

Welcome address

**Dr. SP Agarwal,**

**Secretary General**

**Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India)**

Ceremonial Session  
Of The  
Annual General Meeting  
Of  
Indian Red Cross Society And St John  
Ambulance (India)

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN AUDITORIUM  
New Delhi: 18-11-2014 AT 12 NOON.



Respected Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India and President of both, Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India),

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India) and Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Hon'ble Governors,

Vice Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society and Vice Chairperson of St. John Ambulance (India),

Members of the Managing Body & National Council of the two organizations,

Officers of our nodal ministry i.e. Ministry of Health and Family welfare, Heads of the regional delegations of the IFRC, ICRC and WHO,

Invited representatives of the partner organizations and National Societies, awardees, delegates, guests, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, I welcome all of you present here today and thank the Hon'ble President for agreeing to preside over the ceremonial session of our Annual General Meeting. Sir, your generous decision to host this event at Rashtrapati Bhavan like the last year, indeed highlights your keen interest in the humanitarian work of both of our organizations.



Sir, your continued guidance to us has ensured that the twin organisations have responded to provide humanitarian service to the vulnerable people during the several disasters that the country has

seen since the last AGM. Our FMRs rose to deliver their best during the Uttarakhand flash floods in June 2013 and our efforts were well recognised. Our volunteers were at the forefront of the evacuation during Cyclone Phialin and were able to evacuate more than 100 thousand people to the RC shelters. The FMR programme launched in J&K in late 2013 enabled IRCS to respond strongly during the J&K floods this year when they not only carried out search and rescue but also were able to distribute relief materials to the people displaced from their houses. Our Water purification machines have provided clean drinking water to lacs of people during these disasters and the tents provided by IRCS have provided much needed shelter to people following these disasters as well as in the earthquake that hit Doda in 2013.

Indian Red Cross Society is the largest statutory, humanitarian organization in India, with over 10 million volunteers and members spread over 700 branches throughout the country. St. John Ambulance (India) is also having a broad reach throughout India including hundreds of state/UT, regional, district and local centres. Sir, while the St John Association wing of the St John Ambulance (India) is involved in training people in first aid its other wing, the Brigade wing provides first aid and ambulance services.

Red Cross Movement consists of three components; the Indian Red Cross Society, which provides humanitarian services to vulnerable people, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, consisting of 189 National Societies including Indian Red Cross Society and the International Committee of Red Cross having a focus on assistance during conflicts.

We welcome Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, the Hon'ble Chairman and Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, amongst us. Sir, we feel fortunate to have a leader of your stature as the Chairman of the Managing Body of this noble organisation dedicated towards service to humanity. I and all the members and volunteers of both the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India) look forward to working under your dynamic leadership in the years ahead.

We also welcome the Hon'ble Governors, who head their respective state and union territory branches of these two organizations. Your guidance and support is crucial and is immensely appreciated for enhancing our humanitarian activities.



A special welcome to those who are going to receive awards today. You are torch bearers in the field of service to humanity. This recognition to you will enthuse many more volunteers to undertake similar activities.

I also welcome all those who have taken pains to travel to New Delhi from the branches and centres throughout the country.

With these words, while welcoming you all once again, Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India) rededicate themselves for service to humanity especially to alleviate the sufferings of vulnerable people under the able guidance and leadership of our Hon'ble President.

Thank you.