

# The Magic Carpet



VOL. 18 NO. 3 THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF AIR-INDIA MARCH 1974



By Courtesy PUNCH



At the Regional Conference in Geneva are seen (from L to R) Mr. N.D. Petit, Asst. Manager, Western Routes; Mr. I.D. Sethi, CM-Marketing & Sales; Mr. N.H. Dastur, CD; Mr. K.K. Unni, MD; Mr. M.I. Qadir, RD-CE; Mr. N. Changakoti, Asst. to RD (behind Mr. Qadir); Maj. S.G. Srinivasan, RM-India; Mr. E.P. D'Silva, CM-Cargo and Mr. Joe Fernandes, Asst. Commercial Manager-Cargo.

## Fuel costs overshadow Cardiac-pacer flown to save life Regional meeting

By Sorab Modi, Geneva

**"AIR-INDIA saved my life"**, said Arjun Mohite, 35-year-old cleaner in the Maintenance Division of our Engineering Department. A few months ago he was very close to death but now he is alive and well. He spoke of his three small children with a warm feeling of affection. "The youngest was born while I was in hospital", he added.

He is back at work, doing light jobs. He proudly showed the lump on his chest just below the right collar bone, where a cardiac pacemaker had been implanted to help his heart pump blood.

### Prompt action

But for the prompt action taken by Mr. N.R. Kshatriya, Deputy Personnel Manager (Welfare), Arjun would not have survived. Last August, Arjun collapsed while at work. "I was in the canteen during tea break", Arjun recalled. "I had tea and some snacks and felt dizzy. I must have passed out after that, because I do not remember anything".

He was rushed to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital, where the diagnosis revealed a complete heart block. He was transferred to the Intensive Cardiac Care Unit, where he was looked after by

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Rising fuel costs overshadowed the discussions at the Regional Conference of Continental Europe in Geneva on January 17-18, 1974. The Conference took a long hard look at the results of 1973-74 and the anticipated results of 1974-75.

Despite the gathering gloom of fuel crisis, an air of optimism seemed to pervade the conference hall and there was a feeling that in spite of every hurdle, IA lock-out included, the Region would by March 31, 1974, show positive results.

### Conference

Opening the two-day conference Mr. M.I. Qadir, Regional Director-Continental Europe, welcomed the delegates particularly the MD, CD and the other executives from Bombay and outlined the Region's expectation of revenue for 1973-74. He congratulated the Manager of France and Spain, Italy and Greece and Benelux for the excellent results shown by them up to December 1973 and was certain these territories would be substantially above target by the end of the financial year. He assured the MD that the region was cost conscious and doing all possible to control expenditure.

In his speech, Mr. Unni stressed the paramount need of the hour - a

check on our expenditure and a healthier cost-revenue ratio. If the oil crisis had not hit airlines, Air-India would have made a profit in 1973-74. "The airline industry is flexible and quite capable of meeting such changes, severe as they are, in the market". Mr. Unni particularly stressed that in the first half of December 1973, the Corporation had shown profits. "The fact that three months after the fuel prices had gone up, we have been able to cut costs and make a small profit, is indeed a healthy sign".

### Adverse circumstance

The CD was positive that despite adverse circumstance we hope to make a profit in 1974-75 and more in the next year. Expressing himself in no uncertain terms Mr. Dastur urged that "for maximum profitability we must get back the high yield commercial traffic which we seem to have lost in favour of the bulk low yield traffic".

A lively and spirited exchange of views marked the two days meeting and particularly when the Summer '74 Timetable and the targets for 1974-75 were discussed. The final targets would be conveyed to the Region later on by the Commercial Department.

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## New D.O. believes in 'open door' policy

**"I** am a firm believer of an 'open door' policy and in letting people speak their mind. How else could one establish mutual trust and confidence between the management and the staff?" said Captain J.S. Dhillon, Director of Operations. He took over from Captain K.M. Mathen, when he was appointed Director of Planning (Technical) on December 28, 1973.

Having been Deputy Director of Operations for four years, Captain Dhillon has no illusions about his new responsibilities. "I can only do my best", he says.

Captain Dhillon expressed confidence that the flight crew and the members of his staff would help him in not only maintaining the high standards as in the past, but also in achieving better flexibility and economy of operations.

### Fighter pilot

Captain Dhillon has been 28 years with Air-India and has logged nearly 22,000 hours. Trained as a fighter pilot during World War II, he saw active service in Burma. He left the Air Force in 1946 to join Air-India and since then has flown all types of aircraft Air-India has operated - from Beechcraft to Vikings and from Super Constellations to Boeing 707s and now Boeing 747s.

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Capt. J.S. Dhillon





## Prompt action saves life

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Ivan Pinto, the well-known heart specialist. He was sent back to the MGM Hospital after four days. He was discharged on October 11, 1973, but was asked to stay home till the end of November.

In the meanwhile, Dr. Satish Puri from our Santa Cruz Medical Clinic who had handled the case from the beginning had been told by Dr. Pinto that only a permanent cardiac pace-maker would save Arjun's life. Dr. Puri knew that pace-makers are not available in this country and would have to be obtained from abroad. He got in touch with Mr. Kshatriya to check whether anything could be done.

The hitch was that Arjun is covered by the Employees' State Insurance Scheme operated by the Government and not by the Air-India Staff Medical Scheme. There was no time to check with ESI Headquarters in Delhi whether they would help in getting the cardiac pace-maker from abroad. Mr. Kshatriya, therefore, obtained Rs.6,000 from the Air-India Staff Welfare Fund with the approval of the Fund Advisory Committee and paid to the National and Grindlays Bank in Bombay which arranged to obtain the pace-maker from M/s P.J. Reynolds Limited in London. It was flown out on our service within 48 hours of the order being placed.

Arjun knew that he was under a death sentence and was reluctant to enter hospital again for implanting the pace-maker. But Mr. Kshatriya and two of his staff - Mr. P.G. Sulay,



Arjun Mohite - 'alive and well'

Personnel Officer and Miss N. Talpade, who did a lot of work to comply with various Reserve Bank procedures - prevailed upon him.

The pace-maker was successfully implanted by Dr. Sharad Pande, with the assistance of Dr. Watson D'Sa, at the KEM Hospital.

The ESI Headquarters in Delhi have now declined to foot the bill, as there is no provision in the scheme for providing cardiac pace-makers. An appeal was made to the J.R.D. Tata Trust, which has sanctioned Rs.1,250 remaining from the amount allocated for 1973. The Tata Trust grants Rs.5,000 every year to the Air-India Staff Welfare Fund.

Because of his prolonged illness, Arjun was in financial difficulties. He was helped by the Air-India Staff Colony Association as well as the staff of the Maintenance Division.

## Rego wins Air-India TM Club Shield

ATUL J. REGO of the Bombay Labour Institute was adjudged the best speaker in the 7th Inter-Collegiate Public Speaking contest organised by the Air-India Toastmasters Club under the auspices of the Student YMCA Toastmasters Club. The contest was held at the YMCA International House on January 17, 1974 after a lapse of two years.

Mr. S.P. Godrej, Managing Director of Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Company, was the Chief Guest on the occasion and presented the prizes. He complimented the Air-India Toastmasters Club on its initiative in organising these contests for students.

Mr. S.P. Godrej presenting the Air-India Shield to Atul Rego of the Bombay Labour Institute.



A total of 16 students from 13 colleges participated in the contest. The Air-India Revolving Shield for 1973-74 went to the Bombay Labour Institute and was received by Atul Rego. The second prize was won by Conrad Saldanha of the St. Xavier's College and third by Miss Amita Romer of the Sophia College.

"We were delighted to hold this year's contest under the auspices of Student YMCA Toastmasters Club", said Mr. S.R. Shenai, Engineering Manager-Overhaul and President of the Air-India Toastmasters Club. "We assisted them in setting up the Club."

## WHO'S WHO & WHERE

### POSTINGS COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

From	To	From	To
Mr. S.S. Kaul Cargo, Bombay	Manager, Muscat	Mr. R. K. Rustogi Airport Manager, Cairo	New Delhi
Mr. K. K. Chawla, New Delhi	Asst. Manager, Osaka	Mr. H.M. Thadani Traffic, Santa Cruz	Airport Manager, Cairo

## Thank you, Air-India

(The following letter was received from Mr. A.J. Dady, Chief Engineer of Kuwait Airways.)

January 7, 1974

Dear Mr. Mascarenhas,

My wife and I would like to thank Air-India for their assistance on our recent tour of the East.

2. We especially chose a tourist flight (Hong Kong-Bombay) and although the aircraft was almost full we thought the food and service provided was excellent. Why travel first class if your tourist service is so good?

Thank you very much,

Yours sincerely,  
Sd/-  
(A.J. Dady)

Mr. F.V. Mascarenhas,  
Manager,  
Air-India,  
P.O. Box No. 5997  
Kuwait.



The Indian dance troupe at Addis Ababa airport. Mr. P.A. Narain, our Manager, Addis Ababa and Mr. P.V. Hegde, Asst. Manager, are at the left.

## Indian dance and food festival in Addis Ababa

An Indian troupe led by Mrs. Smita Shastri of the Narthan School of Classical Dances, Ahmedabad, performed at a theatre in Addis Ababa. The three-day programme was arranged by Air-India in co-operation with the Harambee Hotel in Addis Ababa. The Troupe consisted of five dancers and two musicians and performed Bharat Natyam and Gujarati folk dances, which were appreciated by many art loving Ethiopians and Indians.

A special performance was held exclusively for the Royal family at the Jubilee Palace. His Imperial

Majesty, Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia, was pleased with the performance and as a token of appreciation he presented a memento to the dancers and the musicians.

When the Dance Troupe arrived by Air-India, it was greeted by a Lion specially brought to the airport with the co-operation of the Imperial Body Guard.

During the same week Indian dinner was served at the Harambee Hotel. Mr. S.N. Bakshi, Asst. Catering Manager, specially flew to Addis Ababa to supervise the preparation of Indian food.

## New D. O. (Continued from page 1)

About his first flight as a commercial pilot with Air-India, he once commented: "I was quite bewildered at the time. In the Air Force I was my own boss, but here I found myself doing what I was told".

He has come a long way since then, having climbed step by step to take over the top job in Operations Department. Cheerful, friendly, Captain Dhillon is an extrovert who loves to talk about flying, about personalities and events.



## Fuel Situation being Watched from day to day

Says Mr. Venkataraman

"We are keeping a day to day watch on the fuel situation", said Mr. R. Venkataraman, Director of Planning and International Relations. He is the Chairman of the Fuel Committee. The other members are Captain A.M. Kapoor, Deputy Operations Manager (HQ) and Mr. Ram Naik, Assistant Financial Controller.

"I have to spend about an hour every day over the problem", said Mr. Venkataraman. "We have had to cancel eight London-New York flights, four Bombay-London and four Bombay-Tokyo during February". But, he added, the signs of fuel availability are encouraging, although the prices are high. Our fuel bill for 1974-75 will constitute about 24 per cent of our total costs, provided the costs remain at the present level, which may not.

Would the proposed seven per cent rise in international air fares affect our traffic? Mr. Venkataraman said it would not. When the rupee was devalued by as much as 57 per cent in 1966, everyone predicted that the traffic from India would fall dramatically, but it did not.

Mr. Venkataraman, 55, finds his present job very interesting, although he was not terribly keen on it a year ago when he first came to Bombay. "All my 27 years in Air-India have been spent in the field. I had never sat at my desk for more than a couple of hours a day until I came here. So you can imagine what I must have felt like".

During the second World War, he was with the Royal Navy in a



Mr. R. Venkataraman, Director of Planning and International Relations.

civilian capacity. From 1943 he was in Bombay, where he joined Air-India as an Officer-cadet in 1948. He started off in the Bombay Booking Office and then in 1952 went to Geneva as Assistant Manager - "I was No. 2 to Mr. N.H. Dastur". He took over as Manager, Zurich in 1955, Prague in 1956, Paris in 1958, Geneva again in 1962, Delhi in 1964 and finally Beirut as Regional Manager from 1968 to November 1972. "I have had a pretty good career I would say".

## Kalsi Rewarded

MR. GURUDEV SINGH KALSI, Plant Technician in the Ground Handling Department at Delhi, has been given a cash award of Rs.501/- by Mr. K.K. Unni, our Managing Director, in recognition of his bravery. He grappled with a dangerous passen-

ger on the United Airlines DC-8 Flight 144 between Vancouver and Chicago, on June 20, 1973, and succeeded in averting a disaster.

(The story appeared in the August 1973 issue of the Magic Carpet.)

## Airconditioned Terminal for Bombay

THE entire Bombay Airport Terminal is to be airconditioned, according to the International Airports Authority of India. The work is expected to be completed by the middle of this year and will cost Rs.27.40 lakhs.

The area to be airconditioned will include domestic concourse hall,

domestic arrival area, international concourse hall and the airside extension portion of the domestic departure lounge. A total of 41,370 square feet area will be airconditioned. At present only the international arrival and departure halls and domestic departure area are airconditioned.

## Training College has big plans for '74

OUR Training College has drawn up a comprehensive training programme for management development. Dr. V. Ramachandran, our Training Manager, said that unlike in the previous years, this year's programme includes senior management courses. He believes that such courses are necessary to keep senior officers posted with changes in management techniques. After all, these men set the pace for innovation and growth, he added.

In a foreword to a booklet containing the details of the courses to be conducted during the year, Mr. K. K. Unni, our Managing Director, says, "During the last two years, the Air-India Training College has been doing good work in the area of

Management training. Over 500 officers have attended the programmes organised by them. It's a happy sign that all the Departments in the organization are taking interest in the programmes and sponsoring participants.

"Management training has to be considered as an investment well worth it and no organisation operating in the modern day, highly competitive economy can do without it. There are several Management techniques, the application of which will improve efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation. Knowledge of these by managers at all levels is, therefore, necessary.

"The greatest asset that any manager should possess is his

ability to lead people under him. Fortunately, social science research has given clues to the understanding of human beings and how they are motivated. Study of management subjects, therefore, is greatly useful.

"The programmes scheduled for the year have been well conceived and I feel that senior managers should take active interest in them, either through sponsoring candidates, or even attend some cases themselves.

"I congratulate Dr. V. Ramachandran and his staff for their initiative in organising the various management development programmes."



Mr. K.K. Unni, Managing Director, presenting a bouquet to Mr. B.S. Rama Rao, Dy. Commercial Director (Admin.) at the farewell party given by the Departmental Heads.

## Mr. Rama Rao retires

MR. B.S. RAMA RAO, Deputy Commercial Director (Admin.), retired from the Corporation on January 10, 1974. At a farewell lunch given by the Departmental Heads on January 30, 1974, Mr. K.K. Unni, Managing Director, wished Mr. Rama Rao a happy retired life. Mr. Rama Rao came to Air-India in March 1961 as Manager-Traffic Administration after a varied career in Government and private industry. He joined the Government of Mysore in 1940-41 after taking a Master's degree in Economics and another in law. He worked on

the personal staff of Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan of Mysore.

In 1944, he went on deputation to the Government of India in the Ministry of Labour and two years later moved to the War Department. He was Secretary of the Pradhan Committee which reported on the conditions of the dockyard labour in Bombay. He was with Messrs. Ramnarain Sons from 1951 till he joined Air-India.

Mr. Rama Rao became Commercial Manager-Administration in April 1963 and Deputy Commercial Director in November 1972.

## ... and Mr. J. R. Puri

Mr. J.R. Puri, Controller, Ground Support Division, also retired from the Corporation in January 1974.

Mr. Puri joined Air-India in December 1954. He received his engineering training at the Air Services Training School, Hamble, England and was afterwards with the Elementary Flying Training School at Coventry during the war up to 1941. He was with the Bristol Aeroplane Company for a year and in 1943 joined BOAC as an Inspector in London. He was posted in Calcutta in 1954 before joining Air-India.

Mr. Puri was sent to London soon afterwards on a posting and returned to India in 1954. He worked in the Maintenance Division till March 1971, when he took over the Ground Support Division.



Now that Mr. J.R. Puri, Controller, Ground Support Division, has retired, many people at the airport miss his portly and smiling figure.

## Regional meeting

(Continued from page 1)

In his concluding remarks Mr. Qadir thanked the MD, the CD and other delegates from India and said: "This sales meeting has been much more useful and instructive than several others I have chaired or attended. I am confident that the revenues earned by the region during the coming year (1974-75) will improve our expenditure/revenue ratio".



# Training aids made by Eng. Trg. Div. save Air-India \$.60,000



Above, Mr. A.H. Khan, Senior Engineer of the Engineering Training Division, checking one of the projectable demonstrators with the drawing. Below, some of the demonstrators made in the workshop of the Division.



Mr. S. Raman, Junior Signals Officer (station), working on a projectable demonstrator.

## Commun

**O**UR Engineering Training Division has saved the Corporation \$60,000 - all in foreign exchange - by fabricating a series of projectable demonstrators and Trainer Panels for the Boeing 747. Of these the lateral control panel, which shows link mechanism for ailerons, would alone have cost \$43,000, not to mention the heavy import duty we would have had to pay.

The story goes back to March 1970, when Mr. P.G. Gadgil, Manager, ETD, and other instructors were in Seattle for training on the Boeing 747. He noticed that the Boeing instructors were using projectable demonstrators and trainer panels with great effect.

### Giant aeroplane

On a giant aeroplane like the Boeing 747, it is not possible to show every trainee complicated link mechanisms of controls buried underfloor or inside the wings. And yet they must all be familiar with every pulley and cable where they are located and how they function. They must know exactly what happens when pilot moves the control wheel or pulls down

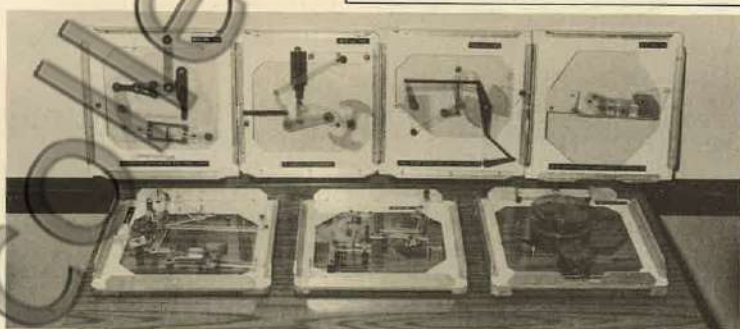
the landing gear lever and how the movement is transmitted to the relevant part.

From this need emerged these modern aids for training engineers and technicians. But for Air-India the cost of buying these aids was prohibitive and the only alternative was to make them locally in Bombay, if possible. Mr. Gadgil asked for the drawings, which the Boeing Company was good enough to provide free of cost.

### Ingenuity

Since then the Training Division's two Senior Engineers Mr. V. Venkataraman and Mr. A.H. Khan and Foreman Mr. T.S. Rangaswamy have built up an impressive collection of these aids, the last and probably the most important of which is the lateral control trainer panel.

A great deal of ingenuity, skill and patient effort went into the manufacture of these aids. Mr. Gadgil was full of praise for Mr. Rangaswamy. He said: "Nothing was readily available in the market here as in the USA. We had to improvise. We managed to get some



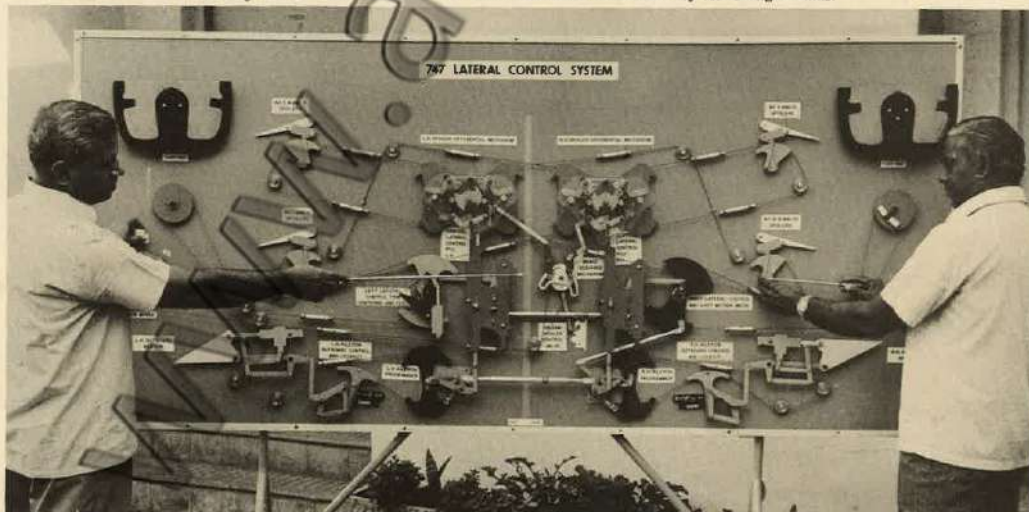
parts from our workshops. We bought the coloured transparent plastic pieces we required for projectable demonstrators from scrap merchants and Mr. Rangaswamy cut each piece into a precise shape as required. He also fabricated pulleys and the stand. All this took a long time but it was worth it".

Today, these aids are being extensively used for training on the 747s. Mr. Gadgil was particularly proud of the fact that only two batches of senior engineers were sent for training abroad, the rest including technicians were trained here.



Mr. P.G. Gadgil, Manager, Engineering Training Division.

Mr. V. Venkataraman, Senior Engineer and Mr. T.S. Rangaswami, Foreman, Engineering Training Division, seen with the Boeing 747 Lateral Control Panel which has been fabricated by Mr. Rangaswami.



After the Communications Symposium at Mr. E.W. Massam, Sr. Supervisor, London; Mr. V.S. Katre, Communications Manager; Supdt.; Mr. K.K. Nair, Supervisor; and Mr. S. Raman, Junior Signals Officer (station).





## Indian Ballet at the Sydney Opera House

**R**ANI SINGH, daughter of Mr. R. K. Narpat Singh, our Manager-Australasia, was among the girls who participated in the ballet "Gita Govinda" staged to mark the opening of the Sydney Opera House by Her Majesty the Queen. The ballet was based on a poem written by the 17th century Bengali Poet Jaydev in Sanskrit. It portrays the episodes from the life of Lord Krishna. The ballet was composed and directed by Miss Jyoti Khanna Ray, who also

acted as Radha in it. Miss Singh was one of the gopis in the ballet. Six Indian films were also shown during the celebrations.

It was an art festival par excellence. Music, dances, operas, film shows and ballets from almost every nation in the world were staged in the magnificent halls of the Opera House, which is located in Sydney's harbour area. Because of its unusual architecture, the Sydney Opera House has become a landmark.

Artists in the Indian Ballet staged at the Sydney Opera House are (L to R) Jyotikana Ray, Producer and Director; Phebia Chang; Synthia Huda; Rene Raichoudhury; Rani Singh, daughter of Mr. R.K. Narpat Singh, our Manager, Australasia; Ajam Chowdhuri (seated).



## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Fuel Crisis

Oil prices are now so high that the long-term supply situation is no longer critical. Tar sand, shale and coal are now economical oil sources and vastly increase potential oil reserves - oil geologist.

By April fuel will represent 27 per cent of total operating cost of scheduled airlines and 50 per cent of direct operating costs. Fare increases of at least 11½ per cent are required to compensate for it - airline executive.

High fuel prices will bring about rationalisation by airlines which management has failed to achieve in the past - airline executive.

Jet B (JP-4) fuel will not become widely used in the long term because it contains naphtha fractions far too valuable to the petrochemical industry - oil company economist.

Tourism (and hence the charter airlines) will come to be regarded as a very valuable source of foreign exchange as oil prices hit the balance of payments - tourism expert.

#### STATEMENT

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Signature of Publisher,  
(Sd.) S. Almeida

(Flight International, January 17, 1974)

## Communications training programme launched

**T**HE Communications Division of our Operations Department is now conducting a series of courses for our communications staff from all over the system.

The courses, which are expected to continue throughout 1974, are being held at the Communications Centre at the Air-India Building in Bombay and are primarily intended to train staff in the new procedures for computerised reservations, in which communications provides a vital link.

### Symposium

Before the training programme began, a five-day Communications Symposium was held in Bombay in November, which was attended by our Communications Supervisors from many parts of the world.

Mr. V.S. Katre, Communications Manager, in his introductory speech explained the objectives of the symposium and spoke briefly on the latest developments in the field of airline communications. The Chief of a Centre has an important role to play in future, he said, in cutting down costs and speeding up messages.

Subsequent discussions were concerned with various problems of communications arising out of net-work changes and computerisation of reservations introduced by other airlines.

Mr. S. Raman, Junior Signals Officer, has been put in charge of training under the overall direction of Mr. M.D. Joshi, Asst. Communications Manager. Explaining the training programme, Mr. Raman said that for computerised reservations it is very important to send a message in a particular format otherwise the computer will reject it. So telex operators have to be as thoroughly familiar with the formats as those who write the messages.

He also pointed out that Air-India uses four different net-works for world-wide communications and it is important for staff to be familiar with their procedures. Not all courses are alike. They are geared for different requirements of different stations, he said.

seen (from L to R) Mr. M.L. George, Supervisor; Mr. S. Raman, J.O. (Signals); Mr. M. Bernstein, Sr. Supervisor, New York; Mr. P. Sen, Supervisor, New Delhi; Mr. V. Ramasubramaniam, Supervisor, Madras; Mr. M.D. Joshi, Asst. Communications; S.J.C. Olen Yo, Supervisor, Nairobi and Mr. K. Hiraishi, Supervisor, Tokyo.





## SPORTS

## BADMINTON

# MSCB bags both titles in Air-India tourney

**M**AHARASHTRA State Co-operative Bank won both the senior and the junior championship in the 18th Open Air-India Inter-Offices Badminton Tournament, which was held at the University Pavilion, Bombay, between December 31, 1973 and January 8, 1974.

The Union Bank were the runners-up in the senior division and Tatas in the junior division.

A total of 20 teams participated in the Tournament - five in the senior



Mr. P.V. Gole, Director of Personnel and Industrial Relations, making a presentation to Mr. A. Nivasarkar of Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank. Mr. D. Mukherjee of MSCB is at the left.

division and 15 in the junior division.

Mr. P.V. Gole, Director of Personnel and Industrial Relations, was the Chief Guest on the final day and gave away the prizes.

Among those present were Mr. D. Shivnath, Deputy Controller of Stores and Purchases and Vice Chairman of our Sports Control Board and Mr. K.A. Sapat, Industrial Relations Manager.



The Inter-departmental Carrom singles finals in progress. V. B. Revandkar, who won the championship, is seen on the left. His opponent K.T. Pawar is on the right.

## CARROM

## Personnel are champs

**T**he Personnel Department won the Carrom championship in the Inter-Departmental Tournament for 1973-74 by winning both the singles and the doubles title. V.B. Revandkar won the singles finals and then went on also to win the doubles title in partnership with Mrs. Tara Malkani.

Revandkar defeated K.T. Pawar of Engineering Department to win the singles title. He played a superb game. In the semi-finals he defeated E.S. Benge of the Commercial Department, who was the last year's champion. The other two semi-finalists were Pawar and D.R. Suryawanshi from Commercial.

The doubles tournament this year was played on a knock-out basis. Revandkar and Mrs. Malkani defeated Pawar and P.A. Bhosekar both of Engineering Department.

The two teams who lost in the doubles semi-finals were D.S. Barde and J.G. Murudkar from Ground Handling Department and Benge and R.G. Patankar from Commercial.

Only the following four hotels restrict their discount policy: The Mandarin in Hong Kong limits the 50 per cent discount to airline personnel only. The discount does not extend to members of an airline employee's family.

The Duna Inter-Continental in Budapest offers a 50 per cent discount during the off-season only, December through March.

The Hotel Inter-Continental Bucharest offers a 25 per cent discount November through March only and no discount throughout the remainder of the year.

The Oberoi Inter-Continental in New Delhi offers a 15 per cent discount year-round.

## WEDDINGS



Keiko Yoshida to Mr. Hisamitsu Ideguchi of our Osaka office.



Rowena Machado of Space Control to Mr. J.F. Menezes of Union Bank.



Seetha, daughter of A. Sherigar, PP & IE Divn. to Mr. Raghav of Hindustan Ferodol.



Vandana, daughter of R.J. Yagnik, PPO Divn. to Jagdish Kumar.

## INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTELS

## Big discounts offered to airline employees

**I**nter-Continental Hotels Corporation is putting nearly 60 of its hotels in 43 countries at the disposal of airline employees for half price. Pan Am's wholly-owned hotel subsidiary now grants all airline employees and members of their families accompanying them a 50 per cent discount year-round at 58 of 62 Inter-Continental and Forum (Inter-Continental's medium-priced division) hotels. This offer is subject to room availability.

The 50 per cent discount is valid for stays of up to five days. However, the discount period may be extended at the discretion of the hotel manager.

Airline employees generally

must hold confirmed reservations to obtain a discount. However, in the event that an individual employee arrives at an Inter-Continental or Forum hotel without a reservation, he will be given the discount subject to space availability, provided he identifies himself as an airline employee when checking in.

Requests for reservations may be made at any Inter-Continental reservations office, or by writing directly to the hotel. Discounts will be applied to moderate rates at the hotels, but do not apply to food and beverage. The discount policy applies to both vacation and business travel, but does not apply to groups.



## Air-India Modern School celebrates Tenth Annual Day

**T**HE Air-India Modern School celebrated its 10th Annual Day with a colourful variety entertainment programme by the children of the School at the Shanmukhananda Hall in Bombay. A series of dances, skits and dramas marked the three-hour programme.

Mr. K.G. Appusamy, Deputy Managing Director, was the Chief Guest and presented the prizes. Mr. P.V. Gole, Director of Personnel and Industrial Relations presided.

In her speech of welcome, Miss Rose D'Souza, Principal of the School, surveyed the progress made by the School in the last ten years. The School reached the SSC level last year, she said, when 73 per cent of those who appeared passed the examination. She thanked the Air-India Management and the Managing Committee of the School formed by the Air-India Staff Colony Association, which runs the School.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Appusamy said that Air-India had



Above, Mr. K.G. Appusamy, Dy. Managing Director, congratulating Miss Sita Krishnan, daughter of Mr. R. Krishnan, our Asst. Manager, Cairo, at the 10th Annual Day of the Modern School. Miss Krishnan stood first from amongst the students of Air-India Modern School in the 1973 S.S.C. examination. She also bagged a number of prizes including the Air-India Staff Welfare Fund prize. Below, Mr. P.V. Gole, DPIP, speaking at the function. Miss Rose D'Souza, Principal of the Modern School is at the left.

spent Rs.2.50 lakhs on the School Building and had decided to spend Rs.1.50 lakhs more for expansion of the School to provide a laboratory and additional class rooms. He was happy that the School maintained very high standards.

The Air-India Staff Welfare Fund had also donated a projector and musical instruments worth Rs.5,500, said Mr. Appusamy. In addition, the Fund spends Rs.345 a year on prizes for students.

Mr. Gole expressed satisfaction at the performance of the children and hoped the same high standards would be maintained in future.

The large gathering of guests and Air-India staff assembled for the Modern School Annual Day watching the dance performance by the students at the Shanmukhananda Hall (L)



## Tandoori for charity

**T**WO dozen Tandoori Chickens prepared in our Chefair Flight Kitchen at Bombay Airport fetched Shillings 2,100 (Rs.2292) in a charity request programme called Dial-a-Disc presented by the Dar-es-Salaam Round Table over Radio Tanzania.

During the programme, various items are put up for auction and while the programme is on the air listeners phone in their bids.

The response this year was tremendous, according to Phil Dastur, our DSM, Dar-es-Salaam. He is a past Chairman of the Round Table and felt had there been a little more time, the bid for the chickens would probably have been higher.

## Hosi Godha to head IATA working Group

**M**R. HOSI GODHA, our Cargo Agency Officer, who represents Air-India on the Cargo Agency Committee of the International Air Transport Association, has been appointed the Chairman of a Working Group to study the activities of IATA-approved Cargo Agents. The members of the Group are drawn from the IATA Cargo Registration and Review Boards covering the three Conference areas of the Association. Mr. Godha, who joined Air-India in 1969, was elected at the TC3 CRRB Meeting held in Singapore recently.

## WIRBA team tours India

**A** team from the St. Clair Women's International Rules Basketball Association from South Australia toured India in January 1974. The team left on our service from Sydney on January 5, 1974 and was the first Australian women's basketball team to tour India.

The tour was called Sports-women's Association Goodwill Tour of India to distinguish it from the state or national team.

The team consisted of 16 players and 22 supporters. They played against our national team in Delhi and later played against University teams at Agra, Jaipur and Bombay.

The WIRBA team from South Australia which toured India recently, seen at Adelaide before leaving on a tour of South East Asia and India. They travelled on our service from Sydney.



## OBITUARY

### Mr. V.K.K. Nair

Mr. V.K.K. Nair, who was a peon in our Delhi office, died at the Vohra Nursing Hospital in Delhi, on January 1, 1974. He was 42.

Mr. Nair joined Air-India in 1955. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and a son, to whom we send our condolences.

### Mr. B.S. Panchal

Mr. B.S. Panchal, Senior Aircraft Technician in the Components Overhaul Division of our Engineering Department, died at the Bombay Hospital on January 17, 1974. He was 55.

Mr. Panchal joined Air Services of India Ltd. as a mechanic in March 1951. After nationalisation, he was with Indian Airlines for a year before being transferred to Air-India.

Quiet and unassuming, Mr. Panchal will be missed by his colleagues. He leaves behind his wife, three sons and a daughter, to whom we send our condolences.



# FOCUS ON PEOPLE

Fiftyfive Italian school children, who travelled from Addis Ababa to Nairobi on our service for a holiday, are seen at Addis Ababa airport before boarding our aircraft.



Ex-King Constantine of Greece and Queen Marie leaving our 747 on their arrival in London from India.

Off to London on our flight from Hong Kong recently was the talented young Argentine-born pianist Sylvia Kersenbaum (2nd from L) who is seen at Kai Tak with Frank Fung (extreme left); our DSS (left), Mrs. Winnie Lau, Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Philharmonic and Gilbert Wong, our Assistant to the Airport Manager.



Above, Mr. K.R. Ganesh, Union Minister of State for Finance, travelled on our service from Madras to Singapore. He was seen off at the airport by (L to R) Mr. K. Cherian, Manager-Southern India; Mr. George E. Joseph, Commissioner of Income Tax, Madras; Dr. S. Vijayalakshmi, Mr. C. Chidambaram, Collector of Customs, Madras; Mr. Keayla, Special Assistant to the Minister and other well wishers. Below, Yesudas, the celebrated playback singer, toured the Gulf area recently enroute to USA & Canada. Here he is seen with Mr. T.K.P. Pillai, our Manager, Abu Dhabi and His Excellency Mr. S.E.H. Rizvi.



Leading travel agents and representatives of airline were invited recently by the ITDC for the formal launching of their "Guide to Delhi" in New Delhi. Among the guests was Mr. J.S. Joglekar, our Assistant Regional Manager-India (4th from L).

