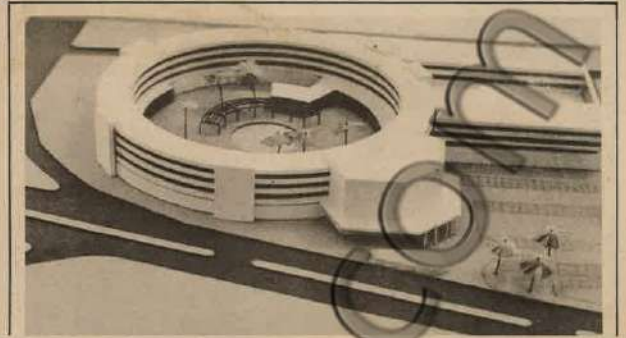


# The Magic Carpet



VOL 16 NO 2 THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF AIR-INDIA FEBRUARY 1972



AIR-INDIA'S HOTEL 'CENTAUR'

## Foundation stone laid by Dr. Mahishi

"WE want the tourists to stay longer and spend more in this country and I am happy Air-India is making a positive attempt to help tourism. I am sure the tourists will like this hotel, which will provide all the facilities under one roof," said Dr. Sarojini Mahishi, Union Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation on February 14, 1972.

She was speaking after laying the foundation stone of Air-India's Hotel 'Centaur' at Bombay Airport. The ceremony, which was held in a shramana at the site, was attended by a distinguished gathering, including Mr. Madhusudan Vairale, Maharashtra's Minister of Tourism.

tourists were not rich people. Even ITDC had realised this and was planning to build three-star and four-star hotels. "What is required is good, clean hotels at moderate rates and clean food".

A survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Opinion, Delhi has revealed that an average tourist spends about Rs.1,400 in this country, out of which Rs.250 are spent on lodging and boarding and Rs.450 on internal travel. "We would like him to spend more and stay longer. We want the tourists to feel at home in this country. India should become a destination rather than a transit halt," she said.

### Ancillary industry

Dr. Mahishi said that she was extremely happy that Air-India was launching into another industry. "Perhaps one should call it an ancillary industry. With the advent of the jumbo era, it is essential that India should provide more accommodation for tourists. After all India wants to earn a lot of foreign exchange from tourists," she added.

Dr. Mahishi expressed the hope that like other airlines Air-India will have a chain of hotels not only in India but outside as well. She congratulated Air-India for choosing Messrs. Steigenbergers as Technical Consultants. She said that they are a well-known firm of architects who have provided technical knowhow to ITDC and the Ashoka Hotel.

### Complaints

"The Government of India is encouraging private hoteliers to build more hotels by providing loans at concessional rates. The India tourism Development Corporation is also building hotels," Dr. Mahishi said.

Referring to the complaints about customs delays at Indian airports, the Minister said that steps were being taken to simplify procedures. The setting up of an international Airports Authority should also help in improving our airports. She emphasised the importance of promoting internal tourism and said that the Government was constructing a number of youth hostels all-over the country in order to encourage the younger people

(Continued on page 2)

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi, Union Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. J.R.D. Tata (R) and Air Marshal M.S. Chaturvedi looking at a model of Hotel 'Centaur' after the foundation laying ceremony.



Mr. G.T. Kunder (centre) and Mr. S.K. Nanda, Chief Personnel Manager, (L) with the Prime Minister after presenting the cheque.

## A-I Staff present cheque for Rs. 1.60 lakhs to P.M.

A cheque for Rs.1.60 lakhs representing a day's salary of Air-India employees was presented to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, for the National Defence Fund.

Mr. G.T. Kunder of our Bombay Booking Office, handed over the cheque on behalf of all the various Associations and Guilds, to the Prime Minister during her visit to Bombay on February 20, 1972.

The decision to contribute a day's salary for the NDF was taken by all

the staff unions - Air Corporations Employees' Union, All India Aircraft Engineers' Association, Air-India Officers' Association, Indian Aircraft Technicians' Association, Indian Flight Engineers' Association, Indian Flight Navigators' Guild, Indian Flight Operations Officers' Guild and Indian Pilots' Guild.

It will be recalled that Air Marshal M.S. Chaturvedi presented a cheque of Rs.9,265 to Dr. Karan Singh for the NDF on behalf of our Northern region staff in December last year.

## NEW SERVICE TO DACCA

AIR-INDIA started operating a Boeing 707 scheduled service between India and Bangla Desh from Friday, February 4, 1972. The inaugural service from Delhi to Dacca was under the command of Capt. A.N.J. Ray, Deputy Operations Manager (Central Division), with Capt. M.L. Kalia as First Officer.

Air-India now operates two services a week to Dacca. The Wednesday service is between Bombay/Dacca/Delhi/Bombay. It connects with our Boeing 747 flight AI-107 at Bombay for London and New York. The Friday service is operated between Delhi/Dacca/Delhi/Bombay and connects with our Boeing 747 flight AI-111 at Delhi for London and New York.

The flying time between Delhi and Dacca is approximately two hours while between Bombay and Dacca it is 2½ hours.

Mrs. Nancy Chia Kuo, Space Control Supervisor in our New York Office, in one of her Chinese operatic roles, playing an Empress. While on a visit to Formosa during Christmas, she had an interesting experience. See story on page 2.







Some of the Air-India staff who travelled to Dacca on the inaugural service on February 4, 1972, photographed at Delhi Airport before departure. Mr. Eric Pereira, CM-Cargo; Mr. Balendu Shah, CM-Sales and Mr. N.N. Dewan, CM-Customer Service are in the centre.

### Foundation stone laid (Continued from page 1)

Earlier, welcoming the Minister, Mr. J.R.D. Tata, Chairman, said that "Dr. Mahishi's presence at this function shows the importance the Government of India attaches to Air-India's entry into the hotel business. There has been a phenomenal growth of air transport, which has not been matched by growth in hotel accommodation. The hotel at Bombay Airport is the first of a chain of hotels to be built by the Hotel Corporation of India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Air-India. One reason why we are starting work on this hotel first is that while there are other hotels at Juhu beach there is none at the Airport and therefore there is a greater need for a hotel here".

Mr. Tata said that although the site is not particularly attractive from a scenic point of view, the hotel has

been appropriately designed to take this into account. It is of a circular design and will have a large garden and a swimming pool inside. It will be completed in about two years time.

As Chairman of the HCI, Air Marshal Chaturvedi thanked the Minister for taking time off from her crowded schedule and come here to attend the function, which he described as a landmark in the history of Air-India. "For the first time Air-India is diversifying into another field", he said.

Commenting on the Chairman's remark about his presence, the Air Marshal said: "Air-India would be incomplete without Mr. Tata. So he is here in his own right". The Air Marshal thanked Mr. Vairale and the other distinguished guests who attended the function.

## What the 'Centaur' will be like

THE "Centaur" will be fully air-conditioned with the comfort and amenities of a 5-star hotel. The facilities include speciality restaurants, grill rooms, a 24-hour coffee shop, a health club, conference rooms, a shopping arcade and a swimming pool beautified by awning trees, bowers, pergolas and flower beds. In addition the hotel will also provide facilities for travel arrangements by Air-India and Indian Airlines.

To be constructed in two phases on an area of 24,999 square yards, the "Centaur" will be circular in shape and when completed will have a total accommodation of 300 guest rooms. It will cost Rs. 3.60 crores. This 5-storeyed hotel will be fitted with acoustic insulation for noise reduction and its corridors, overlooking the swimming pool, will keep out the hustle and bustle of the highway traffic.

The "Centaur" is the first of the two hotels to be initially built in Bombay by the Hotel Corporation of

India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Air-India. The "Centaur" will be completed by the end of 1973. The second hotel which will also be called "Centaur" will be constructed at Bombay's palm-fringed Juhu beach at a cost of Rs. 5.80 crores. This hotel too will be a 5-star luxury hotel and will have 500 fully airconditioned rooms.

Air-India has signed an agreement with a well-known firm of hoteliers and hotel consultants, Messrs. Steigenberger Consulting GMBH of Frankfurt, West Germany, for technical assistance. Mr. Willie Kaufold, the German architect, designed the "Centaur". An Indian firm of architects, Messrs. Gharzi Eastern Limited of Bombay, have been appointed as associate architects for the project.

Both the hotels are being financed partly from Air-India's own resources and partly from finances raised from the Life Insurance Corporation of India and other financial institutions.

## WHO'S WHO & WHERE

### PROMOTIONS

#### COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

Mr. S. Khanna	Station Superintendent	Mrs. R.M. Lagu	Asst. Stn. Supdt.
Mr. J.S. Nawalkar	Station Superintendent	Mr. P. Jayaraman	Asst. Stn. Supdt.
Mr. C. Selva Kumar	Station Superintendent	Mr. S.V. Tungare	Asst. Stn. Supdt.
Mr. S.S. Raghavan	Station Superintendent	Mr. G.M. Talpade	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. F.D. Vaswani	Station Superintendent	Mr. S.R. Verma	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. O. Shekharan	Station Superintendent	Mr. D.P. Bhattacha	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. B.H. Billimoria	Station Supdt. (Offg.)	Mr. P.P. Khambatta	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. M. Sequeira	Station Supdt. (Offg.)	Mr. M.K. Wadia	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. N.S. Chadha	Station Supdt. (Offg.)	Mr. G. Koska	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. K. Karunakaran	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Mr. S.P. Edekar	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. N.W. Peters	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Mr. S.F. Limbuvala	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. N. Masilamani	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Mr. P.R. Kothavala	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. H.S. Pani	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Mr. F.R. Aibara	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. B.N. Das	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Mr. S.S. Hemmadi	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. S.S. Chauhan	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Mr. B.B. Sabherwal	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. Harbans Singh	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Mr. P.J. Mahuvawala	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. K. Prasad	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Mr. M.D. Subaya	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. H. Edolji	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Mr. S.S. Duggal	Inflight Supervisor
Mr. F. Coelho	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Miss. R. Bharucha	Dy. Chief Air Hostess
Mr. P.R. Menon	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Miss. L. Khan	Dy. Chief Air Hostess
Mr. B.G. Sanghvi	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Miss. J. Coelho	Dy. Chief Air Hostess
Mr. R.T. Hussey	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Miss. A. Coelho	Dy. Chief Air Hostess
Mr. S. Raju	Asst. Stn. Supdt.	Miss. M. Lalvani	Dy. Chief Air Hostess

#### ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Mr. A.B. Abhyankar	A.M.E. Gr. I	Mr. G.G. Mhatre	Technical Officer
Mr. A.G. Pinto	A.M.E. Gr. I	Mr. K.N. Ramamurthy	Engineer Gr. I
Mr. T.S. Shikalgar	Technical Officer	Mr. John C. Moses	Engineer Gr. II.

### POSTINGS

#### ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

TO		TO	
Mr. H.C. Shah	Asst. Accounts Officer, Santa Cruz.	Mr. R.T. Shah	Accounts Manager, Kuala Lumpur.
			Asst. Accounts Officer, Santa Cruz.

Mr. D.P. Mitra, Regional Manager-Australasia, resigned from the Corporation recently after 23 years service to settle in Australia. At a farewell party in Sydney, he is seen with Mr. Madan Lal, Manager-Fiji (centre) and Mr. R.K. Narpat Singh, Manager-Australasia (R).



### AT NARIMAN POINT



The winter of  
my discontent! —  
the 16th letter of  
the alphabet!



Confucius says  
If leopard canny changes spotee  
makee whole world happee!

PEKING FEB. 21



## The true Spirit of Christmas

MRS. Nancy Chia Kuo, a Reservations Supervisor in our New York office, who was on a Christmas visit to Taipei, Formosa, received a special Christmas gift from Mr. Shang-Chun Huang, Commissioner of Lung-Shan Precinct for returning NT\$13,250.

Nancy, an accomplished theatrical and operatic performer in the traditional Chinese arts, was called a 'good samaritan' by a local newspaper.

It happened like this. Nancy who was on vacation with her family arrived in Taipei on December 22, 1971 and stayed at the Eastern Asia Hotel. The next evening, she did her last minute shopping with her daughter at the Nan-Yang department store. When she left with the packages for her hotel, it was almost closing time.

### Gift package

Upon examining the packages in her room, however, she found an extra package wrapped in the company gift paper. She thought it was a gift from the store, but was flabbergasted when she discovered that it contained NT\$13,250, along with a daily cash register total. She realised that a mistake had been made by the cashier and decided to return the money immediately. But on her arrival at the department store, she was disappointed to find that it was already closed.

Early the next morning, she and her husband, Steve Kuo, took the money to the nearest Precinct and reported the entire incident. The manager of the store was called to the station and the matter was cleared up.

Miss Liu, the cashier, was of course happy and thanked Mrs. Kuo. She insisted on rewarding Mrs. Kuo, who declined the offer, saying that she had merely done the right thing.

Captain D. Bose, OM (TD), took the guests on a 'Flight' in the 747 simulator. He is moving to set a panel at the back before 'starting' while the High Commissioner straps himself in. (Yes, you have to do it.)



747 SIMULATOR

Photographed after the site acceptance of our Boeing 747 simulator are; (L to R) Mr. K.K. Unni, AMD; Capt. K.M. Mathen, DO; Mr. C.D. Reekie, President and Chief Executive Officer, CAE Industries; HE; Mr. James George, the Canadian High Commissioner; Air Marshal M.S. Chaturvedi, MD and Mr. R.W. Cooke, President of CAE.

## Formal acceptance in Bombay

AIR Marshal M.S. Chaturvedi, Air India's Managing Director, signed the acceptance papers on February 4, 1972, for our \$3-million Boeing 747 simulator which has been installed at the operations training complex at Bombay Airport. Mr. C.D. Reekie, President and Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Aviation Electronics Industries Limited and Mr. R.W. Cooke, President of its subsidiary company, the CAE Electronics Ltd., which manufactured the simulator, specially flew to Bombay to officially hand over the simulator.

Among those present were His

Excellency Mr. James George, the Canadian High Commissioner in Delhi, Government, DGCA and Air-India officials. The signing ceremony was held in the new 747 simulator building.

Speaking on the occasion, Air Marshal Chaturvedi said that the 747 simulator is part of a fullscale operations training facility which has been established to train Air-India's flight crew. The purchase of the simulator has been made possible through Canadian Aid. "We hear a lot about Commonwealth, about its benefits to the countries concerned. Here is an example of what the Commonwealth is all about". The Managing Director thanked the Government of Canada and the Government of India for helping Air-India to buy the 747 simulator which would make it possible for Air-India to train its flight crew in India for the two new Boeing 747s expected shortly. He said that the CAE staff had done an excellent job in installing the simulator.

### Shared values

Mr. James George, the Canadian High Commissioner, thanked the Air Marshal on behalf of the Canadian Government for his kind words and said that he could do no better than quote Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi to describe the relations between Canada and India: "The relationship between India and Canada is based on shared ideals and shared values".

He felt that aid is meant basically for speeding up the process of growth. "You have done most of the effort yourself; we have only provided extra help". Mr. George concluded by saying that Air-India has an excellent reputation and he wished Air-India all success.

Mr. Reekie congratulated Air-India on this "magnificent facility, of

which Air-India can be really proud". The project involved two years work, in drawing up detailed specifications to meet Air-India's precise needs, testing the simulator, shipping it and then re-installing it here. What is important is that it has been completed precisely on schedule. He paid tributes to Capt. Mathen, Director of Operations; Capt. Bose, Operations Manager (TD) and other Operations staff connected with the project. "The CAE people have the greatest respect for your people. It has been an ideal working relationship".

Speaking after Mr. Reekie, Capt. Mathen said: "I would repeat what I said in Montreal some months ago. As a pilot I am not a believer in simulators, but this unique motion system of the 747 simulator has made all the difference. After flying the BOAC 747 simulator in Montreal and later a TWA 747 test plane, I was able to see for myself, how authentic the feel of the aeroplane was in the simulator".

Captain Mathen said that pilots all over the world are convinced that with this type of simulator it is possible to reduce the flight training time to as little as two hours. And with the simulator operating costs only about 1/10th of that of actual aeroplane, the saving is substantial.

"We only want to be satisfied about the reliability of the machine. It must operate as much as 18 hours a day non-stop. I have seen a simulator at Boeing Company being used for 20 hours a day with just four hours for maintenance", said Capt. Mathen.

The new simulator building which was built at a cost of Rs. 20 lakhs, provides classrooms, briefing rooms and a special 35' x 35' x 35' hall where the simulator has been installed.





You can't blame the Air Marshal. At the end of 36 holes he realised he'd been using a Samurai sword.



Chai Chalerm stole the show not with his fine follow-through, but with his trousers, designed by the rainbow.



The CD gets his prize - a putter from Mrs. Tata. It had TWA stamped on it! The inference was clear. TWA will make a profit this year.

Vikramjit Singh

# DRAKE, THE A and a game of



Captain Mathen here decided to remove three feet off his putter.



The Chairman in deep thought. You'd be too—in his place.

The ladies were smart. They came to eat - not play.



AIR-INDIA held a two-day Golf competition at the Willingdon Sports Club on Saturday and Sunday, January 29 and 30, 1972.

This being the winter of our discontent, the Chairman declared it should be a small affair with no invitees from abroad. Some were, however, smarter than others. Surya Patel took leave and enjoyed the two days. Mr. Imamura and Mr. Ono from Osaka and Tokyo were here on a Course and so we had the pleasure of their company. Mr. Chai Chalerm from Thailand was also here on leave.

And so we trust that our golfers throughout the system will get the message on what to do next year.

## Booby Prize

Ubi Uberoi appeared out of the blue, although based in Belgrade. His presence was mysterious. Rumour has it that having won the Booby Prize on more than one occasion in the past, secret orders were issued to him by the High Command to arrive here on schedule - OR ELSE.

Messrs. Unni and Rama Rao were conspicuous by their absence, in spite of repeated assurances that there was only one booby prize.

The Chairman made a pretty speech before the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Tata. The gist of his speech was that he could never forgive Navigator Gill for having got a birdie on the 5th, when he was nearly out of bounds. Navigator Gill remained unruffled but produced no more feather-game.

The Willingdon course looks an innocent course, all of its 4,800

yards. But it got the better of Vikramjit Singh, the Champion India, who could not widen his shoulders enough for the narrow fairway and the excessive number of cabbage 3 holes. Flight Purser Ed impressed all with his steady and Captain Bose collected his on schedule. In the partnership 4 the Air Marshal thanked Edekar his, the GM's, mug.

Two very enjoyable days lovely weather and the attractive little cottage and lawn in which Nariman now happily lives.

## Next competition

The GM is determined to have next competition at Delhi and if be so, it will have to be on two days, with the week end at the D Golf course resembling Grand Central Station. This should be an attraction for Air-India's golfers.

We give below the news item which appeared in the Times of India:

"During the Air-India match played over the week-end at Willingdon, Air Marshal M.S. Chavdi and Mr. Edekar were winners in the fourball event. open championship was won by Vikramjit Singh and the hand prize went to Jai Singh. Mr. Kooka won the prize for the closest to the 18th hole."

Our thanks go to Nani Mitra for the excellent manner in which he organised the competition and to the Chairman and the Air Marshal for their enthusiastic and efficient participation on both days at lunch.





it Singh - All India Champion wore a beautiful red shirt. The balance sheet on his score card had the same hue. He beat the rest and colonel bogey beat him.

# RMADA Bowls



Capt. Razdan told many tales of golf as he knew it. The Chairman was a good listener, being an admirer of Baron Munchausen.



Mrs. Tata congratulates the most consistent golfer, who is in a fortunate position of being able to play four days in a week.

The boss and the boys. Being smart, the Chairman complained of back trouble and played not the second day. His Lumbago helps him to look surprisingly erect.



Mrs. Malti Tambay-Vaidya presenting the Air-India trophy to the Maharashtra State Co-operative team which won the Senior Division Championship.

## BADMINTON

### Both A-I teams put up good performance

THE 17th Air-India Open Inter-offices Badminton Tournament was played in Bombay between January 17 and 28, 1972. A total of 20 teams competed in the Junior Division and eight teams in the Senior Division.

The Senior Division championship was won by the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank team with the Air-India 'A' team as runners up. The Junior Division championship was won by Air-India 'B' team with the Secretariat Gymkhana team as the runners up.

The Tournament was held at the University Sports Pavilion except the finals which was played at the Reserve Bank of India Colony at Bombay Central. Mrs. Malati Tambay-Vaidya, I.A.S., Director of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra, was the Chief Guest on the last day and distributed the prizes.

Mr. A.S. Banavalikar, Personnel Manager, welcomed the Chief Guest and said that Air-India was happy to have Mrs. Tambay-Vaidya as the Chief Guest because she is a well-known badminton player herself, having won the national doubles, mixed doubles titles as well as the triple crown in the Inter-Ministry Tournament in 1971.

The outstanding player in the Tournament was A.R. Suvarna from



Ravi Sarmalkar and T.N.D. Pillai of Air-India 'A' team receiving their cup from Mrs. Tambay-Vaidya.

our Security Section who played consistently well. Mr. K.K. Cheema of M.S.C.B. who took the singles title by beating Ravi Sarmalkar of our Accounts Department, played equally well.

The two Air-India teams consisted of the following players: 'A' team - R.A. Sarmalkar, Captain (Accounts); T.N.D. Pillai (Engineering); K.V. Kulkarni (Stores). 'B' team - N.C. Abrol, Captain (Engineering); A.R. Suvarna (Security); R.K. Kaul (Customer Service) and J.V. Gupte (Engineering).

## CARROM

### Personnel team wins Inter-departmental title

THE team from our Personnel Department won the finals by beating the team from the Engineering Department in the Inter-Departmental Carrom Tournament which concluded on January 30, 1972. A record number of 48 teams participated in the Tournament which began on January 3.

V.B. Revandkar of Personnel won the Singles title against K.T. Pawar of Engineering. Both of them played extremely well.

Miss Tara Dandige was the only lady to participate in Tournament and the general opinion was that she gave a creditable account of herself. She won her semi-finals round against S.V. Shenoy of Operations.

The personnel team consisted of: V.B. Revandkar, Miss Tara Dandige and C.F. Fernandes; and the Engineering team consisted of: K.T. Pawar, D.G. Redkar, S.D. Ahire and P.A. Bhosekar.





Mr. S.C. Kale, Controller of Stores and Purchases, cutting the ribbon to declare open the new Air Unit Building at Bombay Airport. Mr. B.C. Rustogi and Mr. A.K. Chabra, both Assistant Collector of Customs at the Airport, are on his left.

## New Air Unit Building opened

A new Stores building called the Air Unit Building was opened at Bombay Airport by Mr. S.C. Kale, Controller of Stores and Purchases on January 7, 1972. Present on the occasion were Mr. R.B. Rustogi and Mr. E.K. Chabra, both Asst. Collectors of Customs at the Airport and other senior Air-India and Customs Officers.

Built at a cost of Rs.5½ lakhs, the new building is located close to our Cargo Warehouse and has adequate space to ensure proper handling of Corporation's stores and aircraft cabin service items. To facilitate completion of import/export formalities quickly, Customs Officers will be available at the building throughout 24 hours.

In the last few years, particularly since the arrival of our Boeing 747s, the volume of Corporation's stores handled at Bombay Airport has gone

up considerably. Over 3,000 packages are imported and over 800 packages are exported every month. Also, the Cabin Service items stored at the Airport has more than trebled.

The decision to construct the new Air Unit Building was taken in 1969 and the work started in April 1971. The building has a total area of 15,900 sq.ft., of which 8,400 sq.ft. has been allocated for storing Cabin Service items and bonded stores, 1,500 sq.ft. for Despatch Section and the rest to the Air Unit.

The entire set-up at the Airport is headed by Mr. B.R. Goyal, Asst. Controller of Stores and Purchases with Mr. T.R. Srinivasan, Stores Manager (Import/Export) as his deputy. Mr. C.V. Kanhere, Deputy Stores Manager is in charge of the Cabin Stores.

## INSIDE USA

### The spirit of self-help

By M. Chudasama

IN these recessionary days, co-operative staff effort replaced the office-sponsored decorative touches during the festive season. The traditional christmas tree in the Park Avenue reception area was decorated by Marie Di Cocco and Anne Lo Castro of Administration.

A smaller tree in our Accounts Department was decorated by Frances Capasso. And the tree in our ticket office, on public display on Fifth Avenue, seen by thousands of holiday shoppers and sightseers, was decorated by Reeva Singh, Joanie Grewal, Terry Warneke and Amit Ray, under the creative supervision of Romy Khariwala. With our magnificent tiger standing next to the tree, the juxtaposition was, to say the least, a little unusual. Stranger vegetation couldn't be found even in this concrete jungle.

The traditional Regional Manager's annual party, another victim of austerity, was financed from staff contributions, with valuable assistance from Gerry Braganza of Catering and our local caterers. The complex arrangements were organised by Betty Seidenwand, Chief Steward for the union and secretary to the Deputy Sales Manager.

Mr. Thomas Keesling, President of ASTA talking with Mr. Bill Burke, ASM-Chicago, (R) who was host to the Mid-West ASTA Convention, in his capacity as Chairman of the PATA Chapter.



Mr. Alan Yarrow, Agency and Interline Manager, is the generous Maharajah, dispensing prizes to Delta reservations staff after a month-long interline promotion in New Orleans. On the left (bearded) is Mr. Malcolm Whilde, DSM-Dallas, and right, Mrs. Pallavi Shah of Public Relations.



"He's listening to Air India".

## Mr. Nimkar heads Bombay AeSI

MR. D.P. Nimkar, Engineering Manager (Overhaul) has been elected President of the Bombay Branch of the Aeronautical Society of India for 1971-72 at the Society's Annual General Meeting held on October 30, 1971.

The other Air-India staff to be elected to the Executive Committee are

Mr. B.K. Majmudar, Technical Officer, Hon. Secretary; Mr. S.R. Shenai, Deputy Engineering Manager, P.P.O., Hon. Jt. Secretary; Mr. I. Gopalakrishnan, Sr. Technical Officer, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. N.S. Mistry, Engineering Manager (Maintenance), Member and Mr. J.C. Rodrigues, Navigation Manager, Member.

## Why participative management has failed so far

FOR the proper and efficient management of human resources, the mental and emotional involvement of employees at various levels is necessary to achieve the organisational goals, said Mr. S.K. Nanda, our Chief Personnel Manager on February 2, 1972. He was speaking on "Participative Management" at the Ladies Night Dinner meeting of the Bombay West Rotary Club.

Mr. Nanda described the different concepts of workers' participation in management and said that despite Government's policy, hardly any progress had been achieved and the legal as well as voluntary efforts had made no significant contribution towards

participative management. He pointed out that the appointment of a workers' Director on the Board of Management will only have notional and marginal value. Unless there is positive commitment on the part of the employers, employees and the Government, these efforts were not likely to succeed.

Mr. Nanda said that managers must be favourably disposed to the whole concept before a climate of confidence and trust amongst the employees can be created for successful participative management.

He concluded on a more hopeful note, "Whether we like it or not, participative management is bound to come".





## Expenditure on staff welfare would not be cut

DESPITE the present financial stringency, the present level of expenditure on staff welfare would not be cut, said Mr. K.K. Unni, Assistant Managing Director. He was speaking at the Labour Relations Committee meeting, when he handed over the chairmanship to Mr. R.B.S. Kunde, an elected representative of staff. Mr. Unni thanked the members for their co-operation and understanding and said that he was proud of LRC's record so far. Majority of recommendations of the Committee, he said, have been accepted by the Management and there is no doubt that the Committee has made a genuine contribution to management/staff relations and staff welfare.

### Housing

During the subsequent discussion, the Committee turned to the subject of housing for lower category staff. The Assistant Managing Director explained that although the management was interested in the Maharashtra State Housing Board tenements, because of the present financial situation, the project had to be postponed at least for the time being.

Mr. Unni said that Air-India was expected to make a substantial loss this year and the Corporation had asked for a loan and equity capital of Rs. 20 crores from the Government. The air transport industry was going through a very difficult period of high capacity, rising costs, low traffic growth and very poor yields. The Corporation is therefore postponing a number of capital projects.

### Interest rates

In response to a query from Mr. B.S. Hirlekar, an elected representative, about the high interest rate charged by the Corporation on housing loans as compared to some of the other public sector undertakings who charge less than 3½ per cent, Mr. Unni explained that under the present circumstances it will not be possible to reduce the interest rate on housing loans below the present 5½ per cent. He pointed out that Air-India has to raise money at a much higher interest rate.

Wg.-Cdr. S.B. Mathur, Manager-Works and Welfare, announced at the meeting that Manager-Western India had agreed to provide an area of 180 sq. ft. in the Booking Office for the use of the Air Corporations' Employees' Co-operative Bank. The members expressed satisfaction about the arrangement. They however hoped that a similar arrangement would be made at the Air-India Building at Nariman Point.

The Committee also discussed a number of other subjects including medical facilities and allotment of flats in the new staff colony.



Mrs. C. Mazumdar with Mr. N.L. Mital, Manager-Western India and some of the other Bombay District staff after the farewell party.

## Bombay District farewells

STAFF of the Bombay District Office bade affectionate farewell to Mrs. C. Mazumdar, Deputy Manager and Mr. T.R. Padmanabhan, Secretary to the Manager recently.

Mrs. Mazumdar has taken over as Asst. Commercial Manager-Administration in the Commercial Department. She was with the Bombay District Office from the time she joined the Corporation in October 1946. She was the first lady to become the Deputy Manager of Air-India's biggest station.

Apart from the Booking Office staff,

Mr. S.K. Kooka, Commercial Director, Mr. P.F. Mahta, Deputy Commercial Director and Mr. B.S. Rama Rao, Commercial Manager-Administration were present at the farewell party to Mrs. Mazumdar.

Mr. Padmanabhan spent his entire career of 17 years in the Booking Office working for various officers and later becoming Secretary to Manager-Western India. "We shall all miss him", said Mr. N.L. Mital, Manager-Western India. Mr. Padmanabhan has already found a job as Private Secretary to the Managing Director of a City firm.



Mr. Mital making a presentation to Mr. T.R. Padmanabhan.

## The Boeing 747 has done well

TWO years ago, on January 21, 1970, commercial 747 service began.

In the 24 months since, 19 million passengers have travelled on Boeing super-jets, and the fleet—now some 170 of the big airliners flying with 27 leading world airlines—has flown a total of 272 million miles.

Starting service between New York and London, the 747s now serve 75 cities in some 40 countries, including 28 cities in the North America and the Caribbean area, 20 in Europe, 6 in Africa, 5 in the Middle East,

8 in Asia and 8 in the Pacific area and Australia.

At the second year in service ended, 747s had logged more than 540,000 hours in airline passenger service, and were flying more than 10,000 hours each week. They were carrying a quarter-million passengers a week, and were travelling nearly 5 million miles each seven days.

At least 16 Boeing 747s have already flown three million miles or more and an additional 27 have flown 2.5 million miles or more.

### OBITUARY

#### MR. V. PARANJPE AND MR. RICHARD LOBO

WE regret to report the deaths of two of our staff from Engineering Department - Vinayak Paranjpe and Richard Lobo.

Mr. Paranjpe, who was a Charge-hand in the Power Plant Overhaul Division, died on December 16, 1971. He was 54. Before joining Air-India in December 1945, Mr. Paranjpe had been with Delhi Cloth Mills, L.P. Rowe Motor Works, Ford Motor Company and Tata Aircraft, Bombay.

Mr. Lobo, who also belonged to the P.P.O. Division, died on January 28, 1972, at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Bombay after a long illness. He was 49. Mr. Lobo, who was a Senior Aircraft Technician, joined Air-India in March 1948. Before that he had served in the Indian Air Force, Tata Aircraft Limited, Central Ordnance and Unity Electrical Syndicate. In his younger days, he had been an athlete and had taken part in track events and Javelin throw.

### STATEMENT

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I, S.K. Kooka, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Publisher,  
(Sd.) S.K. Kooka





David Frost, the well-known U.K. television personality, flew on our service from New York to India en-route to Bangladesh to interview Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In order to fit the interview into his diary, he had to travel 20,000 miles in 4 days, with very little sleep. Mr. Frost is seen here with our hostess Persis Kerawalla at London Airport before departure.

### THE CENTAUR:



## The largest rotating neon sign atop Air-India Building

THE Centaur, our symbol atop Air-India Building at Nariman Point, is the largest rotating neon sign in India.

The neon sign has a diameter of 24 feet and is placed on a 22 feet high concrete structure. The highest point on the sign is at an elevation of 391 feet 5 inches from the ground level.

The framework is made of mild steel. It is covered with stainless

steel sheets and fitted with 300 neon tubes shielded in white perspex plastic sheets. The sign when illuminated is blue in colour and has a red aviation warning light on its top rim.

The Centaur shooting an arrow represents Sagittarius, the ninth sign of the Zodiac, and denotes movement and speed. Air-India's symbol, a stylised version of the Centaur, is used on aircraft, badges and service mementos.

## Charity programme in Nairobi

AIR-INDIA, Nairobi participated in the Round Table 'Ring Us Up' charity programme in Nairobi. The programme received wide coverage on television and radio during last Christmas.

A coffee table donated by Air-India for the programme fetched KES.1750/- for the charity and it was presented by Mr. R.R. Amin, our Area Sales Manager, to Mr. C.J.B. Larby of the

programme (see photograph at right).

A conference of Air-India managers and sales managers in the East African region was held at the Nairobi Hilton on January 21, 1972. Mr. H.L. Sikka, Manager-East Africa, presided. The photograph taken after the conference shows staff from Kenya, Ethiopia, Aden, Mauritius, Uganda, Zambia and Tanzania, who attended the conference (below).



### JAI JAWAN FAIR

## Excellent response from the Public

DR. Hemchandra Gupte, the Mayor of Bombay, inaugurated the Jai Jawan Fair organised by the Air-India Staff Colony Association on January 25, 1972. The Fair which was in aid of the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Jawans Welfare Trust was held within the Colony at Santa Cruz, Bombay.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Gupte congratulated the Colony Association on their initiative. He felt this voluntary effort was certainly "laudable". Our armed forces did a wonderful job and deserved all possible help we could give them. He was happy that so many people had shown a desire to help our jawans.

Mr. S.K. Nanda, Chief Personnel Manager, who was the Chairman of the organising committee, said in his welcome speech that the Association expected to collect a considerable sum of money by way of rent of stalls and advertisements in the Souvenir published on the occasion.

According to the original plans, the Fair was to run for five days. Later it was decided to extend it for three more days following an excellent response from the public. There were over 80 stalls, many of them

managed by wives of staff, providing a wide variety of goods, food stuffs and fun games.

The exhibition of photographs and models of naval ships and armaments put up by Mr. Madhukar Shinde, Security Assistant, proved to be extremely popular. The model of the American nuclear carrier 'Enterprise' naturally attracted considerable attention.



Above, Dr. Hemchandra Gupte, Mayor of Bombay, cutting the tape to inaugurate the Jai Jawan Fair. With him are Miss Rose D'Souza, Headmistress of the colony school and Mr. R.Y. Pradhan, General Secretary of the Colony Association. Below Dr. Gupte and Mr. S.K. Nanda, Chief Personnel Manager, looking at the model of USA's 'Enterprise'. Mr. Madhukar Shinde, who organised the exhibition, is on the right.

