


**ODYSSEY AI - 29 & 29 A**  
**with Shariar Karim's**  
**“MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”**

LAST FLIGHT : AI- 28 on 15th October 2020, “70 TODAY”

THIS FLIGHT : AI- 29 on 15th October 2020, “ON THE WINGS OF A DREAM” &  
AI – 29A on 15th October 2020, “ 88 TODAY”

NEXT FLIGHT: AI- 30 on 18th October 2020, “Jacaranda Days”



**“ MILESTONES AND MEMORIES – 29 ”**

**NAMASKAAR, WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT AI-29,  
ON THURSDAY THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER, 2020**

**Turning back the pages of history, Today we have reached the  
15<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2003.**

**THIS DAY, THAT YEAR, We Flew -  
“ON THE WINGS OF A DREAM”**

After every “Flight of Fancy” in the Mock-up, I was invariably asked by the Press and Media in their post flight Interviews, why we couldn’t conduct these flights in an actual aircraft and take these children on real flights. I kept telling them that we would one day. Well that one day, finally came today - the 71<sup>st</sup> Foundation Day of Air-India, when we were given a real aircraft to take 400 children and adult patients from various hospitals in Mumbai on a real ‘Flight of Fancy’ joy ride from Mumbai to Pune and back. Bollywood actor Javed Jaffrey and I played games and entertained these special passengers in flight who were thrilled with the experience. This flight was operated to commemorate Air-India’s first Foundation Day, 71 years ago as well as the Anniversary of J.R.D Tata’s historic flight from Karachi to Bombay via Ahmedabad. It was indeed a Dream for most of the special passengers who were flying in an aircraft for the first time. It was a Dream come true for me too, to get a real aircraft to operate a real flight after conducting nine simulated ‘Flights of Fancy’ in a mock-up. I therefore composed this special poem for the occasion and aptly called it “ On the Wings of a Dream” Air-India’s Press Release about the Flight as well as some newspaper cuttings are attached for those who wish to read more about this Dream Flight.



## NEWS

### Air India Flies "Special People" on 71st Anniversary

Air India has flown millions of people to far off corners of the world in a wide range of aircraft over the years. But, today, to commemorate the 71st Anniversary of JRD Tata's historic flight from Karachi to Mumbai via Ahmedabad on October 15, 1932, the national carrier flew 340 Special Passengers over Mumbai in a Boeing 747-400 aircraft "Ajanta"..... with a message of love and hope.

This flight AI-071 was organized on the request of social service organisations viz. Make A Wish Foundation, Indian Cancer Society, Jyoti Seva Sangh -- Apang Seva and Sulabha Trust for Special Education and Research. Most of these special passengers are either terminally ill or mentally and physically challenged.

The children, many of whom have never had the opportunity of traveling in an aircraft, arrived at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport well in advance of the time of departure. As passengers, they went through the normal procedure of being checked-in, issued their boarding card and security check, before embarking. The children were welcomed on board by Air India's courteous cabin crew and introduced to the Air India 'Maharajah'. The plane then took off on its magical route over Mumbai in Maharashtra, after the flight safety demonstration. Captain D. Majumdar, made announcements on flight route information from time to time during the flight.

This unique message was conveyed by Air India to these special passengers through Inflight Supervisor, Shariar Karim, and his band of sixteen cabin crew. On board, the children were deeply engrossed in the Drawing Competition specially organised for them. Prizes and mementoes were distributed on board.

Flight AI-071 was made eventful by the presence of surprise visitor from Bollywood on board. He was Mr. Jaaved Jaaferi of "Boogy Woogy" fame. The children all clamored for his autograph.

This was one flight which the children and Air India will not forget for a long long time. Air India's Maharajah, Mr. Yezdi Irani, has etched a strong bond and a special place in their hearts.

*On the Wings*



*Of A Dream*

I dreamt I flew, on The Wings Of A Dream,  
Over glen and dale, hill and stream,  
I dreamt I was seated, in a 'Palace in the Sky',  
As it spread its silver wings, and soared up high,  
I dreamt it was painted, all red and white,  
With rows of little windows, on either side,  
I dreamt through the clouds, it swerved and flew,  
Between the high heavens, and the ocean blue,  
I dreamt a Maharajah, walked down the aisle,  
He shook my hand, and gave me a smile,  
I dreamt there was music, in the air,  
And people like me, were enjoying everywhere,  
I dreamt there were movies, being shown on the screen,  
As film stars mingling, around could be seen,  
I dreamt I was given, a box of eats,  
A bag of gifts, and a wonderful treat,  
I dreamt I was presented, with a Certificate,  
With my picture and name, inscribed in it,  
But as I held it in my hand, in front of me,  
I realized this was no dream, but reality,  
AIR INDIA had reached out, and carried me through,  
Making my dream of a lifetime, today come true.

- Shariar Karim

Thru the eyes and from the heart of a special passenger aboard The Special flight AI 071 on Oct 15, 2003.  
Commemorating Air INDIA'S FIRST FOUNDTION DAY and the Anniversary of J.R.D Tatas historic flight from  
Karachi to Bombay via Ahmdabad on Oct 15 1932

# BOMBAY JOURNAL

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## Dreams conquered on this special Air-India's commemorative flight

BY A STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

THE national airline celebrated the 71st anniversary of JRD's historic flight from Karachi to Mumbai via Ahmedabad by treating around 340 children, afflicted with life threatening diseases, to a joyous cross-country air ride.

The flight AI-071 was organised at the request of social service organisations like Make a Wish Foundation, Indian Cancer Society, Apang Seva and the Sulabha Trust for special children. Chitralekha Martin, CEO of Make a Wish Foundation said, "For most of these special kids this is their first flight. We have 35 children between the age groups of 3 and 16 here and many of them suffer from cancer, thalassaemia, HIV and other illnesses. Doctors say that making their choicest wishes

come true had a recuperative effect on their psyche and we fulfill their wishes to give them hope."

Actor and comedian Javed Jaffrey, the AI guest of the day, was called upon by the airline to entertain the kids on board. He was seen indulging in childish banter with the kids, posing with them for photographs alongside an obviously pleased AI Maharaja, singing Hindi numbers and imitating superstar Sanjay Dutt.

Sheela Prabhu, who battled breast cancer for 25 years, is now a volunteer with the Indian Cancer Society (ICS). The society had over 85 members on the flight, including 50 children.

"Our foundation strives for the rehabilitation of the cancer patients with the help of

medical, financial, educational and nutritive assistance and all our members come from the lower economic strata of the society. When I was diagnosed, I never thought that I would be able to see to my grandchildren and so today I have decided to give back something to the society by becoming a volunteer for ICS."

The children were enamoured with the press and media cameras making a bedline for them. Before take-off seven-year-old Kumar Annu Sengar, a blood cancer patient, wanted a window seat. 10-year-old Raghav, another child suffering from cancer, offered to swap his window seat for one by the aisle. "Their indisposition has made them more sensitive to their surroundings," said Lalitha Nair, a volunteer

of the ICS.

Even the in flight crew was overwhelmed by the response of their 'special passengers' as they provided them crayons and drawing sheets. Inflight supervisor Sharier Karim, who regaled the entire audience of around 400 with his songs said, "This is not an everyday experience for us." Captain D Majumdar, who admitted the flight to be unique being cross-country unlike the city pair flights that airlines usually chart. He said, "We flew over Kolhapur, Pune and came back to Mumbai flying over the mountainous terrain of Matheran and the Koyana dam, covering a flight path of over 360 miles. None of this would have been possible had the defence officials not given us permission."

Cynthia Baptista, the director Apang Seva, an NGO, which deals with physically, and mentally challenged kids intones,

"around 102 inmates from our organisation were overjoyed when they received the news of the flight three weeks back. For many of them, this happens to be their first venture in the skies".

A general physician Dr Rajesh Vekhande also accompanied the kids, a safety measure in case of any eventualities said: "The term terminally ill is used no more as it sounds too technical. Instead we say that the kids suffer from life threatening diseases".

An impromptu dance session was conducted by Javed Jaffrey in conjunction with the in flight crew, which ended on a note of great enthusiasm. Towards the end of the one-hour joy ride, when the children were instructed to fasten their seat belts, the air inside the giant Boeing resounded with vivacity on a day well spent. Truly, heaven belongs to little children as these.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2003 GULF NEWS

### Special flight



#### In royal company

Air India's Maharaja entertains special needs children from Mumbai yesterday aboard a jet as the national carrier flew 340 youngsters to commemorate the 71st anniversary of J.R.D. Tata's historic flight on October 15, 1932.

# "ON THE WINGS OF A DREAM"

## THE CREW ON THE DREAM FLIGHT

CAPT. D. MAZUMDAR  
CAPT. I.V. PEREIRA

I.F.S. S.KARIM  
F.P. S.R.VASUDEVAN  
F.P. S.F.LEPCHA  
F.P. N.P.SANGHVI  
A.F.P. N.M.DARUWALLA  
A.F.P. K.BORAH  
A.F.P. S.R.NAIK  
A.H. MAI LAN LEE  
A.H. K.DESAI  
A.H. K. BANDRAWALA  
A.H. V.DEWAN  
A.H. U.MEDHEKAR  
A.H. B.URUJ  
A.H. V. NICHANI  
A.H. N. HANDA

## THE AIRLINE OF INDIA – AIR-INDIA

BORN OCTOBER 15, 1932 - SERVING WITH PRIDE, OCTOBER 15, 2020

88 TODAY



1932



She's always carried, our Tricolour high,  
With pride and dignity, she does fly,  
Emblazoning a trail, across the sky,  
Bringing people together, for friendly ties.

Through thick and thin, highs and lows,  
Through all the sorrows, pains and woes,  
She's come through it all, with a warmth that glows,  
As our affinity for her, always grows.

Loved by all, from far and near,  
She'll always be, considered dear,  
Today let's celebrate, her 88th year,  
May God bless our airline, our, Air-India.

- Shariar Karim



2020

