

INSPIRA



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FROM MY HEART

Dear Friends and Lila Fellows,

"My life is the gift; my experience, the vehicle; my moment, NOW. Let us all do our best and live in the present."

We have just completed the **11th Scholarship Award** function of Lila Poonawalla Foundation. We have added **39 new**, young dynamic Lila Fellows to our ever-growing family. Let us all welcome them and wish them great success in achieving their goals.

This year we received the highest number of applications **more than 250 numbers!** It was indeed very difficult to evaluate and select. We trustees really had a tough time, discussing again and again on the pros and cons of every applicant. **We wanted to be fair and select the best.** But to tell you honestly all applicants were really very good and needy. It was a very difficult job. But we had to do it.

Now we look forward to **mentoring these young brilliant girls** and making them **confident young ladies**, going out into the world to catch the stars. We achieve this not only by giving them **financial support** but also **overall grooming**. The Foundation conducts various programs to achieve this aim. This quarter we had three very useful programs, all unique experiences in their own way.

Mr. Minocher Patel, Founder Director of Ecole Solitaire, India's first residential finishing school, and an inspiring motivational speaker and corporate trainer of international repute, conducted a program - **"Lasting Impressions-Personal effectiveness."** He very effectively used a two way communication to impart knowledge on topics like **Time management, Effective Communication Skills, Positive thinking** and how to develop **positive attitudes**.

But all this would be difficult, if we did not have a **good Physique**. So we conducted a special program on **Physical Fitness at Endurance Health Club**. The program was conducted by none other than our own **Lila Fellow Mrs. Amruta Gogate**. She is an Exercise Physiologist and has done



her Masters in Health Science from Pune University and her Master of Science in Exercise Physiology from Iowa State University. The theme of her program was **'Importance of Diet and Exercise in Everybody's life from Childhood to Old age'** and the focus was on **Women's health**. To communicate the message of good diet we followed this program with a nutritious salad brunch at **"Not Just Jazz By the Bay"**.

We all love to do shopping for ourselves, for our family, and for friends. But then not all of us get the opportunity to experience shopping at a Shopping Mall. So The Foundation arranged an **exclusive tour of Shoppers' Stop only for the Lila Fellows** and also sponsored a gift voucher for them to buy things of their choice. The girls spent hours in choosing items of their choice. They happily brought their new acquisitions to show me. **Seeing the joy on their faces, really made my heart glow. What an experience!**

Sharing this experience with us was the **Chief Guest for the event Dr. Gulshan H. Gidwani Principal & Head of the department of Commerce - St. Mira's College for Girls**. She also released the **18th Issue of INSPIRA** and gave some heart rendering messages to the Lila Fellows.

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FROM MY HEART

On the same day we also **celebrated Mr. Poonawalla's birthday**. He cut the cake and the **Lila Fellow went berserk with the eats and especially cold coffee and iced tea**. We had a great time.

On another note, since many of our Lila Fellows are now working in reputed organizations, doing varied and important assignments, I thought of sharing some of my beliefs on how to ensure **"On the Job Success."** First of all we need to **define what success means to us**. Each of us will have a different definition. But whatever the definition, there are some qualities that we have to develop to reach our own pinnacle. I believe that we **must do whatever work is assigned to us** sincerely and to the best of our ability. We must be **passionate about our goals**. We must find **satisfaction and joy in whatever we do**. Learn to take our work **step by step**. When we have successfully achieved one step, we must move on to the next. We must have the **will to continue in the face of hardships, enjoy the process** of getting where we want to go and be **determined** to move ahead, and at the same time not create **destruction** as we go along. We must **respect our superiors. Seek**

motivation from within ourselves, and not expect it from the outside world. Treat our **colleagues as friends** and help out whenever it is needed. We must never **exploit any power** that our position bestows upon us. It's best to stay away from **office politics** and instead spend time **to master new skills and keep ourselves updated on technology**. We must learn to maintain a **balance between office and home**. If we must work at home, work on our own time not by taking away the family time. And finally when we decide to quit a job we must **do it with elegance**, and not just **walk out** on the company that gave us a job in the first place! Give the company proper notice, complete all the assigned tasks and hand it over efficiently to your replacement. **We must demand the best from ourselves**, only then will we get to the top. **It is these good practices that will ultimately lead us to "On the job success."**

Wish you all the best.


Lila Poonawalla

SHORT TAKES

"Year 2006 - Year of India in Germany"

*Rajani Panchang – LF 2000 a CSIR Senior Research Fellow pursuing her PhD in Oceanography (Geology). She is carrying out research at the National Institute of Oceanography, a CSIR lab at Goa and using marine microfossils to understand climatic variations like Monsoons and sea level fluctuations in Eastern Bay of Bengal. Currently **Rajani in Berlin** is pursuing advanced research at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Ecosystem Dynamics, in capacity of a DAAD Research Scholar. She provides an important piece of information on "Year 2006 - Year of India in Germany" to enrich our knowledge.*

I seem to have visited Germany at just the right time, so as to identify our own potentials as Indians through the eyes of a foreign observer. These lands may seem distant to many, but I share my newfound knowledge with our readers to make them aware of opportunities they might have not known before. It has been a learning experience which has helped me not only identify the lacunae in the Indian System, but also to value many of the resources we have but not exploited it in the best possible way. The Prime Minister of India was coming to visit me in Germany to ensure that all was fine with me. I soon overcame the joke when it was all over the media that the Prime Minister of

India, Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Germany would see him inaugurate the Hanover Trade Fair and then indulge in bilateral talks in Berlin, all of what is being called as **"Year 2006- The Year of India in Germany"**. A rich and developed country like Germany, the world leader in R&D and technology earmarking an entire year as the Year of India in Germany!!!

In the year 2000, India and Germany adopted the 'Agenda for the Indo-German Partnership in the 21st Century'. Indo-German development cooperation covers wide-ranging areas including energy, environmental policy, sustainable

SHORT TAKES

economic development, health and vocational training. At the previous Summit meeting in New Delhi in October 2004, both the countries set a target of doubling bilateral trade within five years. The Indo-German Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation since 2000 continues to focus on specific areas of cooperation for mutual benefit. The Indo-German Chamber of Commerce is not only celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, to promote economic cooperation between the two countries, but is also welcoming the opening of a German Trade Office in Bangalore, which will further promote German trade and investment in India. They also welcome the growing trend of Indian investments in Germany. Apart from trade and economy, Germany and India have established a long and fruitful cooperation in Science and Technology. The Indo-German Science Circle has given new impetus to this cooperation and will further strengthen contacts between scientific and academic communities.

Now, coming to year 2006.... On the eve of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Germany, Germany's new Ambassador to India, Bernd Mützelburg, said in a statement **"India being the partner country of the Hanover Fair, the world's largest technology fair, partner country of the Frankfurt Book Fair, again the world's largest book fair and 'India' being the theme of the Bonn Biennale..... India is very high on Germany's agenda. And these are just some of the Indo-German events in Germany this year."**

By taking centre stage as partner country in the world's largest technology fair (also inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister) in April 2006, India got the best opportunity to showcase its innovative technologies, product quality and competitive spirit fuelling its economic success story. India's presence in Hanover also provided an important thrust for those Indian companies yet to firmly establish themselves in the European and world markets. Both countries also agree to actively promote our traditionally close cultural cooperation. **India participated as the focus country in the Bonn Biennial Art Festival in May 2006.** Bonn is the city where Indology was born in Germany in 1818. As such, Bonn has long been known as "Benares on the Rhine", and this Biennale went to prove even more why India was the theme of this year. Live concerts, exhibitions, film screenings, and readings by well-known Indian authors: the Biennale is a deluge of tremendous cultural diversity, unusual sights and sounds – as well as thoughts and meanings for the



*Glimpses of Berlin Wall and
LF- Rajani Panchang in Germany*

Germans. The official statistics is nothing less than astonishing: over 10,000 people visited the various shows and functions; the troupes' and drama performances witnessed full houses. Indian theatre is becoming more and more popular abroad. Paradoxically enough, theatre in India is struggling for survival. In such a scenario, it can be estimated what a boost it might have been for the Indian theatre to receive the honour of being the theme at the Biennale. The two countries surely welcome the decision of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to set up five rotating Chairs on Contemporary Indian Studies in various German Universities.

The Frankfurt Book Fair marks the confluence of great creative, commercial and organizational forces. **India is the Guest of Honour or partner country at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2006 which has the theme 'opening minds and markets'.** In a recent press conference, Jürgen Boos, director of the Frankfurt Book fair stated "At the Frankfurt Book Fair this October, the Indian publishing industry will display its potential at a large, joint stand covering 1,400 square meters. This will be complemented by numerous exhibitors from India's printing and IT industries in other halls. A series of trade-related events will provide exhibitors and visiting industry professionals information about the Indian market, which is currently more attractive for the publishing industry than practically any other country in the world. Many German publishers have acknowledged India's Guest of Honour status by including more Indian books and books about India in their programmes. We are particularly pleased

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SHORT TAKES



Replica of a football behind Rajani served as an information centre about FIFA 2006

that translations from India's regional languages make up more than one-fourth of the new literary releases. Among the list of 44 literary titles newly introduced on the market in 2006, 14 titles were translated from regional Indian languages apart from 50 new non-fiction titles on India with subjects as diverse as 'The Cuisine of the Maharaja' to the 'Bollywood Fan Book'. After all, we practice yoga and watch Bollywood films".

Starting this year, the Frankfurt Book Fair will hold a trend convention on its opening day. *The topic for the first trend congress is 'India on the Rise'.* Prominent speakers such as the Infosys-founder Narayana Murthy or Indian publicist Pankaj Mishra will discuss the Indian role in the world economy and the challenges of globalisation in India, and will examine India's book, IT and finance markets." What's more? India's Shashi Tharoor, UN undersecretary and author, will assume the patronage of the 'Frankfurt Book Fair Literacy Campaign', and a message that's written in Hindi will feature on this year's Frankfurt Book Fair reading mug. The message is **"Duniya parhna hai kitab parhna"** which is to say, **"To read a book is to open up a new world"**.

Highlights of Indian participation in the fair include a gala inaugural programme on 3rd October 2006, scheduled at the Alte Oper in Frankfurt, an art exhibition on Indian manuscripts (Museum for Applied Art, Frankfurt), an exhibition of the paintings of Amrita Shergil's family (Haus der Kunst Museum, Munich), an exhibition of photographs (Fotografie Forum International, Frankfurt), an exhibition of IT and ICT capabilities in Indian book publishing, apart from the screening of Indian films at the Book fair cinema

and elsewhere. It would also include reading sessions by more than 30 eminent Indian authors including Vikram Seth, Amitav Ghosh, Arundhati Roy, Mahasweta Devi to Javed Akhtar.

For the German tourism industry also, India is a tremendous market. It observes that India's economic growth has been at a constant 6-8 percent for the past so many years, with prospects of reaching 10 percent in the near future.

The discussions during the Indian Prime Minister's visit identified that trade, investment, scientific and technological collaboration, including in the areas of infrastructure, energy and high technology areas such as space, form an important basis for the partnership. Both sides aim to further deepen their strategic and security dialogue and will work towards an agreement on bilateral defence co-operation. India's participation in the ITER initiative on fusion energy is an important part of the ongoing energy cooperation.

Apart from IT, German companies continue to invest in a broad range of industrial sectors such as machine tools, automotive, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, electrical and electronic manufacturing, but also in service sectors such as banking and insurance. A growing number of small and medium sized German manufacturing companies are taking up business in India.

The most common questions I faced were from the Indian student community. There is a lack of awareness in India about opportunities offered by German universities. Despite this, the number of Indian students in Germany has tripled since 1999 to over 4,000! At the International Max Planck Research Schools, Indian students are the biggest group of foreign students. Many are not aware of it, but today language doesn't have to be an issue for Indian students who speak English and would like to study in Germany. This country now attracts Indian students because of the high quality of German universities and about 500 new academic courses held in English introduced at German universities over the last few years. I myself am fully funded Research Fellow pursuing advanced research in Global Climate Change (which along with Geology and Oceanography is another field of German collaborative interests) under the DAAD Fellowship. German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) continuing their efforts to promote academic studies in Germany. The DAAD is running an office in New Delhi for this purpose.

■ - Raja Anchang

Lila Poonawalla Foundation Award Function 2006

Yet another July eveningLights...Camera... action...!

.....Welcome to the Lila Poonawalla Foundation scholarship awards ceremony!

We are into the 11th year of the scholarship awards, held at the Hotel Taj Blue Diamond. The Lila family now has **347 "Lila Fellows"**. There has been an increase in the overseas scholarship by 9, local scholarship by 20 and special category scholarship by 10, informed Mrs. Lila Poonawalla, Chairperson of the foundation while addressing the guests, trustees, the Lila Fellows, the awardees and their parents.

The function began with a Hindi *Poem on LPF* composed and recited by LF- Ms. Rita Sethia, followed by an exquisite Bharatnatyam performance "The Journey from movement to dance" choreographed by LF - Ms. Swarada Angal. Devika Daftardar, LF and the heroine of the Marathi film 'Nital' shared her experiences with LPF. A few interesting clippings from the film were shown to the audience. The Chief Guest and trustees lighted the diyas, in keeping with the glorious tradition.

Mr. Firoz Poonawalla, trustee on the board and 'the man behind the successful woman' welcomed everyone present. Some of our senior Lila Fellows - Snehal Mahamuni, Ashwini Dhumale, Jyoti Otageri, Smita Acharya, Harshada Nagar, Kasturi Paigude shared with us what Lila Fellowship means to them.

Then came the most awaited part, the distribution of scholarships by **Mrs. Geetanjali Kirloskar, Chairperson, India-Japan Initiative**. It was a difficult task for Mrs. Shaheen Patel (LF & Trustee-LPF) to assimilate the long list of achievements of our honoured Chief Guest of the evening. She introduced our Chief Guest by stating "There is one thing that strikes you immediately as you go through the profile of our very eminent guest - Mrs. Geetanjali Kirloskar and that is versatility. On second thoughts, one might say that there is one more thing that comes across very strongly- success. It is difficult indeed to believe that one and the same person has a hand in such diverse areas as the promotion of Multicultural understanding, an immensely successful career in advertising, a regular writer for a number of English dailies and magazines, an anchor on television, an actress in Hindi films, an amateur photographer, an art collector, a

promoter of contemporary Indian art, a fashion designer, an active sports person and an adventurous hiker. And as if all this was not enough, she also happens to be a wife of a successful industrialist Mr. Vikram Kirloskar, Chairman, Kirloskar Systems Ltd, and mother to talented teenaged daughter".

Mrs. Kirloskar comes across as a lady high on energy and high on life, adroitly balancing her numerous and diverse roles, with considerable élan. We are sure the Lila Fellows were excited to see, hear and meet the charming, the versatile, simple, approachable and the inexhaustible - Mrs. Geetanjali Kirloskar.

Mrs. Geetanjali Kirloskar began by saying that the overall profile and introduction given by Mrs. Shaheen was really good but an exaggeration that was beautifully presented by Shaheen! "Mrs. Kirloskar congratulated the foundation, the trustees and all the Lila Fellows who were the recipients of this scholarship. She mentioned that all those LF's present there had a desire to do something differently hence this was the platform which would serve the purpose. She advised us to keep adding value to ourselves and differentiate the great from the ordinary to be able to climb the success ladder. "You may not be successful in the first attempt but yes it takes courage to come back to life and strive again, Be thankful to the foundation who gives you that courage to fight against all odds and have respect for such a foundation which does not stop at just giving the cheques". She concluded with encouraging words, **Go ahead. Even sky is not the limit for you"**.



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Trustees lighting lamp at 11th Award Function

After the inspiring speech trustees, Mrs. Snernaz Edibam, Mrs. Vasantha Ramaswamy and Mr. Parshuram Date announced the scholarships for Overseas LF's, Local LF's and the special category LF's for this year. Mrs. Poonawalla, chairperson of LPF and the Chief Guest-Mrs. Kirloskar gave the scholarships to the awardees and congratulated the Lila Fellows. The new new LF's came from diverse academic streams like, Clinical Psychology, Biotechnology, digital signaling, medical genetic,

inorganic analytical chemistry, pharmacy etc. The new Lila Fellows could not resist taking the mike. LF's, Rashmee Shukla, Priyanka Khopkar and Kiran Pardeshi expressed their gratitude towards the foundation and on behalf of all the new awardees assured to work hard and prove themselves in their respective fields. **"Difficulties are part of life, they are necessary, they remind you about the journey and that makes you feel proud of yourself"** is the message given by our young new LF's.

Every moment of the ceremony had a personal touch to it. The chief guest and the trustees were felicitated by flowers which came from Firoz uncle's farm. Trustee Mrs. Freney Tarapore, delivered a truly moving speech in Marathi to all the parents of new Lila Fellows making them proud of their daughters. Finally Mrs. Lila Poonawalla expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the foundation to the Chief Guest, well wishers who donate to the foundation, the Press, Hotel authorities, Invited guests, audience, the Lila Fellows, Trustees for the unstinting support given by each of them to make the evening one to remember.

■ -Sunetra Chaphalkar

"Lasting Impression - Personal Effectiveness"

Workshop by Mr. Minocher Patel - Feedback from Lila Fellows

Over 30 Lila Fellows with Trustees attended a program "Lasting Impression - Personal Effectiveness" by renowned trainer Mr. Minocher Patel. All of them were most delighted with the contents and the delivery of interesting learning's. Here is briefly what they have to say about the trainer and the training program.

"When I came for the workshop I did so with an open mind and no expectations and it helped because the entire day was filled with exciting insights, new experiences and a lot of things that I did not know previously and got an opportunity to learn. This experiment definitely has yielded positive results".

"From today's workshop I learned how to become more confident, how to become a good human being, how to get happiness from life, how to manage time, how to learn to accept problems and work at finding solutions rather than suffer, and how to built relationships".

"I have registered in my mind, few very important thoughts, which I am going to remember and implement. Clarity of thought and purpose in life is very important so is appreciating ourselves first. We

must break free from past and condition our mind to think positive. Must learn to believe in self and take pride in whatever I do. I will remember that the body language is as important as what I say".

"Today I understood to accept myself as well as others as they are. Being a lecturer, I found this workshop very, very helpful and encouraging for me to go ahead in life with wow attitude".

"Mr. Patel indeed you are a motivational speaker because you have motivated me today to such an extent that 'Time Management' is what I have chosen to improve myself upon".

"Finding 'Purpose' in one's life is important. I was convinced today with this. Our education system and marks oriented would makes and gives us very little time to understand who we are. Every human has a hidden potential, which goes untapped as we are caught up in a lot of rubbish on daily basis. Today's session has helped in bringing a lot of clarity".

We are thankful to our foundation who organizes such kind of workshops which are very effective, interesting and important for us.

■ - Prachi Harkare

GETTING GRILLED... HAPPILY

It was a lazy Sunday morning for Pune-kars. But hey, let's look at what's happening at the Taj Blue Diamond Hotel. A bunch of girls gathered for something auspicious? Nah, it wasn't a screening of some Abhishek Bachchan movie or a Sunday blast! But a screening of themselves! We recollect our own experience when we faced the trustees. The process was similar as ours and captured the same in this article. **Prachi Harkare** and **Sanchita Thanedar** unravel the experiences of the girls interviewed by the Lila Poonawalla Foundation.

You could read expressions varying from fear and nervousness to confidence and enthusiasm on those pretty faces. But hope was certainly what they all were clutching on to! Yes, they had courageously made it for the interview. The trustees too were all ready to take them head on! Well, they were the kindest judges you could find anywhere.

The procedure for the scholarship had already begun when the applicants filled the application forms. This time we received almost 250 applications!! The girls enthusiastically shared their experience about the entire scholarship process. Most of them had filled up the form themselves. But some girls confessed that they took some help from friends, relatives or parents. The Statement of purpose particularly was of great concern. LPF trustees screened each and every application form to mete out justice to each. LPF follows a systematic process involving tremendous labor, from screening, to scrutinizing, to debating and discussing each individual. Every trustee's views are considered, every small detail analyzed. Each Lila fellow is evaluated and cross-examined by all trustees. After knowing and been a part of this evaluation process we have understood how much goes into choosing a Lila fellow, so we all should be proud of this fact and always believe that

we are really special and hence a part of LPF. The new girls were glad for getting an opportunity to attend the interview and face the panel of trustees. The interviewees were from myriad educational fields such as physics, chemistry, biology and computers. Pharmacy was particularly popular because the fees for M.Pharm were surprisingly high and competition was tough said Shubhangi, Tanmayee, Anuja, and Snehal who were going to pursue their Master's degree in this field.

How did they learn about the LPF? The most common source was the newspaper. Some girls

learnt about the scholarship details through their college notice boards, Radio Mirchi, senior Lila Fellows & relatives.

The girls found the scholarship particularly different as they could actually meet the people who were going to grant them scholarships and were delving deep into the girls' academics and financial needs. The structure of the

form was liked by many because they could present their cases well. But speaking in English was a problem for many. Mistakes were inevitable when some of them did try to express themselves in English, while others were most comfortable with their first languages. The interviews went on until late evening.

The most noticeable thing was that they had immense family support. The girls said the trustees made them feel comfortable and were friendly, so they enjoyed the interview. One could easily make out the difference between the girl who was going to give the interview and the girl who had given the interview!!

All of them thanked the foundation for giving them an opportunity for proving themselves. Indeed it was JUDGEMENT DAY with a twist!!

■ - Prachi Harkare & Sanchita Thanedar



Trustees interviewing for new arrivals in the LF family.

LEADING LADY

With over 45,000 students on campus and a lakh in distance learning programmes, along with an annual turnover of Rupees 140 crores, **DR. VIDYA YERAVDEKAR, Joint Director of one of the country's largest educational empires, Symbiosis converses with Lila Fellow, PRADNYA KASHIKAR**

Symbiosis has a total of 26 different institutions imparting quality education in disciplines such as Foreign Trade, Information Technology, Mass Communication, Computer Studies, HRD, Management, Law, Arts and Commerce etc. with a total 127 courses. Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar is presently looking after the management and administration of the Symbiosis Society, which is an educational Institute of over 31 years of reputation. An Health Entrepreneur and Health Education Award winner, recipient of Pune Ki Asha Puraskar by Asha Foundation, a gynecologist with an additional degree in Law and now administrator of a well-known institute, Dr. Vidya, humbly shares her experiences with a smile on her face.

ON CONNECTING THE TWO DISCIPLINES OF MANAGEMENT AND MEDICINE.....

"SYMBIOSIS has become like another sibling. Today, it has 33 institutes, from school, graduate college and specialized fields like law, media, IT etc. When my father, Dr. S. B. Muzumdar started the institute in 1971, he didn't have enough money to buy land. So Symbiosis actually started from our house. As a kid, I would see foreign students living in with us because we did not have a campus. I grew up like any average kid with a modest background. We lived in the campus of Ferguson College, Pune, as my father was a professor there. My ambition was always to become a doctor. I enrolled in the BJ Medical College, much against my father's wish. He wanted me to pursue either the Indian Foreign Service or the Indian Administrative Service. My mother, Sanjivani Mujumdar, supported my goal. But I guess I was destined to do what my father wanted me to do. In 1996, I joined Symbiosis and eventually got involved with its administration."

ON JOINING THE FAMILY'S TRADE.....

"I was working in Oman (1992-96) with the Ministry of Health when I realized the importance of health awareness programs in the community. So when I returned, I did not want to start just another run-of-the-mill hospital. In India, till then, no one had ever considered the potential of health education. So I put forth the idea of commencing a health-science department in Symbiosis. I had to make a proposal and get it passed by the Board of Directors then. Of course, they were skeptical. They questioned my

commitment and I had to prove that I'd come back with a purpose — to serve an educational institute in the capacity of a medical professional. I worked as the Director of Symbiosis Centre for Health Care for two years initially. By 2001, I was promoted as the Joint Director."

ON HER CONTRIBUTION IN HANDLING THE SHOW.....

"I take care of the daily operations of all the institutes and the admission procedures. I'm a member on the



*The humble Administrator
Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar*

Board of Symbiosis Deemed University and a part of the Planning and Development Cell. I also handle the international promotions. We have a base in Dubai and are opening a campus in Mauritius. We've just acquired 300 acres of land in Pune, which will be called the Symbiosis Knowledge Village and have plans of setting up a Medical College, the Medi-City in 50 acres. This will be executed by 2006. But I want the brand-name 'Symbiosis' to be present in Africa, the Middle-East and the South-East Asia. I want it to become one of Asia's top 10 universities."

ON BEING A WOMAN BOSS...

"I've never felt that my gender has ever adversely affected my chair. To the contrary, I think women are multifaceted and can cope with stress better than men. Our communication and public relations skills are superior and I've not at any time thought that I'd be better at my job if I were a man!"

WHAT GOES INTO THE SUCCESSFUL MAKING OF DR. VIDYA?

"My father has had a great influence. He believes in simple living and even to this day, he has not moved out of his two-bedroom flat. I want to continue with the legacy and support the cause my parents worked towards. I want this empire to get vast and provide quality education."

PEARLS OF WISDOM FOR LILA FELLOWS

"Dear Lila Fellows, this 21st Century is yours. Make the most of any opportunity that comes your way. Be busy, but at the same time be organized. Be courageous, dedicated and committed to any career or field you opt for and SUCCESS will be yours."

■ **-Mrs. Pradnya Kashikar**



*Lasting impressions
by Minocher Patel*

Down Memory Lane... SNIPPETS



*Womens fitness Workshop by LF
Amruta Gogte*



Fun at Shoppers Stop



Mr. Poonawalla B'day celebration



11th Award Function - Lila Fellows 2006



Volunteers - Scholarship Prog. 2006



*LF 2000 - Ms. Vrushali Gaud
(Donated Rs. 50,001)*



*Orientation programme for
Overseas LF of 2006 batch,
by Mr. Sanju Ramaswami,
Mr. Nari Bhavnani and Turstees.*

*LF 2001 - Ms. Rashmi Soman
(Donated Rs. 50,001)*

BOOK REVIEW

Jonathan Livingston Seagull a story

Name of the Book : Jonathan Livingston Seagull
a story.

Author of the book : Richard Bach

Publisher : HarperCollins Publishers

Price : Rs. 195/-

This is a story about people who follow their dreams and make their own rules; a story that has inspired people for decades.

The author Richard Bach is a former US Air Force Pilot and has a passion for airplanes. He has authored three books on the mystique of flying and during the past decade has edited a flying magazine, and written more than hundred magazine articles and stories.

This story is about Jonathan Livingston, an extraordinary Seagull. For most seagulls, life consists of just eating and surviving, where flying is just a means of finding food. However, Jonathan Livingston discovered that for him, "flying was life itself". Against the conventions of the seagull community, he resolves to seek a higher purpose and become the best at doing what he loves.

Jonathan loved to fly; he always wanted to discover in his god-gifted wings the potential to fly, and not just acquire food for him. He was driven by an urge to learn, discover to fly to be free; to be different, unlike the non-motivated, conventional and conservative seagull community. He was resultantly outcaste by the Seagull society. Jon, unashamed still practiced flying trying hard to learn what he could do in air. Jonathan first set a world speed record for Seagulls! He realized- 'We can be free! We can learn to fly!' He spent the rest of his days alone, but he flew way out and beyond. His one sorrow was not solitude, it was that other gulls refused to believe the glory of flight that

awaited them; they refused to open their eyes and see.

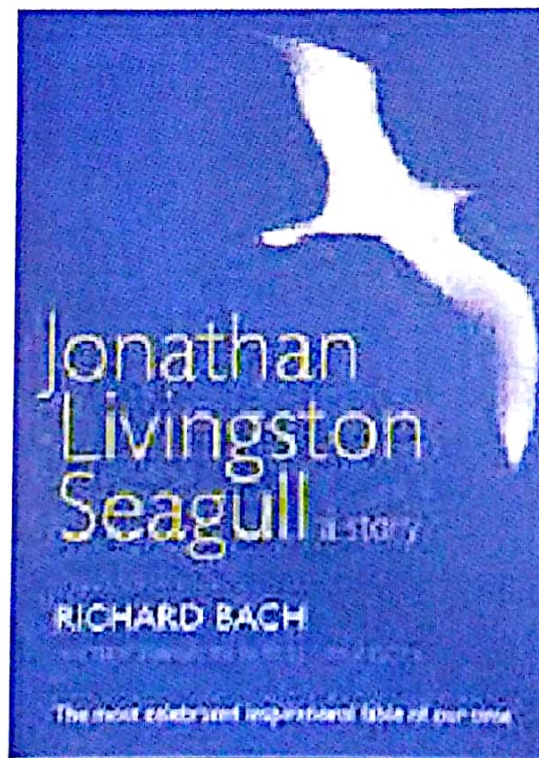
He learned more each day till he met a flock of some other seagulls which had come to take him higher, to take him home. There he went on to become the instructor for a younger flock to help them to become free. He also learned lot of things from the Elder gull - Chiang who always told Jon that - 'Heaven is not a place, and is not a time.

Heaven is being perfect.' Jon now wanted to go back to his old world thinking that there might be one or two gulls back on earth, who wished and would be able to learn. By the end of three months Jonathan had six other students. Outcasts all, yet curious about this strange new idea of flight for the joy of flying. Every hour Jon was there at the side of each of his students, demonstrating, suggesting, pressuring, guiding. Gradually new gulls joined in the learning, understanding the joy of flying. Jonathan Seagull vanished into empty air asking Fletcher gull to instruct a brand-new group of students. His race to learn had begun then.

This story is divided in 3 parts, thoroughly illustrated with beautiful photographs of Seagulls by Russell Munson. The photos capture the Seagull emotions, their struggle, learning and enjoyment in flying. 'Flying to become free'. *This is fable about the importance of making the most of our lives, even if our goals run contrary to the norms of our flocks, tribe or neighbourhood. Through the metaphor of flight, Jonathan's story shows us that, if we follow our dreams, we too can soar.*

To the real Jonathan Seagull, who lives within us all.

■ - Sunetra Chaphalkar



EMPOWERED LILA FELLOWS...

Leaders that they are, the Lila Fellows are also known to discover new paths, trod them confidently, luring the future generations to follow. LF Priya Lele, currently researching in commercial law at the Centre for Business Research, University of Cambridge shares her experiences and gives an insight into the many options law has to offer to promising young aspirants.

Fancy a career in law? – rest assured sky is the limit!

There are two kinds of reaction that I encounter when I introduce myself as a 'corporate/commercial lawyer' – when in India mostly that of a puzzled expression, keen to understand what that means and which courts I attend. And when abroad, that of awe or respect, may be not so much for the knowledge that it assumes I possess but for the imaginary handsome figure that people think that I may be earning (which is not true by the way).

Growing up in a family of lawyers it was perhaps natural for me to develop fascination for a career in law. From the time that I could speak up my mind, which unsurprisingly I started doing rather early, I knew and always told everyone that I wanted to be a 'Lawyer'. But it wasn't until I grew up and finally started studying at a college of law that I realised the different options that I had in the profession.

These days kids are probably much smarter. Now, please don't assume I am ancient, but in the jet-set age of the internet, five years into the profession (and ten years since I started studying to be a lawyer) is a long time. But I knew little apart from what I'd seen my grandfather and parents do as lawyers: i.e. to wear really smart looking black coats and white bands on white shirts (or whitish silk sarees as in case of my mother) and go to courts. It wasn't until I joined the chambers of a renowned civil lawyer in Pune while studying for a degree in law, that I slowly learnt what that involved, besides dressing up smart and also learnt of other possibilities that the profession held for me.

As a law student¹ at the prestigious institute of 'ILS Law College', my ambition to wear the black coat and argue in the courts lead me to participate at a number of moot court competitions – i.e. where you argue on a hypothetical legal case as a counsel before a panel of judges. Winning the national moot court competition in 1999, I was still determined to make it at the bar (not at your local bar – but practicing in litigation as a counsel appearing before the courts is often referred to as 'practice at the bar'). Somewhere, between 1999 to 2001 this determination withered away, partly because of

having realised the harsh realities of litigating practice through my stint at the local civil law chambers and partly because of developing a particular liking for corporate² and commercial laws³, for which

there is more scope in Pune than on the litigation side of the profession. Therefore as a fresh pass-out from Law College, I, like many others dared to venture into a career in a law firm in non-litigation practice, mostly transactional.

Exciting and challenging as the profession of law may be, I do not wish to paint a rosy picture. Litigation (and sometimes even arbitration) side of the practice can especially be frustrating because of the delays in the judicial system. Any layman, let alone a legal professional, would tell you that 'Justice delayed is justice denied'. Yet, in India we find millions of people losing the financial and temporal battle of litigation everyday. So if you fancy a career at the bar, be prepared! 'Patience' is probably the most important skill you'll need to possess as no amount of legal acumen and knowledge would help you keep up your spirits and remain focussed through endless adjournments and delays at the courts/tribunals. Sadly, arbitration could also prove daunting. I've got etched in my memory an unforgettable experience of being involved in a very exciting commercial arbitration, which failed to even take off because of abuse by the other party of the law relating to appointment of arbitrator/s.

But hang on a minute; I do not want to dissuade you from one of the most exciting fields of law either. When you finally do get your chance before the courts, it's worth every minute of your wait. The sheer pleasure of battling it out or should I say, roughing it out before the court with real life litigants is unimaginably rewarding (and once you've established yourself at the bar the financial rewards can be more than pleasing).



*A corporate Lawyer
LF Priya Lele*

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So, while a career at the bar, when you finally get the chance to build your case before the court, is sheer adrenaline-pumping, career as a non-litigation legal professional is no less fun. In fact, I would any day prefer the later to the former. For 'patience' is not one of my virtues (not that I have many...ahem, ahem).

I was very fortunate to have joined Dua Associates, a national law firm, specialists in corporate/commercial laws at the right time of their expansion in the Pune office. We being a young and small team of five lawyers, (and thanks to my liking for corporate /commercial matters,) I got the better part of their corporate/commercial practice in Pune. As a budding lawyer at the firm, I was also given extensive exposure in their other metropolitan offices. As a young lawyer in a law firm, I soon realised that what I had studied in the law college as 'law' was the 'law on books' and now I had to develop the skills of interpreting and applying the 'law in practice' – something that you learn only on the job.

Non-litigation side of practice in India includes transactional side of Mergers & Acquisitions, IPOs⁴, foreign investment in India etc. These are mostly done in Mumbai and Delhi. I was involved in Due Diligence exercises for acquisitions and mergers in Mumbai and Delhi and also in advising international clients on their investment options and on the applicability of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 to their investments in India. But being in Pune, my profile mainly involved drafting commercial documents and agreements for corporate clients including share purchase and shareholders agreement, venture capital investment agreements, joint ventures, business alliance, franchisee agreements and so on and giving advice to them on application of various commercial laws to their businesses.

The best part of being a corporate/commercial lawyer (apart from flying high and staying and dining at five star hotels) is, I think the opportunity to interact with managers and business people and to come up with solutions for their 'businesses'. I soon realised that as a modern corporate/commercial lawyer, one has to also acquire and develop managerial skills and business acumen. Besides, they say 'law is a jealous mistress'. Yes, you guessed it right, like any other profession⁵ a career in law requires total commitment, persistence and passion for work. So all in all it's an exciting but tough profession.

Whilst working with a law firm in its non-litigation practice is exciting, one may ask, 'how is it practising as a

non-litigation independent legal professional?' I am glad to offer some insights in this too. At least for a short while I've had the most wonderful experience of independent non-lit practice in Pune. Unheard of? May be. It's definitely rare for a legal professional to go solo in commercial and corporate non-litigation practice, that too in the first three years of her practice. Whilst litigation lawyers tend traditionally in India to practice independently, non-litigation practice is almost entirely the arena of law firms – big or small. Thanks to the individualistic style that I had built up at my erstwhile employer, finding work was never a problem. Finding time to do the work was a challenge, though. From being the well groomed and looked after associate in a national law firm, I was suddenly going to client offices more often for meetings (mainly because I didn't have a fancy conference room to offer), self-driven of course, printing, photocopying, answering calls and even faxing my own communications and even going and recovering the bills of costs (which was mostly a pleasant experience thanks to my clients but a bit awkward to say the least). All of this meant that I was working pretty much 24/7 to deliver the work in time. Plain, simple exhausting, but highly rewarding!

If I would not have got the opportunity to do my masters (LL.M.) at the University of Cambridge, fully funded by the Cambridge Commonwealth trust⁶, I am sure I would have continued my private practice in Pune. But the LL.M. at Cambridge changed my career path once again⁷ and so to say changed my life.

I came in the year 2004 to Cambridge to pursue my LL.M. with a view to developing my career in International Commercial Laws and returning to practice. After completing my LL.M. successfully⁸, with a Cambridge Pegasus Scholarship for the year 2005 I also got the amazing opportunity of doing month-long internships with three reputed Barristers' Chambers in London last year. But it was really the academia that attracted me the most. Studying with the stalwarts in corporate and commercial laws at Cambridge has enhanced my outlook towards the academia. A career in academics and research in law is what I am working towards at the moment. I realised that there is so much more to law than to just interpret it for the courts as in litigation (or arbitration) practice or apply it for your clients as in non-litigation practice. There is a lot of scope for reading into the law as it is, theorising on how the law should be or ought to be and researching on ways to achieve it – i.e. on ways to make it better.

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Finally, there's another aspect to the profession of law that I am now exploring— academic research. If you thought doing academic research in corporate laws is boring, think again!

I am currently involved with a very ambitious inter-disciplinary project on 'Law, Finance and Development'. Working with distinguished corporate lawyers and economists at the Centre for Business Research, this project aims at finding the mechanisms by which legal institutions shape national financial systems, so as to identify the implications of legal reform for economic development. My role in the project is a more humble one of constructing indices for shareholder protection and creditor protection (and at a later stage possibly employee protection) law in India and some other countries with common law legal system⁹ across the time-series of 1980-2004. All this legal data would then form part of further econometric¹⁰ study to find any correlations between legal data and economic data of countries. I would also be playing an important role in detailed case studies of some of the identified countries involving inter alia interviewing experts and business people from various fields to capture their perspectives

on how changes to law across time-series have affected economic development of the respective countries.

Hang on a minute, now I was talking about researching on the 'idealised' law and now I am discussing giving numbers to the law? Sure, it is baffling for the uninitiated to think about assigning numbers on a scale of 0-1 to legal provisions from different countries to compare them. This is a new and emerging field of comparative law – that can be referred to as 'leximetrics'.¹¹

Having studied at the best University in UK and the second best in the world, I have thus become aware of some path-breaking and emerging fields of law. My current research falls broadly in the emerging field of 'law and economics'¹². My paper hopes to contribute to the growing literature on 'law and finance'¹³ and experiments in 'leximetrics'. Who knows where the fascinating world of 'law' might take me next. There are several new fields of study emerging every day in the 'profession of law' and I aim to find and pursue new paths on my journey through the exciting profession of law. So, if you, like me, fancy a career in law, rest assured, sky is our limit!

■ - Priya Lele

(Footnotes)

¹It may be a good place to mention here that in the profession of law: learning is something that you never stop doing, no matter how old you grow or experienced in the practice you always remain a student of law - perhaps passing out of the law school can be looked at as a very first lesson – like coming out of nursery and your real education starts with practice. So that makes me a kid in the kindergarten at Cambridge University.

²Corporate law is the field of law concerning the creation and regulation of corporations and other business organizations. [Source: Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate_law]

³Commercial law or business law is the body of law which governs business and commerce and is often considered to be a branch of civil law and deals both with issues of private law and public law. Commercial law regulates corporate contracts, hiring practices, and the manufacture and sales of consumer goods. [Source: Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commercial_law]

⁴Initial Public Offer: a technical term to describe simply a

company going public the first time to raise capital by way of offering their shares to the public.

⁵Used here in contrast to an 'occupation'.

⁶I was offered funding by our generous LPF trust in 2004 but in view of the full-funding from the Cambridge Trusts, I was happy to decline and donate back the money to the trust so that they could assist some other deserving scholar.

⁷Remember, as a kid I had set out to carve my niche at the Bar but ended up enjoying non-litigation practice in the field of corporate and commercial laws.

⁸I passed with First Class and secured a first rank in my College - Lucy Cavendish College.

⁹The common law constitutes the basis of the legal systems of: England and Wales, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, the states of the United States (except Louisiana), Canada (except Quebec civil law), Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Sri Lanka,

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Malaysia, Brunei, Pakistan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and many other generally English-speaking countries or Commonwealth countries. Essentially, every country which has been colonised at some time by Britain uses common law except those that had been colonised by other nations, such as Quebec (which follows French law to some extent) and South Africa (which follows Roman Dutch law), where the prior civil law system was retained to respect the civil rights of the local colonists. [Source: Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_law#Common_law_legal_systems]

¹⁰ Econometrics literally means 'economic measurement'. It is a combination of mathematical economics, statistics, economic statistics and economic theory. [Source: Wikipedia at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Econometrics>]

¹¹ 'Leximetrics' can be understood as every quantitative measurement of law. I have recently co-authored a paper on the shareholder protection law and leximetrics and for those of you, who have actually managed to stay awake

and make it till this part of the article, and who may be interested in boring themselves further, this is the link to the paper available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=897479>

¹² Law and economics, or Economic analysis of law, is the term usually applied to an approach to legal theory that incorporates methods and ideas borrowed from the discipline of economics. Historically, it has been strongly tied to the University of Chicago. [See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_and_economics for more]

¹³ Following the pioneering work of La Porta et al, economists from the U.S. called 'Law and Finance' in 1998 at 106 J. Polit. Econ. 1113, propounding the 'Legal origin theory', there has been a growing literature both in support of and criticising their theory and findings – which is broadly referred to as literature on 'law and finance' [for more on 'legal origins theory' see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_origins_theory]

I am an economist working for an NGO and I find my career unconventional, challenging and satisfying. *Now, what was that?* Yes, you read right.



*Unconventional careerist Economist for NGO-
Anagha Mitra*

Its 'unconventional', because I feel, at birth every individual is gifted with something. But somehow our education and social system kills originality over the years and somewhere we as individuals get lost in this system. I realised at a very young age that I

was inclined towards writing, travelling and working for social development. So, I decided to take up Arts and specialise in economics. Generally, development sector is dominated by professionals from social work and field of sociology. But economics as a social science gives you a holistic view. Thus, I chose something unconventional because not many economists can be found in the field of social upliftment. You find economists working with banks, RBI or doing a Ph.D and working in academic institutes, teaching or working on defined research projects, or then some like Dr. Manmohan Singh plan our country's future! As I followed my heart in pursuing a career of my choice, I had the works of great economists for guidance.

"Globalization today is not working. Its not working for many of the world's poor. It is not working for much of the environment. It is not working for the stability of the global economy." – This is a quote by the famous economist Joseph Stiglitz from his book **Globalization and Its Discontents**. And to some extent the statement holds true. 'Economics' for most economists ends up becoming pure

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mathematical calculations and models which might not work in the real world. BUT real world problems deal with human beings. Having realized this, I consciously opted for a discipline termed '**development economics**', which would give me the best of both the worlds - mathematical economics and the sociological implications of economics. The proponent of this subject is Prof. Amartya Sen. Given the context of a developing economy, if the above quote holds true, then there is obviously a divide between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' created by this myth of globalization. A divide which is ever increasing between the beneficiaries of globalization and those who are marginalized. A divide which becomes very centric to people's needs and desires which thus cannot be very easily fulfilled. To a great extent this is due to policy lacunae and implementation problems at grassroot levels. In this context, Prof. Amartya Sen has argued that people die of hunger not because of unavailability of food in the country but primarily because of lack of proper distribution networks and information dissemination in the country. Through his argument, Sen has pointed out that quality of lives should be measured not by the wealth of a country but by the freedom, justice and dignity the country gives to its people by protecting their human rights.

Thus, believing very strongly in these principles I decided to choose a career which was along the lines of learning by doing and experiencing the real world. I learn only if I travel and go to rural areas and interact, place this data and knowledge into the economic theories and social science practices. Without this exercise, knowledge would mean nothing. India is a rich country. Our rural areas especially have so much to offer that for a Social Scientist it acts like a laboratory to enable research. So, I call this 'practical' and not theoretical work. Understanding the dynamics, the cause and effect are the most interesting features in building a career in the Environment/Development Planning sector within the Indian context. An opportunity for constant learning and application is a part of this sector. An everyday learning by doing is what this sector offers. Playing a role of leadership is a key of moving ahead.

As a development economist there is a great sense of satisfaction as you are actually in a way helping

people with your skills. Universities and the industry sectors in India are also realizing the importance of social science stream and its importance per se in overall planning.

I was awarded the Lila Poonawalla Foundation scholarship in 1996 for doing my Masters in Economics at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. After completing my Masters I worked for a NGO named Development Support Team in Pune for two years. The work at this NGO was research oriented, focusing on development issues related to urban and rural microfinance.

I got a LSE Research Studentship in 2000 for studying M.Sc. Public Policy and Planning at London School of Economics. The very close tutor-student interaction during the course was an educative experience unlike any conventional Indian curricula. While studying at LSE, I wanted to understand how the NGOs abroad work and how are they different from NGOs in India. I was selected as a Research Intern with a British NGO named 'WAR on WANT' which works with rural communities and underprivileged informal sector workers in developing countries. This is a London based NGO which supports the work of Community based organisations in India and Latin America by way of providing grants. One such grant was extended to an organization in Mumbai which is working for rag pickers. These rag pickers are children or women who are either destitute, widowed or divorced. 'WAR on WANT' gave me the task of writing a strategy paper on this Mumbai-based-organisation, on the basis of which they would decide whether they would continue funding their work. My work involved travelling and meeting the Head of this Organisation, interacting with the staff, understanding their work, their vision and if they had the clarity about what they wanted to do. This work in a way requires the skills of reading peoples minds as well, because its not uncommon in my job to come across people who lack vision.

After returning to India in 2002, I continued to work with various stakeholders in the development process. I work for a consulting company named Emergent Ventures India Pvt. Ltd. It is challenging indeed as I work as a Freelance Consultant which means right from business development to

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negotiation of fees and project execution, I handle everything. There is a huge scope for learning. One makes mistakes but then to do something different one has to take risks and that is what I am doing. Everyday is a workfloor where I apply new ideas. I enjoy what I do.

When I say 'helping with my skills', I mean, I write well and I have a penchant for researching development issues. So my services are helpful to NGO's. For example, there is a national level NGO in Delhi named PRADAN. I undertook a research on tribal women. PRADAN has a microfinance project. Over a period of ten years the NGO had observed that there were a number of drop-outs from this project. They wanted to understand the reasons. The project was located in a tribal area around Purulia in West Bengal. So, I travelled to this place,

researched and then wrote a paper on this issue. Here my skills as an economist came handy in designing the research and since I like to write I wrote a paper which many in the development sector could read. This worked towards 'information dissemination'. It was most satisfying to learn that I could contribute with my skills in a meaningful way! And yes, this is not honorary work, the NGO's pay for this service.

This is a career which is quite unconventional, challenging and satisfying. A career which gives one an opportunity to interact at all levels. Above all, it gives you an opportunity to understand that there are people in this world who don't possess anything, and you as a professional with your expertise can make that little precious change in their lives.

■ - Anagha Mitra

YOURS TRULY

Hiya there guys! Wow!! Wow!! Our family seems to be spreading its girth with around 300 LF's!! A warm welcome to the new additions of this year. Congratulations!!! You will soon learn how blessed you all are. Well, Seniors, buck up to shoulder your responsibilities. Go on, take initiatives and drive your Foundation to the zenith!

Our deepest gratitude is towards the well wishers of the foundation and Lila Fellows who generously donated to the foundation and towards the LPF for arranging productive programs like Mr. Minocher Patel's workshop-"Lasting Impressions-Personal effectiveness" and another special program on Physical Fitness at Endurance Health Club conducted by our very own Lila Fellow Mrs. Amruta Gogate. *How about shopping at Shoppers Stop, eh???* Yea, we did that too! Talk of pampering the LF's! Besides, the shopping we also celebrated dear Firoz Uncle's Birthday and the much anticipated release of our Inspira.

The release of our very own success gospel, "**21st Century belongs to them**" has been our moment of greatest pride. Success stories of 23 dynamic Lila Fellows, just like you and me, inspire the readers to broaden their horizons and strive to 'seek, to find and not to yield'. Guys please do



Inspira- 18th issue: Release at Shoppers stop

extend this gospel to others less fortunate than us so that they too will know what the LPF mill churns out! This book is available at the foundation. The money that the foundation receives from the sale of this book will be pooled in for the further growth of our clan.

Open up fellas! I don't hear you!!! We have our arms wide open for your work. As always, the Crusaders keep their promise to belt out the best!! So keep the pulses going!

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