

ODYSSEY AI - 32
with Shariar Karim's
“MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”

LAST FLIGHT : AI- 31 on 18th October 2020, “Marriage in the Sky”
THIS FLIGHT : AI- 32 on 20th October 2020, “OPERATION AIRLIFT”
NEXT FLIGHT: AI- 33 on 24th October 2020, “Odyssey AI”



“ MILESTONES AND MEMORIES -32 ”

NAMASKAAR, WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT AI-32, ON MONDAY THE 20TH OF OCTOBER, 2020

**Turning back the pages of history,
Today we have reached the 20TH of OCTOBER
1990**

**THIS DAY, THAT YEAR, We completed -
“OPERATION AIRLIFT”**

This was the biggest evacuation by a civilian airline of 1,11,711 Indians from Amman in Jordan to India after the invasion of Kuwait. Air-India responded to the need and operated 488 flights for 59 continuous days. This massive operation got Air-India into the Guinness Book of World Records. I dedicate this poem as a tribute to our Airline and its magnificent Air-Indians who completed the operation on this day 20th October in 1990.

OPERATION AIRLIFT

There came a call for help that day,
From our countrymen in peril,
In a land far away,
Their lives were in danger,
As they abandoned their homes,
Leaving their precious possessions,
As they fled to safer zones.
Tanks rolled in, gunfire rent the air,
There was arson and looting-
The fear of death everywhere.

Indians were huddled in refugee camps,
Exposed to the heat of the desert sands.
In a long 'QUEUE-WAIT'ing for their turn to come,
To board a flight and return, to their motherland.
AIR-INDIA's response to this mission was swift.
Within days it launched 'OPERATION AIRLIFT',
488 special flights were operated to Amman,
For 59 days non-stop the exodus went on.
Countrymen brought home with the grace of heaven,
Totalled one lakh, eleven thousand, seven hundred and eleven.
AIR-INDIA set a world record,
By bringing home INDIANS to INDIA safely,
An achievement we should all be proud about,
For it was the greatest AIRLIFT, in civil Aviation history.



Scene from the 2016 Bollywood Film "AIRLIFT"



- Shariar Karim

The Evacuation of Indians from Kuwait, August 13,1990 – October 20, 1990



AIR INDIA

OUR NATIONAL CARRIER

AIR INDIA'S 1990 'AIRLIFT' CREATED A GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

