CONTRIBUTING OUR MITE

The recent devastating floods in Uttar Pradesh in Northern India and Orissa in Eastern India which unleashed in its wake a holocaust of untold misery and suffering to the thousands of people in the area moved Air-India and its wholly-owned subsidiary The Hotel Corporation of India to contribute their mite in relieving their plight.

The staff of Air-India and The HCI contributed Rs 10 lakhs and Rs 1 lakh respectively for the flood relief, and the presentation was made by our Chairman Mr Raghu Raj to the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, in Delhi in the presence of our Minister, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad and our Secretary, Shri M. Kohli.

HIMALAYAN RALLY

The Air-India sponsored 'toughest motorising event of the year' was launched to a flying start by the Vice President of India, Mr M. Hidayatullah, when he flagged off the first few cars from the lush green Jaipur polo grounds in Delhi on October 30, 1982. Our Chairman Mr Raghu Raj also flagged off some of the 72 cars participating in the event.

The championing Air India trophy for the rally was won by Mr Jayant Shah, national champion of Kenya, and his co-driver Ashad Khan. The prize distribution ceremony was presided over by the Minister for Tourism, Shri Khurshid Alam Khan, who presented the Air-India trophy to the winners. Mr C. L. Sharma, Dy Managing Director, represented Air-India at this glittering function.

THIRD AIRBUS JOINS FLEET

AIR-INDIA's third Airbus A300 B4-200, VT-EHQ, "Cauvery", arrived in Bombay on November 15, 1982. With the arrival of the new Airbus, Air-India now has a fleet of ten Boeing 747s, six Boeing 707s and three Airbus A300s.

The aircraft was under the command of Capt B. S. Gopal, Operations Manager, and flew from Toulouse to Bombay after making a technical halt at Bahrain.

Powered by two General Electric CF6-50C2 engines with a thrust rating of 52,500 lb, Air-India A-300s are configured to carry 22 first class and 216 economy class passengers.

FLIGHT INTO HISTORY

OCTOBER 15, 1982, warmed the cockles of the heart of those gathered at the Flying Club in Bombay as they watched with a tinge of nostalgia Mr J. R. D. Tata touching down in his Leopard Moth. This historic flight from Karachi to Bombay via Ahmedabad launched the 50th Anniversary of Civil Aviation in India. The Magic Carpet lists in comprehensive detail this epoch-making flight in a special insert published with this issue — Ed.

MINISTER INAUGURATES CENTAUR AT DELHI

The Minister, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad, inaugurated the Centaur Hotel at Palam near Delhi Airport on November 15, 1982. The Centaur at Delhi is the second ship of the Hotel Corporation of India fleet, the flagship being the Centaur Hotel near Bombay Airport.

Addressing the distinguished gathering on the occasion, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad said, "I am extremely happy and proud that the HCl has lived up to its commitment to have 200 rooms ready in time for the ASIAO and I can only truly appreciate that despite the large number of hotels that are springing up in Delhi, the Centaur at Delhi will be a most welcome addition to the hospitality facilities available in its operations as its counterpart in Bombay."

During his welcome address, our Chairman, Mr Raghu Raj, said, "It would be invidious on my part to reel out to you a wealth of statistics, but I must tell you that the Centaur offers room tariffs which are lower than any other 5-Star hotel in Delhi, and its food and beverages prices are comparable to any other similar facility in the capital."

The hotel is the first of its kind in Delhi to offer 24-hour check-out facility. During his address he added, "You can accuse me of day dreaming, but one day there could be a chain of Centaur Hotels girding the globe."

When completed, the hotel will have two presidential suites, 25 executive suites, Indian and Chinese restaurants, a round-the-clock coffee shop, a swimming pool, and other five star amenities, such as a banquet room for business meetings, receptions and weddings, a travel assistance counter, secretarial services, a 24-hour courtesy coach service between the hotel and the airport, and a regular service between the hotel and the city. The amenities will also include a shopping arcade, florist, health club, beauty parlour and a bank with a foreign exchange counter.

The Managing Director of Hotel Corporation of India, Mr A. C. Mahajen expressed his thanks to all those who had contributed to the completion of the Centaur. The Chairman, Mr Raghu Raj, made a special mention of the Delhi Administration, "but for whom this project would never have got off the ground."

MR NANA CHODASEIN, World Chairman of Giants International is seen here with our Chairman and Mrs Raghu Raj at the 70th Anniversary function in Bombay.
Catch my new Airbus... to the Gulf

"Ganga!" Al's very first Airbus arrived at Dubai International Airport via Abu Dhabi on 15th August 1982 with a full load of 238 passengers, where they were met and welcomed by Mr Mohydin Abdel Kader Benhendi, Director General of Civil Aviation; Mr Ajit Singh, Regional Director, Middle East and other senior aviation officials. The flight, which coincided with India's 35th Independence Day celebrations, marked the start of a regular four times weekly service to the United Arab Emirates from Bombay and at the 'Oman Aviation' of Airbus to the Gulf has resulted in a daily connection with Trivandrum and a much desired increased seating capacity. With a configuration of 22 F Class and 216 Y seats, AI now offers 500 more seats per week on the Dubai-Trivandrum sector, one of the busiest in the Gulf.

Our 2nd Airbus, "Godavari", captained by Capt B. S. Gopal, touched down at Seeb Intl Airport on Aug 17, 1982 marking the start of the Airbus service to Muscat. The Godavari carried a load of 136 passengers and after a halt of 85 minutes flew back to Bombay with 124 passengers. At Muscat it was a select gathering, led by Acting Director General of Civil Aviation, Mohammed Homaid Al Wohabi. The gathering was shown the entire Airbus by Mr Kayshap, Station Manager Oman and Sales Officer Mr Madani, and were later entertained at the Oman Aviation Services' airport restaurant. Present on occasion were also representatives of 11 travel agencies. On touch down, Capt B. S. Gopal who piloted "Godavari" was given a warm welcome by Mr V. N. Kayshap, who also hosted a reception for the entire crew.

With the introduction of Airbus services linking Trivandrum to the Gulf, AI will now be able to clear the cargo bottleneck. Previously a lot of cargo bound for Kerala was being held up at Bombay because Indian Airlines was unable to carry it forward due to lack of space. As there is no direct flight from Muscat to Trivandrum the cargo will be sent to Dubai and then forwarded to the Indian stations. For this facility the senders have to pay a nominal handling charge only.

"Landing at Dubai International Airport on 16th August 1982 after a stopover in Bahrain, the gleaming aircraft was again given a warm welcome. When Mr K. K. Puri, our Manager Qatar was asked if there were any VIPs on the flight, he had replied "Every passenger is a VIP for us." Prominent among those who attended the reception at Doha was Indian Ambassador Mr J. Doddamani, Director of Civil Aviation Mr Omran-al-Kuwaiti, several diplomats, senior Qatari officials, businessmen, airline managers and travel agents.

On 21st August 1982 the Airbus was soon heading for Sharjah with a small ceremony, presided over by Mr Ajit Singh, our Regional Director, Middle East.

All this was given a wide coverage by the Gulf press who made a big splash of it in all their newspapers. The Airbus which is comfortable, economical and more up to date will gradually phase out the 707s. Already we have 21 Airbus flights out of India to the Gulf.

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Photograph shows: From left to right Mr. Ajit Singh, Regional Director-Middle East.- 2nd from left; Mr. Mohd. Ali, Abukaster-Binhendi, Director-Dubai Civil Aviation - 3rd from left.

Photograph shows: Mr. K. K. Puri, Manager-Qatar 1st on the left; Mr. Omran Al Kuwari - The Director of Civil Aviation, 3rd from left.

Photograph shows: From left to right Mr. Joe Gomes, Manager-Bahrain; Capt R. G. Khot, Manager Al Kuwaiti's Regional Travel Manager; Mr Vinay Dewan, General Manager, Bahrain; Mr S. L. Khalsa, Chief Manager, State Bank of India.

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"Provided that no such exemption shall apply to goods specified below:

Television set

Provided that no such exemption shall apply to goods specified below:

Television set

Thank you, Mr Alimchandani. Your book is truly a bible for everyone entering or leaving India. I only wish that it could bring back my TV set to me.

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Two Magic Carpet November/December 1982
EXCURSION FARES TO SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA

AIR-INDIA has introduced a new individual return excursion fare between Bombay/Madras and Kuala Lumpur/Penang and from Bombay/Madras to Singapore.

While the normal return fare Bombay/Kuala Lumpur/Singapore/Bombay is Rs. 7808 the return excursion fare is only Rs. 5200. From Madras, the excursion fare is only Rs. 4200.

There are certain conditions applicable to these excursion fares. These fares are valid all the year round. A minimum stay of 10 days and a maximum of 90 days is required. Extension of validity is not permitted and only one stopover is allowed either outbound or inbound on the direct route viz. Bombay/Madras/Kuala Lumpur/Penang/Singapore.

P F TRUSTEES

The following have been appointed as trustees of the Air-India Employees’ Provident Fund:

Mr. J. N. Mogrelia, Director of Finance, President; Mr. S. Narayanswamy, Secretary & Chief Administrative Manager, Trustee; Mr. H. C. Shah, Assistant Financial Controller, Trustee; Mr. G. Vishwanathan, A.M.E.-I, Trustee; Mr. H. Mukherjee, Sr. Check Flight Purser, Trustee; and Mr. J. F. Mendonsa, Foreman, Trustee.

Mr. V. M. Karapmurkar, Sr. Accounts Officer, continues to act as Secretary of the Air-India Employees’ Provident Fund.

SENTIMENTS OF INDIANS ABROAD

The late Fatma Bandali Ali Merali, who was of Indian origin and settled in a remote village of Africa, always cherished her ties with India. On her death, her son H. Ali Merali, from Commercial, who is our former employee, donated a sum of Rs. 1,500 to the Staff Welfare Fund. The interest earned on this amount is to be utilized as a prize for creating awareness among the recipients of the sentiments of Indians settled abroad. This prize is to be awarded annually to the son or daughter of an Air-India employee securing highest marks in the SSC examination on an All-India level.

On the Move up

Mr. Subhash Gupta (above) — our Regional Accounts Manager in the USA has been appointed Deputy Financial Controller, Mr. N. Mittal, Regional Director-USA & Canada and other members of the New York staff bade him farewell and felicitated him on his new appointment.

Mr. G. W. Gadkar (below), has now taken over as Regional Accounts Manager (Headquarters). He was our Accounts Manager in Geneva.

LOAN AGREEMENT

A Euro Dollar Loan Agreement for US $88 Million (being part of the total loan of US $198 Million) concluded for the purchase of 3 A300B4 aircraft with a consortium of Banks led by Lloyd’s Bank International Ltd, was recently signed at London by Mr. C. L. Sharma, our Dy Managing Director.


The photograph (above) shows Mr. C. L. Sharma signing the Agreement on behalf of Air-India. Along with him are Mr. Yogesh Chandra, Jr. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Mr. Lalit Bhasin, our Legal Counsel.

DIWALI POOJA

HCl’s second floor Restaurant in the Air-India Building in Bombay continued its unbroken tradition by performing Diwali Pooja during the festive season. The pooja was performed with all the religious rituals by Mr. Rajesh Bhat.

NAIROBI QUZ

During the “Efficiency Week” Nairobi arranged a Quiz contest for the counter staff of travel agents, Kenya. There were 32 participants in the contest and the results revealed a keen awareness of Air-India’s operations out of Nairobi.

DONATION TO BREACH CANDY

A cheque for Rs. 5 lakhs has been presented by Air-India to the Breach Candy Hospital Research Centre in Bombay. The cheque was presented by Dr. Vijay Kumar, Chief Medical Officer, and Dr. B. K. Palt, Dy. Chief Medical Officer, to Mr. P. S. Kecker, Administrator of the Breach Candy Hospital. As a result of this donation, Air-India will now have a lien on two beds at the hospital.

BAGHDAD BOMBAY BABY

A baby was born to Mrs. Rokanaa Stephen while travelling on our flight from Baghdad to Bombay. This is the third baby to be born on our aircraft.

Dr. V. Kumar and Dr. K. Palt presenting a cheque to Mr. Kecker of the Breach Candy Hospital.
from down under

By Anil Kadam

IR-INDIA Perth celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Civil Aviation in India by organising a colouring contest. To win this Magic Carpet around-the-world airline game featured in the Sunday Times the entrants were required to colour Air-India aircraft and the Maharajah “who pops up all over the place” in water colours, crayons or coloured pencils. There were two special prizes for originality. The game was restricted to a girl and a boy in the age group of 5-7 years, 8-10 years and 11-15 years.

Out of 214 entries received, the following were declared winners:
5-7 years: Miss Tamara Dawson
Konstantinu
8-10 years: Miss Lisa McLure
Robert Altkem
11-15 years: Miss Angela Trelor
Anthony Sly
Originality: Miss Geraldine Newby
Michael Arena

Win Eleven Days in India

Lucky winners Alan Alderton and his wife Pat

Another lucky winner David Brown of Sydney Opera House

Hemant Gupta, Regional Director Government of India Tourist Office, and Sydney Fernandez, Manager East Australia, Air-India, who picked the winners of the 11-day all-expense trip to India from the 13,000 entries received by The Sun.

"Go where the action is with The Sun." The Sun newspaper in Sydney which has a circulation of over one million readers recently tied up with Air-India in a contest to win a 11-day holiday to India. As a result of this promotion, The Sun received a boost in its circulation and Air-India received a big rise in telephone calls for bookings to India. It is estimated that the rise in telephone calls to India was nearly 50% during that period.

Letter from London

By Lilian Fonseca

IR-INDIA London celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Civil Air Transportation in India by organising a long-service awards evening at Heathrow. The function was held in the newly completed Regional Maintenance Base where we have moved to make way for the new Terminal 4.

Mr Francis da Gama, RD-UK, presented the occasion 25-year pin to Gordon Smith, Asst Cargo Sales Manager, U.K. Gordon joined Air-India as a Cargo Assistant in London, then spent 17 years in Cardiff where he became District Cargo Sales Manager. He has been at the Heathrow for the past two years.

Houston, Texas, now has a beautiful Sri Meenakshi Temple. Its magnificent architecture is reminiscent of all the temples found in India with the difference that it is right in the heart of Texas. All the idols for the temple were flown courtesy Air-India. Air-India released a special advertisement "Om Shanti Shanti" to commemorate the inauguration of the temple.

Rotary Award

Mr D. N. Lingam, Manager-Southern India, received a plaque from Rotary Governor Mr R. G. Phadke as a token of appreciation for Air-India's assistance in the carriage of a consignment of red measles vaccine sent by Rotary International for a major project for children in Tamil Nadu & Kerala in Southern India.
Magic Carpet Miscellany
Compiled by R. K.Sattawalla

OSA The Osakans live in a traditional life-style but with a difference. Since Osaka is the core of Japanese economy, it always welcomes a change for the better. It is therefore not surprising that it recently conducted a survey to gauge popular reaction regarding a suggestion to shift its international airport 45 km away from its present site to avoid curfew restrictions and one of choices selected for its views was Mr. K. Sivaraman, our Manager for South Japan and Korea. The Japanese Broadcasting Corporation's NHK TV which sponsored the survey, featured Mr. Sivaraman in its TV programme with the stage set embellished with aircraft models, our maharajah and an eagle catching jumbo poster. Beaming with pride, Government Liaison and Mr. K. Ranganathan, Sales Promotion Officer, in Charge of Cultural Cell, NBO Wheeling around Africa under the patronage of Air-India are Somnath Mukherjee and Ramchandra Biswas. Our men in Africa Mr. S. Singappa and Mr. H. Raja bade them bon voyage in the traditional Air-India style when they embarked on the first leg of their cycling Odyssey from Nairobi to Tanzania.

ACC However the Ghana team for the Commonwealth Games were seen off with a difference. The Australian High Commissioner for Ghana, Mr. Anthony Dingle, who was present at the airport to see them off had to be jokingly assured of his wife's delight. While Mr Chughani's popularity as an Indian host continues to grow, on the other hand the continent Mr Bakshi remains in the limelight whenever he presents his inimitable demonstration of vegetarian Indian varieties which he recently presented at the 26th World Vegetarian Congress in Germany. More of him in our next issue.

BOM Young R. Thyagarajan from Inflight Service has become the life and soul of Krishna Fine Arts Troupe. He has taken extraordinary pains to reduce the notations of the musical bits with a view to training the conglomorate in the orchestra consisting of Maharashtrians, Gujaratis, Anglo-Indians to reproduce the tunes set for the songs— all in Tamil.

Thyagarajan is not alone in the Inflight Service Department with a wealth of talent. With him is Olympian airhostess Geetha Sareen and Asst. Flight Purser Khekuto Khulu.

Starting her career as a regular in the Indian team, she threw the towel in after participating in the Moscow Olympics as a captain but continues as a qualified women's hockey umpire and was very much in action at the recently concluded ASIAD.

Asst Flight Purser Moni Mathews recalls for the Magic Carpet Geetha's first experience as an umpire when one of the participating teams threatened to walk out over a goal dispute, 'My God, it nearly did end up in a mess but I stuck to my decision.'

Asst Flight Purser Khekuto Khulu has the proud distinction of being selected in the Indian Administrative Service. We wish Khekuto Khulu and his charming airhostess wife Chemmy all the best and we sincerely hope that Air-India will about writing on it. I cannot but quote what world-renowned conductor Zubin Mehta of the New York Philharmonic says about Gavin, 'he seems to be a person who is in love with music and somehow knows how to produce it from his piano.' Trained originally in Bombay and Delhi, he obtained his ARCM performer's diploma in London and is now with the world-famous Curtis Institute in Philadephia where he recently bagged the Rachmaninoff Gold Medal and Prize as the outstanding pianist of the year. To Gavin, playing music 'is the best way I can express my creativity.' Many more encore to him.

Mr. Sivaraman informs the Magic Carpet, "We received a very wide publicity and our Indian community, the public and in particular our interline friends complimented us".

BLR Bangalore, often described as the garden city of India, will soon have yet another distinction of becoming the first offshore Air-India station in India with an international cargo service. The Maharajah plans to link this garden city with a cargo connection to Europe. The Magic Carpet wishes BLR happy landing.

MIA The elite in the USA, Canada and France recently had a unique glimpse of cultural India. The Kuchipudi dancers flew to America on our service and Madras State artiste Ms Swarnamukhi travelled to Paris for the international Festival of Music and Dance. The Air-India team at Madras airport to bid them bon voyage was led by our Manager, Mr. D. N. Lingam; Mr. S. Ramachandran, Dy. Manager; Mr. N. Masilamani, Officer-in-Charge.

By Mr. R. K. Rastogi that the team would not be hijacked to Delhi to participate in the ASIAD instead of the Commonwealth Games.

MEL The spotlight was on India when Hon. W. C. Fife, Federal Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in Australia opened 'India Day' celebrations in Melbourne. Held under the aegis of Air-India and the Australia India Society of Victoria, the programme provided a window on typical India through exhibition of handicrafts, paintings, books and musical instruments. As no 'India Day' function could ever be complete without a taste of Indian culinary delights and so it was at Melbourne also. Jolly good show by our Manager-Victoria, Lex Zeilner.

DAC and FRA While talking of setting a good Indian table, we cannot leave out our man in Dacca G. S. Chughani and our one and only vegetarian wizard Mr. S. N. Bakshi. To them cooking food is as much an art as making good music and what they prepare is a house-warming dusk. But their love for music continues with us and with us forever.

S. N. Bakshi during the 26th World Vegetarian Congress
ACHIEVERS

OCR Asst Financial Controller H. C. Shah is full of pride because his son Samir and daughter Saloni have achieved academic distinctions. Samir who secured 93% marks in the Science group in the HSC examinations, is now with the GS Medical College for his MBBS degree. Saloni stood first in all divisions of standard VIII by securing 89% marks — a record she has been maintaining every year from standard V.

Representing the state of Maharashtra in Vancouver, Canada, is Margaret, daughter of S. J. T. D' Souza, who is a trainee Flight Engineer. She is participating in the Indo-Canada World Youth Exchange Programme for 1982-83. She was with the Maharashtra Naval Unit of the National Cadet Corps and the Magic Carpet would also like to congratulate her for being selected as the best Cadet from Maharashtra during the Republic Day parade this year.

While Sivakumar Sivadasan, son of Mr. N. Sivadasan from Engineering has been awarded first prize in the English elocution competition organised by the Lions Club of Kalina in suburban Bombay this year, Shriram, son of Mr. C. V. Gadre from the Operations Department has won a scholarship in his school for the current year. Rajiv Ginde, whose father M. H. Ginde is with us in Cargo, has received full assistance from the Institute of Technology, West Virginia, for his Master’s degree. A Graduate of Indian Institute of Technology in Madras, he was also secretary of the photographic association of the Institute.

Manoj, whose father Capt. A. Michigan is Airport Manager at Bahrain, has won the coveted first prize in the senior group during a speech contest held by Manama Toastmasters Club of Bahrain. During the SSC examination, Shanti Ananthasayanam, has earned the high distinction of obtaining 99% marks in Mathematics which is a record in her school. Her father, R. Ananthasayanam, is in our Accounts Department. Girish, son of C. Kharkar of Engineering, and Umilla, daughter of Mr. K. Chandorkar of Commercial, have come out with flying colours in the same exam. Ranjan, son of P. M. Sawant of Air Press, has also passed this examination by securing 83% marks. He has achieved a high of 95% in Science and 93% in Mathematics. Supriya, daughter of V. Ramanathan of Inflight Service Department, has secured over 98% marks in the same examination being the highest among the applicants for the Air India Employees’ study grants. She has won Mr. H. Ali Merali’s prize for 1982-83.

P. Balasuabramanium from Air-India, Madras, is now a gold medallist. He obtained his post-graduate diploma in Personnel Management & Industrial Relations conducted by the Institute of Management and Andhra Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the gold medal for obtaining the first rank. S. G. Ingle from our Goa office has secured highest marks in second year law exams and his tally of 359 marks out of 600, is highest not only in his own college, but in entire Goa. D. G. Lad from Communications has obtained a diploma in Business Administration by completing the course at the Xavier’s Institute of Management, Bombay. Trainee Airhostess Mary George is a recipient of the consolation prize in the All India Essay Competition sponsored by the United Writers’ Association, Madras.

CENSUS WORK

Mr. C. P. Sathlakeshnan from Engineering and Mr. V. R. Ganeshan of Commercial have received encomiums for their dedicated work during the 1981 census of India. They were deputed for this assignment to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and they have received certificates of honour in recognition of their outstanding zeal and high quality of service.
WE WISH YOU A
HAPPY
RETIRED LIFE

Mr. K. S. Kirtikar, Master-Technician, Engineering Department, Bombay.

Mr. K. J. Abraham, Dy. Engg. Manager, Engineering Department, Bombay.

Mr. V. G. Gogate, Asst. Financial Controller, Revenue Accounts, Bombay.

Mr. R. Applazwami, Head Cleaner, Personnel Department, Calcutta.

Mr. R. Laxmanan, Asst. Controller, Stores & Purchase Department, Bombay.

Mr. B. S. Temba, Dffg. Asst. Engg. Manager, Engineering Department, Bombay.

Mr. V. L. Swarn, Cashier, Accounts Department, Prague.

Mr. G. P. Gopalkar, Controller of Civil Works and Properties, Bombay.

Mr. G. G. Hambard, Master-Technician, Engineering Department, Bombay.

Mr. A. K. Shukla, Inflight Supervisor, Inflight Service Department, Bombay.

Mr. M. N. Jadhav, Junior Officer, Management Services, Bombay.

Mr. G. A. Dass, Sr. Driver, Ground Support Division, Palam, New Delhi.

Mr. Reffete D’Alba, Station Manager, Traffic, Rome Airport.

Mr. G. V. More, Master-Technician, Engineering Department, Bombay.

Mr. V. B. Kurka, Accounts Manager, Accounts Department, Prague.

Mr. B. D. Muley, Foreman, Engineering Department, Bombay.

Mr. B. T. Pandit, Operator, Ground Services, Bombay.

Mr. G. L. Mhaddakar, Foreman, Engineering Department, Bombay.

Mr. N. N. Naik, Accounts Manager, Cargo Complex, Bombay.

Mr. S. Shukla, Manager-Simulator Training Operations, Bombay.

Mr. R. S. Dukh, Scheduling Officer, Commercial Department, Bombay.

Mr. B. G. Pawar, Sr. Driver, Ground Services Department, Bombay.

Mr. J. V. Ramakrishnan, Asst Station Superintendent, Commercial Department, Santa Cruz. Years of service 26.

Mr. Jeremey Machado, Cleaner, Engineering Department. Years of service 11.

Mr. R. X. Gomes, Senior Aircraft Technician, Engineering Department. Years of service 24.

Mr. S. V. Sawant, Sr. Typist/Clerk, Engineering Department. Years of service 27.

Mr. Julian D’Souza, Head Cleaner, Engineering Department. Years of service 34.

Mr. V. D. Shinde, Painter-cum-Bench Fitter, Stores & Purchase Department. Years of service 22.

Mr. Welby Anthony Neves, Asst Station Superintendent, Commercial Department. Years of service 20.

Mr. Jesingh Dhanil Solanki, Sr. Cleaner, Catering/Cabin Service of Inflight Service Department. Years of service 22.

Mr. Tullo Ramchandra Naik, Cashier, Finance & Accounts Department. Years of service 16.

Mr. Arthur Frank Perry, Sr. Check Flight Purser, Inflight Service Department. Years of service 20.

Mr. C. Amato, Asst Personnel Manager, Rome. Years of service 18.
MONTREAL is a city to experience and above all to enjoy. It is one of the most unique cities blending so beautifully the enchantment of the old world, with the new. The city's heritage dates from the founding of New France. Cobblestone streets, squares filled with flowers and street musicians, horse-drawn carriages to carry visitors through the narrow lanes, all lend a unique feeling to this French speaking city.

Modern Montreal is no less exciting. With a dramatic skyline rising from the foot of the historic district, to concert halls filled all year round, to the exciting nightlife offering discos and clubs of every description. Montreal has it all. And to tickle the palate of even the most dedicated gourmand, the city has more than 9000 restaurants and sidewalk cafes offering a dazzling diversity.

And to this very special city, Air-India after almost a decade long period of negotiation has started its weekly 747 services from Bombay. To mark the event, Mr Bhagwat, Jha, AIA, Union Minister for Civil Aviation, lit the traditional lamp amidst chanting of vedic prayers and cut the ribbon at Bombay airport on October 2, 1982. There was excitement in the air as "Samudra Gupti" got ready to depart. According to reports, by the 3:30 a.m. flight were Mr Raghuraj, Chief Executive and Managing Director of Air-India, along with departmental heads and senior officials from Ahmedabad. At Delhi, Mr. B. Singh, Chief of Civil Aviation, inspected the plane. Every passenger at Bombay and Delhi was greeted with a rose, a token of love.

At Montreal, even the weather gods were in a benevolent mood. After 2 days of rainy windy cold October 2nd had dawned clear and bright. As Air 182 touched down at Mirabel airport 25 minutes before schedule, the Canadian made Challenger aircraft of the Government of Canada also arrived with the Chief Guest of honour, Mr Jean Luc Pepin. The viewing gallery on the top floor of the airport was packed with some 1,500 visitors who burst into applause and cheers as soon as they saw the Air-India aircraft taxying in.

Mirabel Airport was most colourfully decorated for this auspicious occasion with divas made of flower petals, helium balloons, flags, kites, banners, streamers, flowers and more than adequately supplemented by gorgeous colourful saris, garlands, tikkas and turbans. The RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) also added pomp and colour by coming out in their formal dress regalia.

After Mr Mittal and Mr R. C. Puri had commenced with the introductions, the Chief Guest of Honour lit the traditional welcome 'Aarti lamp' which was immediately followed by an Aarti dance performance specially choreographed for the occasion.

The VIPS and CIPS were then welcomed on board our aircraft by Mr. C. B. Singh, radio announcer of radio station CFMB Radio Montreal, dressed in a maharajah outfit, flanked by the RCMP. Champagne was served and complimentary wallets were distributed before they left the aircraft to board the PTVs which took them back to the terminal. Returning to the terminal, the Master of Ceremonies, Mrs Pierriet Champoux of CKVL Radio Station, dressed in a beautiful Indian sari, commenced the cultural show with a welcome in both French and English, being fluently bilingual. Dance groups performed the traditional Indian dances which shook the airport with song, dance, laughter and great applause, with more than half the audience joining in the singing from the sidelines. The Bhangra group, who in the finale danced their way out, right through the airport to the check-in counter below, received a standing ovation. Indian snacks/tea were served ending with a gala sit-down buffet dinner attended by 400 persons. But this was not all.

The departing passengers were also welcomed at the airport by young sari-clad Indian ladies, with garlands and tikkas. At check-in they were handed their boarding cards along with Air-India mementos and a mini cultural show was held in the departing area. Refreshments were then served to the Air-India passengers and their guests before they boarded the PTVs, to take yet, another first flight between Canada and India. Commenting on the celebrations, a high ranking Mirabel Airport Official is believed to have stated: "Mirabel has never seen the likes of such festivities and probably never will again - congratulations". This statement was more than endorsed by our very own Deputy Managing Director, Capt Bose who in his speech at the airport stated: "I have had the occasion of being part of many inaugural ceremonies on our system in different parts of the world, but Montreal has been the very best so far!"

October 2nd had sure turned out to be a great success. With the addition of Montreal to Air-India's world-wide network, Air-India now operates to 47 destinations across the globe. So what are we waiting for? Let's all take a trip on our "Magic Carpet" to some distant exciting land!
Many of us fly high.
How many of us see so far?

Fifty years to the day, our Chairman, J. R. D. Tata flew a light, single-engine aircraft from Karachi to Bombay. He flew alone, it was the first airmail delivery in Indian history.

A few close friends greeted him when he landed.

A couple of days ago, in a brave salute to memory and nostalgia, he did it again.

With a small difference. When the Leopard Moth touched down at Bombay, 227,000 of us in the Tata Group of Companies raised a silent cheer.

Oct 15, 1982

Congratulations JRD

Exactly fifty years ago, on 15 October 1932, Mr. J. R. D. Tata, the doyen of Indian Civil Aviation and the founding father of Air India and its Chairman ultimately for no less than 46 years undertook a historic flight from Karachi to Bombay in a Pass Moth aircraft carrying mail and thereby inaugurated the first air mail service in undivided India. Karachi, the capital of Sind, was the starting point of this and first Indian Airmail Service and Sind a major contributor to its historic inauguration.

Thirty years later, on the same date Mr. Tata repeated his pioneering flight in a similar aircraft and created aviation history. Prompted by his adventurous spirit, Mr. Tata now in his seventies plans to re-enact his historic flight, on 15 October this year and is thus poised for a hat-trick!

On this unique and momentous occasion which also marks the 50th anniversary of his original flight I feel happy and privileged to send through Mr. Tata my greetings and good wishes to Your Excellency and the people of Sind. I am sure also that you will join me in wishing Mr. Tata every success in his most courageous venture.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency Lt. General S. M. Abbasi, Governor of Sind, KARACHI, Pakistan.

His Excellency Air Chief Marshal Sir H. L. Law, Governor of Maharashtra, Bombay, India.

Your Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to receive your letter through Mr. J. R. D. Tata. It is heartening to see Mr. Tata all set to perform a hat-trick by flying the same aircraft a third time on 15 October 1982, which he flew 50 years ago thus marking the 50th Anniversary of the historic inauguration of the airmail service between Karachi and Bombay.

The spirit shown by Mr. Tata to revive this epic in his late seventies is indeed commendable. I appreciate this gesture of Your Excellency to have sent a message of felicitations through Mr. Tata for the people of Sind, Pakistan. I reciprocate the same by conveying through Mr. Tata, my greetings and good wishes to you and the people of Maharashtra, India.

I wish Mr. J. R. D. Tata all success in his historic venture and pray for his health and happiness.

With best wishes and warm regards,

Yours sincerely,
October 15, 1982, was one of the greatest days for Air-India. Since it not only marked the completion of 50 golden years of commercial aviation in India but also the birth of Air-India and Indian Airlines. More than just that—it was a day when we were taken back into history. For many of us who were not even born at that time, it was one of the most thrilling experiences to see a man—the same man who flew an aircraft 50 years old in the same manner that he had done way back in 1932.

Mr. J. R. D. Tata (by now a household name) flew from Karachi to Bombay via Ahmedabad in his Leopard Moth in seven hours covering mail weighing almost 30 kg with him. There were not only letters from the President of Pakistan to the President of India and from the Governor of Sind to the Governor of Maharashtra, but also “from ordinary people to ordinary people carried by the best airline available.”

This is exactly how air mail services had begun and to commemorate the 50 years of Civil Aviation and Postal Services in India—this was his contribution. He was our first flying postman.

While we are talking about 1932, let us see how the little Puss Moth had arrived. She came from UK by sea in a box with her wings dismantled and all of these were then carried on a small trailer with four iron wheels, hauled by three bullock carts attached one in front of the other! The journey from Bombay docks to Juhu in this manner had taken approximately five hours—a far longer time than what JRD had taken to fly the last leg of his journey, Ahmedabad-Bombay.

Bullocks were not only used to cart the aircraft from the docks to the airport, but also by Burmah Shell to ferry fuel for the aircraft.

Today in a span of half a century, we have in our fleet, ten palatial 747s, six 707s and three Airbuses spanning the entire globe and the credit for all this can go only to Mr. J. R. D. Tata himself.

To get a glimpse of this great man, a thousand spectators had gathered at Juhu airport on October 15, 1982, where elaborate seating and catering arrangements had been made by AI. The shamiya that was especially erected for the purpose was beautifully done up with a huge floral arrangement depicting 50 years of flight, posters, blown up bromides of aircraft models and, at the backdrop, a large banner against a blue background saying: “The magnificent man and his flying machine do it again... after 50 years. Congratulations JRD.”

Tea and snacks organised by Hotel Corporation of India were served on the sprawling lawns of the Juhu Flying Club, and of course the red carpet was laid out for Mr. Tata and his “old lady.”

It was a hot October afternoon and yet most of the crowd was outside the shamiya trying to catch the first glimpse of the silver beauty. Excitement was mounting with peoples’ pulses beating faster, when she appeared in the distance like a speck in the vast sky. Cameras started clicking whilst thunderous applause broke out. Gradually the specks took form and the centre one was transferred into a small gleaming single engined plane, escorted, like a member of royalty by two air force helicopters. It was one of the most exciting and hair-raising moments, and a number of people had glistening eyes and a lump in their throats.

No history book can ever recreate that feeling of ecstasy, admiration and awe. It was like going back 50 years in time.

At a few minutes to 4.00 p.m., the Leopard Moth piloted by Mr. Tata swooped low over the shamiya, made a full circle and then a perfect 3 point landing, past a guard of honour of the Flying Club’s planes, to the waiting photographers. (Later he is believed to have confessed to a Japanese interviewer that “it was meant to be a salute to the assembled people”). Pandemonium broke loose with press, photographers, laymen all making a charge towards the aircraft.

Dressed in a sky blue bush shirt, his hair tousled in the breeze, looking none the worse after his 7 hour flight in “a wing and fabric affair”, Mr. Tata climbed out of the cockpit. And in a matter of seconds, the suave handsome man was surrounded by people and hidden from sight, in spite of strict security arrangements.

In 1932, he had landed in the same place in the identical manner at 1.30 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon, only 10 minutes behind schedule for which he had profusely apologised.

On October 15, 1982, he was received by IGP (Inspector General of Police) Mr. K. P. Medekar who finished the landing formalities. All paper work completed (including his passport duly stamped), he handed over the mail bags which he had carried from Karachi, to Mr. V. N. Cyril, Post Master General.

To recreate the aura of 1932, there was a postman dressed in the same uniform of yesteryear. And in Ahmedabad also, dressed in khaki shorts and turbans, the Indian Oil men had carried oil in drums pulled by bullocks. Everything was just perfect about that day.

Welcoming him on the dais was Governor Idris Latif and Chief Minister Babasaheb Bhosale while Al chief hostess Colleen Hai and IA hostess Meena Diwan garlanded him.

Then came the round of speeches starting with the Prime Minister’s message read out by the Governor. It said “I salute your spirit of adventure. May you always remain young at heart. The growth of Civil Aviation in this country owes much to your pioneering endeavours.” Governor Latif, himself a great pilot and an ex-Chief of the Indian Air Force effusive in his praises said “This young man has certainly got the spirit of adventure...” Mr. Tata being the modest man that he is, declined in the latter course of the evening all the compliments paid to him by saying “My old lady (implying the Leopard Moth) had got on very well with her old pilot during the flight. There was no storm, no fog, no mountain to cross—this was a simple flight—a matter of just staying in the air.” He was the first pilot in India to have qualified for commercial flying and had flown solo from India to England in May 1930.

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Babasaheb Bhosale speaking on the occasion.
Mr Tata had been allowed to keep quiet for too long and it was now time for him to speak. He began his speech by saying “How do I address him? (implying the Governor) Is it your father? Or grandfather?” Then beaming, he told the photographer “There are so many pretty women behind you, why don’t you turn your camera around?” But the photographers knew what they wanted!

Mr Tata’s own attitude towards the air odyssey is reminiscent of that of Mr Harry Franklin aged 100, who determinedly took over the controls of a Stinson Voyager, a light aircraft over Salem, Oregon in USA in 1946. After some hours of flying Mrs Franklin had remarked “I get more thrills out of horse riding!” One of the press reporters had rightly questioned about Mr Tata “Is he an aviator, or is he a flyer? The answer is obvious.

It is not only remarkable but also a mystery, how a man at the age of 78 has so much of zest, enthusiasm and adventure still left in him when it is not found in today’s youth, itself, which, he said is exactly one of the main reasons why he had undertaken this flight into the past. He wanted “to rekindle a spark of enthusiasm and desire to do something good for our country” in the minds of today’s youth. Life today is difficult all over the world, but it should not be the deterring factor in achieving or at least trying to achieve “worthwhile things from absurdly small beginnings.”

Mr J. R. D. Tata had dedicated this flight to the handful, then hundreds and then thousands of people who had helped him in building this airline.

The three oldest surviving employees of Tata airlines, Mr V. G. Gadgil, Mr P. Menezes and Mr P. D. Tata were called on the floor by the Master of Ceremonies and felicitated by AI with a memento which was handed to them by the great man himself. The oldest, aged 85, had to be helped on the dais but yet, it was a beaming and excited P. D. Tata that met J. R. D. Tata. In his typical amiable manner Mr J. R. D. Tata greeted him by extending his hand and saying “hem chev Pherozee?”. I am sure Pherozee Tata, Mr Gadgil and Mr Menezes will never forget this day.

It was an emotion filled voice that spoke to the vast number of people gathered on that hot October afternoon. Reminiscences of his youth, and how he had always loved flying, of the day when he got his flying license, the day when the first Indian Civil Air Mail service had started, the times when there was no airport — just a mud flat at Juhu all brought back not only to him but to the rest of the party a great sense of pride and nostalgia. Flying today is a mammoth industry — it is no longer an adventure. There are good airports, good navigational and radio facilities and of course good aircraft, all of which make flying comparatively easy. In the old days one just had to fly with the aid of a compass and a map and hope to land in the correct place.

But our great ‘Maharajah’ had found flying an aircraft 50 years old also simple. The credit to a large extent goes to Mr P. D. Birla who in Mr Tata’s words “looked after the aircraft like a hen looks after her chicks”. It is an old plane but quite safe. I was happy in the air. Any one at my age can do it — but very few do it except an old fellow like me” he had told newsmen at Ahmedabad where he was greeted with cheers and a chorus of “For he is a jolly good fellow . . .”

Mr Raghu Raj our Chairman and Managing Director presented him on behalf of all of us a beautiful golden bowl with the inscriptions 1932 — 1982 inscribed on it. Mr Billimoria, Chairman of IA presented him with a silver salver and oriental jug. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra gifted him with a silver tray and a miniature replica of the Puss Moth. But that was not the end — beautiful bouquets of roses, garlands and the like followed in quick succession.

A bullock cart provided by Indian Oil Corporation, on its way to refuel the Leopard Moth.

To honour him the Post and Telegraphs Department had released earlier that day a first day cover showing a young man standing in front of the Puss Moth, who, according to Mr Tata “looks resembling a man I knew some 50 years ago.”

The speeches all lasted for about an hour after which everyone made a beeline for the tasty snacks. While the rest of us were busy filling our stomachs, Mr Tata was engrossed in signing endless number of autographs on first day covers which were sold for Rs 3.25 that evening.

And in between sips of his cup of tea he gave interviews to Doordarshan T.V., BBC and the Press.

Dusk had set in by now and time for Mr Tata to go home and rest, although he was still bubbling with energy. “If I had run 700 miles from Bombay to Karachi, I might have felt tired, but sitting in my plane there is no fatigue — only some boredom.” And we are sure that this man “young at heart and adventurous in spirit” will still be around in 2007 AD to fly his beloved Leopard Moth to celebrate AI’s Diamond Jubilee.

Mr M. S. Raghavan, Post Master General, Gujarat Circle handing over a mail bag to Mr J. R. D. Tata at Ahmedabad airport.

Photograph taken two days before his historic re-enactment flight.
MEMORABLE FLIGHT COVERS

On October 15, 1932, the postal authorities of India released a postal stamp and first day cover to celebrate 50 golden years of Indian Civil Aviation. The stamp bears a replica of the Puss Moth flown on the inauguration of the first airmail service on October 15, 1932 with Mr. Tata holding a mailbag in the foreground.

Your first day cover has colour illustrations of a Puss Moth, an Indian Airlines' Airbus and an AI-India Boeing 747.

TOASTMASTERS CLUB OF AIR-INDIA LAURELS MR TATA

TATA, the Air-India Toastmasters Club celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Civil Aviation in India with much fanfare. Spearheaded by their enthusiastic secretary Mr. Surendra S. Gupte, from our Pay & Accounts, they embarked on a fortnight-long celebration beginning from 15th to 29th of October, 1982. Well known personalities delivered talks on different subjects during the celebrations. The first day saw Mr. Ramu Pandit, Secretary, Indian Merchants' Chamber, delivering the inaugural talk on "Leadership and Personality Development".

But the grand finale was on 29th October, 1982, when Mr. J. R. D. Tata graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and the AI Toastmasters Association put up a pleasant cultural programme. The function was held at the AI auditorium and it was a hushed and enthralled audience that Mr. Tata spoke. Entering the auditorium, a standing ovation which was not only overwhelming but also sentimental, welcomed Mr. Tata, immaculately dressed in a light off-white suit, with a radiating glow on his face.

His very first sentence to the audience was "I am very touched that you wanted - and in fact insisted on wanting me to be here with you". Had it not been for the perseverance of the office bearers who do not believe in giving up easily Mr. Tata would not have been with us on that day, he confessed rather sheepishly. He was leaving for USA that same night and was also not keeping too well but he was touched and caught unawares when a handful of Toastmasters landed up at his residence that same evening and insisted he come.

Commending the Toastmasters he said "learning the art of talking and getting others to listen is very important - especially in India where people love to talk and get people to listen. That is the reason we have so many politicians". Taking the mike before Mr. Tata was our Dy. MD Mr. C. L. Sharma, an extremely eloquent speaker who enlivened his speech with a number of amusing anecdotes. One of them was about Mr. Tata when he was a young handsome bachelor marooned on a deserted island which sent the audience into ripples of laughter. There was an amused twinkle in Mr. Tata's eyes as he listened to all these make belief tales about himself. He had always known Mr. Sharma to be a "finance genius" but had not known him to be such a good speaker. Talking to all his fans, he said people were unnecessarily making a lot of noise over his "relatively simple and smooth flight". The reason for all this excitement he felt was because the "pilot was so old and the aircraft was so old". In 1932 when, at the age of 28, he had first landed on the Juhu airstrip no one had bothered too much about him — not even the Press.

Reminiscing nostalgically of those early days, when AI was just Tata Airlines with only a handful of employees, he spoke fondly of his 3rd pilot Capt. Bharuch (the 1st being Mr. Neville Vincent, and the 2nd himself) who always insisted on wearing riding boots. As to why he had done this flight he repeated what he had already said a number of times before. It was his way of thanking all those who had helped him make this airline the beloved airline that it is.

On behalf of the Toastmasters, Mr. C. L. Sharma presented him with a commemorative memento which contained replicas of aircraft beginning with the Puss Moth to the wider bodied Jumbo engraved on both sides.

It had been a very pleasant evening and a pleasure listening to the great old man.
दिल्ली में प्रथम हिंदी कार्यालय

नगर विभाग मंत्रीलय के उपक्रमों की बैठक

एम्ब-एड़या के समाचार में 22 अक्टूबर, 1982 को आया 6.00 बजे भारतीय अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विभाग के चेयर्मैन और मंत्री के समाचार में नगर विभाग मंत्रीलय के अधीक्षक जरिया सिंह और उपक्रमों की बैठक के लिए आया। उन्होंने विभाग की कार्यों का परीक्षण किया और उपक्रमों की बैठक के लिए आया।

मद्रास में प्रथम हिंदी कार्यालय

एम्ब-एड़या के समाचार में 22 अक्टूबर, 1982 को आया 6.00 बजे भारतीय अन्तरराष्ट्रीय विभाग के चेयर्मैन और मंत्री के समाचार में नगर विभाग मंत्रीलय के अधीक्षक जरिया सिंह और उपक्रमों की बैठक के लिए आया। उन्होंने विभाग की कार्यों का परीक्षण किया और उपक्रमों की बैठक के लिए आया।

उपक्रमों की बैठक के लिए एम्ब-एड़या के समाचार में 22 अक्टूबर, 1982 को आया 6.00 बजे भारतीय अन्तरराष्ट्रीय विभाग के चेयर्मैन और मंत्री के समाचार में नगर विभाग मंत्रीलय के अधीक्षक जरिया सिंह और उपक्रमों की बैठक के लिए आया। उन्होंने विभाग की कार्यों का परीक्षण किया और उपक्रमों की बैठक के लिए आया।
समन्वयत्व कार्यक्रम

संक्षेपत: कार्यक्रमः एक सफल प्रयास

कार्यक्रम के उपक्रम का पल्लव करने के लिए उ, अ, तथा द के प्रति महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहेंगे। ये निर्देश दिवा, भी निर्देशित, भी निर्देश दिवा, भी निर्देशित, भी निर्देश दिवा, भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहेंगे।

एयर-इयज़, दियेडा एयर-इयज़ तथा भारतीय हवाई निर्माण ट्रेड ने मिल कर अपने कार्यक्रम के लिए बयान किया। यह कार्यक्रम तथा।

II अबूदुर द्वारा 15 अबूदुर, 1982 तक सातारकुट दिवा, एयर-इयज़ राजकीय अभियान में चला गया।

इस कार्यक्रम में तीनों उपक्रम के 24 अभियानों के अंतर्गत कार्यक्रम रहे।

साधारण निर्देशक भी में ज्ञात हुए इस कार्यक्रम के स्पष्ट संपीडक थे।

III संदर्भ, कार्यक्रम का आयोजन दो रुपये नहीं करने के लिए यह भी कृपया करें।

IV अबूदुर के अधीन कार्यक्रम का आयोजन इस संदर्भ में हुआ।

V अबूदुर के अधीन कार्यक्रम का आयोजन इस संदर्भ में हुआ।

कार्यक्रम के उपक्रम का पल्लव करने के लिए हुए इसका प्रति महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहेंगे।

VI अबूदुर के अधीन कार्यक्रम का आयोजन इस संदर्भ में हुआ।

कार्यक्रम के उपक्रम का पल्लव करने के लिए हुए इसका प्रति महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहेंगे।

समन्वयत्व कार्यक्रमः एक सफल प्रयास