

INSPIRA



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Vol. No. 3 / April 2001

FROM THE HEART

This is the Third issue of INSPIRA and it gives me great pleasure to write a few words "FROM MY HEART". I would like to share with you the joy and happiness that we get when we meet up with the Lila Fellows and hear from them both in India and overseas. It is a part of the Agenda of all the Trustees of the Foundation that when we travel we carry with us the details of the Lila Fellows so that we plan and find time to meet them and exchange our experiences, joys and also our concerns with them. It sure makes our hearts lighter when we meet one of our OWN.

Recently Mrs. Thadhani returned from her well deserved long holiday from the U.S.A. There she met a number of Lila Fellows and religiously kept all of us informed of the meetings and the great fun they had together. You will hear all about these wonderful get together parties personally from HER in the next issue. I too was in London recently and met Perna Khole (Gupta) and her husband Rahul and Anagha Nerurkar (Mitra). Unfortunately, Ruta Inamdar could not meet us as she had her tests and was at least 4 hours travel time away from us. Mrs. Shernaz Edibam will be in the U.S.A for over four months. She too has planned to meet some of the Lila Fellows during her stay.

Just as all the Trustees attempt to remain in close touch with all the Lila Fellows, I appeal to all you Lila Fellows to be more friendly and responsive, inspite of your struggles in trying to achieve higher goals. I find that we can do away with indifference within ourselves, especially concerning the efforts the foundation makes in organizing various programs. We send out communications seeking your concurrence for participation or otherwise. The least the Foundation expects is a response from you either way. In fact, many a times some of you have agreed to attend some programs. Tickets are purchased after getting your confirmation and you neither show up nor communicate. This causes not only financial loss to YOUR FOUNDATION, but also some heartburn in this "DON'T CARE" attitude. I look forward to a change....

....Please continue to take interest in providing information to INSPIRA. Tell the Crusaders of your successes, your challenges and how you overcome your tough environment. Remember this is YOUR magazine. It is always motivating for others to read about your success and how you made it. I do get emails and even greeting cards from some of you and I make it a point to reply to each of you, no matter where I am. The essence of life is a live wire communication that brings us closer and keeps us informed and heralds happiness. I would love it if more of you kept in touch.



Lila Poonawalla
Chairperson,
Lila Poonawalla Foundation



Mrs. Surabhi Nag



Mrs. Vasantha Ramaswamy

With pleasure, I welcome two new Trustees on our Board Mrs. Surabhi Nag and Mrs. Vasantha Ramaswamy, both of whom are achievers in their own fields. You will learn more about them in the next issue.

Lastly, your trustees will soon get very busy for next few months with the selection procedures for future additions of Lila Fellows to our Family. This selection is always a very challenging task, but all the Trustees find great joy in doing this task most diligently.

Last but not the least I take this opportunity to congratulate and also Thank the Editorial committee of INSPIRA, who really are doing a wonderful job in a difficult situation. Do help them to do even better.

With loves.



SHORT TAKES



MRS. FRENKY TARAPORE

LPF Trustee, impressive with her humility, soft spokenness and skill of a good listener has been a teacher and principal for three decades with SNTD College for girls. She is familiar with rules and regulations and standards on how to evaluate to a common denominator the rating of various faculties.

On her association and experience with LPF :

It is remarkable that in a short span of time Lila has managed to establish the Foundation so well. The work goes on smoothly in a systematic way. There is a great deal of transparency in its functioning. With Lila's and Firoz's contacts, I am sure there must be a lot of pressure on them to select candidates, but it has never posed problems like a deserving candidate being deprived and less deserving being favored. I recall instances when trustees have pleaded for some consideration to those who come from economically weaker sections but have an unsatisfactory academic record or have been unable to clear the interviews; and Lila and Firoz have been prompt to remind the emotionally charged trustees of the rules of the foundation. Lila's total involvement and commitment to the development of the Lila fellows is incredible. While she is busy keeping in touch with the fellows, Firoz is working hard growing lovely roses to be sent to the Fellows on their birthdays. In the process of delivering roses to the Lila fellows, Sudhakar has become competent to start his own courier service.

The relationship between the Poonawallas and the Lila Fellows is growing stronger day by day bonding them with pride, appreciation, affection and respect.

About the Lila Fellows :

Every year the competition is becoming tougher. I am extremely impressed with the candidates' achievements, abilities, talents and strong motivation to achieve their goal. These young women often get financial aid from some universities and choose to join top universities in the USA without support to begin with but are confident of acquiring something later. I admire their conviction and courage and of course, the nice thing is that they are still their old selves. They take their successes and achievements in all humility.

On her experiences and milestones at SNTD :

The SNTD Women's University started the first and is yet the only college of Home Science in Pune, in 1968. People had many misconceptions about it and it was a major task to make them understand that it was an interdisciplinary programme offering specialization in Food Science and Nutrition, Diabetics, Food Science and Quality Control, Human

Development, Early Childhood Care and Education, Interior Design, Textile and Clothing and Home Science Extension. In the 90's a unique programme was launched 'Communication media for children', the only of its kind offered at a University.

The first few years after the announcement of the graduation results were disturbing as girls returned totally frustrated because they were not given admission for any postgraduate course in various disciplines at Pune University. Home Science did not figure in the list of eligibility rules. Many courses accommodated graduates from any recognized university but the Babus handling eligibility had never heard of Home Science. After tremendous brushes with the officials, they got admission to various programmes and you can imagine our excitement when they topped the merit lists at Pune University! Once the head of a department remarked that the educational background of Home Science girls was different from other disciplines but they made it up with their quality of hard work. It was a glorious moment. Truly!

I have all along strived to inculcate in my girls sincerity and hard work as I consider them very basic and essential qualities.

Our girls also began to get admissions to faculties such as social work, School of Design in Ahmedabad, Fashion Technology at Delhi and many other institutes of high reputation in India and abroad. In fact, many of these considered Home Science as a suitable background for admission to their disciplines. One must realize that the cream of students then, aimed at pursuing medicine or engineering. Our challenge was to constantly strengthen our Programmes and groom our students to be able to compete in the job market.

On her experience with NGOs :

This is my laboratory. I am continually learning and enriching myself with the experiences.

Her concept of success :

Success cannot be measured by the grades or a rank one achieves. The important thing is how education has empowered the students and what they do with it and their contribution to society. It gives me immense pleasure when I meet my students and learn from them of the wonderful jobs they are handling and of their struggles against all odds and hardships.

What does she firmly believe in ? :

Graduation is not the end of education. The real education will begin after it. One must be ready to learn from various experiences.

Her advice to the youth of today :

Do not be scared to choose a less traveled path. If you are convinced, have the courage to pursue your goals. Even if you are not successful the experience will be very useful in solving problems later. Give your best to the institution you work for. Always ask yourself what you can do for the institution not what it can do for you. The institution must come before the self. Lastly, you have been fortunate to receive help from known persons or unexpected places. I am sure you greatly appreciate and value it. Often it does bother you that you are not able to return it in full measure to the same person. Do not worry or feel guilty. They do not expect in kind but your remembrance of them will certainly gladden them and bring cheer in their life. Try to help others who desperately need it.

Let us all work together and form a human chain that will grow longer and stronger in the years to come.



The best things in life come in small packages. For Lubainah the small package was more than just a nice gift; it proved to be a turning point in her life. Come, unwrap the gift with her.

"Baccha, I have been observing you.... You were smiling to yourself throughout the week". That was my mom when I hugged her 45 days after we attended the 'Life Mastery' course conducted by Mrs. Rekha Charolikar.

The first session was in mid-November. After that, there was no looking back for me as a developing individual. A new person in me began to evolve after the 3 sessions. The lessons I learnt were 'identifying yourself', 'responsibility', 'thinking from others' point of view', 'giving your best to the world', 'forgiveness', 'control of spontaneous feelings'.

Responsibility means the inner freedom to respond. I have learned that problems are opportunities, blessings, lessons, and solutions and that everyone, everywhere has problems. I have learnt the 5 F's of being healthy Food/Fruits, fitness, feelings, faith and flow. I am now aware of the importance of a healthy diet. I exercise everyday and I have definitely become a positive thinker.

The most important thing I have learnt is to increase my deposits in my emotional bank account. This can be done by showing people you care about them. Now a days everybody is busy with their own work and life which leaves us with little time for others. We can show our loved ones we care about them by wishing them on their birthdays, anniversaries, keeping in touch with them, empathizing, loving, sharing, sacrificing and trusting.

This in turn increases the deposits in our account, making us happier and content people.

Before the course, I was perpetually depressed with a negative emotional balance but after the course, I am a positive thinker with my account overflowing with deposits. I have learned that there is abundance in the world but we operate from the scarcity principle.

I have now become a happier and a more satisfied person, always looking ahead in life because we look at the world as we are and not how the world is and I feel the world is actually a lovely place to live in. This programme has made me the poet of my life's song.

"What lies before us and what lies behind us are small matters compared to what lies within us. And when we bring what is within out into the world, miracles happen".

They have happened to me.

Finally, I would like to thank Rekha Ma'am for bringing out the real me in front of the world and me.

Lubainah Vapra

Our Lila Fellows aim for nothing less than the sky. Meet our skywalker who has made her way into a 'star' company. Over to Hamsa....

Currently, I am working with SQL Star International Ltd. My company is involved in web-based software development & IT education. In Pune, we have the Software training center, for which I take care of the placement activities for our students & a part of recruitment for the Pune branch.

SQL Star is into Hiend authorized training in Oracle & Java courses. (These courses are certified by Oracle Corporation & IBM.)

The key activities that I take care of are Liaisoning with HR heads in the IT industry & various consultants, ensuring that the students meet the expected technical standards, conducting seminars / workshops on current IT related trends & overall grooming of the students, conducting mock interviews & ofcourse placing the students in the IT industry.

The biggest challenge is to place freshers in a fiercely competitive scenario. Usually I advise students to undertake live projects with companies, as this adds to their project experience, thus making it easier to get an entry into the market. Another challenge lies in counseling students about other IT related openings like marketing, customer support, software testing, quality assurance and software training. After all, not every one is made to become a developer.

As far as recruitment is concerned, my job involves screening the applications & conducting the initial interviews to assess a candidate's personality, attitude, communication skills, confidence, and experience. It is a major challenge to sell fresh talent in an industry asking for experience! But then, if you've got what it takes, even the impossible things become possible to achieve. It all lies in having the right attitude! Being a Lila Fellow has always given me that extra touch! The encouragement & appreciation given to me has made me a more confident person!

Hamsa Subramaniam



Hum Saath Saath Hai

Zooming in on Lila Fellows overseas



With Jovina Amor, *architect extra-ordinaire*, at her home in Denver, Colorado, November 2000.

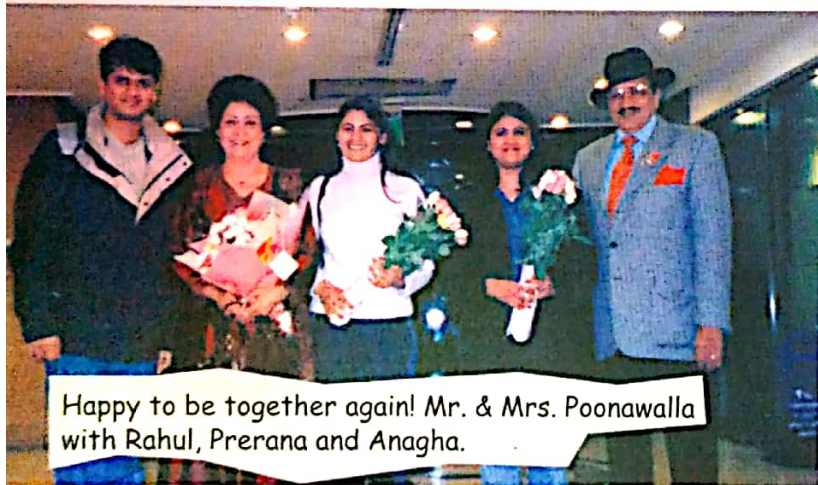


Uma Kelkar, Ruchi Kapoor, Deepali Shah & Mitalee Gupte enjoyed the sumptuous Indian buffet at 'Amber', mountain view, California on December 10, 2000 -Mitalee's birthday!

Lila & Firoz Poonawalla arranged to meet Lila Fellows Prema and Anagha while she was in London. It was a funfilled experience of spending time with her young achievers.

Mrs. Maya Thadhani, a trustee with the Lila Poonawalla Foundation has a huge family. She loves playing 'mom' to the Lila Fellows as much to her own daughters, Sharmila and Sonya. On her recent visit to the U.S.A, she gathered her flock, spread over the green pastures of a promising land, to celebrate the season of life. It was a mega family reunion for restrengthening relationships. Having fun was only half of the package. "Meeting the Lila Fellows in person was truly a bonus for me", she recalls with sweet nostalgia.

Here are a few vignettes from our blockbuster film, titled '**Hum Saath Saath Hai**'.



Happy to be together again! Mr. & Mrs. Poonawalla with Rahul, Prerana and Anagha.

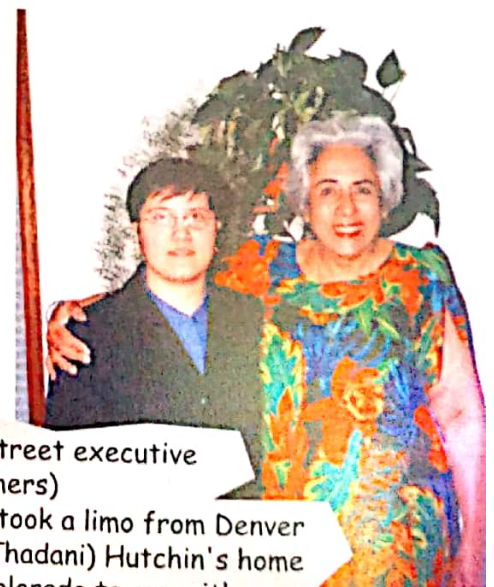
"Til gul ghya ani goad goad bola."

With Deepali Shah and Urvashi Desai at *Sankrant* party hosted by Sonya Thadani at her home in San Francisco on January 14, 2001.



"What's up doc?"

Supriya enjoying her mammography rotation at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. With Dr. Supriya Kulkarni in San Francisco on January 6, 2001.



Senior Wall Street executive (Lehman Brothers) Neetu Bhatia took a limo from Denver to Sharmila (Thadani) Hutchin's home in Boulder, Colorado to gup with us over chai and bhelpuri!

EVE'S VOICE

RAJANI PANCHANG catches up with Ruchi and Cristal who reveal how the winds of change gushed in after they were conferred the scholarships.

Calm and composed, Ruchi is a person with a few realistic dreams. Her dreams have taken her across the Seven Seas, but her roots back here are well too anchored to let go.

Ruchi, way back in 1996, was awarded the scholarship for her Master's degree in Computer Science. Having completed her B.E. (Computer Science) from Cummins College of Engineering, she proceeded to pursue her postgraduation at the University of Cincinnati, USA. After a year, she got a transfer to Michigan, where she continued for a year and a half.

Learning was altogether a challenging experience, in a world where education and professionalism adopt a new idiom. "It was a great learning experience, because I had never been away from home before. In India, it is a closed system where you hesitate to approach your professors. However, there, it is just the opposite! It is an open system, interaction is easy, and the only help at hand. We learn to be self-reliant and that helps us identify our own potentials", she opines.

The most common mode of employment in the States is either campus interviews or applying externally, through web sites. She got a job immediately after her Masters with Sisco Systems as a Software Engineer. She is content with her job. She plans to continue at least for a few more years, till she is sure that she has enough resources to get back home and start a new venture. Dreaming with her of this joint venture is her lifemate,



Domkundwad whom she married in December 1999, in India.

"America is good in terms of education and career. It provides more opportunities and wider avenues for exploration..." According to Ruchi, there are many Indians in America, but it is no substitute for the strong ties we have here, in India. She and her husband want to come back to India; it's people, it's values, it's culture and it's very essence.

During her stay abroad, she has visited places like Chicago, California, National Park at Santiago, Canada, Santa Barbara, San Francisco and many others. She now wants to visit New York and Boston, both of which hold her interests.

She is aware of her growth since the award ceremony to the identity she bears today. She feels great attending the foundation gatherings and proud to see that the family has grown in her absence. Seeing the Lila fellows she agrees, "The

only aid I got there was a tuition fee waiver. And in such a situation the scholarship was a great help, without which things would have been lot more different and difficult".

When the going gets tough, the tough get going! 1997 Awardee, Cristal D'souza is the aphorism personified. She has waded through inimical waters but not forgotten her wobbly beginning. Indefatigable and Godfearing, she acknowledges all those who stood by her in her good and bad times...

Cristal, a Commerce Graduate, was married to Raymond and was expecting a baby. She was working with the marketing wing at the Indian Express. The job was exciting. However, she always felt that the graduate degree and the various diplomas she had could not fetch her a position, which a Management Degree could. Life was not very easy for the couple then, and Raymond was struggling hard with his small time business. It was then that she decided to acquire an MBA (Marketing) degree from Symbiosis.

She learned of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation, applied, and was called for an interview that was long and grueling. "I was 'carrying' then", she recalls. The last question I was asked was how was I going to manage my studies with the baby and other commitments. What impressed them was my determination to continue, come what may. Voila! I was selected. Today I am glad they did consider me. In those difficult times, it was not just a financial assistance, but a morale booster too. In its own special way the Foundation Board had put their faith in me. The academic journey for the next two years was very demanding and I did feel the urge to quit, but I always recollected the trust they had put in me and that I should not let them down."

Fortunately, soon after, Raymond got a promising job in Doha, Qatar. Cristal joined him on a Family Visa. They had just spread a word about her wanting a job. There was a vacancy in the HR department in a multinational bank for which she was interviewed. She qualified and she was in. It's a been a year now. She is with the Commercial bank of Qatar, working as a Public Relation Officer in the marketing, advertising and product promotion cell. The system of work is different with no rigid framework of functioning. She is given a forehand as long as she performs her best. She is very satisfied with where she is placed, and also expects a promotion by the time she gets back to Qatar, her immediate boss having resigned..



About Qatar, Cristal says "Qatar is a very conservative, Islamic State. Nevertheless, like in Doha, there are the British establishments, where even the social systems are less strict. In the beginning, it was difficult in a new land. But the culture is all so familiar and not yet totally westernized. 60% of the work force is Indian, at good positions, with established reputations. When it comes to entrusting responsibility to Indians, there is no second thought. There are Indians every where and the school my son goes to, is also an Indian one. I have no reason to worry about the culture he will cultivate."

Cristal is fond of reading, cooking and photography. While she was here, she could not afford photography, but now she plans to cultivate it. The daily schedule has been tight with evenings spent with family and TV. She has not had an opportunity to

travel, but she plans to visit Egypt, Bahrain and Dubai in the near future.

She loves coming back home, to her family and to the Foundation. "A few more years to gather resources, then we plan to get back home and start a business of our own. Nothing can keep me away from India. I want to and will surely come back. In this pursuit, I have been in constant touch with Lila Ma'am. In addition, all the way through my husband has been supportive and understanding. He acknowledges the help the foundation extended and keeps reminding me of the small duties I owe towards it. A Christmas greeting, or a special message, just anything. He sees to it that I don't forget any."

Her most memorable moments have been the Award Function. "Every one knew me by my name. They made us feel so special and important. Especially me because I was the only girl in the batch who was married and was soon to be a mom, and was still thinking of continuing further studies then. I feel like coming back to build loving memories with you all, whom Raymond and I identify with."

LEADING LADIES

In a strict businesslike world is a person who redefines humility, exudes warmth, is genuine in her dogmas and down to earth yet above most people.

Uzma Kazi gets a taste of the open door policy of a kinetic lady

Sulajja Firodia Motwani

Joint Managing Director of Kinetic Engineering Limited.



Regarding your education and career, did you have many options or were you much focussed?

From my childhood, I have always dreamt of working with my grandfather who would take me around at dinner parties and introduce me as his grandson and not his granddaughter. (She smiles) I was an inseparable part of business discussions. I grew up in a business environment almost as if it were my second home. Yes, it was my ambition and I was much focussed. I chose to do business.

What are the Milestones in your life?

Generally, I have been very active in sports and in students' organizations. I did well in school and college too. It has been a family tradition to have atleast one merit holder at a time. I followed my father, mother and sister. I topped the state in the H.S.C examination. This was the first milestone. Being a woman and being underage, (she was the youngest M.B.A holder at 21), yet being able to secure a job in a foreign land that equipped me with invaluable work experience, I think is a great accomplishment. Another milestone awaited me. Arriving home, within a year I took over the reigns of the family business. This process shaped my belief in me and in my potential as a woman professional.

How do you manage to meet the demands of your baby boy and your 'big boys' simultaneously?

(Lets out a hearty laugh) I am still learning. It has just been 6 months with my baby boy. I still have to learn the art of cutting off from work once I am home and donning the mantle of a 'mom'. It is my baby, Siddhant who is a new challenge. As for the big boys, I have worked with them for several years now. I can manage them with ease. I think I differ in managerial skills, in that, I give scope to people which is why they like working with me. Earlier I had to travel often, but with the arrival of Siddhant, I had to work from home and conduct meetings through video conversing. I managed to put in 3 to 4 hours of work even then. One has no choice. I hope I am just to him. My mom being a paediatrician is a great help. One Sunday with him is enough to make me realize what I am missing.

It is assailed that the education system abroad, especially in the U.S.A abets more practical application than the one in India. Do you feel we should adopt similar standards?

(She is emphatic). Definitely! Here in India there is excessive emphasis on memorization. One ends up understanding less and therefore learning less. We acquire degrees as if we are doing a big favor to our

parents. On the other hand, in U.S.A, we have open book tests that contribute to real indepth learning. The emphasis is on merit and not memorization. You do things for yourself. There is responsibility involved. People are more career oriented.

Genderwise, in whose favor do you see the economic scales tipping in the next few years in India?

Unfortunately, still in favor of men. Women are paid less even today in India and elsewhere. Although more women are taking over influential positions, we still have a long way to go. Professionalism exhorts tremendous commitment even from women to permit them to demand equality. For working mothers, it can be exhausting. It is de riguer that she does justice to her role of motherhood. The currents of the movement can be felt but the objective is far over the horizon. Socially, women are better now especially in the urban areas. Women have begun to assert their rights, but for this strength to percolate down to equality at work will take time.

What are the essentials of a good team member and an efficient team leader?

I place a lot of importance on seeing the other person's point of view. This works for both the team leader and the team member. A closed mind is a sticking point. One should be willing to take the members contribution for it's worth and empathize with them. A reciprocal relation of sharing is a major asset. Another attribute is being sincere with others and towards the purpose you are working. They cannot be deceived as they can see through superficiality. You demonstrate your attitude through your actions. Finally, always people more than machines spin out a success story.

What goes into the successful making of a Sulajja Firodia Motwani?

Primarily, I am constantly driven by a sense of achievement. Everything I undertake is with a purpose and not for it's own sake; whether it is jogging, training or business ventures. I love what I do. I am totally one with my work. This is what keeps me ticking. I do carry my tensions home, as it is not easy to extricate from them. There is so much stress operative when you are responsible for more than just numbers. (And at a budding age of 28 years, it is a feat.) . It is a self-driven motivation with me. Although it is a family business, there is hardly any scope for flexibility. My trump card is my open door policy.

(Well, her door was open before we entered and even after we left).



Down Memory Lane... SNIPPETS



Overseas Lila fellows
Ruchi & Mitalee releasing
the 2nd issue of Inspira
seen with Frenny, Lila & Firoz



Facing professional challenges...
Etiquettes & personality grooming conducted by Minocher Patel



Looking forward to colourful dreams
even at Fili Villa

The young scientist award of the year goes to-
Lila Fellow - Rajani Panchang



"If music be the food of love, play on..."
Rahul Sharma stringing in a rich evening



Lila Fellows ushering in The New Millennium 2001

NAME OF THE BOOK : WHY THIS FUSS ABOUT ECOMMERCE ?

AUTHOR : SANJAY KUMAR MISRA

EDITION : FIRST EDITION

YEAR OF EDITION : YEAR 2000

PUBLISHER : COMPUTER HUT

PRICE : 150/-

If it is a fact that one out of every three world's software engineers is an Indian and that around 800 companies in the Silicon Valley alone just one place in the US is managed by American Indians, it is an equally significant truth that one out of every four malnourishment cases is from India.

There are millions of Indians who are connected to the Internet and there are many millions who are waiting to get connected. It would be a grave error to say that the motive of the emerging technologies is and higher and higher profits because they are designed for a higher purpose. The true relish of the Information Technology boom lies not in the size of the feast it offers but the number of people who can sit at the table and enjoy it. In this technology for purpose everyone will have an opportunity and a role to play.

'Why this fuss about ecommerce?' is not a simple book. It encompasses in it the hopes and the achievements of the author. Though the subject of this book is a technical one, the book is anything but technical. The book is not a storage cell for the subject it covers, but is written with a totally different approach. It opens up the subject for everyone. The language used is freeflowing and spontaneous, so that even a layman can enter the field.

The book acts as a further interest generating tool for those familiar with the subject matter. It also gives an elevated platform to the reader to peek into and feel the subject.

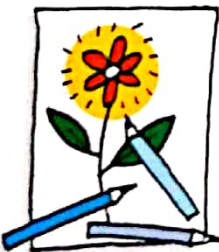
This book has basically been divided into five major sections. It begins with, "why this fuss about ecommerce?" which is a brief collection of essays by the author about the changing face of computing and IT in the new millenium. "An insight into Internet an Ecommerce", the next section is the extended version of the presentations of the author. Technospace is a friend, philosopher and guide to the young explorers of E-commerce. "Reflections" is a set of opinions of various IT gurus on various established and debated issues that concern the subject, and finally "Web Grammer" which is an answer to your web-know-how.

This book also throws light upon topics like India's position in 'Online banking', censorship of internet, materials of success, managing customer relationships in the Ebusiness economy, ecommerce and the fear of the unknowncommerce for the Eworld, web advertising, customer management, three C's of governance, Egovernance in government, Ecom:EAsy or EXhaustive?, readiness of the society for the Eworld, computer related crimes, network security, sample security policies, future of Ecommerce in India etc.

To conclude, ecommerce, like the oceans and the internet ecommerce is massive and ever changing. Like the sailor you learn to navigate the alien waters, so as to bring home a treasureload of information. This book aids the cause of "technology for purpose" and it seems natural because it advocates 'electronic commerce for everyone'.

Kavita Vasant

YOUR'S TRULY



William Wordsworth.

On behalf of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation, I wish Mr. Firoz Poonawalla a Very Happy Birthday!

Reviewing the ardent launch and the warm reception of the second issue of Inspira, we sat back with contentment only to get back on our feet to resurrect the next issue. Appreciation from our readers injected a new spirit and we sprang back into action to adorn Inspira with a new look. We would like to acknowledge efforts put in by Lubainah for putting Inspira on the Foundation web site.

'Time cannot be halted in its swift and endless flight and activity flows in as day follows night.' The foundation arranged for several activities for the Lila Fellows. To catch up with some of them; we were treated to an unforgettable evening drenched with a reverberating santoor performance by Rahul Sharma, son of renowned santoor exponent, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, at Abasaheb Garware College hall. All we can say is, 'the music in our hearts we bore, long after it was heard no more.' (With due apologies to

We also had the Kawasaki group present a Japanese cultural feast for punctities in aid of Ashta No Kai India, an organisation for women's literacy and welfare. The event covered the Japanese classical dance, drums, ballet, calligraphy and a kimono show.

Closer home, our own Professor Higgins Mr. Minocher Patel, founderdirector of Ecole Solitaire, conducted a personality grooming course spread over 7 Sundays especially for the Lila Fellows. It has taken off marvelously and is well underway. More about it will be taken up in the next issue. Lila Fellows are truly being molded into fine ladies!

It was an extremely useful training, not to be missed. (This is only an understatement.)

We are pleased to learn that our overseas comrades have associated themselves as a family and never spare an opportunity to meet the trustees and keep in touch with them and with one another. They are cruising over the tides of success and we wish them all the best. They have earned their special space Foto Feature in this issue.

Some of our responsive Lila Fellows have extended their articles for this issue. A special thankyou to Lubainah and Hamsa. Some others too have forwarded their contributions for their harbinger, Inspira. While still some others have cared to keep in touch.

Like all of us, Inspira needs to be nurtured. It has given us its best. Now, we need to take our turn.

Because Yeh Inspira mange more!

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