

ODYSSEY AI - 25
with Shariar Karim's
“MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”

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

THIS FLIGHT :AI-25 on 4th October 2020, “FLIGHTS OF FANCY.” *

NEXT FLIGHT:AI- 26 on 10th October 2020, “We Lived This Day Twice”

“ MILESTONES AND MEMORIES- 25”

**NAMASKAAR, WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT AI-25, ON
WEDNESDAY, THE 4TH OF OCTOBER, 2020**

Turning back the pages of history, Today we have reached the 4TH
OF OCTOBER 1999.

This Day, that Year, We operated a -

“FLIGHT OF FANCY”

It all started one afternoon when I was at the Cabin Crew Training Centre adjoining the Mock-up which is a replica of the aircraft where we conduct our Training. I was told by Headquarters that a group of cancer affected children were coming with their parents to see the interior of an aircraft. Apparently the children were all terminally ill and their last wish was to go on a flight. Since that could not be arranged just then, I was required to show them the mock-up, give them some refreshments and send them home. It was then that the concept of a simulated flight dawned on me. Over the next week, I worked out an outline and suggested it to Headquarters, they approved of it and I was given permission to conduct a ‘Flight of Fancy’ in the Mock-up.

The first flight was conducted on April 9, 1999 for the ‘V-Care Foundation for Cancer children with all the trimmings of a real flight with the additional attraction on subsequent flights of a surprise Bollywood star to entertain the children. The 1st flight was a super hit and got raving reports in the press and media. Thus started a series of such flights for terminally ill, ailing and under privileged children which I conducted with the help of various departments of our Airline. Here on October 4, is a report of the 2nd Flight for children from the Spastics Society of India. (Subsequent ‘Flights of Fancy’ will be shared as we continue our Odyssey)





AIR INDIA's



Flight Of Fancy

Sometimes in life,
An opportunity comes our way,
To make children feel it is their day,
To change a tear into a smile,
To make belief for just a while,
To put some joy into what they do,
To make their fondest dreams come true,
To carry them far across land or sea,
And to take them on-
A "Flight Of Fancy"
In life this happens-only sometimes
And this is just one of those times...

- Shariar Karim

Thus started a series of simulated flights which I conceived, choreographed and conducted for socially deprived, physically challenged and terminally ill children in response to their wish to fly. These "Flights" were conducted in the cabin crew training Mock- up and were called "FLIGHTS OF FANCY"

AIR INDIA's – *Flights 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 Upadhyay**)
- 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 INDIA'S 71 ST ANNIVERSARY
A BOEING 747-400-"SPECIAL FLIGHT FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE" (Star guest – **Javed Jaffrey**)

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



MAGICAL TRANSFORMATION OF A MAHARAJAH STATUE TO A REAL LIFE MAHARAJAH



PRE-FLIGHT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FLIGHT SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

WE SANG AND DANCED WITH THE CHILDREN ON AIR-INDIA'S FLIGHT OF FANCY



*" Thodi si Lift
kara de,
Mujhko Aeroplane dila de,
Duniya bhar ki Sair kara de . . . "*



*" Main koi aisa geet gaon
Ki aarzoo jagaoon
Agar tum kaho "*



*"Zameen ko aasman banaoon
Sitaron se sajaoon,
Agar tum kaho . . . "*





**"I FLEW ON AIR-INDIA'S FLIGHT OF FANCY"
T - SHIRT FOR MS. POOJA BEDI**



**FLORAL FELICITATION FOR THE
CHIEF GUEST**



OUR SPECIAL PASSENGERS UNDER OUR SPECIAL AIRCRAFT AFTER OUR SPECIAL FLIGHT

POST FLIGHT PRESS AND MEDIA INTERVIEW



**Mr. Jitendra Bhargava
Director
In Flight Service Department**

**Shariar Karim
Sr.Mgr. / In Flight Supervisor
Creator "Flights of Fancy"**





The **AIR-INDIA** 'FLIGHT OF FANCY' TEAM exulting after the flight landed successfully

Bidding Good Bye to all the Special Children who left in the BEST BUS



मैट्रिक कर्षित
अक्टूबर-नवम्बर, 1999

विकलांग बच्चों की 'काल्पनिक उड़ान'

एअर-इंडिया की 'काल्पनिक उड़ान' पर चौबीस विकलांग बच्चों ने यात्रा का अनुभव उठाया। यह उड़ान केबिन क्लब प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र माँकअप, ऑल्ड एअरपोर्ट, मानाकुज, मुंबई में 04 अक्टूबर 1999 को आयोजित की गई थी। यह उड़ान, उड़ानगत सेवा विभाग और स्प्यास्टिक सोसायटी ऑफ इंडिया के संयोजन से आयोजित की दिखाई दे रही है। उनके साथ सुधी रोषा सचदेव, प्रधानाचारिका, स्प्यास्टिक सोसायटी ऑफ इंडिया थीं।

उड़ान पर बच्चों का स्वागत करते हुए (बाएं से दाएं) सती अनीला खन्ना, वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक, उड़ानगत सेवा विभाग, श्री वेजदी ईशानी, अधिकांशी, श्री अरुण शर्मा, वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक, उड़ानगत सेवा विभाग, सुधी उज्वला पाटील, एअर होस्ट्रेस और श्री अरुण शर्मा, मनाइट परी-मनाइट परी ने इन बच्चों का स्वागत किया।

संस्था है और विकलांग बच्चों के पुनर्वास का कार्य करती है। इन बच्चों ने इससे पूर्व कभी विमान यात्रा नहीं की थी। बोइंग 747 की प्रतिकृति।

महसूस किया और विडुक्तियों से बाधित भी रहे। श्री करीम ने उन्हें उन देशों के बारे में बताया, जिनके ऊपर से वे यात्रा के दौरान उड़ान भरने वाले थे, 'दुनिया की सैर' नामक एक मैजिक शो प्रस्तुत किया गया, जिसमें एअर-इंडिया महाराजा को अलग-अलग देशों की विशेष मुद्राओं में दिखाया गया। क्रिकेट पर आधारित एक प्रतियोगिता 'मैम ऑफ द नेम' का भी आयोजन किया गया, जब तक कि बच्चे लंदन 'लुई' जाते। विख्यात बल्लेबाज सचिन तेंदुलकर के हस्ताक्षरों वाले एअर-इंडिया के विमानों के चित्र चार बच्चे खुरा हुए, उन्हें श्री वेजदी ईशानी, अधिकांशी - यासी सेवा, टैबल डेविड्युटेरन, वाणिज्य विभाग से मिलवाया गया, जो एअर-इंडिया के सर्वोच्चप्राणी महाराजा के वेश में थे।

जब अभिनेत्री पूजा बहा उड़ान पर आईं तो सारे बच्चे बहुत खुरा हुए, कुछ तो 'शौल बचने लगा' इस गीत की धुन पर नाचने लगे। चौबीस बच्चों की मनाइट परी ने इन बच्चों का स्वागत किया।

बच्चों ने उड़ान के 'टेकऑफ' को

का 'आंगी का खंडाल' नाम, सुधी पाटील के साथ गाया। इसके बाद बच्चों को स्वदेशि खाना परोसा गया और याददात लोहके दिए गए, जिसमें 'आई एम्सु ऑन एअर-इंडियाज़ फ्लाइट ऑफ फेन्सी रिग्रेड हुर टै-रार्ट भी शामिल है। श्री करीम ने 'एअर-इंडिया आपको प्यार करती है' नामक कविता पढ़ी, जिनकी प्रतियां सभी बच्चों को बांटी गई थीं।

हालांकि, यह काल्पनिक उड़ान मात्र थी, पर बच्चों की खुशी का कोई टिकना नहीं था। अटारी कक्षा के परामर्श पकर ने कहा, 'मैं इस अनुभव को कभी भुला नहीं पाऊंगा।' इस 'उड़ान' को मीडिया में काफ़ी प्रचार मिला।

बाद रहे कि एअर-इंडिया द्वारा इसी तरह की एक उड़ान अक्टूबर 1999 में 'बी केम्प' फर्रुखनगर के सहयोग आयोजित की गई थी, जिसमें केम्प-रीटिन बच्चे सहभागी हुए थे। इस उड़ान का नाम था 'सुहाना सफर' और इसे भी बच्चों ने और 'बी केम्प' के सदस्यों ने काफ़ी पसंद किया था।

श्री श्री. गणेशन, प्रबंधक और श्री शोभाया करीम, वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक, उड़ानगत सेवा विभाग एक बच्चे को सीट पर बैक में बट्टे करते हुए दिखाई दे रहे हैं।



THE DAILY TUESDAY OCTOBER 5 1999 5

For these 24 kids it was a memorable experience

By The Daily Staff

MUMBAI, Oct 4

IT was an experience worth remembering for these twenty-four spastic children. They were taken for a simulated flying by Air India at the old airport at Santacruz today.

It had all the feel of a flight as whole of the crew were present inside the aircraft, which was a replica of Boeing 747. The event was jointly organised by the national carrier and the Spastic Society of India.

Apart from that there was Maharaja, all in flesh and blood, interacting with them, presenting gifts and prizes.

After the takeoff, there was a whole gamut of programme that included quizzes on various monuments of the world and the recently-concluded Cricket World Cup.

Towards the end of the mock flight, these children were introduced to cine actress, Pooja Batra, waiting for them.

EXPRESS INDIA

AN ASIAN WEEKLY FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL
BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

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PERIODICALS POSTAGE

Page 10

EXPRESS INDIA

Air India Offers Flight of Fancy to Spastic Children

24 Spastic Children who had never seen the interior of an aircraft had the privilege of having a simulated flying experience organized by the national Carrier Air India and its cabin crew training mock up at the Satacruz airport, Mumbai.

They were welcomed aboard the mock up, a replica of the Boeing 747 cabin, by Shariar Karim - Senior Manager (in-flight service department), Anita Khanna-Senior Manager (Cabin Crew Training), Ujwala Patil, Air hostess and R. Ganesh- Flight purser Air India.


The program called the "Flight of Fancy" was arranged by Air India in association with the Spastic society of India, a volun-




Air India's Maharajah Mascot helps a spastic child try on a T-Shirt at the airlines' "Flight of Fancy," organized in a replica Boeing 747 at the Santa Cruz Airport in Mumbai.

News of AIR-INDIA's Flight of Fancy reached U.S.A.
Here is a report from a Newspaper in Washington D.C.

*To The Children from The Spastics Society of India
aboard their 'Flight of Fancy'*



AIR-INDIA Loves You



*Wherever you go, whatever you do,
Don't forget to remember,
That we'll always love you.*

*This 'Flight of Fancy' - our gesture of Love,
Was created to 'lift' you, way above.
A brief encounter, it was Today,
But etched in our memory it will always stay.
This bond of friendship will have no end,
For in each one of us, you now have, a friend.
We care, we'll share,
We'll always be there.
To have faith, be strong, march on ahead,
By the strength of your conviction, may you always be led.
For us, you'll be, among the best,
We'll root for you at every test.
May the sun shine warm, upon your face,
May the rain fall gentle, around your place,
At your back, may the wind blow fair,
And may the hand of God, guide you everywhere,
So for now Good Bye, till we meet again,
But always keep, in mind till then.*

*That wherever you go whatever you do,
AIR-INDIA is your airline
And will always Love You.*

~ Shariar Karim.

*From
All AIR-INDIANS operating 'In Flight of Fancy'
October 4, 1999*