

ODYSSEY AI - 31
with Shariar Karim's
“MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”

LAST FLIGHT : AI- 30 on 18th October 2020, “Jacaranda Days’
THIS FLIGHT : AI- 31 on 18th October 2020, “MARRIAGE IN THE SKY”
NEXT FLIGHT: AI- 32 on 20th October 2020, “Operation Airlift”

MILESTONES AND MEMORIES –31”

NAMASKAAR, WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT AI-31,

ON SUNDAY THE 18TH OF OCTOBER, 2020

**Turning back the pages of history,
Today we have reached the 18TH OF OCTOBER 1994.**

THIS DAY, THAT YEAR, We celebrated a -

“MARRIAGE IN THE SKY”

For the first time ever A ‘HAWAI BANDHAN’ Flight in the Sky where a marriage was solemnized in an aircraft in flight. The Bridegroom was Dilip Popley son of Mr. Laxman Popley, a Dubai based NRI and the bride was Sunita Kewalramani daughter of a Bombay based businessman. The Airbus A-310 aircraft Narmada, was fitted with a mandap for the ceremony. There were religious mantras, Anup Jalota’s bhajans, exotic menus, a wedding cake and special mementoes for all the 194 guests on board to make it a unique splendour in the sky experience. I was privileged to be requisitioned by the Organizers, one of whom was our Senior Air-India Flight Dispatch Officer to prepare for this unique flight and I am thankful to our In Flight Service Department for appointing me to be in charge of this special operation. My personalised poem “Marriage in the Sky’ was dedicated to the newly married couple. The event received a lot of press and media coverage and featured in our ‘ Magic Carpet’.



HAWAI BANDHAN

The first ever Indian marriage in the air took place on board an Air-India Airbus A-310 aircraft. The bridegroom was Mr. Dilip Popley, son of Mr. Laxman Popley, a Dubai based NRI and the bride was Ms. Sunita Kewalramani, daughter of a Bombay based businessman.



The newlyweds with the Air-India crew who ensured that the marriage in the air was a success.

Elaborate arrangements like special boarding cards and three check-in counters were made to ensure that the wedding was a success. Eight seats were removed to make space for the mandap. The wedding ceremony was performed as per Sikh rites. The P.A. system in the aircraft was used to chant mantras. Popular singer Mr. Anup Jalota rendered bhajans for the 194 guests. An exotic menu including an elaborate wedding cake was arranged by Air-India for the occasion and special mementos were presented to the couple and each of the guests to commemorate this unique experience.



Dilip Popley
weds
Sunita

18th October, 1994

Hara Bara Kabab
Masala Mushroom Vol-au-Vent
Panir Amritsari
Angoor Basoondi



We hope you enjoy the world's first
airborne wedding feast. An exotic menu
that's designed to make this special
occasion even more memorable.



Marriage In The Sky

Somewhere high, up in the sky,
Under the Almighty's watchful eye,
Nuptial vows, they solemnize,
In the realms, of paradise.
Together they begin matrimony,
All in peace and harmony.

Dreams have become a reality,
In flight on board AIR-INDIA,
Long live the couple happily,
In the heavens way up high,lets,
Pray for this "Marriage In The Sky."

'Marriage in the Sky' - a poem composed by Shariar Karim
for the wedding of Sunita & Dilip Popley solemnized on board the Air-India A-310, Air Bus, Narmada -18th October '94