



PLUS

December 2008

World AIDS Day

For everyone in Maharashtra, the Mumbai atrocity put a cloud over World AIDS Day events. Despite this, we went about our business as best we could, and there were many successful events which succeeded in spreading greater awareness about HIV, and the support and comradeship we can offer to those who have it. This sort of publicity is invaluable in the fight to normalise HIV, to do away with stigma and discrimination. We at NMP+ are very grateful to all of you who ran programmes. A few of these are reported on page 2, but there were many more. Thank you for your efforts.

Computer Management Information System

A huge effort from all the districts and the positive living centres, working with NMP+ ACT staff, saw the addition of three years worth of data to the CMIS database completed this month. This new data will ensure much speedier retrieval of information in the future.

INP+ funds Peer Convention

60 peer educators from all districts attended a 2 day convention at the Elysium Hotel. The convention was funded by INP+. **Right**, during the workshop a red ribbon illuminated by candles was created.

Population Foundation of India helps us

A PFI financed workshop trained treatment outreach workers (TOW) who will give information materials in Marathi to peer treatment educators in each district. Big bags of materials, dealing with treatment adherence and other topics were distributed. On the second day, the TOWs were trained in the new Star Health Insurance. Also during a busy month, there was an INP+ sponsored Finance workshop for all districts, 34 boards were represented, 98 members trained in all.

First marriage website for + people

What is probably the first website to help positive people find a partner has been set up by a Maharashtra Government official. Visit positivesaathi.com Contact details are on the site, it is easy to register. Another website, aidssupport.aarogya.com carries a wide range of information on HIV and AIDS, with a particular focus on Maharashtra. The website currently carries a text only version of this PLUS newsletter, and video interviews with various NMP+ members including Sanjay Jadhav and Manoj Pardeshi.



More on World AIDS Day

The **Pune PLC** did health check ups for 120 people in Nigadi. They also went to Dapodi where they had awareness talks with 57 people, and at Aakurdi where they raised the awareness of another 63 people. **Thane press coverage.** Uma Sriram sent in cuttings from various newspapers who covered their World AIDS Day events and advocacy, **below.**



CHAHA informs and entertains

The CHAHA project, with thanks to sponsor Alliance India, spent World AIDS Day in communities in Pimpri Chinchwad, targeting ones with high numbers of migrant and industrial workers. Hundreds of people were reached, attracted by the theatre then informed by the Awareness address that followed. Students from the B J Medical College helped with the poster campaign. **Below,** street theatre



Left, a Red Ribbon hangs from the NMP+ offices, and a poster with the phone numbers of NMP+ and Muktaa helpline. **Below,** MDACS funded a drop in session held by the Mumbai network.

NPM +

Network by people living with HIV in Mumbai.

UDAY DIC funded by MDACS

Grant event on Friday 5th Dec. 2008
World AIDS Day 2 pm to onward

- Acquire more knowledge through entertaining & interesting game & win prizes.
- You are warmly invited by

Ms. Bharti M. Sonawane
(President)

Mr. Anand V. Ishware
(Project Co-ordinator)

Dr. Maulik (Pediatric ART consultant) MDACS
Chief guest

● **Venue** ●

2nd Floor, Sevakendra Hall, S.K. Bole road,
Church of our lady Salvation (Portuguese Church), Dadar (W.), Mumbai - 28

Wonderful weddings

Solapur district president's wedding
Samadhan Mali, the President and network officer of Solapur, was married on the 8th December. He gave public thanks to NMP+, and various board members and staff. **Right**, Samadhan with his new wife Kalpana.



Also celebrating marriage was **Gadchiroli General Secretary** and district officer Vijay Bhende, **Right**. He married the President of the Shivar network, Sangeeta, and gave a public declaration of his status at the wedding ceremony. The couple were awarded a gift of 50,000 Rs from the police and the Collector for courage in speaking out, which was shown on a local television station.

Stars of the month ☆

So many people have carried out excellent publicity and information programmes this World AIDS Day month, that it would be unfair to pick out any one. Instead, Stars of the month are all districts, PLCs and TCCs. Congratulations on a fine effort that will have made many more people aware of our existence and how we can help them.

PTE in Nagpur



District Social Worker Anita Mahajan sent in the photo, **above**, of Peer Treatment Educator training at Nagpur.



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