

**ODYSSEY AI – 63**  
**with Shariar Karim's**  
**“MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”**

LAST FLIGHT : AI-63 on 4 April 2021 “The Gauhati- Bangkok Inaugural”

FLIGHT : AI-64 on 9th April 2021 “Suhana Safar ”

NEXT FLIGHT: AI-65 on 14th April 2021 “Cry From Above ”



**“ MILESTONES AND MEMORIES - 64 ”**

**NAMASKAAR, WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT AI - 64, ON, 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021**

**Turning back the pages of history, Today we have reached  
the 9<sup>TH</sup> of APRIL, 1999.**

**THIS DAY, THAT YEAR – WE Conducted our 1<sup>st</sup> “FLIGHT OF FANCY” -**

**“ SUHANA SAFAR ”**

The ‘V-Care Foundation’ a voluntary support group, that works with Cancer patients and their families approached Air-India to take their terminally ill children on a flight.

This simulated flight was conceived, conceptualized and conducted in the Cabin Crew Training Mock-up in response to that request. It received raving reports from the press and media and attracted many NGOs to queue up for similar flights for their patients. Attached is a list of some of the flights conducted for other impoverished, specially challenged and terminally ill children.

## 'Suhana Safar' for Cancer-stricken Children



Ms Ujwala Patil, Air Hostess, showing one of the children to his seat. Mr Sharfar Karim, Sr. Manager-Inflight Service, who organised the 'flight' is on the left.

Fourteen cancer-stricken children, who had never in the past got an opportunity to see the interior of an aircraft, experienced the thrill of 'flying' during a simulated flight organised for them by Air-India at the Cabin Crew Training Mock-up located at the Old Airport, Santa Cruz, Mumbai on April 9, 1999.

The mock-up, an exact replica of a Boeing 747 cabin, is so realistic that one can hardly tell the difference between the aircraft cabin and the mock-up. The 'flight' was held in conjunction with V CARE Foundation, a voluntary support group that works with cancer patients and their families helping them to cope with the trauma of cancer.

The excited 10 to 17-year-old children checked-in at a counter set up specially for the occasion. Mr Yezdi Irani, Traffic Supervisor, Travel Documentation, dressed up as the Maharajah, Air-India's ubiquitous mascot who epitomises India's traditional hospitality and the national carrier's personalised service, welcomed the children aboard. The children held their breaths as the flight 'took off'. They even got to see make believe clouds as they peered through the windows. Mr Sharfar Karim, Sr. Manager-Inflight Service Department; Ms Anita Khanna, Sr. Manager-Cabin Crew Training and Ms Ujwala Patil, Air Hostess, entertained the children on board the 'flight'.

A quiz programme titled 'Duniya Ki Sair' (i.e. Around the World) was the highlight of the 'trip'. Pictures of the Maharajah in varying poses at various destinations on Air-India's worldwide route network, depending on the city in which he is depicted were shown, and the children were asked to name the city in which the Maharajah had been portrayed. Uncle Shery (short for Mr Sharfar Karim) gave them clues through popular Hindi film songs in which the name of the destination/country was mentioned. Each child who answered correctly was presented a postcard of Air-India aircraft signed in ink by none other than their favourite batsman SachinTendulkar.

While they were treated to a sumptuous afternoon tea, served graciously by 'Aunty Anita' and 'Aunty Ujwala', the children watched Mr Bean and his antics on the screen. They were also presented mementoes to remind them of their flight.

A couple of days later Ms Vandana Gupta, Founder, V Care in a letter of appreciation to Mr Jitender Bhargava, Director-Inflight Service, wrote "All of us were overwhelmed by the care, concern and thoughtfulness of each and every one of you.... We all have realised the amount of time and thought that has gone into making this programme a real SUHANA SAFAR. The children went back really happy." She

individually named and thanked all those who had worked hard to make the flight possible - Mr Karim; Ms Khanna; Ms Patil; Mr Irani; Mr V. Ravanan, Manager-Catering, Inflight Service Department; Mr Kiran Sankhe, Computer Engineer, Electronics Overhaul Division.



Mr Yezdi Irani, Traffic Supervisor, attired as the Air-India Maharajah, regaling the children.



The children with all the Air-Indians who organised the 'flight' for them.

Engineering Department; Mr Rahul Jain and Ms Maria Fernandes from the office of Capt. P. P. Singh, Commercial Manager-Western India

whom Ms Gupta had initially approached. "If I have left out any names, please accept my apologies," she added.





RAHUL JAISWAR

THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI

### When A-I' flight' became a treat to these kids

By A Staff Reporter

MUMBAI: For ten-year-old Durganand Paswan, who hails from Bihar, the simulated flight aboard the mock Boeing 747 Air-India replica model was a dream come true. "I have only seen photographs of planes, I never dreamt that I'd sit in one. I can't wait to tell my brothers and sisters back home about my experience," he said.

Durganand was one among 14 cancer-stricken children who were treated to a simulated flight experience at the Air-India mock training cabin at the old airport in Santa Cruz on Friday. The flight was organised by Air-India along with V Care Foundation, a support group for cancer patients, as part of their monthly creative and educational outing.

Most of the patients were from other parts of India who had come to city hospitals for cancer treatment. "We are staying at a dharamshala in Dadar and will be here for four months.

"This has been a real treat for both me and my daughter," said Radhakant Jha, who had accompanied his 18-year old daughter Manisha on the trip.

"Cancer can be physically and mentally crippling. We organise outings for these children to help them relieve stress and forget their problems for a while," said Geeta Angara, a member of the foundation. The patients, who ranged from nine to eighteen years of age, were accompanied by their parents. "It is important to understand that the families of the patients are also adversely affected, they too need reassurance and support. In fact many of the children are quite carefree since they don't understand the depth of the disease," Ms Angara explained.

Indeed, the children seemed thrilled to be "flying" aboard the plane which was replete with in-flight services, entertainment and announcements from the captain. Said Sheriar Karim, the captain of the mock-plane, "It has given us so much pleasure to serve these children, specially since they have never experienced a flight before."

शक्ति कुमार

दुर्गानंद

आरुणी देवी

विरेंद्र जैस्वाल

मनिषा पुमेशि सुत्रावे

ABHISHEK PADEY

संजय बापुशाव देशमुख

With Love  
Sushil  
KALRA.

Vignesh

Hariom Rastogi  
Vest Vishes

Rajkishore Yadav

SUNIL MISHRA

UPP...

## A Boeing ride for terminally ill kids

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
APRIL 9

THOUGH 10-year old Rahul Jaiswal, a cancer patient who has come all the way from Nepal for treatment at the Tata Memorial Hospital in the city, could not make out any difference between Singapore and Kandivli, he sure had a time of his life.

Jaiswal and 13 other terminally ill children were virtually in seventh heaven when for the first time ever they experienced a near to real flying experience in an Air-India Boeing.

The unique programme, on board Air-India's cabin crew mock-up situated at the Old Airport at Kalina, was organised by A-I and V Care Foundation, a voluntary organisation involved in giving emotional and moral support to cancer patients.

Though some children were somewhat dejected initially when they saw the mock-up "aircraft" they were supposed to fly in, once they entered the cabin, the disappointment gave way to sheer joy, as the model from within was an exact replica of a Boeing 747 cabin.

After being warmly greeted by two charming air-hostesses and chief inflight supervisor, they flight took for London amidst a deafening roar of the engines.

Later, the children were told a story about the airline's lovable mascot Maharajah, and the cabin crew organised a quiz entitled *Duniya Ki Sair* for the children. They were asked to identify the city shown on a screen set up inside the cabin, and were given a clue — a film song which included the city's name in its lyrics.

The cabin crew befriended the



A-I's mascot Maharajah with his special guests. Vinayaka Prabhu

children with their charm and soon they were divided into two teams on either sides of the aisle. And the competition was fierce, as

the prize to be won for the first correct answer was a photo postcard of A-I, signed by none other than Sachin Tendulkar.



## एअर इंडिया का सुहाना सफर

हम सबने मिलकर आज  
रखी एअर इंडिया की लाज  
किया कुछ ऐसा काम  
अनोखा जिसका ईनाम  
वंद मासूमों का दिल बहलाया  
चेहरों पर मुस्कान को सजाया  
दर्द खुशो में बदल दिया  
पल भर के लिए प्यार कर लिया  
न जाने कब मिलेंगे  
न जाने ये फूल खिलेंगे  
इन्हें बचा लो प्रभु  
ये दुआ करता हूँ  
फिर मौका मिला अगर  
दौहरायेंगे तो बार इसे हम  
एअर इंडिया का सुहाना सफर

—शेरियार करीम.

## **AIR-INDIA KA SUHANA SAFAR**

*Hamne sabhne milkar aaj,  
Rakkhi Air- India ki laaj,  
Kiya kuch aisa kaam,  
Anokha jiska inaam,  
Chand masoomon ka dil bahlaya,  
Chehron par muskaan ko sajava,  
Dard Khushi mein badal diya,  
Pal bhar ke liye pyar kar liya,  
Na jaane kabh milenge,  
Na jaane , yeh phool khilenge,  
Inhe bacha lo Prabhu,  
Yeh dua karta hoon,  
Phir mauka mila agar,  
Dohraenge dobara hum,  
**AIR-INDIA**ka Suhana Safar.*

- Shariar Karim

## **AIR INDIA's – Flight's Of Fancy**

1. **APRIL 09 , 1999**  
'AIR INDIA KA SUHANA SAFAR' FOR THE V CARE FOUNDATION  
(TERMINALLY ILL CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM CANCER).
2. **OCTOBER 04 , 1999**  
'FLIGHT OF FANCY' FOR THE SPASTICS SOCIETY OF INDIA  
(Star guest - **Pooja Batra**)
3. **APRIL 25 , 2000**  
'FLIGHT OF FANCY' FOR THE SOCIETY OF EDUCATION FOR THE CRIPPLED.  
(Star guest- **Rani Mukherjee**)
4. **JUNE 12 , 2001**  
'FLIGHT OF FANCY' FOR THE CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM THALASSAEMIA  
( Star guest – **Amar Upadhya**)
5. **JANUARY 04 , 2002**  
'VATAN KI SAIR' FOR THE MILITANCY AFFECTED CHILDREN FROM KASHMIR
6. **NOVEMBER 14 , 2002**  
'FLIGHT OF FANCY' FOR PAVEMENT CLUB  
AND PAVEMENT CHILDRENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL , MUMBAI  
(Star guest- **Aditya Pancholi**)
7. **MARCH 10 , 2003**  
'FLIGHT OF FANCY'-'VATAN KI SAIR' FOR MILITANCY AFFECTED CHILDREN FROM KASHMIR. Star guest- **John Abraham**
8. **AUGUST 8 , 2003**  
'FLIGHT OF FANCY'-'A LEARNING EXPERIENCE" FOR GRADUATES FROM THE L.I.M
9. **OCTOBER 15 . 2003**  
'FLIGHT OF REALITY"  
FLT AI-071 ON AIR INDIAS 71 ST ANNIVERSARY  
A BOEING 747-400-"SPECIAL FLIGHT FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE"  
(Star guest – **Javed Jafferey**)

Flights of Fancy conceived, choreographed and conducted in the cabin crew training mock up by  
Shariar Karim & Team for underprivileged physically challenged or terminally ill children