

Talent show for seniors on World Elders' Day

Barney Henderson
Mumbai, October 1

TO SALSA on stage at the age of 76 takes some spirit, but that is exactly what Pratiba Dattani did to celebrate World Elders' Day at the first talent show for seniors in the city.

"Today's show has made me very happy and given me the chance to perform on stage," said Dattani, who wowed the audience at Santa Cruz Gala Centre with a Latino routine from the Hollywood film Brazil. "I have been dancing all my life and love it. I am suffering from malaria at the moment, but I had a cold bath and danced my way here."

The talent show, UMANG, was open to all above 55 years. Organised by the NGO Silver Innings, it will now become an annual event.

There were 20 acts ranging from singing, dancing, comedy and even representatives from the Laughter Club International. Four men from the club gave a laughter routine including a laughter song.

"The talent show is a great idea and we wanted to show them how laughing releases endorphins that help people enjoy life."



SATISH BATE/HT

Laughter Club members celebrate World Elders' Day with a hearty guffaw at the Gala Community Centre on Wednesday.

ten poetry all my life, but my efforts have never seen the light until now," said 66-year-old Malad teacher Aleyamma John. "Today was a great opportunity for people with hidden talents to show them off." Founder-President of Silver Innings Sailesh Mishra, explained this was a talent show, not a competition and that no prizes were given, only certificates to all participants.

"The point is to give all a chance to display their talents



**WORLD
ELDERS' DAY**

100 and not out

- Mumbai Mayor Shubha Raul on World Elders' Day visited 17 seniors who have crossed their 100 mark. Manik Pendse (100) of Shivaji Park was felicitated.
- She also promised that she would work towards a special reservation for seniors in the open spaces policy.

Mobile van for seniors

- On Wednesday, NGO SMILE launched a mobile van for senior citizens.

laughing releases endorphins that help people enjoy life," said 68-year-old Atmaram Torane.

Storytellers and poets were also given airtime. "I have writ-

"The point is to give all a chance to display their talents and for seniors there are no such opportunities," he said. "We got a great response and hope next year is even bigger."

van for senior citizens.

■ It will take seniors to gardens, places of worship, picnics, medical camps and group therapy sessions.