


# ODYSSEY AI – 76 with Shariar Karim's “MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”

LAST FLIGHT : AI -75 on 11th June 2021 “Ala re Ala AI Ala”

FLIGHT :THIS FLIGHT: AI -76 on 12th June 2021 “FLIGHT OF FANCY for THALASSAEMIC CHILDREN”

NEXT FLIGHT: AI -77 on 16th June 2021 “V.V.I.P. of former P.M. P.V Narasimha Rao”



**“ MILESTONES AND MEMORIES- 76 ”**


**NAMASKAAR, WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT AI - 76,  
ON SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2021**

Turning back the pages of history,  
Today we have reached the 12<sup>TH</sup> of JUNE, 2001

**THIS DAY, THAT YEAR WE OPERATED AIR-INDIA'S  
“ FLIGHT of FANCY FOR THALASSAEMIC CHILDREN ”**

Thalassaemia is a blood disorder in children that can make them very anemic (tired, short of breath and pale). Air-India operated its fourth simulated ‘Flight of Fancy’ in the Cabin Crew Mock-up for a group of such children today. It was a flight with a message of Love and Hope for 50 children suffering from Thalsæmia major, whose lives revolve around injections, hospital wards and blood transfusions. ‘Citizen’ an NGO working for the cause of Thalassaemia approached Air-India with a request for a flight for these children.

As on previous ‘Flights of Fancies’ this time too the children were taken on a simulated flight which had all the trappings of a real flight. The Special Star Guest this time was the popular T.V. Actor Amar Upadhyay. A detailed report on the flight was covered in Air-India’s News magazine ‘Magic Carpet’.



## Special 'Flight' for Thalassaemic Children

Air-India, which has flown millions of people to far corners of the world in a wide range of aircraft, operated a 'Flight of Fancy' on June 12, 2001 — a 'flight' with a message of love and hope — for 50 children suffering from Thalassaemia major whose lives revolve around injections, hospital wards and blood transfusions.

The 'flight' was organised at our Cabin Crew Training Mock-up located at the Old Airport, Mumbai, a replica of a Boeing 747 cabin, at the request of Citizen, an NGO working for the cause of Thalassaemia.

The programme was choreographed and conducted by Mr Shariar Karim, Sr. Manager, Inflight Service Department. He was assisted by Ms Delba Bestonso and Ms Suhita Shivangi, Air Hostesses; Mr Sharukh Sholapurwala, Flight Purser; Mr Kiran Sanke, Service Engineer II, Engineering Department; and a team from the Air-India Employees' Guild headed by Mr George Abraham, General Secretary of the Guild.

The children were issued boarding cards and checked in, just as they would have for an actual flight, by Ms Nandita Deshpande, Sr. Customer Services Supervisor, and Ms Manali Jadhav and Ms Rita Bala, Customer Services Officers, Commercial Department.

They were warmly welcomed aboard with a magical presentation and introduction to the Maharajah, Air-India's mascot who has functioned as the national carrier's spokesman since 1946. His role was enacted by Mr Yezdi Irani, Asst Manager-North Mumbai, Commercial Department. The aircraft then 'took off' on a flight to London to the simulated roar of aircraft engines.

### Air Show

The children witnessed the Flight Safety demonstration and heard the Commander's announcement. They also got to see the 'Airshow' which

provides visually the exact position and flight path on multicolour topographical maps, relevant en-route information and navigational data such as altitude, speed, outside temperature, geographical location of the aircraft, nearest places of interest, time at the boarding station and at the destination, distance and estimated time of arrival, etc.

This was followed by a meal service on board. The special entertainment programme organised for



The children are seen at the entrance to the Boeing 747 mock-up with Mr Shariar Karim, Sr Manager-Inflight Service; Ms Delba Bestonso and Ms Suhita Shivangi, Air Hostesses; Mr Sharukh Sholapurwala, Inflight Purser and all those who helped organise the flight of fancy.

the delighted kids included 'Duniya Ki Sair' and a quiz on Air-India. To make the 'Flight of Fancy' even more eventful, the children had a surprise visitor — Amar Upadhyay (Mihir of 'Kyunki Saans Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' fame). He joined the cabin crew in regaling the children and even signed autographs much to their delight. Some of the kids sang and danced along with cabin crew.

### Phone a Friend

All of them were thrilled to participate in a mock up of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' complete with 'fastest fingers first', 'audience poll' and 'phone a friend' — the parent of the child on the hot seat. The children's parents, who were seated in the Indian Airlines Sports

Club, 200 metres away, provided the correct answers which enabled the excited children win prizes.

After the 'flight' returned to Mumbai, both Amar and the Maharajah handed over mementoes, thoughtfully put together by the Inflight Service Department team, to the children. Delighted, the children said that they would always treasure these gifts. After deplaning, as a token of their appreciation for Air-India's gesture, each of them signed a poster.

This was one flight which the children and their parents will remember for a long time. Similar programmes were organised in the recent past for cancer-stricken, spastic and physically challenged children.



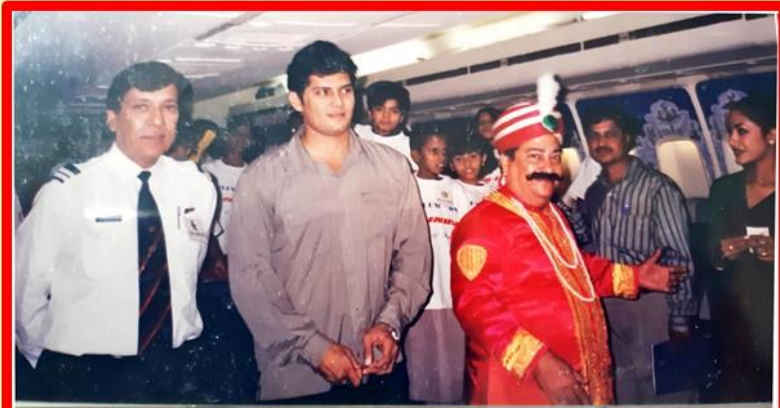
Mr Amar Upadhyay, popular television actor, signing autographs for the delighted children while Mr Shariar Karim, Sr. Manager, Inflight Service Department, and Mr Yezdi Irani, Asst Manager-North Mumbai, Commercial Department, attired as the Air-India Maharajah, look on.

AIR-INDIA'S 4<sup>th</sup> 'FLIGHT OF FANCY' - THIS TIME FOR THALASSAEMIC CHILDREN - JUNE 12, 2001.  
STAR GUEST WAS T.V. ACTOR AMAR UPADHYAY.

**AIR-INDIA'S**

*Flight  
of  
Fancy*

**JUNE 12, 2001**



**SPECIAL FLIGHT  
FOR**

**THALASSAEMIC  
CHILDREN**

**STAR GUEST**

**T.V. ACTOR**

**AMAR UPADHYAY**





Thalassaemic children are entertained by the 'Maharaja', Air-India's mascot, during a 'Flight of Fantasy', a mock flight at the airline's Kalina complex in Mumbai on Tuesday.

## MUMBAI

# These thalassaemic children find delight in mock flight

By Dinika Amaral

MUMBAI: For children whose lives revolve around injections, hospital wards and blood transfusions, Tuesday morning at Santa Cruz proved to be an escape flight from their daily distress. At the Air-India Complex at Military Camp, Citizen and Air-India took over 50 children suffering from thalassaemia major on a mock flight over seven countries, complete with air hostesses, cabin crew and fake clouds.

Two-year-old Sahil Matlani, who was diagnosed with thalassaemia when he was just six months old, clings to the Maharajah mascot, while 11-year-old Khushboo Kuris dances to a Shah Rukh number. "I like Shah Rukh Khan a lot. Even more than Aamir Khan," she confides shyly. Like most other children with thalassaemia, Khushboo's smile fades when asked about her frequent blood transfusions. "She breaks out into boils all over her face. She usually has very clear skin," said her worried father, Ayas

Kuris.

In children suffering from this genetic blood disorder, red blood corpuscles are destroyed prematurely. The reduced haemoglobin content results in a diminishing oxygen supply which is so essential to the proper functioning of vital organs like the heart. To avert malfunctioning, periodic blood transfusions are necessary. When the Kankhars parents found out that their son Rupesh had thalassaemia they were devastated. "We have to take him to the hospital and give him transfusions every 15 days," says Balkrishnan Kankhare. Rupesh says, "I get hurt when the doctor gives me blood, but the pain is only in my feet."

The children lead normal lives, but have dietary restrictions. It is only when they are close to the time for new blood do they experience discomfort. Forum Shah and Khushboo Kuris go to school everyday. However, they frequently miss classes, since they fall sick often, especially when their haemo-

globin levels fall.

Ronak Karia hates the injections he has to take every night in order to keep the levels of iron in his blood normal. Frequent blood transfusions result in excessive accumulation of iron in thalassaemic patients. Ronak gets most of his answers right in the mock-KBC quiz. "He usually gets 90 per cent in school," says his mother proudly.

Another 11-year-old red-eyed girl is not so perky. She sits at the back and takes in everything around her silently. "She does not have long to live," confides one of the organisers.

"Our main objective is to increase awareness about thalassaemia," says secretary of Citizen, Vinay Shetty. "The public needs to be more aware about the condition and how to prevent it." If both members of a couple have thalassaemia minor, there are high chances that the children will have thalassaemia major. "Testing the parents is thus crucial for prevention," says Mr Shetty.



Munir Shah / Parinda Shah  
 Chairman Member

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 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2001

DIR - PR  
 25/52

To,  
 Managing Director of Air India  
 Air India Building,  
 Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400032

My name is Foram Shah. I am 10 years old. I am in fifth standard. I enjoyed on 12<sup>th</sup> June, Tuesday very much in the plane. I liked the Air Hostess and the Staff, especially Sherover Uncle and Shobirah Uncle. They were very interesting and funny. The Air hostess were too beautiful. The lunch given to us was very tasty. I enjoyed the games that we played in the plane with Maharsaja. Inside the plane I saw new faces. It took is one time for me but I made many friends in the plane. I was very happy surprised to see Amar Upadhyay. The questions which were asked in Quiz were really mind-blowing. The T-Shirts and caps which we got as gifts were very very beautiful.

I am very thankful to you for all the gifts and the special and spourse lovely day. This day will be remembered by me all through my life.

Thanking you,  
 Yours Sincerely  
 Foram V. Shah

DIR - PR  
 25/52

To  
 Air India  
 14/6/2001

I was very much delighted & can't express the happiness I felt on a mock flight of Garuda arranged by Air India on 12 June. It gave me a rather good Experience & Knowledge which would certainly enhance my General Knowledge. Such gathering gave us a feeling, which would heal our pain and agony through which pain is our life.

Again a thanks Air India for calling me.

Thanking you  
 Yours faithfully  
 Ronak Karia

P.S. Dear Managing Director  
 Air India.  
 I am Glad & proud to be mother of That child on looking upon my child's happiness, while participating in your gathering I thanks you staff for giving their valuable time & nicely Encouraging our child on mock flight. Such function arrange by an organization of your level, which definitely give an feeling of togetherness & built our moral & courage to fight upon an hardships, in giving our child. We hope full gathering are Organise regularly for all such suffering child of any disease.  
 Once again, Thanking you  
 Yours faithfully  
 Pooja Bhatkar

