

RED RIBBON EXPRESS REACHES PALAKKAD

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

In the presence of hundreds of people, District Panchayat President Subaida Issahakku formally inaugurated the Red Ribbon Express campaign in the district.

The inaugural function held at the railway station premises was presided over by Municipal Chairperson V. Devayani. Railway Divisional Manager S.K. Raina delivered the keynote address. District Collector K.V. Mohankumar, Akathethara Grama Panchayath President C. Sadasivan, Puthuppariyaram Grama Panchayath President M.K. Narayanan, Arogyakeralam District Programme manager Dr. C.K Kuttamony, Corporation Councillor Azees Master, Nehru Yuva Kendra Co-ordinator K. Kunjahammad, District Nodel Officer Rejinold, Railway Station Manager N.J. Mathew, Rajeev Youth Foundation Project Director Rasheed Paramban, Lions Club Representative K.K. Rajan MJF, Rajan. M. Menon MJF, People Service Society Representative Fr. Jacob Mavunkal, Prathyasa kendram Co-ordinator Ramesh, Vision India Chairman Vino Paul, spoke on the occasion.

District Medical Officer Dr. P.R Karunakaran extended welcome to the gathering and District Deputy Medical Officer Dr. Rose Thomas proposed vote of thanks.

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