

ODYSSEY AI - 23
with Shariar Karim's
“MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”

LAST FLIGHT :AI-22 on 21st September, 2020 “Making a Difference to make Air-India Different”

THIS FLIGHT : AI-23 on 2nd October, 2020 “REMEMBERING OCTOBER 2, 1993”

NEXT FLIGHT: AI-24 on 3rd October 2020, “ Management Seminars for I.F.Ss.”



“ MILESTONES AND MEMORIES- 23 ”

NAMASKAAR, WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT AI-23,
ON FRIDAY, THE 2ND OF OCTOBER, 2020

Turning back the pages of history,

Today we have reached the 2ND OF OCTOBER 1993.

This Day, that Year, WE spent a while -

“ REMEMBERING OCTOBER 2, 1993 ”

It was on the 124th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi that we resumed flights to South Africa to mark the end of years of isolation from them due to their policy of apartheid. This was a landmark flight on which many important dignitaries travelled including Ben Kingsley who enacted the role of the Mahatma in the film ‘Gandhi’. Another interesting feature is that the Airbus 310 Aircraft used for this flight was named ‘Sabarmati’, same as the river Sabarmati which flows through the Mahatma’s birth place.

Special First Day Covers were also released to celebrate the occasion.

This poem “Remembering October 2,1993”, was written to commemorate that special flight.



REMEMBERING OCTOBER 2, 1993

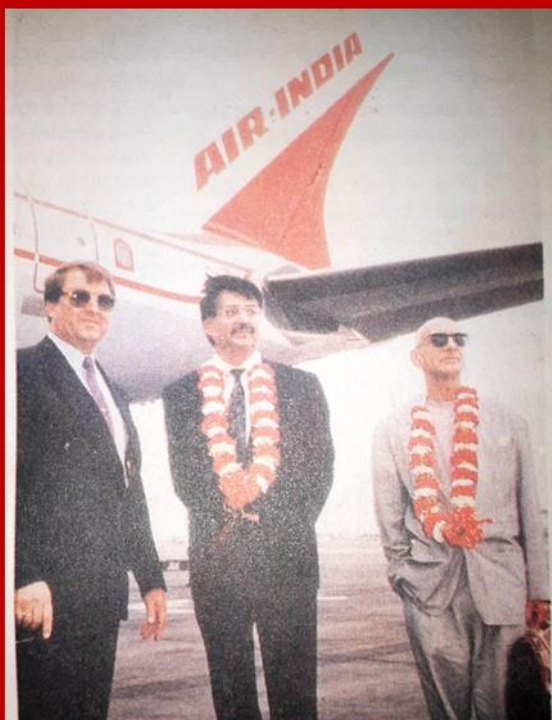
A DREAM COMES TRUE

On this auspicious occasion,
 The birthday,
 Of the Father of our Nation,
 A new dawn breaks,
 A new era begins,
 A dream comes true,
 Today,
 October-2.
 Two nations Two Peoples.
 Two worlds apart.
 Coming together- coming closer.
 To make a new start.
 With goodwill and friendship.
 All the way through.
 Today,
 October-2
 A dream comes true.
 Transcending the barriers,
 Of distance and time,
 Throwing open the doors,
 For ties sublime,
 Blazing a trail,
 Across the heavens blue,
 Today,
 October-2
 A dream comes true.
 So let's embark on a flight,
 That will take us there,
 A future of "Good Hope",
 For us all to share,
 To the people of South Africa,
 I bring India to you,
 Today,
 October-2
 Our dream comes true



- Shariar Karim

A page out of my Lifetime's Works " Milestones and Memories " - Air India's Inaugural Flight to South Africa Oct 2, 1993.



Mr B. Loots, Managing Director, Airports Company, Johannesburg, welcoming Mr Y. C. Deveshwar, Chairman and Managing Director, Air-India, and Mr Ben Kingsley at Jan Smuts Airport, Johannesburg on October 2, 1993.



Swami Haridas in a joyous mood after landing at Louis Botha Airport, Durban, along with other passengers who had travelled on Air-India's maiden flight to South Africa. A-I staff are seen on the right.



Mr. Y. C. Deveshwar,
 Chairman & Managing Director,
 AIR-INDIA
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 Bombay 400 021.