

## **Red Ribbon Express on Success Rails; Warm welcome at Kasaragod**

Kasaragod: A very warm reception was extended by the people of Kasaragod to the Red ribbon Express train at the Kasaragod railway station when it reached here with the objective of providing awareness and spreading message of HIV/AIDS prevention & Control among the common public. In the first day itself, 4347 persons visited the train to see the exhibition out of which, 162 persons have gained training in the subject. 98 persons were given counseling and 21 persons came forward for voluntary HIV testing.

Even in the second day long queue of visitors was visible in the Kasaragod railway station to see the exhibition and to acquire knowledge on HIV/AIDS. The increased response of the common public to acquire knowledge on HIV/AIDS is a positive sign in the changing attitude of the public towards the HIV test and in the issue of HIV/AIDS.

Very good response was received to the two Life buses which visited the remote rural villages also. In all 6 centers where the buses visited in the first day itself, large crowd was gathered to receive the bus and to gain awareness.

After completing its mission in Kasargod, the train will proceed to Kannur on February 25 and will stay back there for two days for exhibition. There after the train will visit Tirur, Palakkad, Thrissur, Alwaye , Eranakulam South, Kayamkulam Jn and Karunagappally railway stations and on March 12<sup>th</sup>, the train will complete its mission in Kerala at Karunagappally railway station.

The Red Ribbon Express train started its journey from New Delhi on 2009 December 1<sup>st</sup>, that is World AIDS Day with the objectives of generating awareness on HIV/AIDS control, providing information on available services in respect of HIV/AIDS area, eliminate the stigma & discrimination to the HIV infected and affected persons, understanding the possible ways of HIV/AIDS prevention and to develop a positive and healthy life style among the common public.