Our Jet Airways plane landed in Leh at an altitude of 3500m on May 1st at 6.50 in the morning. It felt like home-coming.
The next few days saw the celebration of Buddha Purnima, the birthday of the Buddha. The people of Leh walk clockwise around the old town with the important monasteries and temples. Part of this ritual walk includes the Namgyal Tsemo peak with an ancient tower and several temples. The people were dressed in their best traditional clothes, and carried flowers, musical instruments or Buddha images.
Our 2007 team includes Andreas, Lala, Iovanna, Anke, John, myself and Rebekka. We held a welcoming party in the Sankar House, and had a picnic by the Indus River.
Finally, after parties and picnic, work needs to start.

Right: our artisan team at Sankar House, below clockwise from left: inspecting a 17th century mosque that we were asked to restore; debating about with government engineers and residents about our proposal to improve drainage in the old town (2x); work on the Red Maitreya temple.
Next we need to prepare an exhibition about Old Leh for the Heritage House (Lala’s Gallery, see left). So there will be little time to relax on the terrace of our old house (below). But there is always time to offer a cup of tea to visitors, so please come and visit us in Leh if you can.