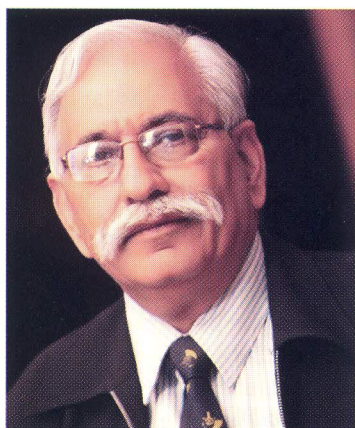


CATC

A UNIQUE ALMA MATER

By Gp Capt Devinder C Mehta, Advisor (MR), AAI



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CATC, Allahabad the training establishment of Airports Authority of India is 'Alma mater of air traffic controllers & communication engineers'. This institute is not only unique, for it is the only one of its type in the whole of the country and more importantly the expertise is not available at any university, even the best of the technical institutes.

Allahabad has the pride of operating the First Airmail in the world on 18th of February 1911. A Frenchman Henri Pequet flew to Naini, 8 KMS from Allahabad, at 40 mph at an altitude of 130 feet with the airmail. The whole journey lasted 27 minutes. One of the recipients of the first airmail was

King George V of England. His secretary wrote to Commander Sir Walter George Windham, who accompanied the cargo, big cases containing dismantled plane parts, "The King desires me to send you his thanks for the letter he received from India, bearing the inscription "First Aerial Post", which will be an interesting addition to His Majesty's stamp collection".

In the review of civil aviation in India in the year 1948 the Director General of Civil Aviation, Mr N. C. Ghosh, had disclosed that between July 1st 1947 and June 30th, 1948 the number of flying hours, distance flown, and passengers and freight car-

