

# The Magic Carpet



VOL. 19 NO. 9 THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF AIR-INDIA SEPTEMBER 1975

## A TREK TO MOUNT EVEREST

Capt M.S. Kohli, DY CM, who recently went on a short trek to the Mount Everest, seen with the incarnate Lama of the Thyangboche Monastery which is regarded as one of the most beautiful spots on the earth. (See Captain Kohli's article on pages 4 and 5).



## EMPLOYEES PLEDGE SUPPORT

MR K.K. UNNI, Managing Director, at a meeting held on August 5, 1975, with the representatives of all the nine guilds/unions/associations representing the employees of Air-India, explained the special tasks and responsibilities devolving on the Management and the employees at the present juncture to tone up the administration and improve the performance of the airline.

The representatives of the Indian Pilots' Guild, Indian Flight Navigators' Guild, Indian Flight Engineers' Association, All India Aircraft Engineers' Association, Air Corporations Employees' Union, Indian Aircraft Technicians' Association, Air-India Cabin Crew Association, the Indian Flight Despatchers' Union and the Air-India Officers' Association reciprocated the sentiments expressed by Mr Unni and pledged on behalf of all employees their wholehearted support in maintaining discipline and improving the productivity and efficiency of the airline.



Mr M.A.S. Dalal, RD-UK, chats with Chris Bonington, leader of the British Everest Expedition, in our office in Bond Street after Mr Dalal had presented Chris with the Air-India flag. Chris will be carrying it with him up the Everest as far as possible, and then it will fly on the mountain face until he makes his descent, when he will collect it again and re-present it to the RD-UK in London, later in the year. (See London Diary on page 6).

## NATIONALISATION SPURRED GROWTH AND PROGRESS

IT is an undeniable fact that but for nationalisation, Air-India would not have been able to achieve the progress and success which it has achieved by acquiring and operating the latest and most modern aircraft so essential for survival in the highly competitive field", said the Managing Director in an interview on the Bombay Television on August 1, 1975.

"We began, at the time of nationalisation, with a fleet of four Constellation aircraft, operating only two international routes. Today, Air-India has a worldwide route network spread over the five continents and serving 29 countries and 35 cities, and operates a fleet of nine Boeing 707 and four Boeing 747 aircraft, with one more on order for delivery in December 1975."

There are more impressive indicators of the tremendous growth and performance of Air-India in the last 22 years, said Mr Unni. For instance, the revenues have increased from around Rs 3 crores during the year prior to nationalisation to an estimated Rs 178 crores during 1975-76. During the same period, the capacity provided has gone up from 20.962 million tonne kilometres to 973.654 million tonne kilometres. The number of employees has increased from 2,300 to 10,800 at present.

During the last 22 years, the Government of India has invested Rs 61.8 crores in Air-India, while the amount of capital generated from internal resources and ploughed back into the business of Air-India

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## LONG SERVICE MEMENTOS AND MERIT AWARDS TO STAFF

# Staff role in promoting 'Quality' praised by MD

LONG Service Mementos and Merit Awards were presented to staff by Mr K.K. Unni, Managing Director, at a colourful function on August 1, 1975. A large number of staff and their families attended the function in the first floor Canteen Hall of the Technical Building.

Among those present on the occasion were Mr K.G. Appusamy, Deputy Managing Director, Departmental Heads and senior officers of the Corporation.

A total of 16 staff, among whom were three pilots and three navigators, received their watches and service pins for having completed 25 years service; 49 others received their medallions and National Savings Certificates as Merit Awards.

A loud applause greeted Mrs Noble, wife of Captain A.K. Noble, when she received the Merit Award on behalf of her daughter, Zarin, who was a hostess and who left Air-India to get married.

Addressing the staff after presenting the awards, Mr Unni said that August 1 is a very important day for Air-India, because on this day, 22 years ago the air transport industry was nationalised. He quoted several statistical indicators to emphasise the tremendous progress made by Air-India since nationalisation. "But for nationalisation,

Air-India would not be where it is today", he said.

The watches presented to staff for long service were "mere tokens", said Mr Unni, but a tremendous significance was attached to them, because of the high esteem in which the staff with long service are held by Air-India. So far 1,160 staff have received long service mementos,

which represents nearly 12 per cent of our staff strength. "This is indeed creditable to the organisation".

Mr Unni congratulated Capt Y.V. Mahajan, Capt Baney Singh and Capt M.L. Kukar for their long and distinguished service in Air-India and said that: "not many airlines in the world can boast of pilots with 25 years service".

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Mr K.K. Unni, MD, speaking to the staff after presenting the Long Service Mementos and Merit Awards on August 1, 1975. The others seen in the photograph are (L to R) Brig M.P. Joseph, CCW & P, Mr P.D. Baliwala, CSP, Mr P.V. Gole, DPM, Mr K.G. Appusamy, Dy MD, Mr Om Sawhny, DE and Mr D.P. Nimkar, CGH.



# Baby born on Boeing 707

**W**HAT would normally have been a routine Air-India Charters Ltd flight was transformed into an eventful one by the birth of a baby girl on flight 002 from Amsterdam to Bombay on August 12, 1975.

Couple of hours after a pre-dawn take-off from Cairo Captain S.B. Chatterjee, Deputy Operations Manager (Training) who was in command, was sitting relaxed in the left hand seat of our Boeing 707 'Makalu', casting an occasional glance at the instruments, when a hostess came in and whispered, "A lady passenger is having labour pains. Her name is Mrs Theresiamma Verghese".

Captain Chatterjee quickly briefed her on what the cabin crew should do and then immediately set the aircraft to climb from its cruising altitude of 30,000 ft to 37,000 ft in order to be above the weather. At the

same time he made an announcement on the public address system for a doctor.

Dr Sheila Saxena from Lucknow, an Australian doctor and an Australian nurse immediately left their seats and went to the rear of the aircraft where the cabin crew had already made Mrs Verghese comfortable. Mrs Verghese, who works as a nurse in Dusseldorf, was actually on her way to Cochin to have her first child due in mid-September.

In the meanwhile, Capt Chatterjee walked down the cabin to see the arrangements. He went back to the flight deck and radioed Bombay that he was diverting the aircraft to Bombay instead of going to Delhi as scheduled.

The baby was born at 7.22 AM (Indian Standard Time). The aircraft landed at Bombay at 9.15 AM or al-

most two hours later. Dr. Saxena and Capt Chatterjee signed the birth certificate of the baby. Said Capt Chatterjee: "Thanks to the two doctors and the nurse, we had no problems. The cabin crew too did a wonderful job."

At Bombay Airport, Mr Mark Pereira, Duty Officer, had already telephoned his wife, Marie, who is a doctor and runs a Maternity hospital in Bandra, to come to the airport immediately with an ambulance. After the aircraft had landed, Mrs Verghese and the baby were taken straight to the hospital.

This is the second time a baby was born on an Air-India aircraft. In December 1967, a Mongolian lady gave birth to a baby daughter on board our Boeing 707 "Annapurna".



## Bhagwat elected to BCA Committee

**M**R V.M. BHAGWAT, 48, Assistant Personnel Officer, has been elected to the managing Committee of the Bombay Cricket Association for the year 1975-76. There were nine candidates for five posts.

Mr Bhagwat, who represented the Khandala Cricket Club, received 177 votes from the 263 votes cast in the elections, which were held on July 18, 1975. All the cricket clubs affiliated to the BCA had voting rights.

Mr Bhagwat, who has been playing cricket for several years for Air-India, had contested the BCA election in 1972 and had lost by a solitary vote. This year he received maximum votes.

The elections were to be held last year but because of the construction of the new stadium were postponed until July this year.

## Nationalisation

(Continued from page 1)

comes to Rs 90.53 crores. "This is a very significant achievement of which the Airline can be proud", said Mr Unni.

Air-India is entirely self-sufficient in the matter of engineering and operational facilities which compare with the best facilities in the world and have also built up a fine band of highly skilled pilots, engineers, technicians and sales and administrative personnel, which provide a sound basis for future expansion.

"Air-India apart from serving the country in emergencies as a second line of defence, has made significant contributions to the national economy in the field of promotion of tourism to India which is a major earner of foreign exchange, in the field of export of cargo by air from India and in the matter of earning and saving of foreign exchange for the country", he concluded.

## Reunion Dinner

The Royal Aeronautical Society will hold a Reunion Dinner on October 24, 1975, at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1, for the past Lecturers and Students who have attended the Air Transport Course. Those desirous of attending the Dinner should write to: The Secretary, Air Transport Course, The Royal Aeronautical Society, 4, Hamilton Place, London W1, not later than October 1, 1975.



## AIR-INDIA IN LUSAKA

The Rotary Club of Lusaka recently organised an International Evening in the city. The chief guest on the occasion was Mr K. Srinivasan, Indian High Commissioner to Zambia. Among those present were Mr N.L. Mital, our Regional Manager - Africa. The highlight of the evening was a Bharat Natyam performance by Mrs Nimala Ramchandran, wife of our DSM Lusaka. Mrs Ramchandran is a well-known dancer who has travelled extensively and given dance performances in several countries of Europe and the Far East. The photograph at the top shows Mr Mital (Centre) with Mr P.S. Monze, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Power & Communications, Government of Zambia (L) and Mr Srinivasan, the Indian High Commissioner. Below, Mr and Mrs Ramchandran (L) seen with some of the guests.



## Role of staff praised

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Mr Unni also congratulated those who had won Merit Awards and said that he agreed with the suggestion made by Mr S.K. Nanda, Chief Personnel Manager, that the Merit Award scheme needs to be revised. "There is a case for increasing the amount of money and for giving the awards to really outstanding staff".

Mr Unni said that he was particularly happy to see Mrs Noble receiving the Merit Award on behalf of her daughter. "Mrs Noble herself, as you know, was our Chief Air Hostess before her marriage. It seems such a short time ago".

Referring to the naming of Air-India as a 'Quality Airline' by the Women's Wear Daily, Mr Unni emphasised that the credit for this must go to the "boys and girls" of Customer Service. He also had a special word of praise for Mr K.L. Ramchandran, Commercial Manager-Customer Service.

Mr Unni said that the management was trying to increase the welfare amenities for Air-India staff. Already staff were provided 1,000 corporation flats plus over a 1,000 staff have been provided housing loans at concessional rates of interest. He referred to the proposal for house rent relief and additional dearness allowance and said: "We should all work a little harder to increase efficiency and productivity still further."

In a brief survey of the state of the air transport industry, Mr Unni said, that the industry was passing through a critical phase, having lost nearly Rs 800 crores in 1974 on a turnover of Rs 24,000 crores. Mr Unni pleaded for a greater co-operation amongst airlines even in such matters as engineering and other support services in order to reduce expenses.

Air-India would have done better in 1974-75, said Mr Unni, but for the three-month strike which forced a capacity cut-back of 17 per cent instead of the planned increase of 6 per cent.

At the start of the function, Mr R. R. Ganguly, Secretary of the 25 years club garlanded the M.D., Mr S. K. Nanda, Chief Personnel Manager thanked Mr Unni for agreeing to distribute the awards. He said that the Merit Award Scheme had been in existence in Air-India for two decades and a time had come to review the entire scheme. Mr P.G. Sule, Asst. Personnel Officer proposed a vote of thanks and the programme ended with the singing of the National Anthem.



## LABOUR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

# Problems of Indian outstations discussed

**S**TAFF Welfare at Indian outstations is receiving increasing attention of the Labour Relations Committee, judging by the time devoted to the subject in the last meeting of the Committee in Calcutta on July 11, 1975.

Mr R.N. Dhople voiced the complaints of the majority of staff at Calcutta about the lack of proper canteen facilities at the new office. Mr H.D. Billimoria, Manager-Eastern India explained that a canteen was to be provided on the second floor of the new building but there had been some difficulty in taking over the place. He said that the matter had been referred to the Headquarters and requested Mr P.V. Gole, Director of Personnel and Industrial Relations and Chairman of the LRC, to use his good offices so that the accommodation on the second floor could be taken over. (This has since been done - Ed.).

Elected members focused attention on some of the more pressing problems like office accommodation, housing, medical aid, canteen facilities and transport at the outstations as well as in Bombay.

Mr N.B. Patil said that he had received numerous complaints from staff in Delhi about the working of the canteen, Mr S.K. Nanda, Chief Personnel Manager, assured him that with the question of additional subsidy having been settled, the situation should improve. Brigadier

M.P. Joseph said that even the problem of space was being taken care of since provision of a new canteen building had been approved.

The problem of space had also prevented him from making some of the modifications to the Stores Tea Centre at Santa Cruz as suggested by Mr V.M. Fernandes. Efforts were, however, being made to find additional space.

Mr Patil also complained about the lack of Tea Centres at the Cargo Office in New India Assurance Building and in the City Purchase Office at Ballard Estate. Mr Nanda informed the Committee that arrangements would be made to supply kettles, cups and saucers for the preparation of tea at these places.

Mr Patil was not altogether happy about the canteen facilities provided for the staff on night duty at the Air-India Building in Bombay. Mr Gole, said that he would personally take up the matter with the Hotel Corporation of India.

The question of taking over the Contributory Medical Benefits Scheme again came up for discussion. Pending the decision about the take-over, Mr Nanda assured the members that arrangements had been made to expedite the employees' claims. As far as the difficulties of Calcutta, staff were concerned, it was decided that Mr N.R. Kshatriya, Deputy Personnel Manager (Welfare) would

(Continued on page 6)



Mr Rajni Patel, President of the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee, who presented the awards at the Bhulabhai Desai Auditorium in Bombay on August 8, 1975, is seen shaking hands with Mr Firdausi Jussawalla, our Publicity Officer, before presenting the awards.

COME  
INDIA IS WAITING

## Advertising Award for Air-India

Our poster "Come India is Waiting", won the second prize for point of sale material at the Eighth All-India Awards for Excellence in Advertising, offered by the Advertising Club of Bombay.



## 'Centaur' offers fishing holiday

**T**HE Centaur Hotel at Bombay Airport built by the Hotel Corporation of India - a wholly-owned subsidiary of Air-India - is offering a five-day Fishing Holiday for Air-India staff at an all-inclusive price of US\$ 89.27 (or £40 or DM 236.13 or Yen 29,878) per person.

The package Holiday will include full board and lodging at the Centaur and all the expenses of the fishing trips to spots just outside Bombay, excluding of course the cost of transportation from the outstation. The Holiday is being offered on an experimental basis and, if successful, will be later marketed commercially.

The first tour will commence on Monday, October 20, 1975 and will accommodate 12 staff. If there is a heavy demand, says the circular issued by Mr Eric Pereira, Managing Director of the HCL, those who cannot be accommodated in the first trip will be accommodated in the subsequent trips. The two initial tours will be confined to Air-India staff only and the names will be accepted purely on first-come-first-served basis.

Those who have their own fishing tackle should bring it along. However, at Powai lake, which is on the itinerary, the rule is that the fishing line should not exceed more

than 15 lb breaking strength. So Mr Pereira advises that all participants should restrict the size of the lines to this limit so that the competition among participants is fair. Air-India staff can bring their wives along, and provided they are not taking part in the fishing activities, they can stay at the Centaur for an additional charge of £4.00 per day.

The following programme has been drawn up:

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1975

Leave Hotel at 7 AM for Vaitarna River for fishing in the area where the river flows into the Arabian sea. While the fish available here are not large, they are of infinite variety and colour. Live sea worms and small shrimps can be used as bait.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1975

Leave Hotel at 9.30 AM for Madh Island for offshore fishing. Here you can catch the Indian salmon, which normally weighs anything from 10 to 20 lb. There is also the possibility of hooking the 'Bekhti' which is the gamest of all sea fish found in this area.

Landing of either the Indian salmon or the Bekhti (commonly known as Rawas and Khajura respectively) requires some skill as the fish normally swim around the rocky areas feeding on the small mullets and care must be taken to avoid snagging the lines in the rocks. This type of fishing will be spin casting with plugs and spoons.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1975

Leave Hotel at 7 AM for the Karala Bird Sanctuary, some 50 miles away from Bombay. Here you can wander in the woods for bird watching or can enjoy some creek fishing as well as seeing a wide variety of sea birds like the curlew, snipe and golden plover.

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## MR PEREIRA ELECTED MSAA PRESIDENT

**M**R ERIC PEREIRA, Managing Director of the Hotel Corporation of India, has been elected the President of the Maharashtra State Angling Association for the year 1975-76.

The MSAA, a private body with nearly 300 members, has its headquarters at the Powai Lake on the outskirts of Bombay, where a club house and boats are available for members.

"Our objective is to promote angling as a sport", said Mr Pereira,

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Mr Eric Pereira, MD, HCL, seen with a 23-lb fish he caught at the Powai Lake.



Mr P.D. Baliwala, Controller of Stores and Purchases (Centre with dark glasses) seen with Mr P.D. Marathe, ACSP (HQ), Mr M.K. Rao and Mr R.J. Kanai, Stores Managers and some of his staff after planting a sapling in the garden opposite Stores Department on the eve of Independence Day on August 15, 1975.







A helicopter landing on an airstrip carved out of the mountainside by the Japanese at a height of 13,000 feet near the Mount Everest View Hotel in the Himalayas.



The Thyangboche monastery in the sh

**D**URING May this year, I decided to take a short trek to Mount Everest to see for myself the growth of trekking-tours that we have been promoting for the past four years. I also wanted to see the effect of these tours on the local Sherpas and the problems of pollution, which have recently arisen. Earlier, I had been to this region in 1960, 1962 and 1965 with the Indian Everest Expeditions. The present trip was partly meant to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the historical Indian ascent of Mount Everest. It was an eye-opener.

After arriving at Kathmandu on the afternoon of May 14, I flew to Lukla the next morning in a Pilatus Porter. Lukla, situated at a height of 9,000 ft. was crowded with several groups which were held up on account of the cancellation of flights from Kathmandu during the past three or four days. Here I also happened to meet Mr Norman Dhyrenfurth, leader of the successful American Everest Expedition - 1963. Norman was leading a German trekking group.

Barely two hours after landing, during which we took a yak-meat lunch at a nearby Sherpa restaurant, we were on our way. I recruited a Sherpa and a porter to carry the tent and other supplies. Two Sherpa Sirdars, who were rushing to the

Base Camps of the British Nupte and the Italian Lhotse Expeditions, to attend a high-altitude food auction, also joined us. Such auctions were never heard of in the past. Expeditions used to abandon their remaining food supplies at the Base Camp.

We had hardly left Lukla when we met two Swedish girls, who were strolling about as if on the outskirts of Stockholm! I was reminded of an interesting incident during my last visit to Stockholm. I had gone there to address a press conference, organised by the Swedish Alpine Club to launch their first-ever expedition to the Himalayas.

#### Press conference

The press conference was crowded and looked to me as if they were there to cover the first historic journey to the Moon! The next day when I boarded a Paris-bound plane, I noticed my photograph with the Swedish team along with the news displayed under banner headlines. On my request, the charming Swedish lady in the adjacent seat translated the news to me: "The Swedes are becoming crazy. They are going to the

# A TREK TO MO

By Capt M. S. K  
Dy Commercial Manager-To

Himalayas!" It was true that Swedes had never been to the Himalayas before. The Swedish girls told me that there were many more girls from Scandinavia trekking in Nepal.

The uphill walk from Lukla to the foot of Namche Bazaar in the afternoon was most enjoyable. On the way we met several trekkers, alone or in pairs. After several years I was again walking on the pine-needles and along the hurtling, and foaming glacier-streams. Within an hour of leaving Kathmandu, we were in an altogether different world where time stands still!

Every hour or so we passed through Sherpa villages, consisting barely of 5 or 6 houses, some of which had signboards hung outside showing that they were being used as Sherpa restaurants. Rates of various items such as rice, eggs, biscuits, mutton curry and even rum and beer were displayed outside. These restaurants were run by charming Sherpa women who possessed a working knowledge of English.

I could not believe these sights. There was nothing of this sort 10 years ago. At night, while lying in my sleeping bag, I thought of the days I had spent on this trail in the past. The only difference was

that earlier I was a part of a thousand strong caravan and now it was just a group of five.

The following day as we were climbing up to Namche, we enjoyed the first glorious view of Mount Everest from a point about 500 feet below the plateau of Namche Bazaar. On reaching Namche that evening I visited the houses of several Sherpas who were with me on the previous Everest Expeditions. Many of these Sherpas had become old and had given up climbing careers. The meetings with these Sherpas after a gap of 10 years were very warm and exciting, and brought back memories of the days I had spent on Everest in the company of these brave men. During the past few years, quite a few of our Nepal Sherpas had died on the mountains and many others, who were still fit to work, had taken to trekking which is safer and financially more rewarding.

Around 5 p.m. that evening at Namche Bazaar, after I had visited half a dozen old Sherpa friends and had a few sips of Rakshi, a local brew, in each house (it is customary to take at least three sips), my Sherpa Jeeves came running to me announcing that a German trekking group from Munich, which I had been

The Buddhist prayers (Om Mani Pame - Hum - Hail the Jewel and the Lotus) inscribed on a boulder below Namche Bazaar.



A group of German trekkers enjoying a repast at the end of the







low of the Everest which is regarded as the most beautiful place on the earth.



A mountain village.

# UNT EVEREST

PHLI, I.N., AVSM

ism & Agency/Interline Sales

very eager to meet, would be camping that evening at Khunjung, a village about two to three hours march away. There were hardly two hours left for the sunset.

Without wasting a minute, I picked up my rucksack and left for Khunjung. The air was crisp and cold. I staggered into the German camp just in time. The group was just about to start their dinner. Hot soup with brandy was going round and I promptly joined in. The group, which had completed their trekking, was on their way back. They were full of fun. There were about 25 trekkers including a dozen women. Surprisingly, the happiest and the most cheerful man in the group was a 67-year-old man with one arm, an ex-soldier of the German army. He had climbed upto 17,000 ft without any difficulty. A tremendous sense of achievement and exhilaration was writ on his face.

The following day we trekked to the Thyangboche Monastery, involving a 1,500 ft climb. The Thyangboche Monastery is considered the most beautiful spot on the earth. Unfortunately, it was showing sad signs of pollution. Soon after our arrival, I called on the incarnate Lama of the Monastery whom I had

met on a previous occasion. We discussed several matters including the pollution problem. He was equally concerned and told me that he had talked about this to His Majesty, the King of Nepal, but unfortunately he had received no grant to construct toilets and other facilities for the tourists. I spent a very enjoyable day at the Monastery; views of Everest and Ama Dablam were magnificent.

From Thyangboche, we moved on to Pangboche, the last village en route to Mt. Everest. Here in the Monastery, we saw two prized exhibits - a hand and a skull belonging to Yeti, the legendary snowman! Alongside the exhibits was a footnote by an expert who had minutely examined the exhibits. It said: "We have examined these exhibits and our findings are that the hand belongs to a human being while the skull belongs to a snow bear. As the Sherpas have blind faith in the existence of Yeti, please do not disclose these findings to them".

A few miles beyond Pangboche we entered the broad Valley of Pheriche - a vast expanse of land where a runway could be laid to take even the Jumbos. Situated at a height of 14,000 ft, Pheriche is the junction

of several treks. In order to take care of high-altitude casualties in this area, a small hospital has been set up here by the Nepalese Travel Agents promoting trekking tours in Nepal. I was told that the Japanese are going to build a reasonably good hospital at this place in the next two years.

to have climbed Mt Everest. The leader of the team, Mrs Hisano is an old friend. She was a member of the Indo-Japanese Ladies' Expedition to the Himalayas in 1968, and later climbed Annapurna III, a peak which I had climbed in 1961. At Kathmandu, I also had the pleasure of meeting Mr Gordon Nicholls, a New Zealander, sent by his Government to examine the problems of pollution in the Himalayas. He told me that the New Zealand Government had offered to look after the National Park which was being set up by the Nepalese Government around the Everest Region and that the New Zealand Government had offered a grant of N\$300,000 for the purpose.

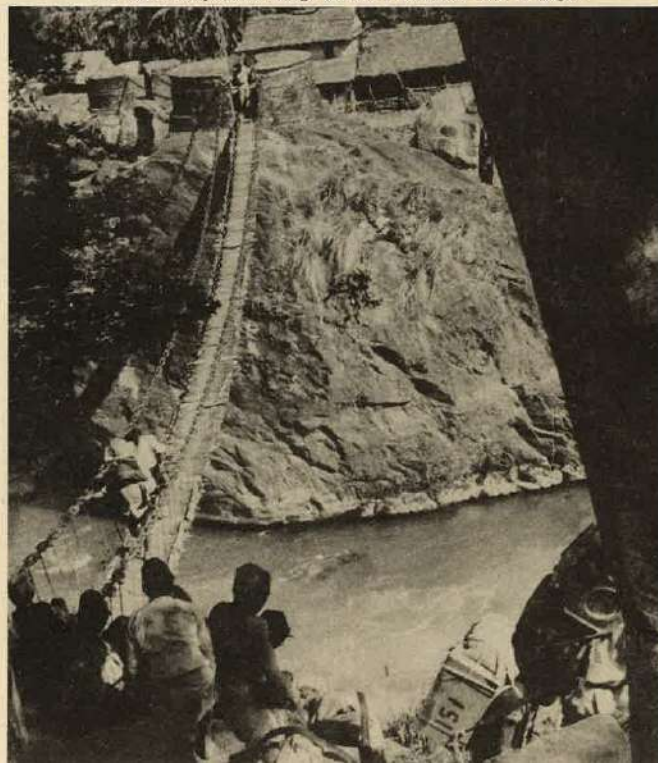
So the problem of pollution, I hope, will be solved in the near future. The growth of trekking in Nepal, during the past four years, has been phenomenal. Much of the credit for this goes to Air-India. I gathered that during 1974, the number of trekkers to Nepal were about 11,000, and the number during 1975 is likely to go upto 14,000. About 75 per cent of these trekkers come in groups, most of whom travel on Air-India. The number is growing fast and will continue to grow for some years to come. Himalayas are, fortunately, very vast and I don't think we will reach the saturation point for some years to come.

## Annual Sherpa Dance

On return from Pheriche, I visited Thami, the village where Tenzing Norgay was born. At this time of the year all trails in the Sherpa-land lead to Thami which holds the Annual Sherpa Dance. I left Thami for the Mt Everest View Hotel situated between Thyangboche and Namche. A day's stay at the Mt Everest View Hotel, situated at a height of 13,000 ft was a luxury which I had never experienced before at such altitude. Nearby, a long air-strip has been carved out of the mountain-side by the Japanese, where helicopters and Pilatus Porters land almost daily to drop or pick up passengers.

On return to Kathmandu, I met the members of the Japanese Women's Team to Mr Everest including Junko Tabei, the first woman in the world

The chain suspension bridge across a mountain river in Nepal.



A yeti scalp and a hand.





# LONDON DIARY

By Trevor Turner

THE U.K. Sales Conference was held at Grosvenor House in London at the end of July and there were 59 of us round the table. The official agenda was only for one day but various further discussions, on a departmental level, took place in Bond Street the next day.

Mr N.H. Dastur, Dy. Managing Director (Commercial), Mr Inder Sethi, Dy. Commercial Director (Marketing and Sales), Mr Narpat Singh, Commercial Manager-Cargo, and Mr Ravi Mani, Marketing Manager (Western Routes) attended from the Headquarters. We put on some Bombay type weather for them, in as much as the temperature on the day of the conference was well into the 80's.

Indeed this hot weather had been with us for some time. It is not often that the UK has such a long spell of hot and dry weather. In May, June and July this year, we had 668 hours of sunshine. And when we last had a good summer in 1970, we had 689 hours of sunshine and in 1959, it was over 700. It is nice, and it is good for morale but city life and working is very difficult in such heat.

Concorde has been coming and one of them was operated with a team made up of our pursers and hostesses who had been specially trained for the occasion.

Mango time came and went. Although we did not receive our full quota - and this meant that a number of our friends were disappointed - those who did receive these juicy presents from us were very appreciative.

We carried Chris Bonington and fifteen members of his fellow climbers who left London in July to make an attempt upon the south-west face of Everest, with what is an entirely British expedition sponsored by Barclays Bank International. We gave quite a lot of assistance to them and gained revenue both on the passenger and the freight side. Mr M. A.S. Dalal, Regional Director-UK, presented Chris Bonington with a small Air-India flag at a ceremony in Bond Street, on the morning prior to his departure for Kathmandu. Chris will be carrying this flag of ours as far as he can up the Everest,

and then he will fix it somewhere and he hopes to get a good photograph of it flying with the summit in the background. Upon his descent, he will collect it again and when he returns to London, he will re-present it to Mr Dalal in Bond Street.

Readers will recall the fact that London kept New York informed of the results of the Prudential World Cricket Cup. It is interesting to know the figures recently published by the Post Office, showing that nearly 500,000 calls were made on the telephone on the day of the finals, to obtain the results which were available on a recorded message put out by the Post Office on a particular telephone number.

A very pleasant invitation was extended to all Bond Street staff from our telephone operators to visit their new switchboard. Our visit took place one Friday in July. We were able to see the new equipment and also had an opportunity to get to know better the familiar voices who look after our Bond Street telephone communications system. This generous and sensible gesture was very much appreciated by all. In the words of one of our wittier members of the Sales Department, it was a pleasant 'extension' to the routine daily calls!

The RD-UK and Mrs Dalal attended one of the garden parties given by the Queen at Buckingham Palace in July.

A big shout of "welcome home" went up to Gerry Horsley when he returned to duty with Traffic at the airport, after nearly three months away following his recent illness. He looks well and healthy (did he ever look any thing else?) and tells us that he is now fully restored to good health.

Our television campaign will come to an end in August after six weeks, and at the same time the new trade advertisements, depicting our sales representatives in an unusual manner, will make their first appearance.

Did anyone hear about the passenger who stepped on board one of our flights and said to one of our hostesses "A beautiful girl like you should be on a higher plane"?

It was Mango Time by the pool of the Skyway Hotel, Heathrow, when off-duty hostesses Firoza Vajifdar (left) and Enakshi Lall gave Adam Richardson his first taste of this exotic fruit.



During the coffee break at the U.K. Sales Conference in London in June, Mr Inder Sethi, Dy. CD (Mktg & Sales) talks to Mr Shiv Kapuria, Manager of our Southall office, together with the Director of the Indian Tourist Office in London, Miss Asha Malhotra, and Mr M.A.S. Dalal R.D. - U.K. (right)

## LABOUR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

(Continued from page 3)

visit Calcutta along with the insurance agent to find a solution for the problems.

Mr J.P.D. Tata, Secretary of the Committee, pointed out that a number of people were visiting our hangars to see the aircraft, while staff were being denied permission. Mr Nanda stated categorically that the Management had decided not to permit visitors into our Technical Area.

Mr Tata was also unhappy over what he called the 'inequitable' disbursement of Miscellaneous Loan funds. He claimed that some departments were receiving a higher proportion of funds than others. Mr J.N. Mogrelia, Deputy Director of Finance, said that in view of the limited funds - not exceeding Rs.1 lakh - being available for the purpose, and in view of the large number of applications received, it was difficult to allot funds department-wise. However, he said, he would welcome suggestions from members to ensure a more equitable distribution of funds.

As for the suggestion by the elected members that the amount of festival advance should be increased, Mr Mogrelia said that this was not accepted by the Management. "I think we should hold a Festival of Advances" remarked Mr Mogrelia amidst laughter.

Mr Tata pleaded on behalf of the employees about to retire that they should be granted permission to encash their leave. The only condi-

tion should be that they should have put in a minimum of 10 years service with the Corporation. Mr Gole, Chairman, said that this question was discussed at length by the Management Committee and it was decided not to encourage refusal of leave prior to retirement. The elected members, however, desired that the Management may reconsider its decision on "humanitarian grounds".

During the discussion on housing problems, Brigadier Joseph informed the Committee that as an interim measure he had decided to "carry out necessary repairs, additions, alterations to the few units available in Calcutta so as to convert them into proper residential accommodation." Mr Billimoria added that the management was aware of the problems of housing and necessary steps would be taken to relieve the need.

Mr W. Santos felt that the telex operators working at the New Terminal Building in Bombay should be issued with uniforms because all the other staff working in the area had uniforms. Mr P.D. Baliwala, Controller of Stores and Purchases, pointed out that there was really no case for uniforms for telex operators, who in any case, did not come in contact with the public.

Among the other subjects discussed at the LRC meeting were outstation allowance, interest on Provident Fund loans, transfer of staff and supply of winter uniforms.

## 'CENTAUR' OFFERS FISHING HOLIDAY

(Continued from page 3)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1975

Leave Hotel for the Powai Lake at 10 AM for a day of still water fishing. The Lake abounds in the various types of fish of the Carp

family, which can weigh upto 50 lb.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1975

Free for individual interests. Evening: reception by the Centaur Hotel.

## MR PEREIRA ELECTED MSAA PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 3)

who began fishing as a hobby nearly six years ago. "I was introduced to the pleasures of fishing by my 18-year-old son", he said. On the 15th of August 1975 Mr Pereira was lucky to catch two catlas, one weighing 23 lb and the other 19 lb.

The MSAA has leased Powai Lake from the State Government and Bombay Municipal Corporation for use of its members and provides expert advice in breeding fish in the lake.

"Catlas as big as 90 lb have been caught in the Lake", said Mr Pereira.

"Today, however, it is not unusual to catch fish weighing 20 to 35 lb at Powai."

According to Mr Pereira, Bombay has "sufficiently attractive areas around it which can be developed as tourist spots," said Mr Pereira, "There is a fantastic potential".

Asked about the fishing tackle available in Bombay, Mr Pereira said that one can buy a reasonably good rod for Rs 28, although a more expensive one would cost as much as Rs 60.



# ROLL OF HONOUR

The list of staff who completed 25 years service with Air-India between August 1, 1973 and August 1, 1975

## GROUND HANDLING

1. Mr V.B. Hadkar
2. Mr Peter Fernandes
3. Mr N.R. Shetty
4. Mr N.M. Panchal

## COMMERCIAL

1. Mr B.C. Chavan
2. Mr Lai Mohamed
3. Mr B.D. Dhongde

## OPERATIONS

1. Capt P.K. Ghosh
2. Mr S.V. Kadle
3. Capt P.P. Birdi
4. Mr D.M. Mehta
5. Mr J.H. Hansotia
6. Mr T.N. Vardhan
7. Capt C.P. Narayanan
8. Capt S.D. Anand
9. Capt B.R. Dholakia
10. Capt S.S.N. Razdan
11. Capt A.K. Godbole
12. Mr S.R. Balsavar
13. Mr S.V. Wagle
14. Mr S.W. Guhi
15. Mr J.C. Rodrigues
16. Mr N.V. Subramaniam
17. Mr J.C. Pathak
18. Capt Y.V. Mahajan
19. Capt Baney Singh
20. Capt M.L. Kukar

## FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1. Mr J.N. Naik
2. Mr N.V. Rao
3. Mr V. Ramlingam
4. Mr C.V.R. Rao
5. Mr S.T. Jhangiani
6. Mr C.R. Laxman
7. Mr G.S. Telang
8. Mr P.P. Motee

## HEADQUARTERS

1. Mr D.G. Sawant
2. Mr K.G. Appusamy
3. Mr P. Rajagopalan
4. Mr K.K. Mendke
5. Mr N.W. Falnikar
6. Mr R.D. Tungare

## ENGINEERING

1. Mr Bhula Shiva
2. Mr J. Gracias
3. Mr R.H. Naigamwalla
4. Mr B.Y. Sule
5. Mr T.B. Pereira
6. Mr D.T. Dighe
7. Mr K.S. Ginwalla
8. Mr K.P.S. Prabhu
9. Mr T.N.D. Pillai
10. Mr V.F.L. Amaral
11. Mr V.K. Kurian
12. Mr N.B. Parekh
13. Mr I.C. Naik
14. Mr D.S. Sawant
15. Mr H.J. Pereira
16. Mr S.B. Kurup
17. Mr P.B.S. Kunde
18. Mr L.S. Gad
19. Mr R.N. Pillai
20. Mr G.B. Jadhav
21. Mr U.N. Kubde
22. Mr M.R. Dey
23. Mr S. Chakravarthy
24. Mr J.D. Kinny
25. Mr R.A. Merchant
26. Mr N.N. Pande
27. Mr R.M. Patil
28. Mr R.G. Ahir
29. Mr J.B. Nirgun
30. Mr C.I. Bocarro
31. Mr N.S. Andrade
32. Mr T.S. Ganapathy
33. Mr J.E. Leon
34. Mr A. Moraes
35. Mr K. Bhaskaran
36. Mr S.P. Laxminarayan
37. Mr M. Soraes
38. Mr S. Simpson
39. Mr K.V.S. Nair
40. Mr B. Pereira
41. Mr W. Williams
42. Mr J.N. Variava
43. Mr C.P. Abu
44. Mr M. Segueira
45. Mr M.B. Fataki
46. Mr A. Menezes
47. Mr S. Rangarajan
48. Mr M.K. Vaidyanathan
49. Mr S. Bast
50. Mr K.K. Swamy
51. Mr P. Gomes
52. Mr L. Lobo
53. Mr M.V. Sirdesai
54. Mr P. Silveira
55. Mr H.E. Bulimoria

56. Mr E. Mendonca
57. Mr K.P. Chodankar
58. Mr M.C. Boomla
59. Mr K.G. Krishnanand
60. Mr K.U.G. Rao
61. Mr P.D. Karani
62. Mr V.K. Kunder
63. Mr John Pereira
64. Mr V. Swamaya
65. Mr S. Kumaran
66. Mr J.G. Fernandes
67. Mr N. Aguiar
68. Mr J.M. Mistry
69. Mr V.M. Gudi
70. Mr A.N. Nair
71. Mr E. Sreeramulu
72. Mr M.S. Kale
73. Mr K.H. Bharucha
74. Mr Y.V. Bhide
75. Mr A.S. Marikam
76. Mr P.C. Kapse
77. Mr J.R. D'Costa
78. Mr G.A. Lopez
79. Mr C.R. Saha
80. Mr O.K. Sharma
81. Mr S. Soans
82. Mr J.A. Fernandes
83. Mr J.P. Kenny
84. Mr K.N.M. Yelahanka
85. Mr D.P. Makwana
86. Mr C. Netto
87. Mr C.S. Vaidyanathan
88. Mr V.K. Bal
89. Mr N.C. Godse
90. Mr B.G. Smart
91. Mr S. Acharya
92. Mr F.X. Fernandes
93. Mr P.S. Jagannathan
94. Mr D.K. Muniraj
95. Mr C.K. Walendra

## PERSONNEL

1. Mr A.K. Nair
2. Mr K.K. Nair
3. Mr Sayed Mohamed Shaikh
4. Mr K.N. Panikar
5. Mr Rama B. Shetty

## STORES

1. Mr B.N. Rao
2. Mr T.G. Gaikwad
3. Mr S. Gopalakrishnan

## OUTSTATIONS

### DELHI

1. Mr Chhote Ram
2. Mr Dharam Pal
3. Mr R. Radhakrishnan
4. Mr B.R. Nagar
5. Mr J.P. Joshi
6. Mr M.P. Theophilus

### CALCUTTA

1. Mr Ram Brich Ram
2. Mr V.R. Sreedharan

### MADRAS

1. Mr K. Bharathan

### HONG KONG

1. Capt K.N.M. Nambiar
2. Mr H.E. Parekh

### LONDON

1. Mr H.R. Farmer
2. Capt R. Bhatia
3. Mr N.N. Kamath
4. Capt R.K. Spencer
5. Capt J.P. Kanga
6. Mr H.J. Gongdon

### CAIRO

1. Mr S.I. Mohamed
2. Mr M.F. Guirguis

### NEW YORK

1. Mr P.F. Mahta
2. Mr P.A. Thomas
3. Mr K.S. Venkateshwaran

### PERTH

Capt D.A.E. Samuelraj

### SINGAPORE

1. Mr P.A. Menon



## Brussels Flower Show

MRS ANURADHA ACHARYA from our Communications Division, Bombay, was one of the participants in the recent Brussels International Flower Show.

Although only Belgian nationals were allowed to participate in the main flower arrangement competition, overseas participants were permitted to show their skills in a special section.

Our Brussels Office provided flowers for Mrs Acharya whose display came in for praise from the visitors.

The flower show was opened by

H.R.H. Princess Paola of Belgium. Among the distinguished guests at the inauguration was Princess Grace of Monaco.

Mrs Acharya is a student of Mrs Georgie Davidson, the only European Master of Sogetsu, the Japanese Art of flower arrangement, who in fact invited her to attend the Brussels Show. She has the distinction of being the only Indian among 750 students who have studied under Mrs Davidson.

Mrs Acharya participated in the Dusseldorf Flower Show three years ago.



# MERIT AWARDS 1973-74

## HEADQUARTERS



Mr S.V. Mulay,  
Punch Operator,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Mr S.T. Amin,  
Peon,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)

## PERSONNEL



Mr R.B. Patel,  
Sr Office Assistant,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr K.G. Kutty,  
Sr Clerk,  
Gr II (3rd Prize)

## ACCOUNTS



Mr V.S. Rangnekar,  
Sr Office Assistant,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr K.R.V. Sarma,  
Clerk,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)



Mr N.G. Paul Moses,  
Clerk,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Mr D.T. Pardhi,  
Clerk,  
Gr II (3rd Prize)

## STORES



Mr D.B. Thodkar,  
Asst Supdt,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr S.P. Sidhwa,  
Storekeeper,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)



Mr R.R. Thakur,  
Clerk,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Mr Abdul Ahmed,  
Cleaner,  
Gr II (3rd Prize)

## ENGINEERING



Mr K.K. Bhavot,  
Foreman,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr D.S. Vaidya,  
Chargehand,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr D.S. Mulay,  
Sr A/Technician,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Mr P.G. Pathare,  
Sr A/Technician,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Mr P.N. Appukuttan,  
Sr A/Technician,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)



Mr P. Purushothaman,  
A/Technician,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)



Mr H.G. Kawadkar,  
Cleaner,  
Gr II (3rd Prize)



Mr D.H. Gimonkar,  
Cleaner,  
Gr II (3rd Prize)



Mr P.G.K. Menon,  
Foreman,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr A.E. Turner,  
Foreman,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr M. D'Souza,  
Sr A/Technician,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Mr U.A. Naik,  
Sr A/Technician,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)



Mr S.V. Pansare,  
Plant Technician,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)



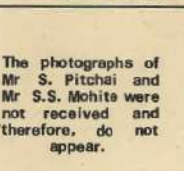
Mr O.R. Patil,  
Office Assistant,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr V.V. Pandit,  
Sr Clerk,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Mr A. Sherigar,  
Head Cleaner,  
Gr II (3rd Prize)



The photographs of  
Mr S. Pitchai and  
Mr S.S. Mohite were  
not received and  
therefore, do not  
appear.



Mr B.K. Marathe,  
C.T.A.,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr K.V. Govindan,  
Sr Steno,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Miss H.V. Desai,  
Clerk,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)



Mr S. Narayan,  
C.T.A.,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr P. Prakash Rao,  
Sr Steno,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Mr M.S. Vaid,  
Traffic Assistant,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)

## COMMERCIAL

## OPERATIONS



Mr B.J. Dubash,  
Flight Purser,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Miss Z. Noble,  
Air Hostess,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr J.S. Reuben,  
Asst Cabin Supervisor,  
Gr I (2nd Prize)



Mr S.K. Rao,  
Sr Steno,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Mr A.V. Kharat,  
Cleaner,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)



Mr K.E. Warrier,  
Junior Officer,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr P.K. Sadanandan,  
Steno,  
Gr II (1st Prize)



Mr B.N. Gupta,  
Sub-Overseer,  
Gr II (1st Prize)

## CIVIL WORKS & PROPERTIES

## GROUND HANDLING



Mr L.A. Karkada,  
Chargehand,  
Gr I (1st Prize)



Mr W.P. Seal,  
Typist Clerk,  
Gr II (2nd Prize)



Mr Krishnanand,  
Driver,  
Gr II (3rd Prize)