



**LIST OF FIRST FLIGHT OF  
TATA SONS, AIR INDIA,  
INDIAN AIRLINES AND  
OTHER AIRWAYS**

**COMPILED AND PREPARED**

**BY**

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## A COMPLETE LIST OF TATA SONS AND AIR INDIA FIRST FLIGHTS COVER

15th OCTOBER 1932: Tata Sons Ltd. began Karachi - AHMEDABAD - BOMBAY - BELLARY - MADRAS mail service to connect with Imperial Airways LONDON - KARACHI service. The firsty service carried mail which had left London on 8th October. The service was operated by deHavilland Puss Moth VT-ADN flown by J.R.D.Tata from KARACHI - BOMBAY and by Neville Vincent from BOMBAY - MADRAS. The service arrived at Madras on 17th October. This was the start of the Commercial Internal Air Transport in India.

For the first flight a special cover was designed by Dr.Stephen H.Smith. 2000 of these covers were printed on 15.7.32. but their sale in India was stopped eleven days later as objections were raised to an Union Jack printed on the cover. Revised version of the cover without the Union Jack was put on sale on 17th August. A special cachet reading "KARACHI - MADRAS 15th OCTOBER 1932 FIRST AIRMAIL" was used.

Two different special covers were used on each of the ten stages of the outward flight and also of the return flight. Only one complete collection of all the 40 different special covers flown by Tata Sons is known to exist.

A Special circular cancellation reading "MADRAS - KARACHI AIRMAIL" was used as well as cachet reading "MADRAS - KARACHI 17th OCTOBER 32 FIRST AIRMAIL".

4th JANUARY 1935 : Tata Sons KARACHI - MADRAS service was rerouted via Hyderabad instead of Bellary. A few covers were flown on the first flight from BOMBAY - HYDERABAD and on the return flight on the next day.

25th JANUARY 1935 : Tata sons made a trial and Demonstration flight BOMBAY - NAGPUR - JAMSHEDPUR - CALCUTTA in an Airspeed Ambassador with Neville Vincent as pilot. A special souvenir cover was printed with the outlines of a pink aeroplane over the map of India. A square Tata adhesive label was applied to most of the covers and an octagonal cachet reading "DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT FIRST DIRECT AIR MAIL BOMBAY - CALCUTTA 25th February 1935" was used. This is known in red as well as violet. A similar cachet was used next day with the destinations reversed on the return flight.

29th OCTOBER 1935 : Tata Sons began experimental weekly mail service BOMBAY - GOA - CANNANORE - TRIVANDRUM with Miles Merlins. This connected with KARACHI - BOMBAY - MADRAS service. A special four line cachet in red reading "DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT DIRECT AIR MAIL BOMBAY - TRIVANDRUM 29th OCTOBER 1935" was applied. A few covers were signed by the pilot B.K.N.Rao. For the return flight a large three line boxed cachet was used with an aeroplane 'FIRST FLIGHT TRIVANDRUM - BOMBAY 1 NOV 1935". Some of the covers were signed by the pilot.

25th DECEMBER 1936 : Tata Sons carried the first Air Mail from COLOMBO - KARACHI. A special flight carrying the christmas Mail was arranged. A circular cachet "INDIA - CEYLON SPECIAL X'MAS MAIL" was used in violet.

16th APRIL 1937 : Tata Sons introduced a stop at Bhuj on its BOMBAY - KARACHI service. Only two day's notice was given for this flight and a very few covers were flown. A complete set of all the stages comprise of 16 covers and only one set is known to exist. The rare circular cancellation "AHMEDABAD AIR" was introduced on this flight.

8th NOVEMBER 1937 : Tata Sons began a DELHI - GWALIOR - BHOPAL - INDORE - BOMBAY servicewith Waco YQC-6 biplanes. First flight by VT-AIX (pilots J.R.D.Tata and Neville Vincent). A special cover was designed and three line boxed cachet in red reading "FIRST FLIGHT DELHI - BOMBAY 8th November 1937" was used. This was used as a cancellation at Bhopal only. At Lashkar in Gwalior a four line boxed cachet in violet was applied as a cancellation "FIRST FLIGHT DELHI - BOMBAY 8th NOV 1937 "LASHKAR G.P.O." Covers were flown on all the stages.

22nd JANUARY 1938 : Tata Airlines (Successors to airline operation of Tata Sons) extended its KARACHI - MADRAS Mail service to Colombo, Waco YQC-6 biplanes were used. Covers were carried, and a few of them signed by the pilot H.D.Banecha. On return flight next day altogether 26 covers were flown in different stages, only one set is believed to exist.

28th FEBRUARY 1938 : Govt. contract with Tata Airlines came in to effect for the carriage of the first class unsurcharged mail between KARACHI - COLOMBO under the Empire Air Mail Scheme. The route was KARACHI - BHUJ - AHMEDABAD - BOMBAY - HYDERABAD - MADRAS - TRICHY - COLOMBO. The rare circular Cancellation "BHUJ AIR" was introduced for this flight. A very few covers were signed by the pilot, Mr H.D.Banecha and bear the one line cachet "INDIA - CEYLON FIRST REGULAR AIR MAIL".

2nd MARCH 1938 : A few covers were carried on the inaugra-tion of a further extension of the ALL UP SCHEME from TRICHY - TRIVANDRUM and the return flight on the next day. few of the covers were signed by the pilot, Mr.D.V.Jater.

9th OCTOBER 1938 : Tata Airlines began operating DeHavilland 86 planes. first service by VT-AKM.

1st NOVEMBER 1941 : Tata Airlines began non-scheduled flights between KARACHI - BAGHDAD via JIWANI, SHARJAH, BAHREIN - BASRA. aircraft; DC-2. Few covers flown, no cachet.

1st MARCH 1944 : Tata Airlines introduced DC-3s on twice weekly BOMBAY-KARACHI and on a weekly BOMBAY-BANGALORE-COLOMBO service.

16th APRIL 1945 : Tata Airlines began twice weekly BOMBAY - NAGPUR - CALCUTTA service with DC-3s.

1ST APRIL 1946 : Tata Airlines began a new service BOMBAY - NAGPUR - CALCUTTA with Dc-3s. Pilot, M.V. Bunshe signed a few covers. Special large official covers were printed. These are scarce. No cachets.

29th JULY 1946 : Tata Airlines converted in to a public company and renamed AIR INDIA LIMITED.

3rd August 1947 : Mrs Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, First Indian Ambassador to U.S.S.R left India for Moscow in Air India DC-3 VT-ATI (Pilot. Capt. A.C. Gazdar). The DC-3 flew the Indian flag for the first time.

8th MARCH 1948 : Air India International incorporated.

8th JUNE 1948 : Air India inaugurated its weekly service BOMBAY-CAIRO-GENEVA-LONDON with Lockheed 749 Constellation VT.CQP "Malabar Princess". Official covers depicting the plane were printed. India issued a stamp showing the Constellation for the occasion. A three line boxed cachet reading "AIRMAIL BOMBAY-LONDON 8.6.48 FIRST FLIGHT." was used as cancellation. Official covers carried to Cairo and Geneva are SCARCE. A few official covers were carried BOMBAY-LONDON-BOMBAY on the return flight on 11th June.

21st JANUARY 1950 : Inauguration of once a fortnight BOMBAY - NAIROBI service via ADEN.

21st JANUARY 1950 : Air India Service Inauguration INDIA - ADEN - EAST AFRICA 21.10.1950 BOMBAY - ADEN.

17th OCTOBER 1950 : Air India International inaugural first flight to CALCUTTA - LONDON 17.10.1950.

21.12.1951: Inauguration flight INDIA - AFGHANISTAN Air Service 21.12.1951, BOMBAY - KABUL circular cancellation.

Inauguration INDIA - SINGAPORE first flight CALCUTTA - SINGAPORE 1.8.1953: Air Transport Nationalisation Air Transport of AIR INDIA and INDIAN AIRLINES Date 1.8.1953. There is a circular cancellation in Black showing "Bombay G.P.O - Air Transport Nationalisation 1st August 1953. Special cover issued showing, plane, globe and Ashok chakra.

19th JUNE : Inaugural flight of Lockheed 1049C Super Constellation to London. First flight by VT-DG1 "RANI OF JHANSI" (Capt. R. Khan exBombay).

16th JULY 1954 : Inaugural flight to Singapore via Madras with L-749A Constellation VT-DAS "HIMALAYAN PRINCESS" (Capt. K. Vishwanath).

14th AUGUST 1954 : Inaugural flight to Hong Kong via Calcutta and Bangkok with VT-DAS (Pilots H.B. Mistry and R.V. Goday).

7th MAY 1955 : BOMBAY-HONGKONG service was extended to Tokyo. First service by L-749A Constellation VT-DAR "MARATHA PRINCESS". Official covers were printed and the famous Maharaja emerged on the cover for the first time. A six-line boxed cachet in black; in Hindi and English was used reading 'BHARAT-JAPAN HAWAI UDAN UDHGHATAN 7.5.1955 AIR INDIA INTERNATIONAL INDIA-JAPAN INAUGURAL FLIGHT.

4th JULY 1955 : Introduction of halts at Beirut and Zurich on U.K. route. First Flights by Super Constellation VT-DGM "RANI OF IND".

5th OCTOBER 1956 : Extension of the BOMBAY-SINGAPORE service to Sydney via Darwin. First Service by Super Constellation VT-DLI "RANI OF NILGIRIS" (Pilots : Capt. Mistry to Singapore and Capt. K. Mathen from Singapore to Sydney). Official cover with Maharaja riding a flying Kangaroo. A six line boxed bilingual cachet in violet reading "BHARAT - AUSTRALIA ABHIJAN 5TH OCT. 1956 AIR INDIA INTERNATIONAL INAUGURAL FLIGHT INDIA-AUSTRALIA" was used.

14th AUGUST 1958 : Inaugural flight from DELHI - MOSCOW via TASHKENT. First flight by Super Constellation VT-DJW "RANI OF BIJAPUR" (Pilot : Capt. K. Vishwanath). Official cover showing Qutab Minar, DELHI and KREMLIN, MOSCOW. A five line Oval cachet in black reading "DELHI-MOSCOW INAUGURAL FLIGHT AIR INDIA INTERNATIONAL NEW DELHI-14 AUG. 1958" was used as cancellation.

#### THE JET AGE

21st FEBRUARY 1960 : Arrival of first Boeing 707-437 (VT-DJI ANNAPURNA) in Bombay, after a record breaking non-stop flight from London in 8 hours 5 minutes. (Pilots: Capt. Byramjee and Capt. Shirodkar).

19th APRIL 1960 : Inauguration of BOMBAY-LONDON service via Cairo and Rome by Boeing 707 VT-DJI Annapurna (Pilots : Capt. Byramjee to Cairo and Capt. K.R. Gazdar, CAIRO-LONDON. Official cover showing Maharaja and three jets. Four line oval cachet reading "BOMBAY-LONDON BOEING 707 INAUGURAL SERVICE AIR INDIA BOMBAY 19th APR, 1960" in violet.

14.5.1960 : AIR India Inaugural service NEW-York Bombay 14th May 1960. Air India Boeing 707. Five line blue cancellation shows "AIR INDIA BOEING 707 NEW YORK-BOMBAY Inaugural Service 14th May 1960".

14th MAY 1960 : Inaugural flight to NEW YORK via LONDON with Boeing 707. First flight by VT-DJI-ANNAPURNA. Pilot: CAP K.R. Gazdar. Official Cover showing Maharaja exchanging smoke with an Red Indian. Oval five line cachet in Violet.

9th JUNE 1960 : Inaugural Boeing 707 service from Calcutta to New York via Cairo, Rome, Frankfurt and London. Unofficial covers were flown from Calcutta to Cairo, Rome, Frankfurt, London and New York. An oval five-line cachet in violet reading "CALCUTTA-NEW YORK INAUGURAL SERVICE AIR INDIA BOEING 707 CALCUTTA 9th June 1960 was used as cancellation. A small number were flown.

4th OCTOBER 1960: Introduction of once a week Bombay-Kwait and Bombay Bahrain service via Karachi. First Flights by L-1049 Super Constellation VT-DGM 'RANI OF IND' (Pilot: Capt. Screwvala). Official cover shows Maharaja exchanging pleasantries with an Arab Sheikh. Four-line cachets in violet.

16th JANUARY 1961 : Inaugural flight from TOKYO to BOMBAY. Official cover shows Maharaja and Japanese dolls. Five-line oval cachet in blue. First Flight By Boeing 707 VT-DJK 'EVEREST'

25 January 1961: Inaugural Boeing 707 service BOMBAY-CALCUTTA-BANGKOK-HONGKONG-TOKYO. Official cover same as TOKYO-BOMBAY. Unofficial Indian AIR-MAIL Postcards of 40 np carried from Calcutta to Bangkok, Hong Kong and Tokyo with printed four-line boxed cachet "AIR INDIA B707 APR.00.15:DEP01.00 on 26.1.1961 CALCUTTA-TOKYO".

4th MAY 1961 : Once a week Boeing service to Nairobi via Aden. Official covers Bombay-Nairobi. Oval AIR INDIA cachet in violet. Return flight from Nairobi to Bombay on 5th. Same cachet with destination reversed. First flight by Boeing 707 VT-DMN KANCHANJUNGA (Pilot; Capt. P.D. Byramjee.)

6th APRIL 1962 : Inaugural Boeing 707 service Bombay-Moscow. Official cover shows the Kremlin, Moscow. Five line AIR INDIA oval cachet in violet. Return flight on the next day. First Flight by VT-DNY DHAULAGIRI (Pilot : Capt. S.F. Pedder).

2nd MAY 1962 : Bahrain introduced as a scheduled halt in Bombay-New York Boeing service. Official cover depicts Maharaja and a veiled lady. Usual Air India cachet. Return flight on 4th May. First Flight by Boeing 707 VT-DJJ GAURI SHANKAR (pilot Capt. A.M. Kapur).

7th MAY 1962 : Introduction of Boeing 707 on the Sydney route. Official cover shows Maharaja and baby Kangaroo going up a tree. In the background is an Air India Boeing. Return flight on 9th May.

1st OCTOBER 1962 : Introduction of Perth on the Bombay-Sydney route instead of Darwin. Official cover shows the Maharaja riding a duck. Return flight 3rd October 1962.

15th OCTOBER 1962 : Mr.J.R.D.Tata. Chairman Air India, re-  
enacted in Leopard Moth VT-AKH the first scheduled Flight in  
India which he had flown 30. years ago. Route flown was Karachi-  
Ahmedabad. Special Thirtieth Anniversary Covers were flown from  
Karachi and Ahmedabad to Bombay. A seven-line oval cachet reading  
"Karachi-Ahmedabad-Bombay Commemorative Flight First Flight 15th  
October 1932 30th Anniversary 15th Oct 1962 AIR INDIA" was used  
in violet. Ahmedabad-Bombay covers are scarce.

3rd AUGUST 1964 : Sydney sevice extended to Nandi, Offical  
cover depicts the Maharaja in the role of a Fiji Policemen con-  
trolling traffic Return flight on 5th August 1964

2nd DECEMBER 1964 : Air India had a special flight to carry  
Pope Oaul VI from Rome to Bombay. Offical covers were printed.  
Oval five-line cachet in red. Aircraft Boeing 707 VT-DNR  
NANGALPRABHAT. (Pilot Capt. V.N.Shirodkar).

14th February 1967 : Arrival of first Boeing 707-337C(VT-DVB  
Kamet) in Bombay. Covered London-Bombay non-stop in 7 hours and  
54 minutes, setting a new speed record for any Boeing.

1st APRIL 1967 : Teheran introduced as an online station.  
Offical covers Bombay-Teheran and Teheran-Bombay depicts the  
Trimurti and Persian King. Return flight on 2nd, First flight by  
Boeing 707 VT-DJi ANNAPOORNA (Pilot: Capt. R.V.Goday).

5th APRIL 1967 : Introduction of Brussels on India/U.K  
route. Offical covers Bombay-Brussels and Brussels-Bombay show  
the Maharaja in an amusing pose. Return flight on the same day.  
First flight by Boeing 707VT-DVA ANNAPOORNA (Pilot Capts  
S.C.Maulik to Teheran. Capt: N.J.Shroff to Brussels-Return-Capt:  
R.Gauba to Teheran, Capt : Maulik Teheran-Bombay)

15th AUGUST 1967 : Afortnightly service to Mauritius inaugu-  
rated. Offical covers Bombay-Mauritius and Mauritius-Bombay shows  
the Maharaja feeding an Emu. Return flight on 16th, First flight  
by Boeing 707 VT-DSL Lhotse (pilot capt: R.V.Goday).

18th AUGUST 1967 : Once a week halt introduced at Kuala  
Lumpur on eastbound Sydney and Westbound Jakarta service. Offical  
coversBombay-KualaLumpur and Kuala Lumpur-Bombay showsthe Mahara-  
ja taking part in Ramayana Dance of Malaya. Return flight on  
20th. First flight by 707 VT-DPM Makalu (Pilot- Capt : V.N.Shir-  
odkar). Return Flight by VT-DVA ANNAPOORNA (Pilot:  
V.N.Shirodkar).

27th OCTOBER 1968 : First flight AddisAbaba-Bombay. Offical  
covers Addis Ababa-Bombay and Bombay-Addis Ababa show Maharaja on  
a donkey. First Bombay-Addis Ababa flight on 30th First Flight by  
Boeing 707.VT-DXT TRISHUL. (pilot : Capt C.K.Pathy). First Bombay  
Addis Ababa by VT-DVA ANNAPOORNA

31st OCTOBER 1968 : First flight Bombay-Entebbe and Entebbe-Bombay. Official covers depict the Maharaja atop a tiger and chasing an Uganda belle. First flight by Boeing 707, VT-DVA. ANNA-POORNA.

2nd APRIL 1969 : First flight Bombay-Amsterdam and Amsterdam-Bombay. Official covers show the Maharaja exchanging flowers with a Dutch damsel atop a wind mill. First flight by Boeing 707 VT-DVA ANNAPOORNA.

2nd JULY 1969 : First flight Bombay-Dubai. Official covers depict the Maharaja leading a camel. Return flight on 5th. Five-line Air India cachet in red. First flight by Boeing 707 VT-DVA ANNAPOORNA (Pilot-capt. B.K. Kapadia). Dubai-Bombay by VT-DJJ GAURI SHANKAR (Pilot Capt. A.R. Gupta).

1st OCTOBER 1970 : Abu Dhabi introduced as a halt on one of the Gulf Service; Official Covers Bombay-Abu-Dhabi and Abu-Dhabi-Bombay show the Maharaja exchanging pleasantries with an Arab Sheikh. Return Flight on 2nd. First Flight by Boeing 707. VT--DNY DHAULATGIRI.

4th NOVEMBER 1970 : Dhahran introduced as an online station. Official covers flown Bombay-Dhahran.

21st MAY 1971 : First Boeing 747 service to London. First flight by VT-EBD 'EMPEROR ASHOKA' (Pilots: Bombay-Beirut-capt: R.V. Goday Beirut-London Capt: R.V. Spencer. Official covers show Krishna and Gopis. Post Office covers also flown these depict a Boeing 747 in flight. A Special bi-lingual cachet was used as cancellation on the mails flown. "Pratham Udan Air India Boeing 747 first Flight Bombay-London. Philatelic Bureau Bombay GPO show tail of a 747 and 21.5.71. Return flight on the same day. (pilots Capt. P.K. Ghosh London-Beruit & Capt Goday Beruit-Bombay).

26th MAY 1971 : First flight to New York with Boeing 747. Post office covers flown to New York with a similar cachet as that of London reading NEW YORK. First flight by Boeing 747 VT-EBE EMPEROR SHAH JEHAN (Pilots Capt: S.F. Pedder, Bombay -Beruit, Capt: .Y.V. Mahajan Beruit-London, (Capt A.K. Godbole London-New York). Return flight on 27th May 1971. (Pilots Capt T.R. Healy NEW YORK-LONDON, Capt, Y.V. Mahajan, London-Beruit, Capt: N.K. Mukherjee, Beruit-Bombay.).

2nd NOVEMBER 1972 : First Flight Bombay-Osaka, A New look official cover Bombay -Osaka and Osaka-Bombay. Return flight on 3rd. Boeing 707 VT DXT TRISHUL (Pilots Capt .D.R.K. Mundale, Bombay-Hongkong, Capt. Shirodkar, Hongkong-Osaka).



26.12.1971 : Indo-Bangladesh first flight Calcutta-Dacca  
D.C.VT-CGZ 26th Dec. 1971. Six line Black Cancellation Capt.  
B.K.Roy, Co-Pilot B.K.Saha.26.12.71.

Return flight Dacca-Calcutta on 26.12.71 by D.C.VT-CGZ.  
First flight cover from Dacca is overprinted with Pakistan  
stamps. This stamps are locally overprinted Bangladesh in English  
and Bangla. Capt.B.K.Roy & Co. pilot Capt. B.K.Saha. Some of this  
covers are Autographed by the both pilots.

3.1.1972 : Inaugural flight of Air India Amritsar-Birmingham  
(U.K. circular round cancellation of Air India-Birmingham &Round  
cancellation in Hindi & English of Amritsar G.P.O Amritsar-  
Birmingham dt.3.1.1982. First flight cover shows Golden Temple  
Amritsar and Bull Ring Circle BIRMINGHAM.

1.11.1973 : Air India flight Bombay-Doha and Back 1.11.73  
Doha-Bombay.

12.2.74 : Air India first flight Bombay-Muscat-Bombay.

AIR INDIA BOMBAY-MUSCAT on 12.2.74 flight carried out in  
Boeing 707 VT-DVA, ANNAPEORNA. Pilot: Capt B.R.Kapoor, Return  
flight on the same day by VT-DVB "KAMET", pilot Capt. R.J.Kanga  
air india offical coverswere flown. The cover depict adesert  
scene. coversflown Bombay-Muscat bearing bombay G.P.O. cancella-  
tion of 12.2.74 and a four line boxed cachet in violet "Bombay-  
Muscat AIR INDIA 12th Feb.1974. They are back stamped at Muscat  
on 14.2.74. The Muscat-Bombay covers are cancelled at Muscat on  
12.2.74 and back stamped at Bombay on 14.2.74. same cachet with  
destination reversed appiled in red ink.

2.4.1974 : Air india inaugurated a second service to Austra-  
lia on 2nd April 1974. Aircraft used Boeing 707-DST "LHOTSE"  
Pilots Bombay-Singapore. Capt. V.Kohli, Singapore-Perth  
Capt .A.H.Doctor, Perth-Sydney Capt. P.F.patel. On return Journey  
the same aircraft was used Sydney-Perth, Capt. P.F.Patel, Perth-  
Singapore Capt. B.P.Sharma, Singapore-Madras-Bombay Capt.  
S.D.Anand. No Philatelic mail carried.

29.3.1976 : Air india first flight Bombay-sydney &Returned  
on next day 30.3.76 Sydney-Bombay.

6.4.1976 : Air India first flight Bombay-Baghdad and same  
day returned on 6.4.76 Baghdad-Bombay.

25.6.1976 : Air India Bombay-Seychellis and Returned on  
26.6.76 Seychellis-Bombay

4.8.76 : Air india first flight Bombay-Dubai and Returned on  
same day Dubai-Bombay.

19.12.76 : Air india first flight Bombay-Accra & returned  
flight next day 20.12.76 Accra-Bombay.

13.4.76 : Air India first flight Bombay -Jeddah and Returned on 13.4.76 Jeddah-Bombay.

AIR india first flight to Bombay-RAS-Al-Khayam &returned on flight RAS-AL\_-KHAYAM-BOMBAY.

31.1.1978 : AIR INDIA boeing 707-makalu. Trivandrum-Dubai service. Left trivandrum at 4.20P.M. on Tuesday 31.1.1978.

2.10.1982 : AIR INDIA inaugural flight to Bombay-Montreal(Canada). First flight special cancellation provided at Bombay G.P.O. reading "FIRST FLIGHT BOMBAY-MONTREAL DT 2.10.82 & violet colour round cancellation shows Bombay-Montreal.

Returned flight on 2.10.82 round cancellation shows Montreal-Bombay 2.10.82.

18.1.1985: Air India inaugural flight Bombay-Toronto (Canada). leaving Bombay at 3.45 A.M on 18.1.1985 Returned flight Toronto-Bombay

15.10.1982 : 50th year of Civil aviation of 50th Anniversary of first flight KARACHI-BOMBAY -15th Oct. 82. G.P.O. Karachi-shwoing VT-ADH PUSH MOTH PLANE. first flight covers shows PUSH MOTH AIR INDIA,BOEING and Indian Airlines AB-300.

Ahmedabad-Bombay flight KARACH-BOMBAY.AHMEDABAD 15.10.1982 Backside bombay cancellation 50th years of Civil Aviation,G.P.O. Bombay 15th October 1982 16.30 hours-1932-1982.

15.10.1989 : AIR INDIA BOEING, Rajendra chola, unveils AIR INDIA NEW CORPORATE SYMBOL. The Sun,Agold sundisk and red ambadorial sash with a contemporary logo type.

13.08.1993 : Air India Boeing 747-400 Arrival historic non-stop. New york Delhi (U.S.A-INDIA)flight. Left New York on 13/08/93 arrived at delhi on 14.08.93. There is a special cancellation "New York-Delhi Boeing 747-400 arrival 14.08.1993. Air India". Floral pattern used on aircraft interior panels inspired by 17th century Calico-designs. Introducing sky phone services via Satellite.

2.10.1993 : India-South Africa first flight Bombay-Durban-Johannesburg First flight cover of Air India special 8 lines cancellation in English & Hindi "BOMBAY-DURBAN-JOHANNESBURG. First flight departure 2.10.1993 Air India" back side cancellation. 1993-10-02. P-281 Jansmuts Airport with Boeing. cover depicts Maharaja Ride on Osterich deer. Return flight 1993.10.02 shows cancellation with Boeing jansmuts Airport p.281 & 9 lines special Cancellation in Hindi, English shows. Johannesburg-Durban-Bombay First flight arrival 3-10-1993 AIR India. Bombay 400 001.

## INDIAN AIR LINES

1.2.1964 : Indian Airlines Inaugural flight Jet Caravelle Service on 1.2.1964 Block cancellation shows, Jet Carvelle Inauguration Carvelle Jet service, Indian Airlines 1.2.1964. also Block cancellation Indian airlines Corporation 1st flight 1.2.1964 jet caravelle.

1. BOMBAY-DELHI, DELHI-BOMBAY.
- 2 BOMBAY-CALCUTTA, CALCUTTA-BOMBAY.
3. BOMBAY-MADRAS, MADRAS-BOMBAY
- 4 MADRAS-DELHI, DELHI-MADRAS.
5. DELHI-CALCUTTA, CALCUTTA-DELHI.

1.1.1966 : Indian Airlines Corporation 1st flight Jet Carvelle 1.1.1966. showing Indian Airlines IAC cancellation in violet colour.

1. BOMBAY-HYDERABAD, HYDERABAD-BOMBAY.
2. HYDERABAD-DELHI, DELHI-HYDERABAD
3. HYDERABAD-MADRAS, MADRAS-HYDERABAD.
4. CALCUTTA-MADRAS, MADRAS-BOMBAY.

1.4.1975 : Introduction of Night -Air mail service between Bombay-MADRAS-BOMBAY. 1.4.1975 By HS-748 flight no. IC-514 Dept. Bombay 22.00 arr. Madras 0135a.m. IC-513 leaves Madras 0215 arr. in Bombay 0550a.m.

11.12.1978 : Indian Airlines SRINAGAR-LEH-SRINAGAR BOEING aircraft on 11.12.1978. First time a Boeing aircraft of Indain Airlines landed at one of the world's highest airfield at leh (Ladakh).

1.3.1987:.VAYVDOOT FIRST FLIGHT COVER March 1st 1987,HIMALAYAN AIRTREK. circular cancellation shows "Himalayan AirTrek-Vayudoot New Delhi 1.3.87, backside circular round cancellation shows "Vayudoot Himalayan Air Trek First flight 1.3.87 carried on board.

The Airbus was introduced by indian Airlines network at the end of 1976 A-300-B-2 AIRCRAFT.

SIXTH AIRBUS to the Indian Airlines fleet flew to Bombay from France on 27.10.1979 by Capt.K.Chadha, crew member Capt.S.K.Dewen, Capt.G.R.Savur, flight navigator S.S.Chawla ,flight engineers K.k.Kapadia and I.G.Kapur, Airhostesses Kanchan Khanna and S.Veronica and flight Steward D.K.Mehta.

OTHER FLIGHT COVERS

17.12.1973 : 70th Anniversary Wrightpex flight cover. shows 70th Anniversary of the first aeroplane flight by wright brothers. wrightpex calcutta Dec.17.1973, over a city of calcutta. 1000 covers were prepared by Airmail Society of India. The plane, a HAL "PUSHPAK", VT-DLC. was piloted by capt.S.K.Chowdhary.

7.12.1974 : 50th Anniversary of Cobham's Survey flight were sent to Bagdogra, the nearest Jet airport to Jalpaiguri, where Cobham went. It was a special Indian airlines flight Calcutta-Bagodara on 7.12.1974, Capt.C.R.Roy, Commander of the Indian Airlines Caravelle.

Lindberg Commemoration Covers 11.10.1974

Special Aeropex flight Banladesh Biman. Calcutta-Dacca on 10.12.1974.

Pioneer Flight 22.1.75.