

RED RIBBON EXPRESS REACHES KANNUR

Kannur: Red Ribbon Express, the special train meant for creating HIV/AIDS awareness reached Kannur for its two day campaign.

In the presence of hundreds of people M. Prakashan Master MLA formally inaugurated the HIV, AIDS awareness campaign welcoming Red Ribbon Express at the Kannur railway platform.

The inaugural function held at the railway station premises was presided over by K.K. Narayanan, President, District Panchayath, Kannur. District Medical Officer Dr. C.P.Sreedharan presented the report.

Anoop Kuruviala John, District Superintendent of Police, Dr. S.R. Dileep, District Programme manager of Arogya Keralam, Dr. Sreekumar Vasudevan, State President of IMA, Ganesh M. Pillai, Quality Manager of Kerala State AIDS Control Society, P.Rajan, Kannur Railway Station Manager spoke on the occasion.

District Collector V.K. Balakrishnan welcomed the gathering and District Youth Coordinator of Nehru Yuva Kendra, M.C. Jayasree proposed vote of thanks.

Earlier, M. Prakashan Master MLA cut the ribbon to throw open the HIV/AIDS awareness exhibition. The exhibition was thronged by thousands of students, youth, anganwadi workers, health workers and general public.

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. Dr. R. Ramesh, Deputy DMO flagged off the life buses at the railway station premises.

After two days tour at Kannur, Red Ribbon Express will travel to Tirur. From Tirur it will move to Palakkad, 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.