

**ODYSSEY AI – 50**  
**with Shariar Karim's**  
**“MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”**

LAST FLIGHT : AI -49 on 20 January 2021 “Bringing People Together”

THIS FLIGHT : AI-50 on 24 January 2021 “KANCHENJUNGA CRASHES ON MONT BLANC”

NEXT FLIGHT: AI -51 on 4th February 2021 “Namaskaar Israel”

**“ MILESTONES AND MEMORIES - 50 ”**

**NAMASKAAR, WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT AI-50,  
ON SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021**

**Turning back the pages of history,  
Today we have reached the 24<sup>TH</sup> OF JANUARY, 1966.**

**THIS DAY, THAT YEAR, We mourned as -**

**“ KANCHENJUNGA CRASHES ON MONT BLANC ”**

**This was the Boeing 707 Aircraft ‘Kanchenjunga’ which crashed on the morning of January 24, 1966 in which we lost Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha, Chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission along with 105 other Passengers and 11 Crew.**

**Ironically, the crash was almost at the exact spot where Air India Flight 245, a Lockheed 749 Constellation on a charter flight, had crashed in 1950 with the loss of all 48 on board that aircraft.**

**Though this crash took place two years before I joined Air-India, I have included it in my Memories as a mark of respect to my school mate who was a Crew member that perished in the Kanchenjunga crash.**





On January 24, 1966, Air India Flight 101 was a scheduled flight from Bombay to London; and on the day of the accident, was operated as a Boeing 707, registration VT- DMN, named *Kanchenjunga*. After leaving Bombay, it had made two scheduled stops, at Delhi and Beirut, and was en route to another stop at Geneva. At Flight Level 190, the crew was instructed to descend for Geneva International Airport, after the aircraft had passed Mont Blanc. That was the last that was heard of them. Tragically, the aircraft crashed into the Mont Blanc massif in France near the Rocher de la Tournette, at an elevation of 4,750 metres (15,584 ft).

All 106 passengers and 11 crew were killed.

Among the 106 passengers who died, was Indian nuclear physicist Dr. Homi Bhabha, chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission

**The Hindustan Times**  
 Delhi Edition  
 Vol. XLIII No. 21  
 Largest Circulation in Northern and Central India  
 New Delhi, Tuesday, January 25, 1966

**H.J. Bhabha and 116 die in plane crash**  
**Air India Boeing hits Mont Blanc in fog**  
**No survivors; five bodies recovered so far**  
**Bad weather hampers salvage operations**

**List of the dead**

**New Govt. takes U.S. budget**

**The Times of India**  
 BOMBAY EDITION, JANUARY 25, 1966

**BHABHA AMONG 117 DEAD IN AIR DISASTER**  
**A-I Boeing Crashes In Mont Blanc Area**  
**WRECKAGE FOUND BY HELICOPTER PILOT**

**Indira Gandhi Team Assumes Office**  
**JAGJIVAN RAM IS NEW LABOUR MINISTER**

**TROOPS TO WITHDRAW FROM TODAY**  
**Pull-Back To 1,000 Yards In Five Days**

JANUARY 24, 1966, FLIGHT AI-101 FROM BOMBAY TO LONDON CRASHES ON MONT BLANC, GENEVA.

*Let's spare a thought, and say a prayer,  
For all those who perished in the air,  
This day, January 24, 1966,  
They will oft be remembered and dearly missed.*



24.1.2021



54 CANDLES FOR 54 YEARS