

Inspira



Vol. No. 17 / Dec 2005

FROM MY HEART

My Dear Friends,

An eventful year gone by! A year that has added rich experience and status to our Foundation! Lila Poonawalla Foundation has **completed a decade** of existence and is on its way to the second inning. There were many ups and downs in this decade, but the most important is that we survived and grew. Now there is no looking back.

The **10th anniversary was really a very special landmark** to cross. And it is for this reason that we planned many special events for this year. The most important was to get **Dr. Kiran Bedi** to come back after a decade and once again be our **Chief guest**. The inspiring words that came straight from her heart had the audience transfixed. The second most important step that the Foundation took was to introduce **special scholarships for those girls who are brilliant, but don't make the marks due to financial hardships**. Thus this year we gave the highest number of scholarships. **We crossed the 300 mark**. The third most important event was the completion of the Book, titled "**21st Century Belongs to them**". It took a lot of efforts to get the inspiring stories of some of the Lila Fellows completed. But every bit of it was worth it. **The President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, was kind enough to give his message for inclusion in the book**. Besides these there were many other events that were held during this year (you can read all about these in the special supplement). All these exciting events had a grand finale **A visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan followed by an audience with non other than the President of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**. Twenty-three of us took a flight (some of us for the first time) to Delhi and had a **most memorable experience of our life**. I am sure none of the

Lila Fellows who participated will ever forget this visit in their lifetime.

The new quarter started with the **fantastic 10th year Award Function**. **Forty-Four** young deserving girls, including **twelve girls going to overseas universities**, got the scholarships and became Lila Fellows for a lifetime. Soon after we had a **tea party for the new batch**. This was very rewarding. We got to know each other and about each other. I took **individual pictures** of each one present at the party, a real close up so that I can link the name to the face. We had an **orientation program** for the overseas Lila Fellows. **Ms Maya Thadhani**, our Senior Trustee, conducted this program and gave useful inputs to the girls including all the nitty gritty of traveling abroad for the first time. **Ms Ratna Khemani**, the most sought after trainer, held a half-day workshop "**Stepping into the new world**". The proceedings of the workshop were indeed very timely and needed for these young graduates to go out and make an impact. Some Lila Fellows had expressed a need for getting **training in spoken English**. Taking this cue we have organized a twelve-session program, which is being held over 12 Sundays. **Seventeen Lila Fellows** have joined and **Ms. Bharati Joshi**, the teacher, is surely going to make them confident enough to go on the stage to make a speech in English.

Now we cannot always only work and learn, we must also have fun. So we organized a **Dandiya party to celebrate Dussera**. Many Lila Fellows turned up in their traditional Garba dresses. We all danced to the latest tunes. There was a **Chudiwalla**, with all the Chudies. Each one got many colorful bangles. Then there was **Prachi with all the tattoos that she**



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FROM MY HEART

could find in Pune. Each of us got one on our necks. Such events need to be recorded with skillful photography. To train the girls we organized a **session on how to become a good photographer.** The session was held by **Ms Taisie Berkly.** She is a visiting US Fulbright Scholar and a teacher of Photography in a school Washington DC, USA. She has trained under master photographers of the like of Bruce Davidson, Sally Mann and Mary Ellen Mark. **She has won a 'National Pictures of the Year Award'**

Together with fun, we also discharged our **social responsibility.** We participated in the **Pune International Marathon, an AIDS Charity run** - a Run for a cause. Thousands of people participated in this run which was positioned as the Race against AIDS. Our book "21st Century Belongs to them" was launched for sale in Pune, by none other than the **VC of Symbiosis Deemed University, Dr. S B Mujumdar.** The function was held at **British Council Library courtesy Ms Anil Bakshi.**

Dear Lila Fellows through **participation** in all these programs all of you will add **maturity and emotional stability** to your lives. Perhaps you do

not realize the importance of this **additional overall development** at this stage in your life, but believe me as you go along, you will realize how **much value such events have added to make your life richer in content.** So do try to participate in as many events as you can, it will only **benefit YOU in the long run.**

As this issue goes for printing **2005 will soon become a year of the past.** It has been a very rewarding year. Once again **I must thank all those who have supported the Foundation both financially and otherwise.** Without their support, perhaps it would have been a very difficult task to grow the Foundation. **Thankyou friends.** 2006 is just round the corner and we are looking forward to yet another exciting year. **Hope to see you and hear from you more often in this New Year.** Wish you and your families and all your friends a **VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

With warm regards and best wishes

Lila Poonawalla

SHORT TAKES

Lila fellows Sunetra and Pradnya meet the vibrant and determined young Doctor Ms Vijayalaxmi Shukla (Lila Fellow -1999).

After completing MBBS from B.J Medical College, this young doctor applied for PhD and was recommended for graduate study at Georgia State University USA. It was then that she was granted the Lila Poonawalla Foundation Scholarship for her PhD program.

Vijaya was always good in studies; she was very good in Maths and Biology and was always praised by her teachers. This studious, hardworking and sincere girl loved to do something that comes naturally, for her Maths and science was something which came very naturally. She never had to take efforts in learning these subjects.

Vijaya received complete support from her family members. Her father who is presently working as a Legal consultant kept on encouraging and supporting Vijaya to become a Doctor. About her mother Vijaya says "My mother helped me in everything. She has that right wisdom and instinct which always helped in decision making". "I wasn't

very focused or ambitious but all that initiation came from my elder brother who was very studious and sincere, I and my younger brother followed his footsteps". Vijaya has very few close friends who are still with her to share good old memories. In 2002 Vijaya got married to Rishi Shukla, who is Biotechnologist. Both hard - working professionals with demanding jobs, truly form an ideal couple. *Rishi is great source of encouragement for me says Vijaya.*

Presently Vijaya is working as a Doctor in Indianapolis and is also a research student under Dr John Dewitt; Indiana University, Indianapolis. Right from the beginning Vijaya



LF Dr. Vijayalaxmi Shukla interviewed by Inspira Crusaders - Pradnya & Sunetra

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SHORT TAKES

was interested in research. During her internship at B.J Medical College she focused her research in Genetics labs. Further she worked on the project which was to study the impact of visual sensory input on auditory cortex. This project was helpful to many blind and deaf people. She also has had a number of publications and presentations on topics like HIV seroprevalence and awareness about AIDS among pregnant women. The recent presentations include "Optimising the parameters in Classical Conditioning paradigm in gastropod snail *Helisoma trivolvis* Annual Poster Day".

As far as treating patients is considered Vijaya says -"You cannot treat anyone, you can provide and make them comfortable. We try to minimize the chances. You should be so humble, determined. You have to be obsessive and there should be compassion while treating patients. Every patient is a VIP and is to be treated like a VIP. I love people and try to get all things done in front of me. I feel there is still so much to be done in the field of Medicine and want to excel in this field".

Vijaya would like to come back to India and return something back to the society. She wants to put to use all the knowledge acquired in Medicine and help Indians to come out of all diseases, especially older people facing Cancer now do not get proper treatment. She wants to help them by providing all necessary Medical treatment so that they do not face any problem.

Her advice to Lila fellows is - *Keep up the great work as this is the way things would change.*

We are all proud of having this young doctor with us who always has a quest to find the exact cause and then cure for a disease and treat patients in every possible way...

Let us together wish her all the best for her future

■ - Sunetra and Pradnya

EVE'S VOICE

Nothing comes easy in life. When you get things easily, you don't realize the importance of it. Here's presenting the first hand excerpt from our talk with the gutsy lady Professor Sharmila Jain Oswal. Intensively passionate and voraciously ambitious is what describes Professor Sharmila Jain Oswal.

Sharmila's thirst for knowledge and perseverance has not only earned her several academic degrees, but also boosted her career graph, keeping it on a steady rise. With global degrees to her credit, Sharmila Oswal LLB, LLM (UK), qualified paralegal, and Immigration Consultant, has carved a name for herself in not just her hometown but also on an international level. Her legal experience to date includes representation in Ontario Human Rights Commission, Human Resources Development Center- Canada, and the Home Office- UK.

Growing up in a remote village - Poynad, dominated by the orthodox yet conventional Marwari community, the 4th girl child born to her parents, Sharmila faced challenges at every step. "I think, by being a girl, I have faced most of the challenges from my family and the community. I was born in a very small village, which is very remote, compared to cities. Moreover, belonging to a Marwari family

was a big challenge. The day I was born was not a happy moment for my family as I was the fourth girl child born to my parents.

Education was a continuous struggle, every moment, with my community and many times with my family, except my parents. My parents were very hesitant in front of my family, but throughout my education, I always got their support. The way I struggled for my education, it's been the constant spirit to go ahead in life whatever difficulties may come.

She learned to stand up for herself; a lesson driven unmistakably home when she was literally boycotted by her Community for some time... for a crime as dangerous as "Education".

"When I left my village at the age of 14, I cried a lot and took an oath myself that hereafter I will never come to this village, unless the village itself invites me with dignity and respect."

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EVE'S VOICE

Galvanizing people with her actions seemed to come naturally to Sharmila. When she was nominated by the British Government, for doing LLM, people in her village were very proud and celebrated the happiness. There's a gleam in her eyes that emits the happiness she feels when she says, "The best part is that in my village Poynad, parents use my name- *"Badi hoke Sharmila jaisehi banana hai."* In addition, the school in village Poynad where I studied until standard 10, places me as a role model for every student!

When asked why she took up law, Sharmila states, "The treatment given to women in Marwari community inspired me to switch from the medical field, and join Law. I always had fire in me to fight with all the superstitious things particularly the problems of women in my community, who after marriage also face a lot of difficulties to sustain their identity. Thankfully Jeet, my husband, was there with me all the time "

Sharmila applied for the LPF when she was trying all her ways and means to go to England. "There was an advertisement in the newspaper, and I picked it up for applying. A scholarship of Rs 18 lacs from the Association of Commonwealth, London, British Government and the encouragement by Mrs. Lila Poonawalla were the major reasons that helped her kick start her journey.

When asked about her aspiration in life our lady states, "I want to reach grass root levels, where education has not reached. I want to take education to every remote part of this country. My dream is to start a vocational school where my vision is to help every girl and woman to be self-dependent, I want to create employment for them and help them establish themselves in life."

Social responsibility follows ... I am assisting the students who want to go abroad, in all ways I can. This is because when I went, there was no one to guide me, and I don't want other students to face the problems I faced when I went abroad, hence my husband and I started counseling students going abroad.



Prof. Sharmila Jain Oswal at work

Last year she was awarded the Rashtriya Gaurav Award, FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE in India. Sharmila feels this award was the result and outcome of the struggle in her life...

"Badi hoke Shami jaisehi banana hai" !!!! Way to go girl!

■ -Vanita Kriplani

LIVING LIFE WITH A DIFFERENCE

'To exist' is what everyone does, but this column is all about living life and that too with a difference.... Saina Ruzbeh Bharucha has chosen a living to make a difference in the world around her. Today 30-year-old Saina is the Director of Navjyoti Police Foundation started 20 years ago by her illustrious mother Dr. Kiran Bedi, renowned IPS officer. Saina has taken those efforts forward with her hard work and commitment and made a difference to the lives of many deprived children....

She could have led a life of comfort, a position with an MNC, but she chose to work for people in need. As she puts it, *"I was just moved by problems of the poor and decided that this is where I want to be. I am blessed to have a mother like Kiran Bedi who taught me the power of simplicity and honesty by leading the way. I was never pampered, nor did I have an aristocratic lifestyle, with servants and cars at my service to handicap me. My mother gave me a humble upbringing, saw to it that I had my value-system intact and taught me to 'fight-it-out', be it academically, socially or then emotionally".* Asserting the fact that she

shared an entirely normal mother-daughter relationship with her mother, she too had her own share of disputes and disagreements that every growing-up girl has with her mother. Education and tennis were two things her mother insisted on and she enjoyed both. However, she started remaining unwell and had to give up on tennis. At a tender age of 13, her leukoderma began to show. *"You know how it feels when the world looks at you as the 'tough and fit Kiran Bedi's daughter' who is plump with patches of white all over the body? It devastates you! It kills you! I started living in hiding with faith only in God. God dictated my life".*

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LIVING LIFE WITH A DIFFERENCE

Saina's mother wanted her to do medicine to be able to serve the people she saw suffering. But not able to see blood, Saina went to America and took up psychology. However, the education system did not appeal. Dissatisfied, she returned and produced a television serial for a year. She knew well she was not a 'masala queen' nor was this a stable career. She was blindly searching for something where her heart lived. She says, *"I had grown up seeing my mother solving all those cases, closely seen the India Vision Foundation and the Navjyoti, seen the sufferings in society. When you closely see pain, you change as a person. I was internally crying, seeking a path. During my search I met Ruzbeh, who is a Shirdi Sai Baba Bhakt, with whom I bonded spiritually. An orphan and a film-maker, he believed in me, understood my search and it was he who convinced my mom that I would do best in serving the society through Navjyoti"*.

The activities of the India Vision Foundation are prison reforms-bringing into the mainstream their inmates, educating children of prisoners, selling of handicrafts made by the inmates are all the issues taken care by a sister organization, India Vision Foundation, that has a strength of about 30 workers. This mission is quite well established. However issues are different with the older foundation -Navjyoti. It, currently with a strength of over 300 workers, deals with almost all social issues like slum rehabilitation, education and literacy, 'galli' schools, domestic violence and abuse, cleanliness drives, medication and personal health, legal rights of the common man, and many more that we can think of. It is currently working on 25 projects and has different departments assigned for advertising, administration, finance and legalities. Difficulties arise mainly because of government policies according to which slums are illegal. Thus the people there do not get electricity supply and sanitation is inadequate. Availing all these basic facilities means opposing policies or demanding reforms. It is important not to offend the government but to see how best help can be obtained. There always exists lack of funds and insecurity of finances to permanently sustain workers. Indian and foreign government schemes contribute towards 50-60% of the total funds. Talking about difficulties of funding, Saina says, *"The world of NGOs has become a big corporate today. We need to market our motives and objectives. The funding agencies need to have the faith that their money is being used for a good cause and that their donation would be highlighted. Luckily we have always had private and government agencies coming forward to contribute. We have*

never been demanded favours in return. The faith that ours is not a corrupt organization goes to Mom's reputation. The goodwill that Kiran Bedi has is a blessing to the foundation".

"However, the most neglected category is that of the 'field workers'. It is a highly motivated group, most of who are volunteers and offer their services. Many are qualified as MSW and teachers who by choice are trained. At times, we call out for help and there is no dearth of people who come forward and we train them in the necessary skills. They are the ones who are out, facing the heat and the dirt, working physically in reaching people and solving their problems and all that they earn is a meager Rs.2200/- per month. We feel that they should be paid better, be provided with provident funds, but due to lack of funds our hands get tied. It hurts me most when we want to give, but we don't have it." Saina has an appeal, *"If all of us keeps a fraction of the money that we earn for the needy, people would not go hungry anywhere in the world. Giving has to be a priority"*.

Saina has always supported reforms rather than punishments, why? *"Guided by my faith in God, it is my attitude that life should be corrective. None is born a criminal and everybody should be given an opportunity to improve. However, one cannot be foolish and keep giving opportunities endlessly with no results."* Talking about her biggest achievement she names the love that she has received from the Navjyoti family to which she is emotionally attached. *"When the 300 workers wholly contribute, it is not just them but their 300 families too that we feel responsible for. As director of the foundation it feels like being a mother to so many. My most satisfying moment was to see the inhabitants of Yamuna Pushta happily rehabilitated, fine, safe and healthy"*.



Living to make a difference to the world around her - Mrs. Saina (Bedi) Ruzbeh Bharucha

LIVING LIFE WITH A DIFFERENCE

How does it feel to have a partner who supports her in her mission and also contributes towards it? "I feel it is very important to have a companion who believes in you and your life. If there is someone who knows me 110%, it is Ruzbeh. I think God has blessed me by giving me such a loving husband. There are very few couples, wherein there is respect for each other, and most importantly it is respect that we share. Ruzbeh too contributes in every possible way to support my ideologies. Every month he keeps away 5% of his earnings for the needy". What thought drives her life? "All have to leave this world some day. I just wish that when I meet God he should say 'I am glad I meet you'". They both are now looking forward to the forthcoming new member in their family... and we wish them lots of luck and happiness.

Her message to the girls out there all set to make it big in career- "Drop the hype about the 'Woman-

Woman' thing. Be a good person, a good human being. Being best is not outwards but is all about having purity of heart, deeds and intent. Give justice to every role you play in life. If you decide to be a wife or a mother it is important to be a GOOD WIFE and a GOOD MOTHER, because both of them have a big responsibility of shaping the future. Career should be a personal choice and a balanced one, to have an identity of one's own, to flourish, to be what one naturally is- not just to chase money. Make the right choices and know why you make them. Work for the right reasons, get married for the right reasons, choose your education and career for the right reasons..... not just to prove you can do it."

■ -Rajani Panchang

BOOK REVIEW



Name of the Book
As I see...

Author of the book
Dr. Kiran Bedi

Publisher
Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd.

Price : Rs. 295/-

"What do I do with all that I can see, hear, read and observe? I can ignore, forget, complain or postpone... But I needed to write and express in words what I saw and I will continue to..."

- Dr. Kiran Bedi.

Dr. Kiran Bedi, 'Author' needs no introduction. '**As I See...**' her latest and one of her best books, covers all that she observed and absorbed and which made her write.

In her own style, the author takes us for the tour of various issues which are ignored, important and need to be shared.

'As I See...' can be seen as a compilation of what she used to write in various articles for numerous newspapers and magazines. She focuses on social and ethical issues in columns like, 'Responsible Parenting', 'Justice Delayed', 'The Enemy within', 'Where are the wives of Policemen', 'The Oldest Profession is Thriving' and many more...

This book is a consistent effort by author to encourage awareness and inspire us to heightened levels of sensitivity, participation and response. Articles like 'To be home by Sunset', 'What I missed most when I was abroad', 'Blurred, yet moved' show realities of life. Many of her columns create an imprint on mind.

Dr. Kiran Bedi has also worked with the UN as the Police Advisor to the Secretary General, in the department of Peace Keeping Operations.

She has expressed her differences and her thoughts in the book which is exciting for the readers. I loved the way in which she says, 'Life is Change. Growth is Optional. Choose wisely', 'It's good to be grounded once'. Her efforts have made the book simple and easy to comprehend. The Author holds your hand in entire tour and takes you step by step towards reality.

Lastly, I would say - if you are hungry to read something really good, motivating and inspiring, this book serves the best meal for you.

■ - Prachi

10TH YEAR AWARD FUNCTION

*"God gave me a gift,
That brought me joys untold,
Along with as many blessings
As my heart can hold,
He sent me a reason
For celebration and happiness,
When he blessed me with this wonderful gift
The gift of Lila Poonawalla Foundation"*

Says "Mrs. Lila Poonawalla, Chairperson Lila Poonawalla Foundation", who always believes in women empowerment and has built such a great institution for women.

The year 2005 was a special year for The Lila Poonawalla Foundation, as it celebrated A Decade of Existence - the tenth anniversary of the LPF with the rare and unique chief guest Dr Kiran Bedi - **History repeating after 10 years.** What an evening that was! Past and present awardees proudly stating them as **Lila Fellows** all under one roof meeting and sharing their achievements. The hall crowded with senior Lila fellows, their parents, spouses and the Trustees interacting with them, to know the latest in each one's lives - emotions and happiness had no boundaries.



Dr. Kiran Bedi, the Guest of Honour joins the trustees in lighting the inaugural lamp at the 10th Award Function -2005

The 10th award function began with Sharada Stawan, sung by Lila fellows, which was followed by lighting the lamp by the dignitaries. Mrs. Lila Poonawalla gave the welcome address to all the dignitaries, guests, Lila fellows and their parents, press etc.

Her speech talked about importance of women education, and that the foundation is the source of inspiration and happiness to all girls. She was very happy to admit that in the last 10 years LPF has gone ahead in its mission to contribute to the empowerment of the young girls through education and to transform them into confident, responsible,

intelligent, successful and also socially responsible young ladies -- ladies of the 21st century. Presence of the Chief guest Dr Kiran Bedi was of great significance as she is the one who lighted the first lamp of the foundation way back in 1996 and had promised that she would come back after a decade provided the foundation sustains and grows itself. The absence of Professor Goran Grosskolf was highly felt who was the Guest of honour for the award function but could not reach the function from Switzerland due to unavoidable reasons, but he did not miss to send out his blessing to the foundation and the Lila fellows. His contribution to the foundation has been immense which helped the foundation in giving 10 more special awards this year.

Introducing the new trustee - **Mrs. Shaheen Patel** (Lila Fellow 1998) Mrs. Lila Poonawalla states that in years to come she would introduce more Lila fellows like this in the board of trustees so that the foundation becomes: **"OF the Lila fellows, managed BY the Lila fellows and FOR the Lila fellows"**.

The trip down the past decade was guided by Mrs. Maya Thadhani. Her speech focused on the LPF motto which embodies the mission and defines its goal who has amply demonstrated the strength and the promise for what the Lila Poonawalla foundation stands for. This is the success in implementing the foundation's vision and focus. The essence of LPF lies in its clarity - Clarity of objective, clarity of focus and clarity of result. An audio visual demonstration gave glimpses of the past which had the speeches of all dignitaries invited in the last decade.

"Motivation" the cassette which has the recording of speech of Dr. Kiran Bedi at the first award ceremony of Lila Poonawalla Foundation was released, followed by Mr. Firoz Poonawalla's introduction of Prof. Goran Grosskolf. Mr. Poonawalla also passed on Prof. Grosskolf's blessing and message to the foundation. Prof. Grosskolf says "Congratulations to the foundation but first to the founder and the driving force of the foundation. I sincerely hope that your strength and commitment will continue for many years to come" and dear Lila fellows "By supporting the foundation after your studies, you too can broaden the base of the foundation and give an additional number of young girls a much brighter future. That is why the old Lila fellows are so important for us".

POT POURRI

After this moving message '**Inspira**', the quarterly newsletter was released at the hands of the Mayor of Pimpri Chinchwad - Mrs. Mangala Kadam. Rajani Panchang then on behalf of the Inspira team gave a brief history of the newsletter. She said that the newsletter is a medium to connect Lila Fellows, share their creativity, experiences and achievements.

In recognition of our ten year anniversary two important and remarkable occasions came up Release of a book named "**21st century belongs to them**", the book consists of stories of achievement of 23 dynamic Lila fellows and the **Lilapoonawalla Foundation website** which was also launched with a new look and new faces in it.

Senior Lila fellow Ms. Neetu Bhatia introduced our Chief Guest of the evening who actually needs no introduction. She says beneath the hard, tough, stubborn person lies an affectionate, loving and kind personality. Her simplicity is exemplary. Every aspect of her personality is truly amazing --- this is **Dr Kiran Bedi**

Dr Kiran Bedi began by saying "This is the day of Lila, Firoz all trustees and the Lila fellows. This is history being created. This foundation tells what one determined individual can accomplish. It establishes the power of giving. It establishes the power of multiplying effect of giving. It establishes the power of education for women. It establishes the power of excellence. It proves that if opportunity is given it gives new horizons to reach out to. If timely support is given you can change someone else's life. Educational support is the best

support to make a difference in the life of women". We were all charged by the stunning and energetic message. Then came the 3 point Plan of action given by Dr Bedi for the Lila fellows to execute

Lila fellows should provide regular oxygen to continue the foundation and see the multiplier effect sustain lifelong.

Lila Laureate- taking the award higher. Should be given by President of India and held in Delhi

Book on Lila. She is a pioneer in management excellence.

Keeping with the glorious tradition of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation, the function ended by felicitating the new family members (new LF's) who came from diverse and equally non-traditional academic streams. This year 44 girls have been awarded scholarships which included overseas girls, girls to study in India and 10 special awards. The Lila Family now has 308 Lila fellows.

Chief guests and trustees were then felicitated with flowers. Finally, Mrs. Freny Tarapore expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the foundation for the support given by everybody and invited everyone for a grand dinner.

The day was a unique day in the history of Lila Poonawalla Foundation which was the synthesis of past, present and the future.

Many more to come, this is just a beginning ...

■ -Sunetra and Vandana

LEADING LADY

A determined, ambitious, zealous, enthusiastic and extremely down to earth personality, Ms. Swati Sathe is the Principal of Jail Officer Training College, Yerwada, Pune. Prachi Harkare and Sanchita Thanedar tell us about her....

Ms. Swati Sathe, she has completed M.S.W (Criminology and Correctional Administration) and received a gold medal in Criminology. Besides this she has completed her B.A in English and stood first in the University. She is the first female Principal of Jail Officer Training College, Yerwada, Pune. Her earlier posting were as Deputy Superintendent, Yerwada Central Prison and she has been working at various places like Satara, Akola, Byculla and Mumbai Central Prison, Arthur road.

Ms. Sathe has also undertaken special tasks of Meditation courses for prisoners and staff. Some of

these courses include, 'Vipashyana Shibir and Art of living ', 'Improved quality and quantity of prison agriculture', etc... She has also arranged various medical and health camps for prisoners and staff. Ms Swati Sathe received accolades like 'Hirakani Puraskar' of Prasarbharati, felicitation by State Human Rights Commissioner, Outstanding Lady Public Servant by Marine lines junior chambers and many more...In such a male dominated field, this woman is ought to be an inspiration for us. Let us know more about her.

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LEADING LADY



Ms. Swati Sathe - Principal, Jail Officer's Training College sharing her experiences with the Inspira Team

Q: *Had you decided before hand to work in the field of Criminology?*

A: I had never planned as such but since early days I wanted to do something different. 10 to 5 is not my cup of tea. I took Criminology because I found it different and interesting field.

Q: *Not being a typical 9 to 5 profession, what was your family's reaction when they learned about it?*

A: My family always supported me. I had constant family backing. But it was a responsible decision to choose this profession. This profession is male dominated and can be understood by the fact that I am the first lady Principal here.

Q: *How successful are the rehabilitation programs?*

A: They are definitely successful. Basically, everyone wants to lead a peaceful and responsible life. No one becomes a criminal by choice. It is just that they fall into bad company and turn to this path. Otherwise who would want such a stressful and risky job? Once prisoners are given positive direction, they follow it.

Q: *What are the activities that the prisoners undertake? What exactly are these rehabilitation programs?*

A: Rehabilitation here means actually teaching them some sort of skills like farming, sewing, making wooden articles etc. so that when he gets out of prison he can earn bread and butter, lead a respectable life and won't revert to this path. Meditation courses are also conducted for the prisoners.

Q: *Was it a different experience working at Arthur Road, Mumbai and other places like Satara, Akola where you have worked?*

A: Every experience was different in its own sense. At Satara, you will be surprised to hear that everyone right from D.S were women inspite of it being a comparatively orthodox place. I did not expect this. It has developed a lot over the years.

In Akola, everything was at developing stage, where as Mumbai was at a higher step in the sense that there are no casual offenders there but they are decided criminals who deliberately commit a crime.

Q: *Any particular incidence that you would like to share with us?*

A: It's difficult to narrate a single! All experiences teach you something. When I was in Satara, a commercial sex worker was arrested. When asked why she did that work, she told that being a widow and having two children, she did it for feeding them and she did not have any other option other than this. She could not be kept in jail as one child was above the age of staying with the mother in jail. So we had to go out of law and set her free. This was a moving experience and the way she told us her story, one could understand her pain.

Q: *Being a woman, was it difficult to control emotions?*

A: It's not just being a woman. You have to be practical and professional. Attachments and relations should be kept at bay.

Q: *Any message you would like to give to young aspiring girls?*

A: There is nothing in the world, women can't do. Be confident and have faith in yourself. You can achieve whatever you want. Stop imitating someone. A lady can perform in most difficult circumstances; she must generate her own support.

Be original. Accept yourself. All the best!

■ -Sanchita and Prachi

Down Memory Lane... SNIPPETS



Lila Fellows 2005; LPF crosses the 300 mark!



LPF share some informal moments with Dr. Kiran Bedi at Talkatora Baug, Delhi



The release of July - 05 Issue of Inspira at the hands of Mayoress PCMC, Mrs. Mangala Kadam



Overseas LF's 2005 at the orientation program conducted by Trustee, Mrs. Maya Thadhani's



LF Volunteers for the 10th Award Function with Dr Kiran Bedi and the trustees



The foundation welcoming the LF's-2005 into the family at the Tea Party

Down Memory Lane... SNIPPETS



Mrs. Ratna Khemani conducts "Stepping into a new World", a workshop for new LF's



Book release of "21st Century Belongs to Them" at the hands Dr. S.B. Muzumdar, at the British Council Library



Spoken English classes by Ms. Bharati Joshi for LF's 2005



The LF's in synch at the "Dandiya Raas"



LF's at "How to become a good photographer", training workshop by Ms. Taise Berkly



A run for a cause: LFF at "The Hutch Pune International Marathon 2005 - Race against AIDS"

DONATIONS

**We thank our Lila Fellows who generously Donated to the Foundation.
We really appreciate this gesture**



Ms. Uttara Korad
LF-2002
(Rs.50,000/-)



Ms. Mussarat Shaikh
LF-2000
(Rs.12,735/-)



Ms. Neetu Bhatia
LF-1996
(Rs. 1,10,000/-)



Ms. K.R.Shubha
LF-1998
(Rs.37,500/-)



Ms. Poornima Krishnamurthy
LF-2004
(Rs.30,000/-)

Some more donations -by LF's

Ms. Ritu Jain - LF -2003 (Rs. 7,000/-), Ms. Rashmi Joshi (Soman) - LF-2001(Rs. 5,000/-),
Ms. Jyoti Dalvi - LF-1998(Rs. 2,000/-), Ms. Madhura Dhoka (Khangaonkar) - LF - 1998(Rs. 500/-),
Ms. Aparna Dharma (Rabade) - LF-1999 (Rs. 1,001/-).

YOURS TRULY

A lot of water has flown under the LPF Bridge. And no, we are not measuring our growth in terms of years, but the accomplishments we have made. Right from our specializations, to personal grooming sessions, to workshops tackling various skills, to marathons, to releasing our very own book, we now have an envious assortment in our basket. All the same we are not gloating over our laurels. (*We'll let our history do the talking.*) Much remains to be explored. The horizon is boundless. We resolve to lead with the same potency as we have led. *What say fellas??*

Our success is not ours alone. We extend our gratitude to all the ancillary and well wishers of our foundation. The faith they have put in us will not be blighted.

Drawing once again on the analogy of the flowing stream, 'you cannot step into the same water twice'. Change is inevitable. The old order has to change and yield place to the new, believe our dear Mrs. Poonawalla and our trustees. It is their

dream that gradually the LF's should take over the management of the foundation. (Our senior LF, Shaheen Patel, is now a trustee of the foundation.) We hope more proficient LF's to come, will take the seats of judgment!

The year has been a smooth sailing as for the first time, a series of commendable programs were arranged by the LF's in perfect synchronization with the torch bearers of the foundation. Together, let us continue to march forward to a promising future, so that the century truly belongs to us!



Inspira team brainstorming
over the next issue

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For Private Circulation only

Printed & Published by : Lila Poonawalla Foundation S-37, MIDC, Bhosari, Pune - 411 026 Tel. : 20-27110370

www.lilapoonawallaoundation.com

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SPECIAL FEATURE

LILA FELLOWS AT THE RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN MEET THE PRESIDENT, DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM.....

Best things happen when you least expect them. I am sure none of the Lila Fellows ever thought that they would ever be able to meet their most favourite President. It was a dream comes true for all of us.



Book "21st Century Belongs to Them" being presented to the President of India - Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

"21st Century Belongs to Them" is a book on the success stories of some of the Lila Fellows. This was released in Pune by our beloved Chief Guest, Dr. Kiran Bedi at a function. Lila Mam told us that the motivation behind this book was none other than Dr. Kalam. The book is all about sincere efforts of Lila Mam, Trustees, Ms. Jayshree Shahade and the author, Ms. Mita Banerjee. But the silver lining for all of us was when Lila Mam told us that The President had accepted her request to meet some of the Lila Fellows, whose stories have been written and thus came this wonderful opportunity of our life.

The meeting with The President was on Monday, 1st August 2005 at 1 p.m., but we were given special permission to have a tour of Rashtrapati Bhavan and were asked to be there at 11.30 a.m. I bet, hardly anyone of us must have slept well. There was excitement, anxiety, curiosity and wonder that this was happening for real. After the security check and other formalities we were given this tour and I would love to share this with you.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan is spread over about 330 acres, built on the area known as Raisina Hill. The Rashtrapati Bhavan was built in the year 1911 and it got completed in the year 1921. The Architect of this house was Sir Edwin Lutyens and previously it was a British Viceroy's House. After 1947 it became a Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The British History and the eminent British personalities are depicted through the numerous Paintings all over the Rashtrapati Bhavan. There are beautiful paintings of Lord Dalhousie, Queen Mary, King George, Queen Victoria, Leonardo Da Vinci, Queen Elizabeth and many more paintings. The same room also contains 2 large metal globes of the earth and the 1500 year old Lord Buddha Idol made in stone, which was excavated in 1948 in Calcutta. The Museum Hall consists of various gifts, monuments, small models and again paintings and various precious things gifted to the President, from different State guests of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Darbar Hall is also a huge hall with beautiful paintings on the walls. The Defence Awards are given by the President in Darbar Hall for 2 days in a year and the Civilian Awards are also given in the same hall once in a year at the hands of the President. "This is where our Lila Mam received the prestigious "Padmashri" honor in the year" It was a touching moment when she shared this moment with us.

The famous Moughal Gardens are behind the Rashtrapati Bhavan, which is open for the public only for 1 month that is 15th February to 15th March every year. The garden is maintained very well and is extremely beautiful.

Ashoka Hall is the most important place in Rashtrapati Bhavan. There are many beautiful things to see in the Ashoka Hall. During the British times, it was known as the Ball Room. There is special flooring done for this room covered by the 3-piece original Carpet, The Swearing - in Ceremony of the ministers except for the President is done in the Ashoka Hall. Also the Arjun awards, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Awards and the Indira Gandhi Awards are given in this hall. On the ceiling there is a large painting done on pure leather. This painting is actually composed of the 9 pieces of leather pasted in the center of the ceiling containing some message in the Persian language. This painting was brought in the Rashtrapati Bhavan by the King George IV in 1932 from England presented by Fatteh Ali Shah, the King of Iran. The maximum capacity of the Ashoka Hall is 500 people. A tea party is arranged every year for the invitees on the 15th August and for the freedom fighters on the 9th August in the Ashoka Hall.

The Banquet Hall consists of the arrangements for lunch and dinner. There is a big painting of Mahatma

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SPECIAL FEATURE

LILA FELLOWS AT THE RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN MEET THE PRESIDENT, DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM.....

Gandhi in the hall. The dining arrangement is very systematic and the sitting capacity is 104. A particular protocol is followed when the food is served. All the Former President's Paintings and the numerous weapons from 1963 are neatly arranged



A proud moment frozen in time.....LPF with Honourable President of India - Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam!

on the walls. The guests and the foreign friends and invitees wait for the President to meet in the Committee Hall.

After this fabulous tour of the glorious Rashtrapati Bhavan finally it was a time to visit Honourable President and great Scientist Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, a moment we all were anxiously waiting for. We were escorted to the study of The President. The President greeted us with a warm smile. A beautiful office and study and one could not miss the techno savvy President with laptop and plazma screen. Lot of books shows his passion for knowledge. He really made us feel welcomed.

The President asked all the Lila fellows about their future plans and current career growth. The very first one of the Lila fellows Ms. Neetu Bhatia and Lila madam presented him the book "21st Century Belongs to Them" containing the stories of the Lila fellows. Sunetra, a Lila fellow presented him the issues of Inspira that is our very own foundation magazine written by the Lila fellows. Two of the Lila fellows Pradnya and Pallavi presented him Paintings, which were done by them. On behalf of the foundation, Jayshree gifted him some beautiful music CD's. As we all know that the President loves music and also plays Veena. Then the President asked us about our plans for life and also what we all want to become in another 10 years of time. The girls also shared their opinions about various topics like brain drain, poverty, the Foundations various activities, education and many more. Lila madam

also gave the information about the Foundation and its Activities towards the development of girls.

Dr. Kalam shared his vision for India with us and gave a very meaningful message to all of us. He said, **"Whatever Profession you choose, do the best in that thus helping the country. There are many employment seekers in the country. We can also go up to the economy of America and Europe, the necessity is to have a vision to think forward and an innermost faith in oneself to make a progress for our very own country. Look at how you can radiate your knowledge to enrich the family, society and ultimately the country. Pursue Higher Education as much as you can. Do specialization in various technologies. There is no serious problem of brain drain in India. There are 4000 doctors and Scientist in India and 20 million Indian talented people are working out of India. So enrich the schools and the colleges which are the roots of the development and progress"** He also gave us the valuable information about the implementation of the plans of Vision 2020 project and an ideal Indian woman is culture + knowledge + heritage. The society has weakened because of the cultivation of the culture of separation of families. So cultivate the joined families in which the bigger problems will also look like a small ones and it will help to solve the problems at the national and even international levels.

Finally a vote of thanks was given by one LF on behalf of all board of Trustees and all Lila fellows.

Finally, I just want to convey Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's message to all of you, which is valuable, and one should seriously think about the implementation of his dreams and being a President, India is not lost one great Scientist and Philosopher.

"Look at the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work. Dreams float on an impatient wind, A wind that wants to create a new order. An order of strength and thundering of fire "

- Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

-Pradnya Kashikar.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Warli Tribal and their art

The Warli tribes, estimated to be four hundred thousand, dwell mainly in the forests of the Sahyadri Mountains in Dahanu tehsil of Thane district of Maharashtra. They are also sparsely scattered in Talasari, Jawhar, Mokhada, Wada, Vasai and Pulghar tehsils. Located 180 kilometers from Mumbai, Jawahar is the seat of the Warli tribe, famous for their paintings. Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj camped at Shirpamal near Jawahar on his way to Surat.

Farming is the main source of livelihood. The isolated, neglected and under-estimated tribe has its own culture, art, lifestyle, customs, traditions, rituals, festivals, gatherings, faiths and beliefs and ways of leading personal as well as social life.

The Warli tribal community has been in existence for a long time in the Thane district of north Maharashtra and has made a significant contribution to the heritage of Indian tribal art. **The people of this region and their art are both known as Warli.**

The whole tribe paints, as it is a vital part of their day-to-day living. The artists are not a separate segment of the tribe but are mingled among them.



Done by both men and women, these art works show their dedication to the nature and the superpower. Like all other remote tribes living close to nature and away from the urban mechanism, they are cultivators. The art form that the world knows today by the name of this tribe appeared simply as a way of decorating their home. But when one goes a little deep into their legends, the great significance of these paintings comes into light. Initially their expression was limited to the mother-goddess and nature.

In all their earlier paintings the gods and goddesses associated with the different aspects of nature were painted finely on walls with white rice paste. Typically, these pictures show multitudes of tiny human forms hunting, dancing or cultivating the land. They rely more on line than color, usually being drawn in white rice paste to prepare for specific festivals or family events. As a part of their tradition they dance in a very special way with the help of Tarpa instrument which is called as "Tarpa

Nrutya" The Warlis indulge in this activity during festivals, on community occasions such as harvesting or rituals such as weddings. They draw inspiration from everyday lives for their themes. Thus, a typical Warli painting will have a village landscape with farms, trees and domestic animals. Farmers cultivating land and marriage ceremonies are other oft-repeated themes.

Since warli people are very close to nature they consider the 'forest as the sustainer of life', deified it as "hirva dev". They use various flowers and feathers of peacock for pooja. Sun & moon are also their gods and they generally draw sun and moon in their paintings in their own style. The most interesting thing is that warli people consider tigers as one of their gods. Since the warli people have to go through all the mountainous areas and hills, they get afraid of wild animals particularly tigers. So they believe that if they consider it as their god, he will definitely protect them and warli people call it as "waghoba".

Warli tribals are extreme hard working people. In their day to day life they have to walk kilometers and kilometers in search of food, vegetables and water. Warli people are far away from the global impact and civilization. Their life is very difficult, full of hard work. They are still fighting for getting and fulfilling the basic needs. It is really disappointing that in spite of having two metropolitan cities Pune and Mumbai near, warli people are not yet connected with the modern world. Regarding Education, there are schools only upto 10th standard and that too far from their village. The communication lines, Electricity, water supply, healthy practices are not at all developed. They are not still aware of family planning, preventive measures against diseases, care to be taken while deliveries etc. 70% of the deliveries take place at their homes without doctors.

In spite of all these hurdles and so much of hard work this tribe is doing, I found the warli life is really a content life. Though there are only basic facilities available, warli people live very happily with whatever they have.....their ethnic traditions.....their poverty.....their way of life.....and of course the most precious Warli Art.

Government should take certain steps to preserve such rare tribes and to explore warli art for the



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SPECIAL FEATURE

Warli Tribal and their art

welfare and development of warli people as one of the ancient tribes of India.

As a part of Lila Poonawalla Foundation which carries out various activities for the entire development and social awareness for girls, I got the opportunity to closely see an entirely different life and on behalf of all the Lila Fellows, I really thank the Lila Poonawalla Foundation and Mrs. Lila Poonawalla to give us the opportunity to learn Warli Art with the help of Mrs. Maya Dongre and visit Jawahar village to meet warli people and share their

experiences. It was a great experience to see the warli tribe very closely.

Finally what I feel is, in this modern society and culture, we get all the facilities, resources, entertainment, but still we are not happy with ourselves whereas the warli people are really satisfied though they have to struggle a lot just to achieve the basic needs of the human being.

■ -Pradnya Kashikar

SPECIAL FEATURE

"STEPPING INTO A NEW WORLD"

Ms. Ratna Khemani a friend of the Foundation, is an Internationally acclaimed personality counselor, who holds workshops covering various facets of personality, that include attitudes, behavior, motivation, relationships, confidence building and many such essential skills required to become a successful and a happy person. She conducted one such program for the new batch of Lila fellows aptly called -Stepping into the new world. All girls really benefited from this workshop as is evident from the feedback that we received. Here we share with all of you, some of the expressions of these Lila fellows.

Jaya Hardwani says --" I am going to note this day in my personal diary. Because I have learnt that *Today is the first day of the rest of my life. Henceforth every day will be the first day of the rest of my life* and *I WILL NOT BE AFRAID FROM TODAY*.

"I felt that Mrs. Khemani knew exactly what problems we have and how to deal with them," says **Renuka Patil**. "The things that I have learnt today are unforgettable. We must have one more session soon."

Sonali Chavan and Sneha Nikum express that they have become more confident to face the world and all its adversaries. They inform that they have learnt a lot and got many tips that will help them both in their professional and personal life.

Prachi Harkare said that the physical exercises which Ms. Khemani taught, were indeed worth doing and learning from.

Sanchita Thanedar says, "What I really appreciated about the workshop was that it was put in simple and precise language, Very clear and easy to understand and implement".

Amruta Prakash confidently states that "I won't be afraid anymore" and I will always confidently put my best foot forward.

Rita Shetiya "Try Try But, Don't Cry", - how very true, is what she takes home from this program.

Sheetal Nagare "We have learnt what we really needed; many of our doubts have been cleared. The role-playing session was fun and a great learning experience."

Anjali Sarda and Rajashree Ahirgawali confidently says that "We will never be afraid and will not have low self-esteem after today".

The workshop certainly achieved what LPF set out to impart to these young ladies stepping out into the new world. I am sure all those Lila fellows who missed such programs held by the Foundation from time to time must have realized how much they loose by not participating. Hope to see more of you in the forthcoming events.

■ -Sunetra Chaphalkar

SPECIAL FEATURE

Good Wishes from friends across the continent ...

Ms. Zerbanoo Gifford friend of Mrs Lila Poonawalla sends her wishes to the foundation.



*Ms. Zerbanoo Gifford - well wisher
and friend of Mrs. Poonawalla*

Background: Ms. Zerbanoo is a **Human Rights Campaigner** and an **Author**. Ms. Zerbanoo made history when she was elected as the first non-white woman Liberal Councillor in 1982. The founder of ASHA, she also holds the Nehru Centenary award for championing of women's rights and in 2004 was awarded a fellowship from National Endowment of Science, Technology and Arts (NESTA).

ADDRESS TO LILA FOR 10 YEAR CELEBRATION:

I am sorry not to be with you all tonight to celebrate ten years of Lila's Foundation, but I promised Firoz that I have already pencilled in July 2015 into my diary.

Earlier this year, I was fortunate to meet Lila in Pune while interviewing her for my forthcoming book, Women, A World of Inspiration. What endeared me to Lila was her demonstration of the numerous benefits of laptops. I was fascinated by her extraordinary drive and I don't mean her hard drive either.

Not only did she charm me with her computer but she involved me in her hobbies and collections. Now, any time I go to a restaurant I think of her and nab a matchbox. Also, her collection of cows inspired me to go to the Channel Islands and interview the first woman President of the Worldwide Jersey Cattle Bureau, who in turn is now determined that Lila should be invited to Jersey to meet the real Queen of the Cows!

My chauvinistic father who had a collection of bulls, and studied engineering in Pune, would have been thrilled that I had met the first woman to go to Pune engineering college and collected cows! The parallels would have flawed him!

Not only has Lila carved a career in the man's stranglehold on the engineering profession, but she kept focused and refused to take any nonsense!

Lila not only have you beguiled me, but you have persuaded me to work in partnership with your wonderful Foundation. Over the next year, the ASHA Foundation which I direct will tie in with the Lila Poonawalla Foundation on an international mentoring scheme and examine whether there can be exchanges globally for young Indian women, who would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience other countries and other ways of life.

Lila, you are India's Dynamite Girl who has broken new paths and taken everyone with you. You are a joy to know. I admire the honest way you acknowledge your roots and your childhood in Pune as a refugee. With your extraordinary achievements and generosity of spirit, you are the pin-up girl for refugees the world over!

Here's to the next ten years Lila!

Ms. Zerbanoo Gifford

SPECIAL FEATURE

Good Wishes from friends across the continent ...

Ms. Sonya Thadhani is a friend and well wisher of the LPF who has generously donated US \$ 1000 on the special occasion of 10th year of the foundation and expressed her wishes to the foundation in the following letter sent to Mrs. Lila Poonawalla. We really appreciate this gesture and wish her well

Background: "Sonya Thadhani, daughter of LPF Trustee Mrs. Maya Thadhani, was born and raised in Pune. She left India in 1990 to attend Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, USA where she received her bachelor's degree in Mathematics. Sonya moved to San Francisco in 1994, and started her employment as a research analyst with a firm called Bailard, Inc., a wealth management firm which manages assets for high net worth individuals and institutions. Today, she is a Senior Vice President at Bailard, Inc, and manages a specialty technology mutual fund, as well as the firm's large capital blend equity portfolios worth Dollars Six Hundred Millions. She is the Certified Financial Analyst as well."



*Congratulations & Best wishes
LPF on your 10th Birthday!!!! -
Ms. Sonya Thadhani*

July 11, 2005

Dearest Lila Didi,

In thinking about this monumental ten year anniversary of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation, I have thought long and hard about how I can possibly express my thoughts and my heartiest congratulations to you, Uncle Firoz and to all the Trustees of the Foundation.

To put it simply, it is difficult.

When I think of what was born ten years ago, two things stand out. The first is GENEROSITY, and the second is ACHIEVEMENT.

Georgia O'Keefe once said "where I was born and where and how I lived is unimportant. It is what I have done with where I have been that should be of interest". Shirley Lord once said, "What really matters is what you do with what you have". And Jonas Salk has been quoted as saying "I feel that the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more".

I could go on, but the message is simple. Your generosity ten years ago has left its mark on so many lives. So many girls were presented with opportunities because of what you decided to do for them. What you have done is of immense interest. What you have done really matters.

What you did ten years ago was a wonderful achievement. It was an achievement that will bear fruit for years and years to come. But it was a lot more than that. It really was a phenomenal act of generosity to the girls of India who don't have the means to achieve what they are capable of achieving.

David Trueblood said that "it takes a noble man to plant a seed for a tree that will some day give shade to people he may never meet".

And Aristotle once said that "To give away money is as easy matter and in any man's power, But to decide to whom to give it, and how large, and when, and for what purpose and how, is neither in every man's power nor an easy matter."

So to you, Uncle Firoz and all of the Trustees of the Foundation, congratulations on ten years of extremely hard work. Each one of you has been generous with your time, energy and love. And each one of you has contributed to one of Pune's biggest achievements.

It is truly an amazing example that has been set for all who have watched from the sidelines.

Heartiest congratulations!

Love and best wishes for continued success always,

Ms. Sonya Thadhani

SPECIAL FEATURE

Celebration of 10th year - Pictorial Presentation

From 1996 to 2005, each and every year has been very special and important from the point of view of what Lila Poonawalla Foundation has accomplished.

Over the past decade, we have amply demonstrated both the strength and promise of what we stand for, namely, Leading Indian Ladies Ahead by empowering them with Higher Education. Our motto that embodies our mission and defines our goals. So we thought that we would celebrate year 2005 in a very different way and make it as memorable as our journey of all these ten years.

Brainstorming of Trustees and Lila Fellows give birth to following innovative and creative activities.

We would like to share these joyful events once again with our well-wishers, friends and all the readers of Inspira.



LFs engrossed in learning and playing scrabble

To give opportunity to Lila Fellows to learn scrabble and to play, LPF conducted 6 sessions of scrabble.

After that, Lila Fellow Ms. Jyoti Otageri participated in the Scrabble Tournament for Amateurs organized by The Zygo Scrabble Club Pune and won the first 2 games.

'Celebrating the New Woman' - Different perspective to look at womanhood and celebrate your femininity.

A programme to learn to celebrate who we are, discover the beauty, creativity and softness of the feminine principle through sharing, relaxing and simple meditations



"Celebrating the New Women"
LFs visit the OSHO Commune

Celebrating A Decade of Existence...

Special Inspira Issue - July 05

Covered :

1. **Interview of Dr. Kiran Bedi** First Chief Guest of the Scholarship Award Ceremony (1996) and First Indian Women in UN
2. **Interview** of Distinguished Guest for 10th Award Function **Prof. Goran Grosskopf** Strong supporter of the Foundation.
3. **A Message from Leading Ladies**
Message sent on the occasion of 10th Anniversary of the Foundation from the distinguished ladies in their respective field and who have been featured in Inspira.
4. **A post card from Pune.....to our overseas Lila Fellows**
To Convey them a message - 'We are missing you lot at this important and very special occasion in the life of LPF'
5. **Quiz... & Crossword** by Lila Fellow Rajani Panchang.



"Tree Plantation Drive" by the
Lila Poonawalla Foundation

Tree Plantation : To create awareness among the Lila Fellows that tree planting is important for conservation of environment, LPF arranged Tree Plantation programme with the support of Vanarai. Lila Fellows and Trustees planted 100 trees.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

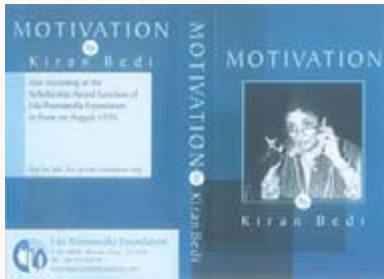
Celebration of 10th year - Pictorial Presentation

DVD Down Memory Lane

Yesterday Once More....

It is the journey of milestones of last ten years captured in camera to cherish forever.

**Reminiscing a
Decade of Existence.....
A DVD Celebration!!!!**



Cassette Motivation - Speech of Dr. Kiran Bedi which she delivered at the 1st Award Ceremony of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation in 1996.



Release of "Motivation" by the "Motivator"

"Motivation"- The Foundation released an audio recording of Dr. Kiran Bedi's speech at the 1st Award Function



"21st Century Belongs To Them" The book contains stories of twenty-three successful Lila Fellows whose life stories would be the inspiration for everyone. Stories that stir.



Releasing "21st Century belongs to them" at the 10th Award Function

"21st Century belongs to them"
A compilation of biographical sketches of 23 LFs

LPF website upgraded with some additional facilities



Collage Beyond Scholarship - LPF is different in its own way. Beyond scholarship, to develop Lila Fellows as a individual LPF conducting activities of 'Art & Culture', 'Grooming' and 'Fun'.



LPF Website launched with a NEW LOOK!

"Beyond the Scholarship"...

Overnight Study Tour to Warli Village

To create social awareness about cultural heritage of India, LPF arranged overnight study tour to warli village.



Overnight Study Tour to Warli Village