

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The first documented AIDS case in India dates all the way back to 1986.

In the 20 years since, HIV in India has grown from being a relatively unknown virus to the cause of a pandemic that's crippling the country.

HIV is here and it is real.

Its reality is not just in the statistical numbers but in faces these numbers stand for. Its reality is starkly evident in the eyes of the boy who lost both parents to AIDS. It is in the pain and suffering of the young girl who has been ostracized by family and friends alike for being HIV positive.

HIV is real and it is here.

And the fight is going on; every single day in our very own city. The fight to stop the spread of HIV; the fight against stigma and discrimination that is breaking up homes; the fight for access to treatment and so much more is going on right here, right now.

This is the time to wake up. It is the time to ACT!

And we, the youth of Pune, are waking up. We are waking up to reality of HIV and AIDS in our city. We - you and I - are joining this fight. It isn't about big strides of commitments but about small steps of action. Because together we can make a difference!

Himakshi Piplani



Candlelit Vigil, MG Road, 20 May

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YAHAAN - who? what? where? why?

Youth Action – HIV And AIDS Network (YAHAAN) is a Pune-based, youth-led, action-oriented network that brings together young people from varied socio-economic and cultural backgrounds for a common cause – to support positive living and stop the spread of HIV.

Join us as together we make a difference! **Join the fight.**

WAKE UP PUNE  **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

DID YOU KNOW?

HALF OF ALL NEW HIV INFECTIONS - ALMOST 6,000 INFECTIONS PER DAY - OCCUR AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

THE NEWSLINE

Report on female-initiated HIV prevention methods released

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/Daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=46162

Chinese agencies launch nationwide HIV/AIDS awareness campaign targeting college students

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=45719

Uganda: safe sex messages missing HIV positive youth

<http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=71782>

Indian health minister voices support for, urges states to implement National Sex Education Plan

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/Daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=46159

Impact of media advocacy: HIV+ kids readmitted to Sangli school

<http://www.ndtv.com/convergence/ndtv/story.aspx?id=NEWEN20070015929&ch=6/18>

YOUth Speak

Speak your mind... Write for YEAH!

The theme for the next issue is '**Stigma and Discrimination**'.

Email your contributions by **16 August** to yahaan.planningteam@gmail.com.

Please include 'YEAH' in the subject title of your email.

Here's something to get you started...

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/5141100.stm

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Send us an email if you'd like to find out about joining existing projects with grassroots organizations.

The following projects currently require volunteers:

Doctors' Awareness Program (*Wake Up Pune*)

E-Resource Centre on Youth and HIV / AIDS

These are great opportunities to get involved at the grassroots, build your resume and of course, **MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

E-consultation on Youth Participation in Health and ICT for Development

What? The United Nations Population Fund is organizing an E-consultation on Youth Participation in Health and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Development.

Why? To identify young people and their experiences in using ICT to influence and advocate for health issues (especially Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS).

When? The E-consultation will take place over 4 weeks from 24 July to 14 August.
Registration is open until 3 August.

Where? If you are a **Taking It Global (TIG)** member, go to <http://groups.takingitglobal.org/healthandICTs>. If you are not a member of TIG then send a blank email to healthandICTs-subscribe@groups.takingitglobal.org to subscribe.

For details visit <http://groups.takingitglobal.org/healthandICTs>

We'd love to hear from you!

Email us your feedback, comments and suggestions...

yahaan@wakeuppune.org
yahaan.planningteam@gmail.com

And make sure to visit:

www.wakeuppune.org



IN FOCUS

International Youth Day 2007

12 August

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyd2007.htm>

What is IYD?

International Youth Day, celebrated on 12th August every year, gives the world an opportunity to recognize the potential of youth, to celebrate their achievements, and plan for ways to involve young people in taking action for development. This year's theme for IYD is "**Be seen, be heard: youth participation for development**".

When did it start?

On 17 December 1999, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 54/120, declaring 12 August as International Youth Day.

Celebrate IYD 2007...

Team up! This is a great opportunity to partner up with other young people, youth clubs and NGOs to get more involved in HIV / AIDS related development activities.

Organize! Hold forums, discussions and information campaigns to highlight youth issues and how they can be addressed.

Celebrate! Plan and organize performances everywhere to showcase - and celebrate - the fact that youth contribute to the societies in which we live. Celebrate with music, dance and theatre!

Take action! A major focus of the day is practical action towards empowerment and participation of youth in the processes and decisions that affect their lives.

Join YAHAAN in organizing a host of fun activities to celebrate the day. You can refer to our 'Take Action' section for some interesting ideas on celebrating IYD.

Tell us how you would like to celebrate IYD this year in your school, college, club or community.

Planning is in progress to celebrate **IYD 2007** in Pune on 12 August.

YAHAAN is organising week-long celebrations in advance of the day itself. **Send us your 'take action' event ideas** latest by 4 August...



HIV is transmitted in only four ways.

SNAPSHOTS

Global AIDS Action Week
20-27 May 2007

On 20 May, Pune came together to mark Global AIDS Action Week with awareness events and a candlelit vigil on MG Road... Here are some pictures from the day.



Rally along MG Road



The MG Road crowd looks on



Dance performances from children



Graffiti Wall @ INOX



Candlelit Vigil



Did you know?

TAKE ACTION NOW

stir it up

Feel strongly about something? Then **stir things up!** If you feel strongly about an HIV / AIDS related issue - like stigma and discrimination, access to treatment or PLHIV rights - then make a noise about it...

- Talk about it: organize **discussions, debates**, etc.
- Set up **information booths/kiosks**
- Write **poems and articles**;
- Produce a **photo-documentary**
- Screen a **movie**
- Run a **poster campaign**

Use theatre, music and dance to express your views... Be creative and stir things up!

Email us if you have any kind of HIV related query or if you need any help in organizing an activity.

(Adapted from Stir It Up, Australia)

the '10' campaign

It's the simplest way to stop the spread of HIV - **talk about it.**

Share the **four ways** of HIV transmission with 10 young people - friends, classmates, colleagues - and ask each of them to do the same with 10 other young people. **Simple.**

1. Having **unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex** (i.e. sex without a condom)
2. Sharing **infected needles**
3. **Mother-to-child** transmission
4. Transfusion of **infected blood**

Break the silence - **start talking.**



small print: write to us about your **take action activity** so that we can highlight your positive and valuable contribution and celebrate the significant involvement of young people in supporting positive living and fighting the spread of HIV!