

It was quite an interesting flight I should mention. It had been a very long time since I flew the National carrier. I think it was way back in 1974 when I flew the majestic Maharaja B747 from Rome to Bombay (then)

My best friend, Manohar had warned me earlier and so, with a bit of trepidation, I reached the airport well in advance. Bags security checked, boarding pass issued, I waited for the departure of the aircraft.



The flight, AI658 was on time. We were ushered into the boarding area after thorough security check. It was a nice feeling, walking through aerobridge and straight onto the aircraft. The plane was an A320 or 321, quite big with a 3-3 configuration and aisle seating between. It also had a great entertainment system with an 8" LCD screen for every passenger. Once on board, the usual safety instructions were



displayed via LCD. The flight from Calicut to Coimbatore took 30 minutes. After we landed, we were instructed to

wait inside the plane itself. The security came in and requested us to identify our hand luggage. Then, the boarding of passengers from Coimbatore and within 30 minutes, we were airborne. Lunch was served immediately. I must compliment Air India for a wonderful lunch. Lunch also included fresh salad



And a tasty 'semiya payasam'. After lunch, I settled down to watch a Hindi movie on the entertainment system. Mumbai was visible by 5pm. Again we were requested to stay back. At that point of time, I savoured the 'feel' of the aircraft and watched dreamy eyed at the first class cabin. I'm sure it will be a



real comfortable flight for them. Even my seat was quite ok. It is said that they get fresh hot towels and are served with a better fare but who cares. Even my seat and meals in Economy was quite good – and I paid a lot less!!

Mumbai – Delhi was FULL the main reason being cancellation of Kingfisher flights. En-route, I took a picture of Jaipur and it's location on the Navigation

system. Jaipur looks more like ‘the golden city’ at night and ‘pink city’ in the



morning.



Arrival at New Delhi was ‘smooth and soft’. I compare the view of T3 at Night to Changi, Singapore. I am quite impressed. Everything is superlative right from the plush carpets all the way to the plane. Yes, even on the aerobridge. Luggage conveyor system was very efficient with lots of signage everywhere. You cannot get lost if you follow directions. The entrance to the airport is also quite impressive. Next time you visit some place in India, take a plane and land at T3.



I’m sure you’ll find it impressive.

And so, I am in Delhi, capital of India. Rest later...