

PRESS RELEASE

RED RIBBON EXPRESS TRAIN VISIT TO TAMIL NADU

09.05.2012 – 29.05.2012

PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS

THIRU.DEBENDRANATH SARANGI, I.A.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU PRESIDED OVER THE STATE LEVEL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Red Ribbon Express (RRE) train project is being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with the objective of increasing awareness and improving access to services for HIV / AIDS and other communicable diseases including TB, Malaria, Swine flu and to increase access to Reproductive & Child Health primarily in the rural areas of the country.

The third phase of specially designed Red Ribbon Express train was flagged off on 12.01.2012 from Delhi. This time, the renewed focus of the Red Ribbon Express train, is on youth.

The RRE train journeys across 23 states. It will cover 162 Stations where it will halt . It has eight exhibition coaches with exhibits on HIV/AIDS while the fourth exhibition coach on National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has exhibits on Tuberculosis, Malaria, Reproductive and Child Health Services, general health and hygiene. There is one coach on counseling and another one for conducting training for Women Self Help Group Members, Health Workers, Teachers, Police personnel etc.

In Tamil Nadu, the RED RIBBON EXPRESS will halt in following 10 districts:

Kanniyakumari (09.05.2012 & 10.05.2012), Tirunelveli (11.05.2012 & 12.05.2012), Dindigul (13.05.2012 & 14.05.2012), Karur (15.05.2012 & 16.05.2012), Ramanathapuram (19.05.2012 & 20.05.2012), Sivagangai (21.05.2012 & 22.05.2012), Nagappattinam (23.05.2012 & 24.05.2012), Vellore Contontment (26.05.2012) and Chennai Central (27.05.2012 & 28.05.2012).

Objective of RRE

- The project will primarily focus on rural areas with the following object.
- Disseminating information regarding primary prevention and services.
- Developing and understanding about infection to reduce stigma and discrimination against people living HIV/AIDS
- Strengthening people's knowledge about the measures to be taken to prevent HIV / AIDS and
- Adopting preventive health habits and lifestyle.

Project Target Group

The train will reach out to general population and special efforts will be made to mobilize Youth and Women Groups

1. Rural and Semi Urban youth
2. Women Groups such WSHG's, AWWWS, ASHA, ANM
3. Adolescents / Students from schools and colleges
4. Local bodies President / Chairman and members
5. Out of School Youth in the community such as NYKS, Adult Education
6. Health Care Providers
7. Opinion and Policy makers such as MLAs, MPs, Celebrities, etc.

As per the guidelines of National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), a State Level Coordination Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Thiru.Debendranath Sarangi, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr.Girija Vaidyanathan, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department as Vice Chairman and Dr.A.C.Mohandoss, I.A.S., Project Director, TANSACS as convener and a meeting was held at Secretariat on 24.04.2012. Senior officials from Government of Tamil Nadu, Railways, Police, Information and Broadcasting Department, Government of India, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development participated.

Dr. A.C.Mohandoss, I.A.S., Project Director, TANSACS welcomed all participants, briefed us the project and gave a Powerpoint presentation on RRE.

Dr.Girija Vaidyanathan, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department has informed the role of participating departments and requested for mobilization of visitors to RRE.

Thiru.Debendranath Sarangi, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government has instructed the officials concerned to discharge the duties allocated. He desired that Department and District Collectors may be asked to follow a protocol by which responsibility is fixed. Chief Secretary informed that the best performing district and department would be duly honoured by awards.

(A.C.MOHANDOSS)
PROJECT DIRECTOR
TAMIL NADU STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY

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