From the Desk of The Secretary General

The month of August heralds the beginning of the season of festivals in India. The biggest of them is the Independence Day which is celebrated throughout the country on 15th of August.

Some of the Red Cross Branches at State/UT and District level participate in the Independence Day Parade on a regular basis. Some branches depute their First-Aid teams and ambulances to take care of the people needing medical attention during the celebrations. I was happy to see that the branches also demonstrated Fist-Aid skills and ambulance drills on the occasion in their respective places.

Our Volunteers, with their kits are now geared to render aid outside the usual emergencies and other disasters, such as Ram Leela, fairs and assembly of people at temples & pandals.

The above descriptions amply justify the importance of First Aid in our organisation.

We have the unique privilege to train people requiring Proficiency Certificates in First Aid to become eligible for jobs in Private as well as Govt sectors.

The importance of First Aid doesn’t end here. Our community level reach of volunteers gives us the opportunity to administer emergency aid in times of any eventuality.

**Extraordinary Meeting of the Managing Body (02 August, 2019) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon’ble Chairman, IRCS, NHQ (Hon’ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare)**

3rd workshop on Project Cycle Management with support from ICRC with Results Based Approach at Faridabad, Haryana from 30 Jul to 02 Aug 2019.

PCM is vital for an organization if it has to achieve - proper use of resources, effective results for its work and building the credibility of the organization, particularly those that work with communities.

The workshop attracted 19 participants from seven IRCS state branches from northern zone and NHQ. This was the 3rd such workshop and total 57 IRCS staff from 25 branches and NHQ have been covered in the PCM capacity building initiative through 3 workshops.

Adoption of PCM by the IRCS will help it upgrade its interventions from activity-oriented to results-oriented and also improve effectiveness and quality of the intervention. The disaster and emergency specific activities of IRCS will also be greatly benefitted though adoption of PCM.

The workshop was conducted with intensive approach with focus on conceptual clarity and skill building in a step by step manner. It employed participatory methodology, scenario analysis, experiential sharing and adult learning techniques.

Further details available at [https://indianredcross.org/ircs/events/pcm](https://indianredcross.org/ircs/events/pcm)
Second batch of Home Health Aide (HHA) Course admission announced:

Applications are invited for a four-month Home Health Aide Course conducted by Indian Red Cross Society at its National Headquarters with support from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Outreach Programme.

Minimum age 18 years with schooling at least up to the 10th Standard

Last date of application 10th September, 2019
Date for commencement of course 4th October, 2019
Details available at https://indianredcross.org/ircs/training#HHA

IRCS– NHQ Blood Bank

Month of August 2019

Donors - 2415
Voluntary Donors in camps — 2102
Voluntary Donors in-house — 221
Replacement Donors in-house — 92

Percentage of voluntary donors—96.19%

Assessment visit to Odisha—Livelihood Project of IRCS-ICRC
28-29 August, 2019

IRCS and ICRC officials visited Laxmipur Block-- Karli, Minapai, Rourlipadar villages and Semliguda Block-- Khajarkhota, Dungriguda villages of Odisha on 28 and 29 August, 2019. The purpose of visit was to assess the situation of farmers after the RC assistance given last year in November and to know whether the SRI technique is being used. The assessment was done through community meetings in each village and field trip to each farmer.
Details available at https://indianredcross.org/ircs/program/livelihood#odishavisit
To get real time stock status of blood units, IRCS, NHQ plans to link all Blood Banks through web based E Raktkosh application. After piloting the idea at Andhra Pradesh, Nellore Blood Bank, training was given by CDAC team to all 18 Blood Banks of Andhra Pradesh on 13-14 August, 2019.

IRCS NHQ has been using this application since last 2 years and today all processes from blood requisition, tests, request to blood issue are done real time through this software. This has helped us in giving real time blood availability at NHQ.

eRaktKosh is an initiative by M/o Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It is a centralized Blood Bank Management System that strictly enforces NACO (National AIDS Control Organization) and NABH (National Accreditation Board for hospitals and Healthcare Providers) guidelines ensuring safer collection and donation, effective management and monitoring the quality of the donated blood.

Current blood availability at Blood Bank, NHQ is available at https://indianredcross.org/ircs under the link “Blood units at IRCS, NHQ”.

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**Blood Donation Camps Schedule available online at**

https://indianredcross.org/ircs/program/BloodBank/Camps

You can send a request for organizing Blood Bank Camps at https://indianredcross.org/ircs/program/BloodBank/requestCamp

**Stock Status of IRCS warehouses at Arakkonam, Bahadurgarh, Kolkata, Guwahati, Vikhroli and Viramgam is now available online at**

https://indianredcross.org/ircs/program/SERV/stockstatus

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Chief Minister, Odisha, Naveen Pattnaik conferred State award for social services to Mr A R Khan, Jt Secretary IRCS Keonjhar Odisha on 29 Aug, 2019 at Bhubaneswar for outstanding works through Red Cross.
Flood Response by Indian Red Cross across the affected States - July-August 2019

Great humanitarian work by SERV and PfR volunteers, YRC members of Indian Red Cross State and District Branches

Indian Red Cross Volunteers - Kerala State and District Branches

IRCS response in flood affected districts of Karnataka by Karnataka State and District Red Cross Branches.