

# Childcare research in focus

## Experts Converge For Pedicon-2009

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** There is not much research on paediatric diseases; a ready local database will help in better treatment, ISRO chief G Madhavan Nair said on Thursday.

Speaking at Pedicon-2009, the 46th National Conference of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP), Nair urged for better research and development facilities for children's diseases. The theme of the conference, which is on till Monday, is 'redefining childcare'.

Elaborating on how satellite imagery is nowadays used in tele-medicine and tele-education, he said paediatricians and medical education programmes should be more technology savvy.



Folk drummers perform at Palace Grounds on Thursday during the inauguration of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics' 46th national conference

Newly elected IAP president Panna Choudhury urged doctors to visit rural areas to treat poor children. "Forty per cent of 20 million children in the world who are not immunized are in India."

Over 7,000 paediatricians are attending the national conference. An exhibition by a host of pharma companies is also on at the venue.

**PNEUMONIA IS NO. 1 KILLER OF CHILDREN**  
Leading global/national child health experts and researchers have agreed on the urgent need to formulate strategies to counter pneumonia in India.

Pneumonia is an under-recognized problem here, despite the fact that it kills more than 4,00,000 children each year. According to UNICEF and WHO, India alone accounts for nearly 40% of these deaths.

Former IAP president Alagiriswamy Parthsarthy said: "The current death toll is unacceptable. There is a need to check the situation and act on priority. Implementing proven interventions could save lakhs of children."

Prahlad Kumar of Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health said only 50 per cent of children get medical treatment for the disease.