

**ODYSSEY AI – THE LAST POST**  
**with Shariar Karim's**  
**“MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”**

*In the name of GOD most Gracious most Merciful,*

Today July 11,2021 on the occasion of my late Mother's Birthday, I dedicate my humble offering –  
' ODYSSEY AI- MILESTONES AND MEMORIES '

To all Indians and all my fellow Air-Indians who have inspired, helped and encouraged me to complete this lifetime's works on my 38.4 years of service with our National Flag Carrier **AIR-INDIA**. It comprises of a few events and episodes in the saga of this great Airline, which I have been privileged to experience during my service years. I had originally published this booklet on June 30, 2006, the day of my retirement. But today, 15 years later, I am pleased to have been able to improve upon it to some extent and share it with a larger audience. I launched this Odyssey on June 30 last year and with God's grace managed to complete it on the same date this year. It took 12 Orbits, across 12 Months, covered 80 Flights and is spread over 446 Pages which I have been able to share with you all, with the help of social media. My Farewell poem "It's Time" which I released on the day of my retirement in 2006 was also used as an introduction to this Odyssey in 2020 lest I left suddenly and didn't get a chance to complete this voyage and say Good Bye. But with God's grace, I have lived to see it to its conclusion today and will once again be conveying the 3 messages from my heart which are contained therein, namely Thank you, Sorry and Good Bye. Yes, I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank you' to my Dear Family, to all Air-Indians, Lions, Students and Well-wishers who have helped me at different stages of my life. Your invaluable contributions have brought out the best in me and made me what I am and I will never forget you. I also wish to thank [www.airindiacollector.com](http://www.airindiacollector.com) for considering it worthwhile to create a blog for me on their prestigious website. All my stories will be there for you to view should you wish to do so in the years to come. To all the Facebook Group Administrators, sincere thanks for allowing me to share my stories with almost 3000 of your site's readers. It's also time to say 'Sorry' to any and everyone if I have inadvertently hurt or harmed your sentiments in any way. Please do forgive me. Kindly overlook my errors or omissions in my compilations, I apologise for all my oversights. Also please don't hold any grudges against me, life is too short to hold on to these. I too will dispel all such thoughts from my mind and will not allow them to weigh me down. We have all lost far too many good people in recent times. I believe the time to say Sorry is now, whilst we still can. So please forgive all faults and forget any foibles. Finally its time to say 'Good Bye'. In the words of Shakespeare "Forever and forever, farewell, if we do meet again, why, we shall smile; If not, why then this parting was well made." Looking back, all I can say is that it has been a great ride and there is much I have to be grateful for. We should not be saddened when something good comes to an end on the contrary we should be thankful that it ever happened. In the context of life's achievements, I am reminded of Mother Teresa's words " In life we can't always do great things but we can do small things with great love." This then was my small lifetime's works which I did with great love. Good Bye !  
and Oh yes ! Happy Birthday Mum – See you soon. Time to . . .

**FLY EMPTY**

**“ ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES” - A JOURNEY IN TIME WITH AIR-INDIA BY SHARIAR KARIM**



**12 ORBITS**  
**12 MONTHS**  
**85 FLIGHTS**  
**446 PAGES**

**VIGNETTES FROM MY 38 YEARS & 4 MONTHS WITH AIR-INDIA  
 1.3.1968 – 30.6.2006**

ORBIT	MONTH	FLIGHTS	PAGES
1	JUL 2020	9	43
2	AUG	8	36
3	SEP	5	28
4	OCT	12	73
5	NOV	6	25
6	DEC	7	27
7	JAN2021	5	30
8	FEB	7	34
9	MAR	6	33
10	APR	5	31
11	MAY	6	26
12	JUN	9	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>446</b>

<https://www.airindiacollector.com/blog/shariar-karim-we-are-air-indians-we-are-the-best>

# "ODYSSEY AI-MILESTONES AND MEMORIES" A Journey in Time with AIR-INDIA by Shariar Karim

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 1 : JUNE 30 – JULY 31, 2020

- AI-09 : 29.7.2020 – " Torchbearers of the IFSD"
- AI-08: 29.7.2020 –" Just Remembering a Doyen"
- AI-07 : 27.7.2020 " Gems on the String of Time "
- AI-06 : 26.7.2020 – " Martyr of Kargil "
- AI-05 : 18.7.2020 – " Olympic Contingent on Board "
- AI-04 : 10.7.2020 – " Your Palace in the Sky "
- AI-03 : 4.7.2020 – " From the Heart to Soul "
- AI-02 : 3.7.2020 – " Mortal Creator – Immortal Creation "

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 2 : AUGUST 1- AUGUST 31, 2020

- AI-17 " Game to Fame" 29.8.2020
- AI-16 "Ariana Afghan Airlines Training" 20.8.2020
- AI-15 "God Bless Our Country" 15.8.2020
- AI-14 " Factually Figuratively Yours" 14.8.2020
- AI-13 " Goodwill Flows – Friendship Soars " 10.8.2020
- AI-12 " India My India" 1.8.2020
- AI-11 "Pillars of Pride" 1.8.2020
- AI-10 "Moment Immortal" 1.8.2020

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 3 : SEPTEMBER 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

- AI- 22 " Bollywood Sandesha" 21.9.2020
- AI- 22 " The Power of I " 21.9.2020
- AI- 21 " V.V.I.P. Flight of the Prime Minister" 19.9.2020
- AI- 20 " Ariana Afghan Airlines Flights" 17.9.2020
- AI- 19 "Leaves, Blossoms and Memories" 11.9.2020
- AI- 18 "Air-India's Secret Mission" 4.9.2020

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 4 : OCTOBER 1 – OCTOBER 31, 2020

- AI-33 " Odyssey – AI " 24.10.2020
- AI-33A " V.V.I.P.Flight of P.M. P.V.Narasimha Rao
- AI-32 " Operation Airlift " 20.10.2020
- AI-31 " Marriage In The Sky" 18.10.2020
- AI-30 "Jocoranda Days" 18.10.2020
- AI-29 "Flight Of Fancy 9 – On The Wings Of A Dream" 15.10.2020
- AI-28 "Seventy Today" 15.10.2020
- AI-27 "Sixty Today " 15.10.2020
- AI-26 "We Lived This Day Twice" 12.10.2020
- AI-25 " Flight Of Fancy 2 For Spastics Society Of India" 4. 10.2020
- AI-24 "Managemen Seminar For I.F.S." 3.10.2020
- AI-23 "Remembering October 2,1993" 2.10.2020

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 5: NOVEMBER 1 – NOVEMBER 30 2020

- AI-39 " AMCHI New Destination" 30.11.2020
- AI-38 " TRIUMPH" 16.11.2020
- AI-37 " Well Done" Letter from P.M. P.V.Narasimha Rao" 16.11.2020
- AI-36 " Flight of Fancy 6 -The Pavement Club of Mumbai" 14. 11.2020
- AI-35 "My 400 th Flight as an I.F.S." 11.11.2020
- AI-34 "Vigilance Awareness Week" 3.11.2020

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 6: DECEMBER 1 – 31 2020

- AI-45 "Millennium Announcement " 31.12.2020
- AI-44 " Farewell My Friend" 29.12.2020
- AI-43 "One Day"27.12.2020
- AI-42A "Meri Kurisumasu" 25.12.2020
- AI-42 " Midnight on the Menam " 22.12.2020
- AI-41 " My 700<sup>th</sup> Flight as an I.F.S." 5.12.2020
- AI-40 "Flight to Eternity" 3.12.2020

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 7: JANUARY 1 – 31, 2021

- AI-50 " KANCHENJUNGA CRASHES ON MONT BLANC" 24.1.2021
- AI-49 "BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER" 20.1.2021
- AI-48 "CALL TIME" 15.1.2021
- AI-47 "FLIGHT OF FANCY 5" 4.1.2021
- AI-46 " CRASH OF AN EMPEROR" -1.1.2021

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 8 : FEBRUARY 1 – 28 , 2021

- AI-56 " My 38<sup>th</sup> Year With Air-india " 28.2.2021
- AI-55 " My 37<sup>th</sup> Year With Air-india" 28.2.2021
- AI-54 " The Cry- Cycle Crusade " 28.2.2021
- AI-53 " My Cricketing Important Passengers " 14.2.2021
- AI-53A " Race Against Time"
- AI-52 " Flight Delight " 8.2.2021

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 9 – MARCH 1 – 31 2021

- AI-62 " Making A Difference- To Make Air- India Different" 24.3.2021
- AI-61 " Cricket In The Air – How's That ?" 23.3.2021
- AI-60 " My 500<sup>th</sup> Flight As An I.F.S." 19.3.2021
- AI-59 " Ode To An Apostle" 13.3.2021
- AI-58 " Watan Ki Sair " 10.3..2021
- AI-57 " A Silver Lining " 1.3.2021

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 10 – APRIL 1-30, 2021

- AI-67 " 3<sup>rd</sup> Flight Of Fancy " 25.4..2021
- AI-66 " Together Towards Tomorrow " 15.4.2021
- AI-65 " Cry From Above " 14.4.2021
- AI-64 "Air-india Ka Suhana Safar" 9.4..2021
- AI-63 "The Guwahati – Bangkok Inaugural " 4.4.2021

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 11- MAY1-31, 2021

- AI-72 " Football Strategies For Corporate Goals " 31.5..2021
- AI-71 " COSCAP Training" 21.5.2021
- AI-70 " Practicing Productivity Principles" 15.5.2021
- AI-69 "The Game Of The Name" 11.5..2021
- AI-68a " The Past Is Present " 7.5.2021
- AI-68 " A Memento Of A Lifetime " 3.5.2021

## ODYSSEY AI – MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 12- JUNE 1-30, 2021

- AI-80 " V.V.I.P. Flight of P.M. A.B. Vajpayee " 25 -30.6.2021
- AI-79 " The Crash of Kanishka " 23.6.2021
- AI-78A " My Last Slip Flight to LON-NYC " 13-22.6.2021
- AI-78 " A Tale of Two Cities " 18.6.2021
- AI-77 "V.V.I.P.Flight of P.M. P.V. Narasimha Rao" 16.6..2021
- AI-76 "Flight of Fancy for Thalassaemic children"12.6.2021
- AI-75 "ALA RE ALA AI ALA " 11.6.2021
- AI-74 " 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AI Flights to London" 8.6.2021
- AI-73 " People First Week " 6.6.2021

# ODYSSEY AI-MILESTONES & MEMORIES -VIGNETTES OF A JOURNEY IN TIME WITH AIR-INDIA



<https://www.airindiacollector.com/blog/shariar-karim-we-are-air-indians-we-are-the-best>

- Shariar Karim

## *It's Time...*

*My time is up, I have to go,  
It's time to say, Good Bye,  
A part of my life, has come to an end,  
And leaves me, with a nostalgic sigh.*

*Milestones and Memories flood my mind,  
As I look back, over all those years,  
It's been a voyage, of joys and sorrows,  
Of laughter, smiles and tears.*

*I worked with heart, played out my part,  
There were times when I took, no rest,  
It's time that will tell, if I left my mark,  
But I know, I tried my best.*

*It's time to count, my blessings,  
For all that I've got in return,  
A life, a living, a livelihood,  
And much more, than I could earn.*

*It's time to say, Thank You,  
For being so nice, to me,  
I shall remember you kindly,  
Wherever in the world I be.*

*It's time to say, I'm sorry,  
For any wrong, I've said or done,  
Please forgive me for any indiscretion,  
For I've meant to harm, no one.*

*It's time to Thank The Almighty,  
Who carried me with care, so high,  
And to all you wonderful people,  
It's time to say, Good Bye.*

*Shariar Karim.*

*March 1, 1968 - June 30, 2006.*



*MILESTONES  
&  
MEMORIES*



*-SHARIAR KARIM*

**A**ll that I have,  
**I** owe to thee,  
**R**each into my heart,  
**I**n there you'll see,  
**N**othing but gratitude,  
**D**ear GOD to thee,  
**I** thank YOU for giving,  
**AIR INDIA** to me



*- Shariar Karim*

# ODYSSEY AI - MILESTONES AND MEMORIES ORBIT 7, JANUARY 1-31, 2021 1.

## A few Echoes from STARSHIP ODYSSEY AI . . .COMMENTS that have left me STARSTRUCK. .

★ **AI-46 "CRASH OF AN EMPEROR 1.1.2021"** ★ **ABID H. SIDDIQUI** - So sad. In remembrance ★ **ALYSON BOWEN PEREIRA** - Forever etched in Our Memory! RIP! ★ **MAHMOOD SHAH** - You were tragically taken away too early. You are in our thoughts. Bless your Souls ★ **AVINASH SARANG** - All great memories of a great loss. ★ **CAROL MENDONCA** - It was a sad day we were in training school. Sad memories. ★ **HUTOXI PALAMKOTE DRIVER** - Two girls were from my batch ★ **SHENAZ KARIM LYNCH** - You have captured the details so well. What a tribute to those who lost their lives in this unfortunate incident. ★ **SHAHNAWAZ KARIM** - What a horrifying reality this is, sad for the relatives who lost their loved ones..may their soul RIP-Amen ★ **SAFIYYAH KARIM** - RIP. Two were from my batch. Jeero Dastur and Ravi Menon. ★ **S.MURALITHARAN SURULURAJ** - Farewell To Eternity To All Beloved Air Indians Who Left Us To Heavenly Abode. Rest In Eternal Peace ★ **O.P.KATARIA** - The crash of Ashoka has not gone off from my mind . Horrifying incident that terrified us. I went into a huddle when I heard the news in the morning . I was staying in Bandra and immediately went to the site on my scooter .There were hordes of people but not a trace of the huge jumbo. And for days on end nothing was traceable. It amazes me as to how you have managed to store all the details to that day....the pictures of the crew with their data and all the pax names too, is just remarkable I eagerly went through them again. ' 101 seconds after leaving the runway the aircraft plunged into the sea at 35degree angle '.....details such as this make your text more readable . I can never forget Vivek Ajinkya who was staying at a stone's throw to my place. We pray for all those who left us . May they be at peace ★ **AI-47 "WATAN KI SAIR " 4.1.2021** ★ **SHAHNAWAZ KARIM** - It must have been an exciting and thrilling experience for the children...God bless them... kind gesture by Air India ★ **ZULEIKHA MERCHANT** - What a noble thought ★ **M.F.ALVI** - Very creative idea ★ **SUBHASISH CHOUDHARY** - Thanks for sharing these emotionally touching collections. I don't have words to express my feelings. Just great. ★ **CECILE DUGGAL** - Proud of you all for those flights of fancy ★ **O.P. KATARIA** - That's another good gesture of Air India. Children are our richest wealth, our nation's progress depends on how we invest our resources and time towards their development. Kashmiri children have gone through an abominable ordeal . They have not stepped out of a confined place. Watan ki Sair ' must have given them a tremendous lease. By planting a flower with their name , each of the children have presented our " Sare Jahan se Achha Hindustan " with the most beautiful gift and turned it into an attractive Phoolon ka Guldasta. With music you made their Sair more alluring and who could be better than you Shariar, in selection of the songs for the occasion. How affectionately you are holding the child and singing . Like earlier Fancy Flights , this too will live in memory. You have organised it very well. ★ **END OF ORBIT 6 - LIKES & COMMENTS - 10.1.2021** ★ **M.F.ALVI** - Great work done Wah wah Karim Sb. ★ **SHENAZ KARIM LYNCH** - How thoughtful and kind to have captured everyone's comments and likes. I can tell dear Uncle how passionate you are about your contribution and hard work (going over and above repeatedly) to Air-India. It is "Servant Leadership" ★ **AJOY MITRA** - Congratulations ★ **SUBHASISH CHOUDHURI** - I am spellbound and speechless. ★ **NALINI RAO** - Congratulations ! and salute for putting together this for us so beautifully and meticulously!! Definitely connected to so many!! Appreciate ★ **EDNA D'MELLO PILLAI** - Awesome ! ★ **UNNATI DHURANDHAR** - I have truly enjoyed all the flights. . **A.Rz** -Great Job ! ★ **TARLOCHAN ANAND** - Keep up the good work ★ **VINAY KAMAT** Great job!!! Hats off to you dear Shariar for the efforts and time you have put in this project ★ **O.P.KATARIA** I enjoyed going through the reflections of many of the voyagers on your Odysseys, and not the least surprised of your huge following . It is but natural, your work is such ! Thanks indeed Shariar of giving me a pride of place in your attachments, I can assuredly say that every word of mine, would stay unshattered. Looking forward to your next odysseys. ★ **AI-24 PROMOTIONAL TRAINING FOR I.F.Ss - From OCT 2020 Post** ★ **VINAYAK AHIRE** - Dear Shariar, you were always a role model for us in In-flight service department. BEST IFS n Lovely Human being. Me n Meena wishes you long life with BEST OF HEALTH. ★ **RAJRANI SINGH** - Always best..best and best in each sphere whether in service or retired. ★ **RAM KAMBLE** - Best IFS. Lovely human being. My salute to you all the time. All the best to you for 2021.As well as to Mrs. Karim. ★ **PRADIP GHOSH** - Sir you are as active as before. Hope you are fine ★ **PRABHA ERANEE** -Great job. ★ **ZULEIKHA MERCHANT** - Wonderful ★ **YASH MEHTA** - Gr8 effort at this age congrats dear ★ **CHARMAINE FERNS** - He has always been sincere and committed. ★ **CORAL CARDOZ** - Congratulations to you and your lovely wife. You are the Best. God Bless both of you. Coral Burrows Cardoz. ★ **NALINI RAO** Well deserved and congrats !! Stay safe n healthy! ★ **MEENA SINGH AHIRE** - Always proud of u. This award was meant only for u. **Congratulations!!** ★ **NIRMALA DASARI** - Congratulations Shariar, you deserve it. ★ **SANA DALVI** -Congratulations !.Thank you for inspiring us too. Well deserved Award. Really proud of you Shariar. God bless. ★ **RAJIV SEHGAL** - Always an inspiration ★