

RED RIBBON EXPRESS REACHES MALAPPURAM

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

In the presence of hundreds of people Minister of State for Railways E. Ahmed formally inaugurated the Red Ribbon Express campaign in the district.

The inaugural function held at the railway station premises was presided over by P.P. Abdullakutty MLA. Kerala State AIDS Control Society Project Director Dr.K Shylaja delivered the keynote address. Kutty Ahmed Kutty MLA, Abdu Rehman Randathani MLA, District Panchayat President Arimbra Muhammed Master, Vice President P.K. Kunju, Tirur Municipal Chairperson T. Kunji Beevi, Block Panchayath President T.K. Krishnan, Health and Education Standing Committee Chairman Salim Karumbalam, Grama Panchayath Association President Haneefa Puthuparambu, Municipal Councillor V. Abdu Rehman, Railway Divisional Manager S.K. Raina, Kerala State AIDS Control Society Additional Project Director Dr.T.V.Velayudhan spoke on the occasion.

District Collector M.C. Mohandas IAS welcomed the gathering and District Medical Officer Dr.A.S. Surendran proposed vote of thanks. E.T. Mohammed Basheer MP inaugurated the training programme in Red Ribbon Express.

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 Tirur, Red Ribbon Express will travel to Palakkad. From Palakkad, it will move to Thrissur, Aluva, 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.