

RED RIBBON EXPRESS REACHES THRISSUR

Thrissur: Red Ribbon Express which arrived in Kerala with the mission of spreading HIV, AIDS awareness was given a rousing welcome at Thrissur Railway Station.

In the presence of hundreds of people, Mayor of Thrissur Prof. R. Bindhu formally inaugurated the Red Ribbon Express campaign in the district.

The inaugural function held at the railway station premises was presided over by Ambadi Venu, President of District Panchayat. Additional District Magistrate K.R. Raji, Assistant Collector Rajamanikkam, District Medical Officer Dr. V. Divakaran, District Nodal Officer Dr. Chandramohan, Railway Station Manager Jayakumar, Arogya Keralam District Programme Manager Dr. G. Nandini, N.S.S. Co-ordinator Prof. Ramesh, Poet Mullanezhy, Playback singer Franco, television star Shyjo Adimali spoke on the occasion.

Corporation Health Standing Committee Chairman Jossy Chandy inaugurated the Exhibition in Red Ribbon Express. Corporation Councillor Abdul Muthaleeb inaugurated the counselling and Fr. Varghese Palathinkal, Director of Mar Kundukulam Memorial Research and Rehabilitation Complex inaugurated the training programme in the train.

Later, two life buses carrying the members of cultural troupes went into the interior villages not connected by rail. This troupe would conduct HIV, AIDS Awareness Programmes at three centres a day. Besides cultural programmes, HIV, AIDS infected persons would also explain their life experience.

After two days tour at Thrissur, Red Ribbon Express will travel to Aluva. From Aluva, it will move to the Ernakulam South, Kayamkulam and Karunagapalli where it will wind up its Kerala tour.

The train comprising 10 coaches has HIV, AIDS Awareness show. It also contains necessary facilities to train elected representatives, Anganwadi workers, Self Help Groups (shgs), youth and women. Coach 6 of the train has facilities for HIV testing, besides the services of doctors and counselors.

The Red Ribbon Campaign conceived and mooted by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation is being organized with the assistance from National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Kerala State AIDS Control Society, Arogya Keralam, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Social Welfare, Health, Education and many other state and central departments, NGOs etc.