From the Desk of
The Secretary
General

First of all I extend a warm welcome to the newly elected members of the National Managing Body. On 18 October the elections were conducted and results were also declared. This was the first time there was a tie. Two West Zone candidates representing Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra got equal number of votes, and, as per rules, Chairman IRCS selected the winner.

During this period I joined several other leaders of the National Societies for an induction into the Red Cross movement held at Kuala Lumpur. I learnt about the support available to National Societies by country, regional and Regional offices of the Federation and ICRC, enhanced peer to peer collaboration mechanisms between National Societies and initiatives appropriate to assisting National Society leadership in enhancing the way in which they undertake their respective roles.

In this month the branches also participated in the Annual Planning & Review Meeting in which existing projects were examined and discussions were held for the priorities for the next year. I also invited the Branch Secretaries of the St John (India) primarily to get their views on the ways to improve and authenticate their services and trainings.

Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have a long history of working together at various levels. This partnership is multidimensional which covers projects in 14 states, multiple thematic, Red Cross Movement matters and many other aspects. For better planning & implementation of various such projects/interventions, IRCS NHQ with the support of ICRC organizes annual planning meeting every year. This meeting gives an opportunity to all the project staff to come together, review the progress, discuss the challenges as well as opportunities and jointly plan for the coming year.

Objective of the APM - to jointly review the progress of the 2019 implementation plan (of various projects), identify challenges as well as success stories and plan for the next year. The APM also gives opportunity to review strategic & management matters associated with various projects.

Project staff from 19 States/UTs Branches participated in meeting and envisaged plan for 2019 through participatory approach using group discussions, individual experience sharing, interactive learning, and minimal use of PowerPoint presentations.

Summary of Discussions and key points are available at https://indianredcross.org/notices/APM2020.pdf
Admissions to 28th batch of Health Promotion through Ayurveda and Yoga course have been closed.

The 28th batch classes shall commence on 19th November, 2019. The course will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 06-08 pm at DMC building of Indian Red Cross Society, 1 Red Cross Road, New Delhi.

Details available at https://www.indianredcross.org/ircs/training/

IRCS– NHQ Blood Bank

Month of October 2019

Donors - 1543
Voluntary Donors in camps – 1308
Voluntary Donors in-house – 170
Replacement Donors in-house – 65

Percentage of voluntary donors—95.78%

Trainings & Events…
Glimpses from October, 2019 (From IRCS Branches)

The Indian Red Cross Society Srikakulam District Branch conducted mock drill on 31.10.2019 at Govt.Junior College, Tekkali Under Social & Emergency Response volunteer Programm 2019. AP Disaster Response and Fire services Departments joined the IRCS in giving demonstration on earthquake, fire accidents, road accidents and other disasters for creating and promoting awareness & knowledge to students.

IRCS Krishna District branch conducted SERV Core programme at Care & Share High School, Vijayawada. The volunteers created awareness on Red Cross vision & mission, Red Cross principles, WASH and also distributed hand wash liquid, soaps and first aid kit.
Elections: National Managing Body - 2019

28 out of 29 State/UT branches from where nominations came participated in elections.

Following State/UT branches were elected:

- **Northern region**: Haryana (Mr D R Sharma), Uttar Pradesh (Dr Shyam Swaroop and Uttarakhand (Mr Kundan Singh Tolia)
- **Southern Region**: A&N Islands (Dr R.Thulasidasan, Karnataka (Mr Basrur Rajeev Shetty) and Tamil Nadu (Mr Harish L Metha)
- **Eastern Region**: Arunachal Pradesh (Dr Emi Rumi), Jharkhand (Dr S P Verma) and Tripura (Mr Tushar Kanti Chakraborty)
- **Western Region**: Chhattisgarh (Mr Pranav Singh), Goa (Mr Rajesh Narayan) and Madhya Pradesh (Mr Ashutosh Rasik Bihari Purohit)


Meeting with Leadership of St. John Officials to Improve the Image of the Organization; 04 Oct 2019

Director Blood Bank, Dr Vanashri Singh, welcomed the participants, which was followed by comments from Sh. S.C. Goyal, Head of the St. John Delhi Brigade and Vice Chairman, St. John Ambulance (India) on the expectations from St. John, integration of Association and Brigade wing and find ways to maintain the standards of training and services.

Sh. R.K. Jain, IAS (Retd), Secretary General, St. John Ambulance (India), National Headquarters exhorted the participants to pull up their socks to impart credible training and raise the level of services to be able to survive in this important field of humanitarian activity. He invited advises from the participants during his first interactive meeting with all St. John officials representing Brigade, Railways and State/UT Centres. He offered his support to all such ideas and proposals by which quality of training, drill and field activities could be improved. He emphasized that certificates shall be given to only such trainees who are capable of providing First Aid at the time of need. He requested participants to explore more activities as per local needs apart from their core activities to be able to be useful to the needy communities.

Annual General meeting of IRCS, Telangana State Branch was held on 24th October 2019. Minutes of Meeting are available at [https://indianredcross.org/notices/MoM-AGMTelangana.pdf](https://indianredcross.org/notices/MoM-AGMTelangana.pdf)

IRCS, NHQ staff administered on 31 Oct, 2019, "Integrity Pledge" as part of observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2019 from 28 Oct to 02 Nov, 2019 [https://vimeo.com/370050213](https://vimeo.com/370050213)
Over 70,000 students were enrolled by the IRCS Telangana state branch. This was a result of the appeal by Telangana Governor, Dr. (Smt.) Tamilisai Soundararajan’s, (President of the state branch) to youth to get enrolled in IRCS. In the General Body meeting held at Raj Bhavan on October 24, the Governor had appealed to the IRCS to organise a special drive from November 1 to December 31 to enrol new members and also appealed to the district collectors to participate in actively in the Red Cross activities.

Asia Pacific Orientation for National Society Leaders, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

IRCS, Secretary General, Sh., R.K. Jain, attended Asia Pacific conference of National Societies leaders

Objectives of orientation were to have:

- an overall induction into the origins and workings of Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and its different components in promoting respect for the Fundamental Principles, IHL and promoting action on contemporary humanitarian and development issues;
- a clearer understanding of purpose and expected outcomes of leadership forums in Asia and Pacific which relate to the domestic as well as international roles, responsibilities and obligations of National Societies;
- an understanding of the support available to National Societies as delivered by country, regional and Regional Federation and CRC teams, enhanced peer to peer collaboration mechanisms between National Societies, and initiatives appropriate to assisting National Society leadership in enhancing the way in which they undertake their respective roles;
- an improved understanding of Movement co-operation and coordination mechanisms and framework for the development of National Societies