



PLUS

August, 2008

Positive Living Centre for Beed

A new Positive Living Centre (PLC) has opened at Beed. The inauguration was on the 7th August. The PLC is funded by INP+ as part of the ACT project. Chief guest was Mr. Sunildada Dhande (Member of Parliament) who gave an assurance that he will make efforts for supporting the aims of the Network.

Kolhapur Taal

The new pharmacist for the Kolhapur Taal Pharmacy, which opened on the 11th August, is Sandeep Pawar, pictured right. The pharmacy follows the successful model developed at the NMP+ offices in Pune. It is run in conjunction with Emcure Pharmaceuticals.



New DLN for Garhchiroli

A new District Level Network has been established at Garhchiroli. A board has been elected, the president is Kabir Nikure and Vijay Bhende is the General Secretary.

This brings the number of districts with a registered network to 34, out of the 35 districts in the state. The email address of our new friends is:

Networkofngp@rediffmail.com

Learning to be leaders

28 people from State and Districts spent 3 days on leadership refresher training last month. The training was sponsored by Engender Health who worked with the Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development to run the course. **The group are pictured below.**



Mumbai: 1st forum for youths

A new youth forum has been launched in Mumbai. The Network of Positive People in Mumbai (NPM+) is the first to develop such a forum. It was launched by positive young people aged between 18 and 25 in July.

The forum includes both infected and affected, those with HIV-positive family members. It aims to create awareness against discrimination. It will work through street theatre, raise funds, and provide advocacy and befriending. They will target organisations like colleges, corporates and hospitals where there are HIV positive youngsters.

The forum will help those who need hospitalisation, take care of admission formalities and the like, to ensure fair treatment without stigma.

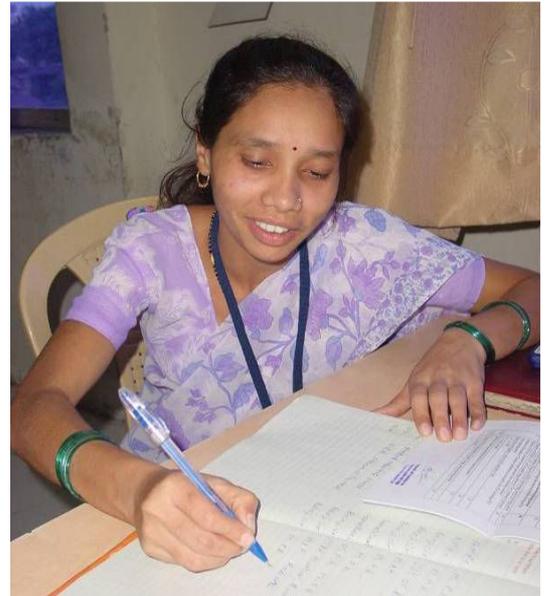
The youth forum is pictured below.



NMP+ staff

Shilpa Ghume is a receptionist for the Taal Pharmacy in Pune. She is also a peer counsellor. She has worked for NMP+ for one year. She lives in Pune with her daughter, Rasika, aged 9.

Shilpa loves to read in her spare time. Her favourite authors are the Marathi writer Shivaji Sawant, and Bahinabai Chaudhari, the great Marathi poet.



Other staff news:

Ashwini Gujar, Ganesh Kuldharme and **Shashi Todmal** are to be congratulated on being successful in their Master of Social Work postgraduate degrees from Pune University.

Mahesh Todmal was appointed Accounts Assistant on the 12th July.

Yuvraj Shinde from Kolhapur (he was their TEO) has been appointed as the new State Treatment Education Officer. He started on the 18th August.

Stars of the month ☆

Our star of the month is the **Pune DLN**, for setting a new record. They enrolled 184 new members on ART during July, the highest figure ever recorded by any DLN. Well done to the team!

Congratulations also to **INP+**, who have achieved the prestigious ISO 9001: 2000 internationally recognised standard for quality management. This is something NMP+ also aspires to, so INP+ has shown us the way.

A new book, *Aids Sutra; untold stories from India* has contributions from 16 of India's best known writers. They portray human stories behind the AIDS epidemic. The Sunday Times is publishing long extracts during August.

Please send pictures, contributions or suggestions for the newsletter to Vincent McDonald, Communications Adviser, at vjmcd@hotmail.co.uk, or to **NMP+**, 401-403 Ganga Prestige Arcade, Nana Peth, Laxmi Road, Pune 411002, e mail: nmpplus@gmail.com

Deadline: 25th day of each month