



Maharashtra Governor S M Krishna speaking after inaugurating the State-level conference on HIV/AIDS and drug awareness, organised by the Bhandary Foundation, in Mangalore on Sunday. From right: UNDP Advisor Dr S Sundaraman, Omega Hospital Managing Director Dr Joe Varghese, MLC Blasius M D'Souza, Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS Joint Convener and Member of Parliament J D Seelam, RGUMS Registrar Dr Srinivas Gowda, Bhandary Foundation President Manjunath Bhandary and Veenadhari are seen.

Mangalore, Monday, February 21, 2005

# Public awareness effective tool to control Aids: Krishna

Mr Krishna called for sex education in schools as a tool to create awareness on Aids and sought setting up of condom vending machines.

MANGALORE, THUR: Only enactment for control of HIV and Aids is not sufficient. There is a need to create mass awareness in this regard, opined Maharashtra Governor S M Krishna.

Speaking after inaugurating the State-level conference on "HIV/AIDS and drug awareness," organised by the Bhandary Foundation, here on Sunday, he stressed the need for both private as well as public participation.

Urging people's representatives, seers and priests to join hands in creating awareness on HIV/AIDS, he called upon them to make it a point to mention atleast a word about creating awareness on the deadly virus. In a lighter vein, he said talking about HIV/AIDS will not bring bad-omen in temples. "Even if it brings bad omen, there are ways and means to 'bless' them."

Stressing the need for sexual education in schools, Mr Krishna also explained the necessity of setting up vending ma-



Mr S M Krishna honouring HIV victim Veenadhari for her meritorious service in the field of HIV, at the State-level conference on HIV/AIDS and drug awareness, organised by the Bhandary Foundation, in Mangalore on Sunday.

number of people from this region have earned name and fame in Mumbai. However, when it comes to transmission of HIV/AIDS, unfortunately the Mangalore-Mumbai links is also one of the reasons for the increase in HIV/AIDS cas-

Speaking on the occasion, Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS Joint Convener and MP J D Seelam said the Forum was working on a draft legislation on HIV/AIDS control.

Though he did not give much details about the draft

Ma Veenadhari of Karwali HIV Positive Women and Child Network, who is also a HIV victim, addressed the need to change the attitude of the general public towards HIV/AIDS victims.

She also regretted that many a people did not know the difference between HIV and Aids.

She also cited a few examples on how the doctors squander money to treat any disease right from sinusitis to tooth ache, the moment they learn that the patient is a HIV victim.

### Felicitations

On the occasion, Mr S M Krishna honoured Ma Veenadhari and Mr Elango Ramchandran for their meritorious service towards HIV/AIDS victims.

In his welcome address, Bhandary Foundation President Manjunath Bhandary said the conference aims to emphasise the importance of nursing professionals in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention and to create an awareness in the younger generation.

UNDP Advisor Dr S Sundaraman, RGUMS Registrar Dr Srinivas Gowda, MLC Blasius M D'Souza, Omega Hospi-