

My Page...

## Happy Birthday

### THE CAMELLIA



Shalini Mehra  
Jaipur

The Camellia is celebrating its fourteenth birthday! It has been an exciting journey and it has never once looked back. It is glossier, fuller and fatter now than ever before. Shalini Mehra takes us back to those days when The Camellia, was born, and the journey so far. What a wonderful concept, what a gift to all of us! Thank you Shalini Mehra... You make us proud.

**M**y mobile rings; the name crops up - Mridula Anand. I feel guilty of not having yet started my pages for the coming issue of The Camellia. Life in city has other priorities but for me The Camellia should be, if not, on the top of the list but definitely high up the ladder. It is just that sometimes day to day routine blocks the right frame of mind to put the thoughts together; yet I have made a promise to myself that I will never say 'No' to it the same way I cannot to my children. Its birth has been the most memorable event of my life. I had never imagined it was in me to produce it.

A very Happy Birthday to 'The Camellia'. Having completed fourteen years, it moves on to the landmark fifteen.

I close my eyes but the third and invisible eye within the mind, is alert and wide open, sifting through the images of the past. The labour pains of the birth of The Camellia and subsequent toddling years of its growing up are everlasting memories.

Fourteen years later many thanks are due, the list is long starting with Mridula Anand who has been the mentor and guide all along, also to her team on edit desk, and the correspondents from various clubs. Its reach has extended far off. Though the number of issues have been reduced (A good decision) but it gladdens my heart to see that The Camellia on its fourteen birthday is fatter, fuller and glossier, growing from strength to strength. It has an edge over many other glossies on the stand as there are no obvious agendas, just a great delight in the story—in the pictures, in the format, in the magazine put together well. The purity of calling, work for love and love for work (a rarity in today's world) still is its forte as those writing, compiling, editing, formatting are not expecting a pay cheque at the end of it.

This is the right time to go back and trace its journey from its inception up till now that itself will be a tribute to many who continue to work hard to keep it together with love and passion.