


ODYSSEY AI – 74
with Shariar Karim's
“MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”

LAST FLIGHT : AI -73 on 6th June 2021 “PEOPLE FIRST WEEK”

FLIGHT :THIS FLIGHT: AI -74 on 8h June 2021 “50th Anniversary of London Flights”

NEXT FLIGHT: AI -75 on 11th June 2021 “Ala re Ala AI Ala ” (Any guesses what this is about ?)


LON  BOM

“ MILESTONES AND MEMORIES- 74 ”

NAMASKAAR, WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT AI - 74,
ON TUESDAY 8TH JUNE, 2021

Turning back the pages of history,
Today we have reached the 8TH of JUNE, 1998

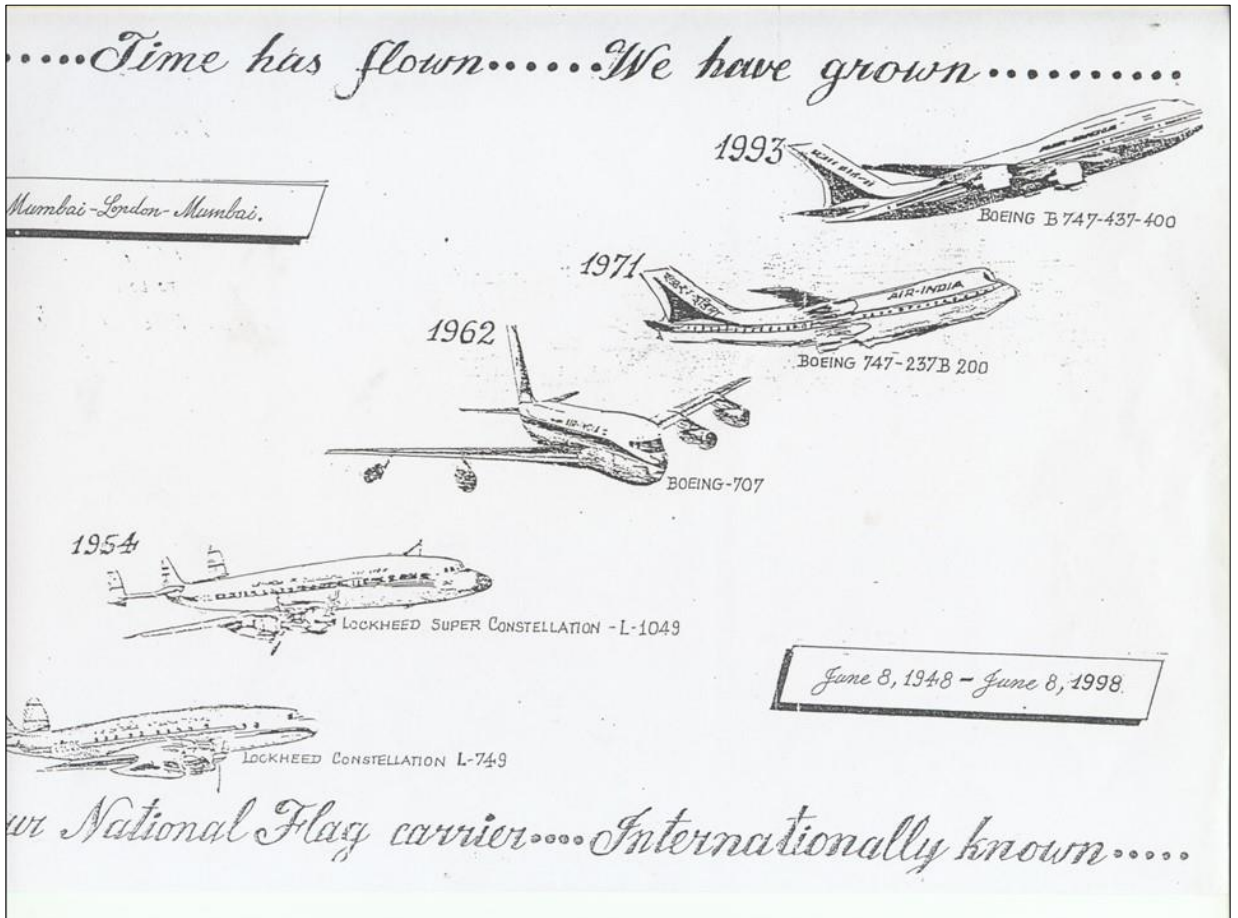
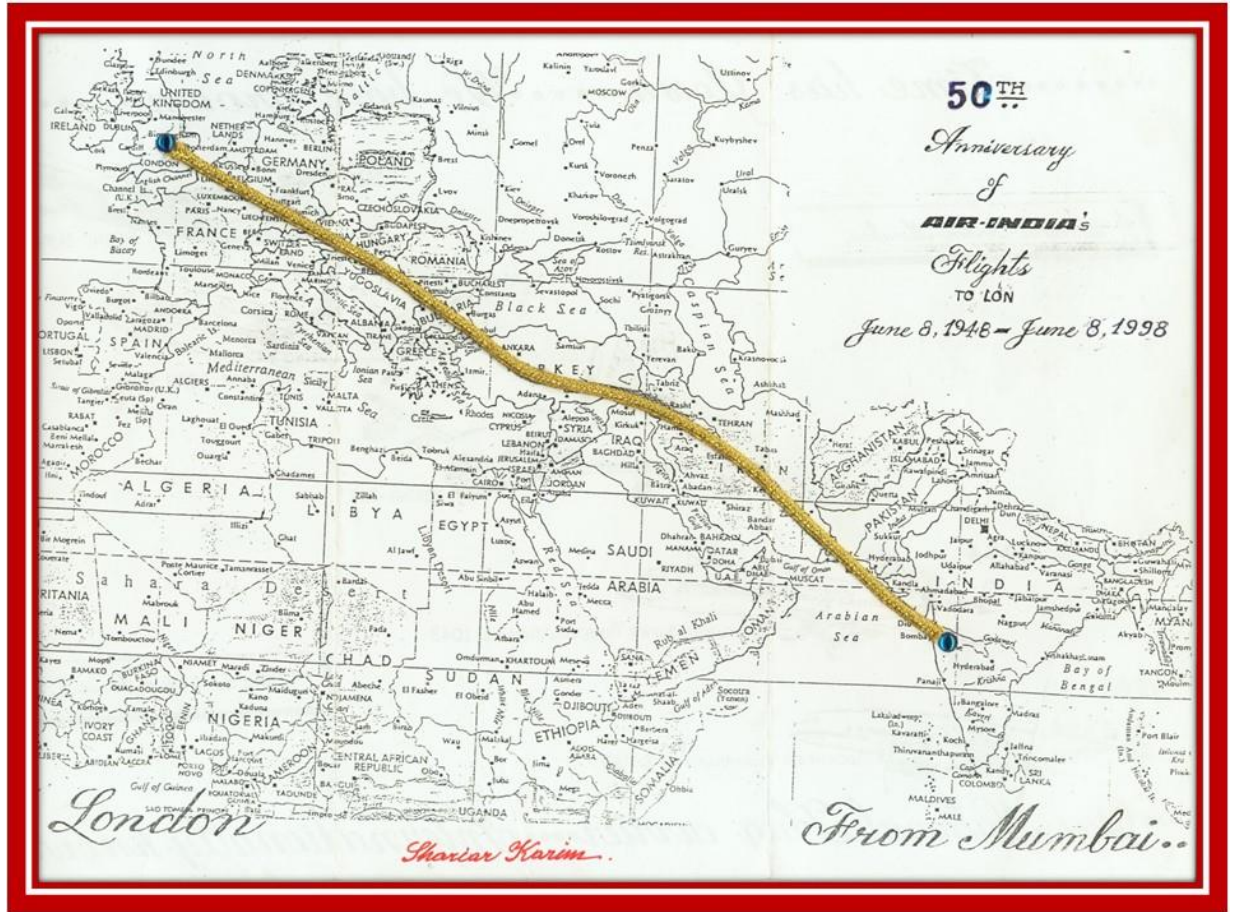
THIS DAY, THAT YEAR WE CELEBRATED-
“THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
AIR-INDIA'S FLIGHTS TO LONDON”



Another proud milestone was achieved today in the history of our Airline, when we completed 50 years of flights to London. Operations from Bombay to London began this day half a century ago with the Lockheed Constellation L-749 a twin engine aircraft, then in 1954 to the Lockheed Super Constellation L- 1049. With the introduction of the Jet age, we operated our first Boeing 707 on this route in 1962, then nine years later, came the Jumbo Jet era and we upgraded to the Boeing 747-237B 200 which served us well for 22 years before the introduction of the Boeing B 747-437 400 in 1993. Our Flight route on this sector took us from Bombay across, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, Belgium, across the English Channel on to London.

Aircrafts changed, Countries changed, Routes changed and WE too changed with the times. And in the process 50 years passed, Yes “ Time has flown, we have grown and our National flag carrier is now Internationally known.”

(Enclosed are some souvenirs of that landmark including two hand crafted ones by me. Also attached is a report in the Magic Carpet.)



50 YEARS OF AIR-INDIA'S FLIGHTS FROM BOMBAY TO LONDON
JUNE 8, 1948 – JUNE 8, 1998
Remembering that day today,
June 8, 2021

1993



BOEING B747- 437-400

1971



BOEING 747-237B

1962



BOEING 707

Time

Has flown,

We, have grown,

Our National Flag Carrier,

Now Internationally Known.

- Shariat Karim

1954



Lockheed Super Constellation L-1049

1948



Lockheed Constellation L- 749



SOUVENIRS OF THE INAUGURAL FLIGHT – JUNE 8, 1948



MAGIC CARPET JUN - JUL 1998

Celebrations in London to Commemorate 50 Years of Air-India's Maiden International Flight

Air-India's historic maiden international flight, operated with "Malabar Princess", a 40-seater Lockheed Constellation, from Bombay to London via Cairo and Geneva on June 8,

1948, was recreated 50 years later on June 8, 1998.

Instead of the Constellation, a state-of-the-art aircraft in its time, which took more than 24 hours to reach London as compared to almost a third now, **Capt. K. Mohan**, Director of Operations, commanded a Boeing 747-400. The aircraft, equipped with all the latest inflight gadgetry, carried 417 passengers on board and its arrival in the morning at London's Heathrow Airport was celebrated with champagne. Among those who were present on the occasion to welcome the passengers and the crew were 83-year-old **Capt. K.R. Guzder**, who had piloted the Bombay-Cairo leg of Air-India's first international flight; **Mr Maneck Dalal**, who founded our office in London in 1948; and officials of Air-India and Heathrow Airport, London.

Later in the evening, a reception was held at London's Mayfair Intercontinental Hotel,



Capt. K. Mohan, Director of Operations, shaking hands with Capt. K. R. Guzder who operated the Bombay-Cairo leg of Air-India's first international flight to London on June 8, 1948. Looking on is Mr Maneck Dalal who started our London office from scratch 50 years ago.

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Celebrations to Mark the Golden Jubilee ...

where Pt. Jasraj and Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Indian maestros, regaled a select gathering of our commercial contacts with their brilliant performance.

Speaking on the occasion after lighting the traditional lamp, Mr Salman Haider, Indian High Commissioner for UK, recalled "Air-India's flight used to land in Cairo in the middle of the night. When I was posted there, I have memories of rushing off to the airport regularly at the unearthly hour of 3 a.m. to meet dignitaries either coming or going."

Earlier, Mr P. K. Sinha, Regional Director-UK and Ireland, while welcoming the guests, traced the growth of the airline during the 50 years that have elapsed since Air-India's epoch-making flight to London on June 8, 1948. "The UK," he averred, "has been and will



Lord Dholakia, Lora Bagri, Baroness Flather and Lord Swraj Paul with Mr P. K. Sinha, Regional Director - UK and Ireland (fourth from the left), at the evening reception.

1948. Inaugural flight - to U.K..

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1948. Inaugural flight - to U.K..



always be the focus of attention for our airline." As Air-India has always passionately believed in promoting the culture and tradition of India, the national carrier's commitment to support the Indian community in the UK would continue with greater vigour, he added.

Mr Sinha read out a message sent by Mr M. P. Mascarenhas, Managing Director. The message

read : "Fifty years later we look forward to the future with confidence and rededicate ourselves to the ideals of (JRD Tata) our founder to provide the highest standard of service to all our customers."

Mr H. S. Uberoi, Commercial Director, in his message which said, "This is a time for deep introspection to review our past

performance and renew our endeavours to strive to be the best if we are to compete successfully with the soaring eagles of this highly competitive industry."

Mr Dalal reminisced the state of the infrastructure at London Airport and how Air-India began its operations from a caravan with oil heating. "We had a stark choice," he said, "...either we had to suffocate from the oil fumes or turn off our lamps and freeze to death." Officials had to wade through slush to reach the airline's control tower at the airport and the London fog constantly ensured flights would be diverted to Schiphol or Scotland, he added.

The celebrations were a resounding success, judging by the number of congratulatory letters received from eminent personalities including Lord Swraj Paul and Mr Peter Morrisroe OBE, Managing Director, Airport Coordination Limited, UK.

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