2023.

Expenditure in the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) accounts for 13-15 per cent of total revenues; it is the second-highest expense after fuel cost. MRO industry is likely to grow over 1.5 billion US dollar this year.

The Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor is slowly beginning to take shape in five places - Chennai, Coimbatore, Hosur, Salem and Tiruchy. Already, an investment of over 3,100 crore was announced

by the Ordnance Factory Board and private industries for this corridor. Tamil Nadu being a manufacturing hub would be key for India's dream of achieving self-reliance in defence procurement. I think, it is great opportunity for the private sector to improve the industry participation.

I am happy to note that 15 professionals are honoured here for their outstanding contributions and achievements. Heartiest congratulations to them and their parent organizations. I hope that they will continue to take the aerospace industry to greater heights.

I wish the Conference all success and hope that the deliberations and the ideas generated will contribute to more research and promote further development of our country.

I congratulate the Aeronautical Society of India and the Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science for having taken painstaking efforts to organize this National Conference in a grand manner. I applaud them for their commitment to the cause of the aeronautical and aerospace industry and research. I wish them well.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to all of you assembled here. May the efforts of ISRO and Aeronautical Society of India swell in size, multiply in magnitude. May you all greeted with success in all your future endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Hind....

Jai Tamil Nadu....