

Postal order service from city

a big relief for soldiers as armed forces personnel regularly remit money to their families through regular modes of a money order. However, this attracts a high commission and alternate means like bank drafts are adopted. Moreover,

in forward areas, banks and financial institutions are not readily available.

Speaking on the future of field post offices, Lt Gen Kapur said that a modernisation plan was in place. "To make them more efficient, moderni-

sation and computerisation is currently on. Soon, new services such as railway reservation, pay and allowance, mutual fund payments and telephone cards would be available through them," he said.



Rakesh Kumar receives the first filed post order from Chief of Staff, Southern Command Lt Gen Ashok Kapur

Angry students take to the streets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MARCH 16

STUDENT protests over the fee hike in engineering colleges have been steadily heating up, with over 800 students taking to the streets in a massive rally on Jungli Maharaj and Fergusson College Road on Friday.

The students were from Vishwakarma Institute of Technology (VIT), Vishwakarma Institute of Infor-

mation Technology (VIIT) and the Sinhgad College of Engineering (SCOE).

Some students from the Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT) also joined in. The rally, which began at the Sambhaji Park, proceeded to Fergusson College Road via the Jnaneshwar Paduka Mandir Chowk to return to JM Road.

Stressing that they were not backed by any political or student organisation, the

students objected that they were not consulted when the fees were determined. "Deciding the fee structure has been limited to only the Shikshan Shulka Samiti and the college management," said a student.

Moreover, the students alleged that the documents submitted by the colleges to the Shikshan Shulka Samiti were "false", as the colleges did not have all the facilities and infrastructure claimed in the documents.

Man sets himself ablaze

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MARCH 16

A YOUNG man — he was released on bail in a theft case recently — ended his life by setting himself on fire.

According to the police, Sunil Anil Mane took the extreme step after his wife, Aarti, refused to sign the divorce papers. Police said Mane attempted suicide at his mother-in-law Sulabha Sidhu's residence in Aundh on March 11. He died at a private hospital on Thursday.

The Chatuhshrungi police

has filed a case of abetment to suicide against Sulabha and Aarti after Mane's mother Sandhya (40) lodged a complaint. Police said Mane, who lived at Juni Sangvi, had married to Aarti in December 2004 and she deserted him a month after marriage.

Sandhya said Mane met Sulabha accidentally on March 10 and she asked him to come to her house the next day, promising that Aarti would sign the divorce papers. However, Aarti refused to sign the papers and humiliated him, leading him to attempt suicide.

Danny West, one of the first to be HIV-infected, talks about his training initiatives in UK

AIDS still looked at as 'virus of gay men'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MARCH 16

DANNY West — one of the first to be diagnosed with HIV in the United Kingdom way back in 1985 — is a member of the national long term survivors group and is in India presenting himself in a positive leadership role as a person living with HIV.

"I was given just 18 months to live and I saw my friends dying," recalls the 46-year old West who has no qualms in admitting that he was among the 'gay men' who had contracted the virus. In Britain

AIDS is still looked at as a 'virus of gay men and African people', says Danny who was the first local government training officer for HIV in the UK providing training to staff at a London borough.

Now as a principal consultant to Realising Your Life (RYL), West was in Pune on Friday talking about leadership qualities and mentoring skills to young executives at Emcure pharmaceuticals, Hinjewadi. On Saturday, West will interact with Network of Maharashtra by People Living with HIV (PLHA) at the TAAL centre — which



Danny West

is a one stop pharmacy run by people living with HIV for the PLHAs. West's RYL consultancy — which is the first company specifically providing

training to people living with HIV in UK — supports people with HIV through personal life coaching, training and advice. He has designed his own interactive training programme and is developing his client base with the public, voluntary and corporate sectors. And what's more thinking positively is at the heart of West's philosophy when it translates into motivating and inspiring other PLHAs.

Apart from being involved in the establishment of London Lighthouse — one of the first centres in the UK for people with HIV — West is

also involved with organisations like Body Positive London, The Red Admiral Project and the Sussex Beacon. "How have I survived so long," he laughs. "That's because I am passionate about life and passionate about working for people with HIV."

While West did not require medication for all these years because of his healthy lifestyle, he is now on the government's anti-retroviral therapy programme for the last five years. For Danny West, though, it is all about having a positive attitude in life!