

Kids have a special time up in the air

Jet arranged 'flight of fancy' specially to fly under-privileged children on Children's Day



Children enjoy the flight on Wednesday — Ritika Jain

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FOR little Chand Kadam, this Children's Day will always remain the "best day of life". The 12-year-old celebrated her birthday on Wednesday, 15,000 metres above sea level in a Jet Airways Boeing 737-800 flight, specially arranged to fly under-privileged children in the city.

The flight that started at 4.30 pm, took nearly 70 children from NGOs Vision In Social Arena, Aseema and Magic Bus on a one-hour journey up to Daman and back.

"I am thrilled. This is the greatest birthday gift for me," says the 12-year-old Chand, who is a member of Magic Bus, says that she has never celebrated her birthday before because it was beyond her parents' means.

The Jet Airways' flight of fancy programme, scheduled at 2.30 pm may have started late, but the children made the most of it.

A feeling of apprehension hung in the air as the kids took their seats in the plane and the safety instructions began. A little one watched keenly, as the hostess demonstrated how to put on a safety jacket in case of

emergency, and asked her friend, "What is she doing?" The friend replied, "Arey, she's just showing you what all is in the cabin."

As the flight took off, screams of hails were heard. Best friends Nirmita Galkwad (14), Jyoti Rekada (11) and Laxmi Poonam (12) clutched their hands and closed their eyes tight and screamed, "*Planz toda meda horaha hai!*" But then they said, "We were not afraid, only slightly shaken."

As the girls screamed, the boys silently enjoyed the experience. Fifteen-year-old Maitesh Harjan, who aspires to become a football player, said, "I was a bit afraid when the plane took off and

landed but the flight was wonderful. I felt like a bird," he said. Meanwhile, Sweety, a little tot from Vision In Social Arena, was busy collecting chocolates and fruit packs. "I will go back to our home and throw them all around," she said.

This 'flight of fancy' was a part of Jet Airways initiative to mark Children's Day special for special children. A Jet Airways official said, every year, they create a platform for all corporations to come together and sponsor the event for the kids.

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