

# Magic Carpet

VOL 24 NO. 4

APRIL 1980



## Mr RAGHU RAJ

AIR-INDIA'S NEW CHAIRMAN AND MD

**M**R RAGHU RAJ is Air-India's new Chairman and Managing Director. Mr Raghu Raj brings to his post wide and varied experience in banking and management. Having started his career in the National City Bank of New York, London, in 1937, he has since been associated with various banks in India and has had a distinguished record of success over the years.

In 1963, he joined the Union Bank of India as its Dy General Manager and 12 years later became its Chairman and Managing Director. In 1976, he was appointed the Chairman and Managing Director of the re-structured Industrial Development Bank of India, and retired a year later.

In July 1978, Mr Raghu Raj was invited to become Chairman of Sylvania & Laxman Ltd by the leading financial institutions, IFCI, IDBI and ICICI, which were concerned at the poor financial state of this company. Mr Raghu Raj was responsible for putting the company back on its feet, which has since registered enormous growth in sales and profits.

Mr Raghu Raj has been Vice-Chairman of the Northern India Chamber of Commerce and Industries, a member of the Board of Trade, Government of India, and Director of the Agricultural Finance Corporation of India.

In 1958, Mr Raghu Raj was invited by the West German Government to study the role played by medium and small banks in the development of the West German economy after the Second World War.

## New Appointments

Air-India recently announced a number of fresh appointments. Mr H.M. Kaul, Deputy Commercial Director, took over as Regional Director-USA and Canada, from Mr Peter Mahta who retired on March 31. Mr H.K. Malik, Commercial Manager-Cargo, has taken over as Deputy

Commercial Director in Bombay.

The Managing Director of Hotel Corporation of India, Mr Narpatsingh, has been appointed Regional Director-Australasia and South East Asia with headquarters in Sydney. Mr M. Barretto, who served as Regional Manager in Sydney, will take over as

the new Managing Director of HCI.

Mr S.K. Verma, Regional Manager, Africa based in Nairobi retires on May 31 and will be succeeded by Mr K.L. Ramchander, Deputy Director, Inflight Service as Regional Director. Mr R.K. Thadani, Commercial Manager-Sales will take over the Inflight Service

Department.

Three officers have also been promoted. Mr A.C. Mahajan to Regional Director-Continental Europe based in Geneva; Mr J.P. de Andrade to Deputy Director, International Relations; and Mr S.K. Dutta to Deputy Director, Planning. □



## TENTH BOEING ARRIVES

**A**IR-INDIA'S latest Boeing 747 'Harsha Vardhana' VT-EGC arrived in Bombay at 0415 hrs on April 6, 1980.

The aircraft left Seattle at 1400 hrs (LT) on April 4 and flew direct to London: Capt D. Bose, Director of Operations was in command on the first leg of the flight. From London to Bombay Capt S.F. Pedder, Operations Manager, Western Division; was in command.

With the addition of the new 747, Air-India now has a fleet of ten Boeing 747s and nine Boeing 707s. □



# NETWORK NEWS



## AIR-INDIA DISPLAY

Nari Obra, District Sales Manager, Birmingham, together with Sue Sassan of our Birmingham Office on the Air-India stand at a recent exhibition in his area entitled 'Buyer - Seller Meet' at which many Indian organisations and manufacturers exhibited.



## RAFFLE AT NAIROBI

At a Safari Raffle organised by the Rotary Club of Nairobi North, Air-India presented two return tickets as first prize on its Nairobi-Delhi-Nairobi sector. The tickets were presented by Mr S.K. Verma, RM-Africa to Kenya's Attorney General Mr Charles Njonjo. Photograph shows Mr Verma making the presentation while Mr R. Tewari, our Manager and Mr E. Lawerson, Chairman of the Club, look on.

## Usha in Jakarta



Ms Usha Krishnamurthy, our staff at Delhi airport was recently invited to Indonesia to perform a dance recital at the Indonesia Sheraton, Jakarta. Over 600 people were present at the function. She was later invited by several different organisations for dance performances.

The cultural shows were arranged in Jakarta by Air-India in collaboration with the Indian Association in their series of programmes to promote India as a cultural destination. Needless to say, Air-India gained tremendous publicity, specially when the programmes were televised in Jakarta by the Televisi Republik Indonesia. A newsletter published in Jakarta writes: "Ms Usha Krishnamurthy of Air-India danced her way into our hearts with a fine performance of Bharatnatyam. The way she explained the 'mudras' prior to each number made it easier for the audience to comprehend the intricacies of the traditional dance."

## Monrovia Office Inaugurated



Picture shows from left to right Mr N. Radhakrishnan Iyer, D.S.M., Monrovia; Mr G.S. Gill, President of the Indian Association in Monrovia; Mr T.K. Vasudevan, Manager-Ghana & E. West Africa; Swamy Krishnanand Saraswati, Hindu monk in West Africa; Mr John Sherman, Minister of Commerce, Industries & Transportation; Mr Jagat S. Mehta, Special Envoy of the Govt. of India; Mr P.A. Nazareth, Indian High Commissioner in Ghana and Ambassador to Liberia.

**A**IR-INDIA'S Monrovia offline sales office was formally inaugurated by Mr John Sherman, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Transportation, recently.

The former Indian Secretary, Mr Jagat S. Mehta, was present in Liberia as the Special Envoy of the Government of India along with the Indian High Commissioner in Ghana, Mr P.A. Nazareth. The business community of Liberia was very well represented. Among the special invitees was Swami Krishnanand Saraswathi, one of the most popular Hindu preachers in West Africa.

The inaugural ceremony was performed in the traditional Indian way by Minister Sherman who lit a brass

lamp after Swami Krishnanand Saraswathi recited a few Sanskrit chants. After a short welcome speech by Mr P.A. Nazareth, Mr Sherman inaugurated the Air-India office and recalled a very pleasant flight he had had recently from London to New Delhi. He hoped that the opening of the office would be followed by Air-India flights to Monrovia. He also visualises a bright future for economic and commercial cooperation between India and Liberia, the oldest Republic in Africa.

To conclude the function Mr T.K. Vasudevan, our D.S.M. in Monrovia, presented a silver tray to the Minister. The entire function was given wide publicity and coverage by the local television, radio and press.



## Women in the Fore

**M**R B.L. PARASHARA, Manager-Indonesia, was present at Halim International Airport, Jakarta, to see off the Hon'ble Mdm. L. Soetanto, Minister for Women Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia who led a delegation of 20 women to the Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women held in New Delhi recently. Photograph shows the delegation at the airport. Honorable Minister Mdm. Soetanto is seen in the centre wearing a plain grey jacket. Mr H.R. Sitanggang, Dist. Sales Manager is on extreme right, while Mr Parashara is seen standing behind on extreme left.



# Recreating History-for television



Trevor Howard and Saeed Jaffrey happily flank hostess Persis Chhappai at London Airport.



Celia Johnson at our aircraft entrance with hostess Vivela Abreo.

On a station platform 35 years ago Trevor Howard removed a smut from Celia Johnson's eye and began one of the best-known love stories in the British cinema, "Brief Encounter". Ms Johnson is the sister-in-law of the late Nevill Vintcent, one of the pioneers of commercial aviation in India.

During the intervening years the paths of the two stars have never crossed. They recently flew from London to Bombay on Air-India to take part in a beautiful love story, Paul Scott's "Staying On", which is being filmed by Granada Television.

The book treats the narrow lives of Col "Tusker" Smalley and his wife, Lucy, who have stayed on in a small Indian hill station after the end of the Raj, with such warmth and accurate detail that the result is both generous comedy and an elegy for a vanished empire. Their undemonstrative love is made touching and real.

What attracted Irene Shubik, the producer, to the book as television material was the richness of its characterisation. Not only the Smalleys but all the Indians with whom they come in contact are vividly drawn, people like the monumentally fat Ms Bhoolaboy, hotel proprietress and her henpecked fourth husband, who nevertheless contrives to lead a sly life of his own.

Irene Shubik flew out to India recently on a reconnaissance trip, considering both locations and casting. She was helped by the fact that both "Staying On" and "The Raj

Quartet", Paul Scott's major work, are known and appreciated in India.

The book itself is set in a very small hill station, but is to be filmed in Simla, where the Viceroy and his staff used to withdraw in the hot season. It retains today the club and hotel buildings necessary to the story.

Casting was more difficult. Two parts had been assigned to actors working in British television, Sayeed Jaffrey and Zia Mohyeddin.

Irene Shubik, sitting in her office in Bombay, found the interviews hard. To the producer's extreme relief Ms Pearl Padamasec, an actress, built on lines ample enough to play Ms Bhoolaboy, arrived with her own English-speaking theatre group, and most of the supporting parts were soon filled.

Trevor Howard, now 63, who was born and brought up in Ceylon, looks forward to seven weeks in India as the choleric, hard drinking Col Smalley. "My very first memory", he told me, "is of an elephant parade in Kandy". Celia Johnson, 71, wants to find some fellow bridge players and hopes she can get the World Service on her radio.

If the 90-minute version of "Staying On" proves successful, Granada Television has plans to film the entire "Raj Quartet" of Paul Scott in 14 episodes. Scripting is already well advanced, which suggests they have confidence in "Staying On".

## Goodbye Girl

Wouldn't 1980 be a great year to take one giant step forward for womankind and get rid of "the girl"?

Your Manager says:

"If I'm not here just leave it with 'the girl'."

The Stores man says, "Drop off your bid with the girl".

An executive says:

"My girl will get back to your girl."

What girl?

Do they mean

Miss Rose?

Do they mean

Ms Sita?

Do they mean

Mrs Phansalkar?

Do they mean

Guli Gurshiani?

"The girl"

is certainly a woman when she's out of her teens.

Like you,

she has a name

Use it.

## TRAVELS WITH MS KAYE



Ms Kaye autographing books at the Centaur Hotel's bookshop. Looking on is Ms A. Marwah, Asst Manager, Guest Relations.

OVER the years a number of books have been published on the days of the British Raj, and the nostalgia continues. From Kipling downwards, a number of authors, including Foster, Scott and Jhabvala have written on the

days when the British ruled India. But, perhaps, the best-selling novel on the subject to hit the stands is M.M. Kaye's 'The Far Pavilions' and her recent publication, 'Shadow of the Moon'. She is presently visiting this country to promote a tour, jointly arranged by Air-India, Penguin Books and a travel agency, to publicise her book and to attract tourists to India. While in Bombay, Ms Kaye stayed at the Centaur Hotel and, when interviewed, complimented Air-India for its excellent service both on ground and in the air.

Molly Kaye has had the rare distinction of staying on in India for 10 years, touring the country and studying its traditions, till 1947, when she returned to England. In fact, "the big events in my life happened in India — I was born here, married here and my two daughters were born here," she says reminiscently. Experiences

of those years are still vivid in her mind and it is with complete lucidity that she is able to put them down on paper and convert her memoirs into best-selling novels (her 'Far Pavilions' sold 400,000 copies in hard cover).

During interviews in India, she was visibly excited when she talked of the battles, pageantry and decadence of the days of the maharajahs and their white rulers. There is unmistakable nostalgia and Ms Kaye tells it with a sensitive eye for colour.

She has joined hands with Air-India to promote 'The Far Pavilions' tours and is confident that the publicity she and her books have been able to generate will help Air-India in bringing large number of groups who, like her, have a nostalgia for India.

## NAME-THE-MAG CONTEST

# Rs 20000 Enter it Now

Air-India is looking for a title for its new inflight magazine to be published towards the end of the year. Accordingly, a competition is being held whereby all staff and those outside the Corporation are invited to submit title suggestions with the proposer of the one eventually chosen by a board of judges receiving a prize of Rs 2,000. In the event of more than one person coming up with the same title, a draw will be held to decide the eventual winner.

Entries may be either an English or Hindi name, on the magazine itself both languages will be used, but should be accompanied by a brief description of what the name means and why it has been chosen. There is no restriction on the theme but basically the title should reflect an image of Air-India in its role as a worldwide carrier.

Air-India's inflight magazine will be a deluxe publication distributed free to all passengers thus adding an extra dimension to our inflight service.

Please send your entries direct to Editor, Magic Carpet, Public Relations, Air-India Building, Nariman Point, Bombay — 400 021 before June 10, 1980.



# BAGGAGE TRACING SIMPLIFIED

by  
S.V.N. Ranga Rao

The March issue of 'Magic Carpet' carried a brief newsitem on BAGTRAC. We now have additional information for our readers:

**T**HE handling of baggage for more than 700 Million passengers annually is a major task, particularly for interline transportation and, as such, is a very important feature of passenger service for world airlines.

Whilst standard baggage handling procedures exist, it is conservatively estimated that world airlines spend more than US \$ 150 million a year in meeting passenger claims for lost and mishandled baggage.

During 1979, Rs. 21.65 lakhs was paid by Air-India as compensation to passengers on account of lost and mishandled baggage.

To expedite, economise and improve the effectiveness of the baggage tracing function, Air-India will join the IATA/SITA Worldwide Online and Interline Computerised Baggage

Tracing System known as 'BAGTRAC'.

This system has already been introduced by British Airways and SAS. We introduced this system along with Qantas early this month, and several other airlines will cut-over to the system shortly.

All IATA and non-IATA carriers, all airport handling agents acting on behalf of air carriers, which participate in the Airline Communications Networks, (SITA and ARINC) may participate in the system, provided they are parties to the IATA Multilateral Agreement for the IATA/SITA Computerised Baggage Tracing System.

The system has leads to stations' primary tracing (LL) offices and Central lost & found offices (LZ) of all subscribing carriers. Access to the system (inputs) and responses from the system (outputs) will be formatted by teletype messages via airline communications networks directly from/to each station of each participating carrier. A CRT interface with the system will be available by October 1980.

IATA/SITA have published a 'Computerised Baggage Tracing Manual' and detailed instructions have

been issued to all our stations. Special training programmes have been conducted for staff at Indian stations.

To facilitate the work of staff in preparing the messages, new property irregularity report (PIR) formats and on-hand baggage (OHB) tags have been devised by Traffic Services and sent to stations which incorporate the pre-printed message formats.

The main benefits of the system can be summarised as follows:

- a) System automatically searches unclaimed bags held by all participating carriers, whether or not interline travel is involved, at no additional cost.
- b) Service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- c) Reduction in lost baggage claims and "out of pocket" passenger expenses, through a more efficient baggage tracing system.
- d) Improved customer service, faster return of mishandled bags to passenger.
- e) Reduction in teletype traffic, less paper work.
- f) Immediate response from system.
- g) Management Information System (MIS). A monthly statistics and match report is generated for each participating carrier and airport handling agent. The reports contain data for previous months activity at no additional cost.

With Air-India's participation in the system, there will be a substantial improvement in baggage tracing functions and passenger service.

## 50 Flights Veteran

**I**N 1979, Mr T. Parameshwar (affectionately known as 'Param'), who is the Publisher and Managing Director of the Reader's Digest, completed a significant landmark in his international travel when he flew from London to Bombay on the route of the Magic Carpet. This was his 50th flight on Air-India during his 32 years of international travel.

Soft-spoken and amiable, 'Param' recalled with a tinge of nostalgia the Air-India express service by Super-Constellation from London to Bombay via Cairo. "Those were the fascinating days in travelling experience when earlier it took almost three days to reach Bombay from London."

A veteran first-class traveller on Air-India, 62-year-old 'Param' was born in Kerala. He came to Bombay in 1936 and joined J. Walter Thompson to launch his career in the advertising field. From 1942 to 1945, he was stationed in Simla to handle war-time publicity for the Government of India as an executive of the Associated Advertising Agencies, a consortium specially formed to handle Government publicity at that time.

'Param' went to London in 1946 to launch a Fleet Street office for Indian newspapers who had representation in the U.K. Prior to returning to India in 1952, 'Param' was a regular feature on this blue-riband route of Air-India.

On his return to India he was asked to open a Reader's Digest office in Bombay. For the first 15



T. Parameshwar

months at the job, 'Param' recalls, "My office was my home, and my only equipment a typewriter, a telephone and a filing cabinet (which was given pride of place in the dining room). Being the only employee, I typed all the correspondence myself and was out on the road most of the day, cajoling companies to buy advertising space, inspecting the news-stands, and supervising subscription promotion." As Reader's Digest in India grew from strength to strength, so did 'Param's' frequency of travel on Air-India.

Commenting on the present state of travelling by air, 'Param' said that he is a staunch supporter of more and more bullet services with the introduction of modern faster jets.

Complimenting 'Param' on his 50th flight, Mr T.K.P. Pillai, our Manager for Western India, said: "It is because of the continued patronage and support of veteran travellers like you that we have been able to build up our image."

R.K. Sattawalla



## GIFT FOR CHILDREN OF PERTH

A large collection of children's books were presented by Air-India to the City Of Perth library.

Photograph shows Mr W.A. Eastman, Sales Manager-Western Australia presenting the books to Ms Mollie Jones, City Librarian in Perth recently.

In gratitude Ms Jones wrote to Air-India: "I write to express my appreciation of your presentation to Perth City Libraries the collection of children's books. As you have seen from the response of the girls present at the time, children's books have a universal appeal no matter what the origin of the child or the book. Good children's books speak a universal language. It is of particular value to a library to have books about a country which are produced in that country. This collection of books will aid the children of Perth to better understand the cultural background of the children of India".

## Package Tours to India

A series of attractive package deals to woo Gulf holidaymakers to visit India has been unwrapped in Abu Dhabi recently.

Under a programme entitled "There is only one India", Air-India began selling ten-day holiday tours to south and north India including Kashmir and seven-day jaunts to Bombay, Delhi or Goa. The programme was projected at a large gathering of dignitaries at a special presentation ceremony at the India Social Centre. The programme was followed by a reception and a film show.

In an interview, Air-India's Manager-Abu Dhabi, Mr M.N. Mehra told pressmen that India has always been a popular tourist destination not only for the Arab people but also for expatriates in the emirates. He claimed that the proposed holiday tours have been chalked out with an eye on the balance sheet and aimed to suit the purses of people living here. An important feature of this tour is that the visitors would be given a car for travelling round the city on all seven-days of their stay.

Strange Encounters with the Greatest: Muhammad Ali knocks Air-India Flight Purser Jagan Mohan, when he flew down the famed boxer to Madras.







ARUNA KETKAR of Reservations trudges round Rome and discovers romance.

**M**Y suggestion that I tour Rome alone had been met by stony silence by a towering titan and seconds later, by various objections. I was dubbed 'crazy' and 'strange'. So it was not altogether without self-doubt that I found myself at Fiumicino airport waiting impatiently in a long queue in the Immigration Lounge. After what seemed an eternity, the Immigration Officer summoned me and I placed my passport before him. "Transit?" he questioned I beamed and replied, "Si" To which he replied, "Ah, transit lounge upstairs"; his only repertoire of the Queen's English; as I discovered. "Beg your pardon?" I stammered. He repeated his sentence a bit severely. I was at a loss for words and frantically tried to convey the fact that I was a tourist wishing to visit the city and not remain in the transit lounge. Eventually our ground staff managed to settle the dispute but not before I had gesticulated wildly and the Immigration Officer remonstrated angrily. So much for my self-sufficiency!

I staggered to my hotel where the lobby manager coolly informed me that although there was a reservation in my name, a room was not available immediately. I groaned. Here I was in beautiful Rome with two hours of wasted time. After another two hours, I took charge of a room and after freshening up, left for a tour of the city, albeit, groggily.

Five minutes of Rome was enough to drive the fatigue and sleep away. I was excited. Rome has not been called the Eternal City for nothing. Its beauty is enthralling and at times awe-inspiring and yet at other times fragile.

Rome is Rome. It seems superfluous to talk about Rome in general; its fascinating, its history and countless traditions. Rome speaks for herself and there is nothing to be added to the impressions of those who walk along her streets, who get acquainted with her long history, who love her sunsets and recognise the imprint of art in every corner. Rome is an experience. The entire city is almost lazily sprinkled with masterpieces of art and one can easily visualise the reign of Julius Caesar; the pomp and the glory; the pride of the Romans reflected in the Gothic architecture and the plethora of fountains that dot the city. The Monument to Victor Emmanuel II; the Capitol; the Arch of Titus and the Roman Forum are all excellent examples of the grandeur of Rome and the skills of their artisans.

The Colosseum is undoubtedly the best-known monument of ancient Rome. The greatest gladiatorial shows of antiquity were held in the amphitheatre. The guide informed me that this was the entertainment in days bygone and the gory games drew large crowds from the city of Rome as well as from neighbouring towns. The people watched organised fights between slaves pitted against each other and also between men and animals. The underground tunnels through which men and beasts were brought into the arena can still be seen.

Coming to the Trevi Fountain. It ranks as one of the most beautiful fountains in the world — and so it is. Our guide pointed out that according to tradition all those who throw coins over their left shoulder, (since most people are right handed) into the waters, will come back to Rome with their lover. (I'm waiting — not for a lover — but to return to Rome).

At the St Peter's Basilica, I was speechless. It was so unbelievable. The Piazza San Pietro surrounds the vast colonnade in the form of an ellipse, the two arms of which diverge near the facade giving it a broader perspective. In the centre of the square stands an Egyptian Obelisk, crowned with a cross, and besides this are two fountains. In the church the one predominant feeling is one of majesty and grandeur. In the midst of all those massive statues with their staccato smiles and serene looks I felt very mortal and small. The utter calm that prevailed inside the church was almost tangible. The beautiful work of Michaelangelo — the Pieta — was like the climax of the tour. It depicts the bereaved Madonna with a sad, beautiful face and on her lap lies the inert, abandoned body of her son. The Altar of St Peter's chair and the Bronze Canopy both by Bernini are impressive.

Other attractions of Rome include the Arch of Constantine, the Basilica of St Paul, the Barberini Square, and of course, the Pantheon. The fountains, the innumerable domes of baroque churches in the sun, the cobbled streets merging with the newer, concrete ones,

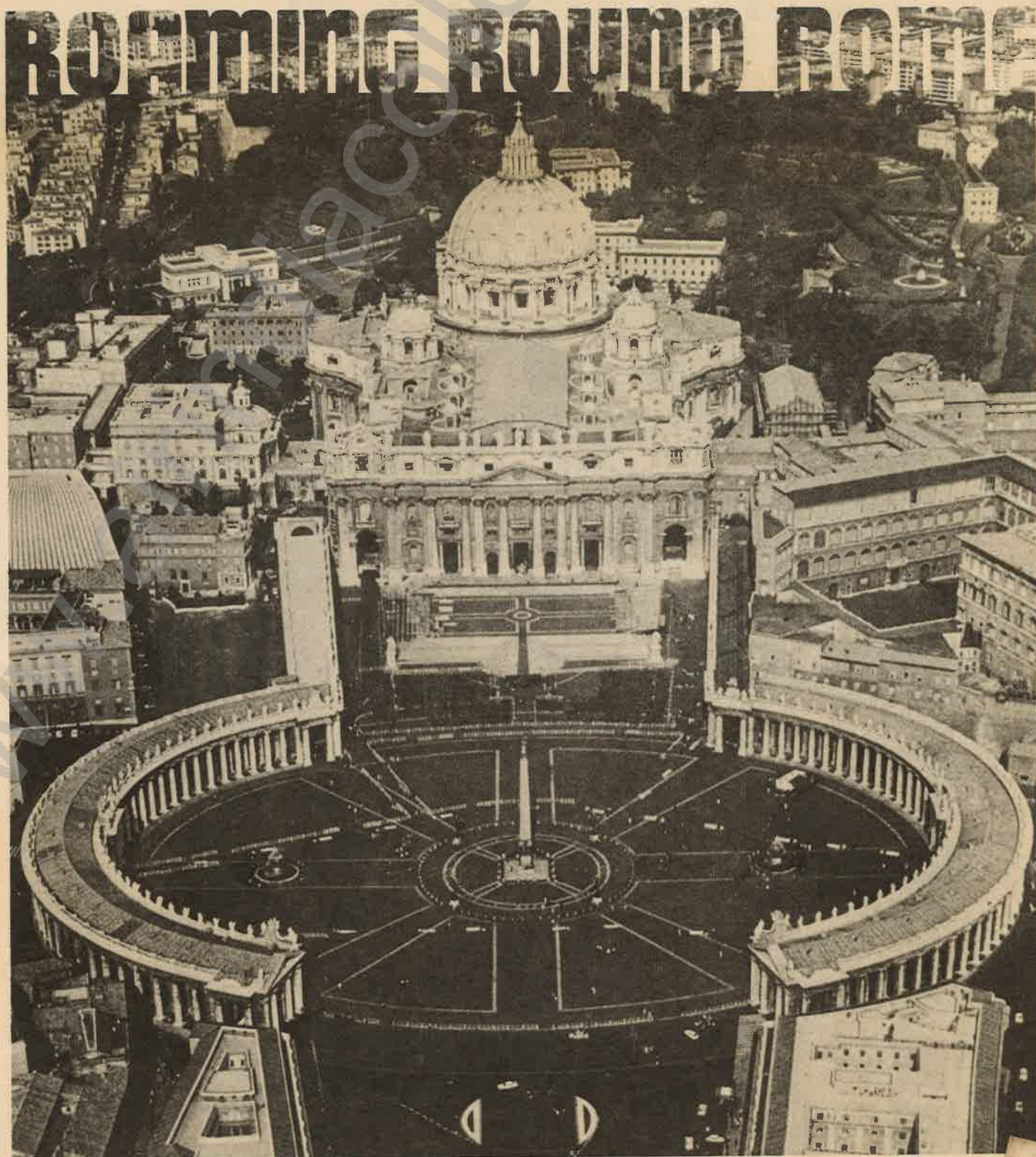


Basilica di Porta Maggiore, carved between the 1st and 4th centuries A.D., still perfectly preserved.

the weathered marble, the majestic palazzi and the friendly people, all charmed me. However, I had one depressing thought. Here, in this city of masterpieces the advent of modernisation had left its stains on the faces of beauty. The once stark-white pure marble has turned an unhealthy yellow; the little red and green cars zipping by remind you that Julius Caesar has ceased to be; that you will no longer see the chariot races of old or feel the intense and pulsating excitement of the contests, nor hear the roars of the

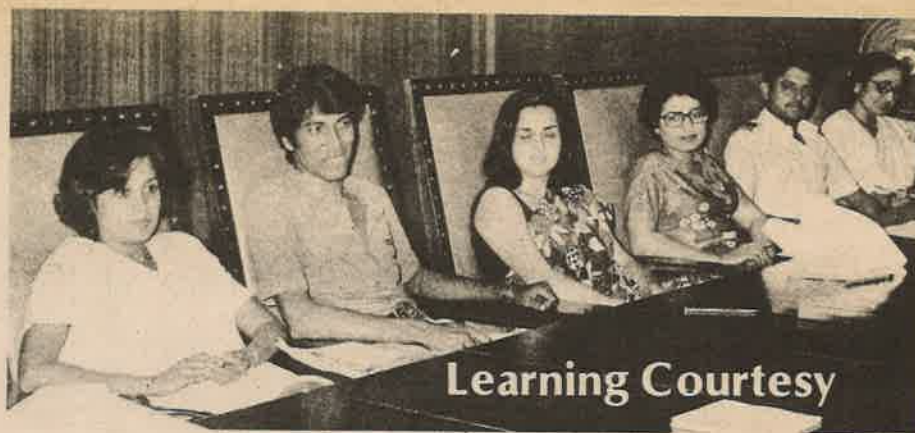
lions and the crowds in the Colosseum. Nostalgia! Only to be broken by a tap on my shoulder. A handsome Italian, obviously mistaking me for a Mexican, offers me a flower and mumbles, "A flower for the beautiful, Senorita." He bowed and walked away, leaving me breathless.

Rome is a city of contrasts; the coffee undrinkable; the language twists tongues, the Italians flirtatious, the noise unbearable, the vendors cheats, the architecture fantastic and the weather lovely. □



The vast colonnaded circle that spreads before St Peter's was designed and built by Bernini.





## Learning Courtesy

A 'courtesy course' was conducted by Dr S.K. Parukh from Beam Services for the benefit of Booking Office (Bombay) staff.

Various demonstrations, role plays and discussions were included much to the interest of the 'students'. There will be several of the same kind to follow.

The series were arranged by Mr T.K.P. Pillai, Manager-Western India.



## Friendly Match

A friendly cricket match was recently played in Madras between the Air-India Madras cricket team and the Travel Agents' Combined XI team.

The Agents' team was captained by S. Modi and the Air-India team by C.G. Ramani, District Sales Manager. The Festival match was played on a 30

overs basis. The photograph shows the two teams on the Pachiyappa College ground, Madras.

## ON THE MOVE...UP

The following staff have been promoted:

### CIVIL WORKS & PROPERTIES DEPARTMENT:

Mr G.V. Karnik as Establishment Officer.

### ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

Mr K. Prabhakaran as Dy Manager-Engineering Training Division; Messrs B.K. Darukhanawala and Mr A. D'Souza as Dy Engineering Managers; Messrs G.V. Deshpande and Mr M.V. Sardesai as Asst Engineering Managers; Mr P.K. Ramachandran as Establishment Officer; Mr H.L. Bhardwaj (Delhi) as Asst Administrative Officer; and Messrs J.K. Lilaoonwala, D.K. Raikar and P.L. Sharma as Asst Superintendents.

### INFLIGHT SERVICE DEPARTMENT:

Mr G.J. Sonawane (Dubai) as Station Superintendent; Mr J.S. Reuben as Asst Station Superintendent; Mr K.S. Hegde as Asst Crew Scheduling Officer; and Messrs R. Mookerjee, S. M. Panthaki, R.D. Arethna, S.A. Mendonca, P.M. Batliwalla, A.B. Thakur, P.M. Ayappa, S.K. Wagh, M.S. Monie, Mohammed Yusuf, I. Paulson and D.H. Mistry as Inflight Supervisors.

### MANAGEMENT SERVICES:

Messrs A.K. Rastogi and T. Rammohan as Senior Programmers.

### OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT:

Mr S.M. Halbe as Sr Dy Manager-Crew Scheduling; Mr A. Hariharan as Dy Manager-Crew Scheduling; and Messrs M.A. Khader and N.A. Varma as Dy Managers-Flight Despatch.

### PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT:

Mr R.B.S. Kunde as Asst Personnel Officer.



## I WANT TO BE A PILOT

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Bombay Flying Club held recently in Bombay, Nivedita, daughter of Flight Engineer P.N. Phadnis won the prize for her essay 'I want to be a pilot'. Mr J.R.D. Tata, who was the Chief Guest at the Celebrations, gave the prize to Nivedita. The contest was sponsored by the Ninety-Nine Incorporated.

## Gold Medalist Kunder

D.K. Kunder from the Civil Works and Properties Department stood first in Tourism and Travel Management from the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Pranal Devkaran Nanjee College of Communication and Management. He was awarded the Kulapati's Gold Medal, and was given a cash prize when he was declared the best student of the College. He was also the top scorer in the Diploma Examination.

D.K. Kunder while serving in Air-India is simultaneously doing his second L.L.B.



Mr L. Suresh of Commercial Department, son of Mr R. Laxmanan, Manager-Stores, has acquired the M.A. degree with Economics from the Bombay University in June 1978. He is now doing his Ph.D. in Air Transport Economics under the guidance of Dr Nachane of Bombay University.



Ms Vijai Kumar giving away a prize to Surendra Gupte.

## Evening of Oratory

ONCE again this year the Toastmasters' Club Speech Contest was held recently when 16 speakers participated in 'platform pyrotechniques'. The venue: Flight Safety Mock-up. The Presiding officer: Group Captain J.S. Jeyasingh.

The first prize went to Surendra S. Gupte of Finance and Accounts Department who was declared the Best Speaker of the evening. He spoke on 'The True Meaning of Education'. Ms Mehta of Personnel, who won the second prize, regaled the audience with her humorous talk 'Confirmed Views of a Bachelor on Marriage'. 'How to Treat your Boss' was the subject of Mr Bannerji's talk. He works in the Stores

and Purchase Department. The judges awarded him the third prize.

Mr P.V. Gole, DP&IR, who was the Chief Guest of the evening addressed the audience and reminisced of the days when he was a junior and narrated his experiences with his boss. Ms Vijai Kumar, wife of Dr Kumar, Chief Medical Officer, distributed the prizes while Mr R.B. Bhatia, Secretary of the Club conducted the proceedings. Mr Manohar Singh proposed a vote of thanks. The judges of the Contest were Mr Gole, Mr D.S. Shenai, Dy Director of Engineering, Ms Vijai Kumar and Mr K.S. Mhatre, Dy Public Relations Manager.





## Cargo Agents at TC

Nine IATA cargo agents from Hong Kong recently attended a special five-day course at Air-India's Training College at Santa Cruz to familiarize themselves with our cargo handling procedures and facilities at Bombay Airport.

Photograph shows the cargo agents with Capt V. Nair of the Training College (extreme left) and David Fung our cargo Supervisor, Hong Kong (extreme right).



D. B. Kshatri



Dharam Pal

## Honest Staff Lauded

Mr D.B. Kshatri, Driver in the Transport Division of the Ground Support Department, Santa Cruz, while operating a Passenger Tender, found in his coach a National Panasonic 3 Band Radio Cassette Recorder. Kshatri made enquiries with the passengers and handed over the recorder to the authority concerned. Lauding his honesty, Mr K.K. Gadgil, Sr Dy Controller-Ground Handling wrote: "Please accept my sincere congratulations for the honesty and integrity shown by you. This act of yours has brought a good name to our organisation."

On another occasion, Cleaner Dharam Pal from the Inflight Service Department, New Delhi, found an expensive camera on one of the Air-India aircraft. He promptly handed over the camera to the supervisor on duty at Delhi airport. Mr N.A. Turner, Manager-Inflight Service placed on record the honesty and devotion of Dharam Pal and wrote a note to him praising his "sense of duty and honesty" and congratulated him for his integrity.

## OBITUARIES

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C.G. Vidyasagar  
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By introducing the new form, the tedium of giving detailed account for various allowances to different categories of crew will not only be reduced but the total amount payable will be computed and they would have to sign only which will be sent to the Central Accounts Office. The account heads would be



# RETIREMENTS



Mr D.R. Pinto, Chargehand, PPO Division, who retired on September 30, 1979, receiving a bouquet from Mr S.R. Shenai, Dy Director of Engineering.



A farewell garland for Mr V.Y. Deshmukh, Vigilance Manager.



Mr K.K. Gadgil, Dy Director-Ground Services, garlanding Mr D.S. Wankore, Driver, who retired after 10 years service.



Mr C.C. Vashi, Driver, receiving a farewell gift from Mr K.K. Gadgil, Dy Director-Ground Services, who retired after 24 years service.



Mr Y.H. Gunja, Engineering Manager, presenting a parting gift to Mr S.E. Killekar, Sr Technical Officer.



Mr R.G. Sule, Personnel Officer, who retired recently after more than 24 years service, being presented a bouquet by Mr P.V. Gole, Director of Personnel & Industrial Relations.



Mr M.L. Sharma, Head Cleaner, and Mr Kriahna Mangat, Sweeper, both in the Inflight Service Department at New Delhi, retired recently after 25 years and 31 years service respectively.



Mr R.R. Pandit, Asst Planning Manager, who retired recently after over 32 years service, receiving a bouquet of flowers from Ms L.N. Acharya of Planning.



Mr A. Miranda, Sr Welder, receiving a wall clock from Mr K.F. Patel, Dy Engineering Manager.



Mr M.R. Karkhanis, Personnel Officer, retired recently after over 32 years service. Mr P.V. Gole makes a presentation.



Mr A.J. D'Souza, Dy Engineering Manager, bidding farewell to Mr J.S. Fernandes, Chargehand, Component Overhaul Division; who retired after 31 years service.



# RETIREMENTS



Mr B.G. Sawant, Senior Fire Officer, with Mr S. Ramamurthi, Chief Vigilance & Security Manager.



Mr R.S. Deshpande, Sr Accounts Officer, receiving a bouquet from Mr J.N. Mogrelia, Director of Finance.



Mr S.K. Chaubal, Accountant, retired from the Corporation after completing 24 years service.



Mr, Krishnanand, Inspector 'A', being presented a farewell memento by Mr V.S. Bhagat, Dy Engineering Manager.



Mr S.B. Khambatta, Chargehand, receiving a parting gift from Mr P.P. Sequeira, Dy Engineering Manager.



Capt N.K. Mukherjee retired recently after completing 32 years service. Capt D. Bose, Director of Operations bids him farewell.



Mr Subbaih, Cleaner, with Mr Y.H. Gunja, Engineering Manager.



Mr S.B. Morena, AME-II, retired recently. Mr M.S. Balasubramaniam, Engineering Manager, presents a farewell bouquet.



Mr G.P.S. Rao, Foreman, Maintenance Division, being bid farewell by Mr S.V. Vaishampayan, Dy Engineering Manager.



Mr L.V. Nulkar, Administrative Officer, Production Planning Division, retired recently. Mr B.P. Baliga, Dy Engineering Manager, bids farewell.



Mr M.S. Balasubramaniam, garlanding Mr L.B. Taky, Head Cleaner, Piston Engine Overhaul Division.



Mr L. Fernandez, Chargehand, retired recently. Mr T.S. Srinivasan, Engineering Manager, garlands Mr Fernandez.





## Cargo Agents at TC

Nine IATA cargo agents from Hong Kong recently attended a special five-day course at Air-India's Training College at Santa Cruz to familiarize themselves with our cargo handling procedures and facilities at Bombay Airport.

Photograph shows the cargo agents with Capt V. Nair of the Training College (extreme left) and David Fung our cargo Supervisor, Hong Kong (extreme right).



D. B. Kshatri



Dharam Pal

## Honest Staff Lauded

Mr D.B. Kshatri, Driver in the Transport Division of the Ground Support Department, Santa Cruz, while operating a Passenger Tender, found in his coach a National Panasonic 3 Band Radio Cassette Recorder. Kshatri made enquiries with the passengers and handed over the recorder to the authority concerned. Lauding his honesty, Mr K.K. Gadgil, Sr Dy Controller-Ground Handling wrote: "Please accept my sincere congratulations for the honesty and integrity shown by you. This act of yours has brought a good name to our organisation."

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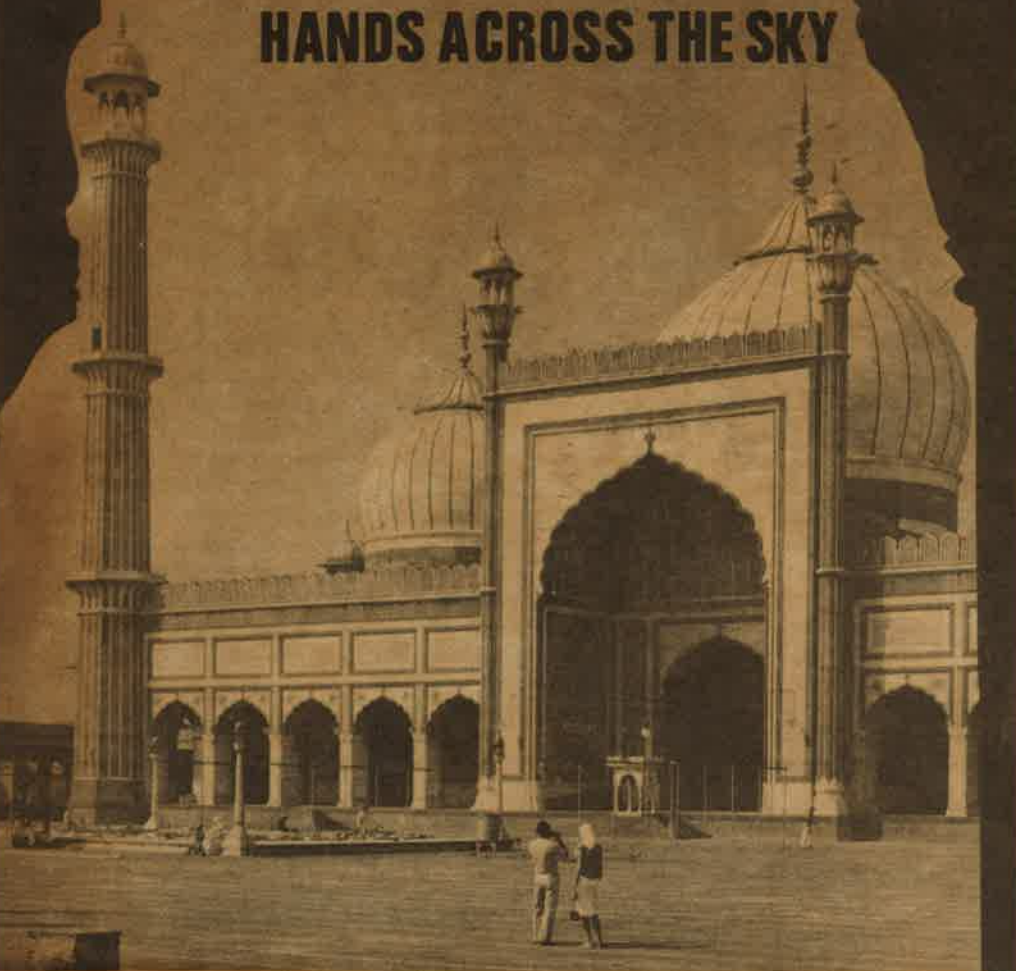
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## HANDS ACROSS THE OCEAN HANDS ACROSS THE SKY



**HAZEL CULBERT** visits legendary India on Air-India and finds it a country of contrasts as she reaches out for all that is beautiful, good and sensitive.

I had never really wanted to visit India perhaps because the newsreel image of this distant and unknown sub-continent was uppermost in my mind. However, when the opportunity arose to accompany my husband on a photographic excursion to northern India, I overcame my doubts, purchased my plane ticket and began to study the numerous brochures which promised to set before me, "a legendary land with pink palaces, preening peacocks, sunbaked forts and bazaars blossoming with bargains".

In spite of the lure of the tourist literature, I was still somewhat sceptical as I mounted the steps to board my Air-India "jet carpet" to New Delhi. But almost immediately I began to smile when I noticed a row of red arabesque arches painted above the windows adding a bright note of colour to the metallic fuselage. I was delighted to be greeted by the charming sari'd hostesses who made the long flight as comfortable as possible and who introduced me to the spicy, yet palatable flavours of Indian cuisine. Already I was in a different world.

This became even more obvious upon leaving the aircraft when a soft, warm wind touched my face bringing with it a strange, but satisfying mixture of smells — of spices, flowers, people, dust and diesel fumes. Unable to locate the source of these odours during the half hour drive in darkness from the airport to my hotel in New Delhi, I found myself wishing for day light to arrive so that I might explore the city I had been almost indifferent to only a few hours before.

Delhi is a city of contrasts, a melting pot of life styles. Its vivacity bombards the senses. Everywhere one looks, one is reminded of a mingling of past and present as motor rickshaws dart in and out lanes of limousines, girls in tight jeans stride past, others wrapped in brilliant saris of silk or synthetics and uncompromising blocks of concrete tower above the domes or crenellated walls of a nearby fortress.

New Delhi with its long, wide tree-lined avenues, vast public buildings and well laid out gardens gives a sense of space that for me, was difficult to equate with a country of over six hundred million people. One of the most interesting places to see in New Delhi is the Jantar Mantar Observatory built in 1725. Here one can climb over

enormous instruments of masonry to examine how the movements of the moon, sun and planets were measured, and it is still possible to tell the exact time of day without your watch provided the sun is shining. Another attraction is the Delhi Zoo especially as most of the visitors are Indians who, like ourselves, enjoy a day's outing. Many were as fascinated by the zoo's star performers Raja and Rani, a pair of white tigers, as I was. However, one little boy found me even more fascinating than the tigers. He caught me off-guard when he politely asked if he could take my picture and after a careful attempt to line up his camera, he clicked the button and went on his way grinning from ear to ear.

Old Delhi is what one expects it to be. Here one visits the impressive Red Fort aptly named because of its red sandstone walls completed in 1647, a magnificent example of Moghul architecture which once housed in one of its audience chambers the fabulous peacock throne now in possession of the Shah of Iran. One of the best ways to appreciate the history of this imposing fort is to return at night to view the Sound and Light show presented in English.

If you happen to be at the Red Fort at sunset and turn your back to its glowing walls to face in the opposite direction, you will marvel at the view of the Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque, whose onion shaped domes and slender minarets are silhouetted against an apricot sky. The mosque itself stands firmly on the edge of the shopping quarter of Chandani Chowk, an impossible congested area of narrow, twisting lanes where cross-legged merchants sit chewing betel nut in tiny stalls as they offer their goods of silk brocade, ornate jewellery, Eastern

### MAGIC CARPET

perfumes, or the necessities of daily life to the endless flow of faces passing by.

Having once tasted the Moghul splendours of old Delhi, I was anxious to see more. I could hardly wait for the four-hour bus ride on the flat, rather dull journey south to Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal, to end. My first view of the Taj Mahal was from an octagonal tower inside the Red Fort of Agra where Shah Jehan, the creator of the Taj who was imprisoned here by his son, died gazing at his masterpiece across the Jumna River. This most perfect monument to love is everything it is said to be and more. Having heard nothing but superlatives in reference to the Taj, I was prepared to be disappointed; it had to be overrated. And yet, as I came through the tall, somewhat gloomy entrance gate into a walled garden and there it was, this breathtaking, glistening monument of white marble in front of me, I could only gasp and then remain silent. One of the most remarkable features of the tomb is its sense of intimacy despite the fact that its central dome is only a little smaller than that of St. Peter's. It is this knowledge that makes one realize how perfectly proportioned it must be.

After viewing the Taj at different times of day in all its moods, one still leaves it with great reluctance. And yet Agra has many other architectural delights to offer. I particularly enjoyed visiting the small tomb of Itmad-ud-Daula, the grandfather of Mumtaz Mahal, the lady of the Taj. This little gem set in a pretty garden along the river with its two stories of white marble, its delicate designs in inlaid semi-precious stones, and its lacy marble screen influenced the design of the Taj.

Just when I was thinking that if there were anything else to see, it would surely be anti climatic, I was taken to the deserted red sandstone city of Fatehpur Sikri built by Akbar in 1569 about twenty-four miles southwest of Agra. Here too one sees courtyards, audience chambers and balconies with latticed screens, but as my visit was at sunset, all were bathed in a soft, warm light. When I entered the Jama Masjid mosque, I was given a thread, told to make a wish and then tie my thread onto a marble screen. Coming out of the mosque, I felt at peace with myself. There was no one about, only a solitary musician whose notes drifted upwards to the delicate cupolas outlined against the darkening

sky. At that moment I sincerely hoped that my wish to return to India would come true.

My journey up until now had been mainly concerned with India's past. Wishing to know more about India and her people, I decided to take the one and a half hour flight from Agra to Varanasi, the holy city on the banks of the Ganges. It is here, in perhaps the oldest living city in the world, that every Hindu aspires to make a pilgrimage to cleanse his sins and to seek release from the cycle of rebirth.

The best way to view this awe-inspiring spectacle is to take a boat ride on the river at dawn along the three miles of ghats, or stone steps leading down to the sacred river. Even though the boat glides slowly over the glassy water, you still find it difficult to absorb the tableau before you — holy men sitting erect and cross legged with eyes closed in meditation; women fully clad in saris bathing at the river's edge, young men cleaning their teeth with twigs designed for this purpose, cows moving with incredible ease up and down the steep steps, laundry workers beating clothes against stone slabs protruding from the water, and most unfamiliar of all to a Westerner, the burning ghats where bodies wrapped in cloth are carried on bamboo stretchers to be burned on funeral pyres.

The maze of winding streets in the town is filled with jostling humanity in good-natured conversation with earnest tradesmen inviting one and all to sample their glittering wares. Here among the small pyramids of vermilion sold to married women and rubbed into the part of their hair to show that their husband is living, colour film is indispensable. One must capture the garlands of marigolds, or the rich pink hues of lotus blossoms on the flower stalls outside the many temples whose worshippers spill out onto the busy streets to merge with tourists and shoppers alike. However, one is always drawn back to the fascinating life on the river front to see once more young men performing yoga exercises, or a small knot of pilgrims listening intently to a Brahmin as he speaks to his followers from beneath one of the many large straw umbrellas that line the ghats. This surely must be "Mother India", an India I had barely glimpsed at and now was unwilling to leave.

So many things had made my visit a rewarding one. The clear sunny skies with temperatures in the seventies made touring in December a delightful experience. The incredible variety of architecture and customs filled each day with endless surprises. I particularly enjoyed drinking the soothing tea, tasting strange fruits like custard apples and guavas, and sampling the spicy tandoori chicken. If I found my curry dishes too hot, I put out the fire with a serving of raita, a cooling blend of yoghurt and spices. As I dipped my nan, or leavened bread into this mixture, I would invariably notice my attentive waiter smiling even more broadly than usual. No one had prepared me for the charming, good-looking people I was to meet. Always smiling and eager to please, they added a new dimension to the word service. Of course, there was poverty to be seen everywhere, but somehow it was not degrading. People had not given up; they still had time to share an amusing anecdote, or help a tourist find his way. The children seemed to have as much fun rolling a little hoop with a stick down the road as our children do on their skate boards.

I was leaving India after the briefest of introductions, but I knew I would renew my acquaintance with this remarkable country which surely has something to offer to everyone.



A yogi at Varanasi.