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**PROCEEDINGS**  
*of the*  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Virtual)**  
**OF**  
**INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY**  
**AND**  
**St. JOHN AMBULANCE (India)**

***Thursday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2020***



**Indian Red Cross Society  
&  
St John Ambulance (India)  
National Headquarters**

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**CONFERENCE ROOM, HON'BLE CHAIRMAN & HON'BLE HFM, NIRMAN BHAWAN**

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

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**Welcome Address by Secretary General, Shri R. K. Jain IAS (Rtd.)**

Respected Dr. Harsh Vardhan Ji, Hon'ble Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India) and Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Hon'ble Governors/Lt. Governors, Vice Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society, Secretary Health, Members of the National Managing Body & National Council of the two organizations, Heads of the Delegations of the IFRC, ICRC, awardees, delegates, guests, observers, ladies, and gentlemen...

At the outset, I welcome all of you and thank the Hon'ble Chairman for agreeing to preside over Annual General Meeting today. Sir, you have always found time to guide us in various activities of the Indian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance. Sir, staff, and volunteers feel proud and motivated by your august presence. Today, on behalf of entire Red Cross and St. John fraternity, I would like to take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt thanks to our Honorable Chairman and Honorable Minister for his visionary leadership. Your leadership for Ministry of Health's comprehensive response to ongoing COVID pandemic is indeed praiseworthy. Your selection as Chairman of WHO's Executive Board is a testimony of your leadership in the health arena.

I also thank Honourable President of India and President of Indian Red Cross Society & St. John Ambulance – Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji for his continued guidance and support to both the organisations. Rashtrapatiji always finds time despite his busy schedule to encourage us by participating in our activities. Recently, he flagged off the relief material for COVID and flood response. We are fortunate to have him as the President of the two organisations.

I also thank the Hon'ble Governors/Lt. Governors, who head their respective State and Union Territory branches and provide constant guidance for the smooth functioning of these organisations. Their presence today is highly appreciated.

This Annual General Meeting is taking place after a gap of four years. Due to ongoing pandemic, we have this virtual meeting. But I am sure we can make it a memorable one for all times to come. The year 2020 is a special year for Indian Red Cross, as we complete 100 years of our founding. All of us are fortunate to be a part of this historic AGM during the Centenary year. Today I am proud to say that Indian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance have lived up to their commitment and contributed for the betterment of the society. Let me use this opportunity to share some of the recent achievements of both the organisations.

While the Government of India is leading from the front in responding to COVID pandemic, the supportive role played by our both the organisations have been of immense value.

Thousands of our volunteers across the length and breadth of the Country are relentlessly working in the communities for the sake of helping others. The key ongoing activities include –

Advocacy and Awareness Campaign, Community Surveillance, Procurement, and Distribution of items like PPEs, masks, sanitizers, gloves, distribution of food items, transportation of patients, logistic support to isolation and quarantine centres and ensuring availability of blood and blood services, and coordinating on behalf of Govt. of India, import of essential items like PPEs, test kits, ventilators, oxygen concentrators. We are thankful to our Hon'ble Chairman for having faith and entrusting us with this responsibility.

Our network of 89 Red Cross Blood Centres rose to the occasion to ensure availability of blood and blood components in the Country. We came up with innovative ideas to motivate people to donate blood while ensuring safety and hygiene practices. I take this opportunity to especially thank and laud the generosity of all blood donors. We have also launched a blood service mobile app which is helping people book blood through their mobiles. We have also set up a 24X7 control room. Recently Indian Red Cross, headquarter has started a Thalassemic Screening and Counselling Centre, which shall help us reduce incidences of Thalassemia in the Country.

Disaster response has been the core activity of Indian Red Cross. This year we prepositioned around 50,000 tarpaulins and other relief materials. These came handy during cyclone Amphan and unprecedented floods in many States, including Assam, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. This helped in prompt distribution of items to affected families, which has been appreciated by local Government. We have now decided to preposition relief materials not only in the six regional warehouses of National Headquarter, which we have been doing so far, but also in the warehouses of disaster-prone States.

We have made specific efforts for branding of relief material to improve visibility and recognition of Indian Red Cross. Special precautions have been taken to ensure uniformity in the logo of IRCS on relief material and jackets to be used by Red Crossers. You must have noticed the improved branding of Indian Red Cross on the masks and soaps being distributed across the Country.

We are of the view that the Indian Red Cross and National Headquarter cannot be strengthened without strengthening the State and District branches. Therefore, to make State branches sustainable and vibrant, several decisions have been taken. National Headquarter will give 80% of the cost of any new initiative to be taken by a State Branch, which has a visible impact on the ground. In order to extend helping hand to smaller and financially weaker branches, particularly in North-East, National Headquarter has come out with a scheme under which National Headquarter will deposit Rs.1 crore in FD, interest of which will accrue to the respective branches. We have already deposited Rs.1 crore each, interest of which is going to Tripura and Andaman & Nicobar Island branches.

We have started using technology not just for communication but also for the mapping of communities at risk. A project with the support of Google, to provide early warning to the people in remote areas, is being started in Assam and Bihar. Based on the experience of this project, we will plan more such projects in other parts of the Country.

Learning from the current pandemic, we have started using technology for improved office functioning. The video conferencing facility has been upgraded. Periodic publication of e-newsletter will help not just the wider circulation but also contribute to saving paper and hence the environment. Our website has been revamped and has now become more user friendly.

Our social media activity and outreach are now at record high. Transparency and streamlining are another priority area. Some of the steps taken to ensure transparency include posting of our monthly expenditure on the website, procurements through Govt. e-portal and implementation of File Tracking System in National Headquarter.

Recognizing our responsibility towards the environment, we have installed rainwater harvesting system at the National Headquarter premises. Installation of solar energy plant is in process. Upon completion, this will produce thousands of units of electricity every year.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to all our State, Union Territory and District branches, their leaderships, volunteers, and staff, as without their support and ground level work, we would not have become the leading humanitarian organisation in the Country.

St. John Ambulance is also playing a key role in the overall humanitarian services, especially during emergencies like the ongoing COVID pandemic. They have helped people in need through their ambulance, first aid and allied subject training.

Today I must recognize the key factor behind our achievements this year and for last 100 years have been the volunteers. They are the backbone of Indian Red Cross, who selflessly give their time, energy, and efforts to serve the people and help Indian Red Cross achieve its objectives. I take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their commitment to the humanitarian work.

While we will continue with ongoing initiatives, the focus in times to come will be on enhancing and improving blood services, increased humanitarian response, making branches self-sustainable and increasing our footprints at the international level.

With these words, I once again welcome all of you and express our commitment to do more, do better and reach further, under the visionary guidance and leadership of our Hon'ble Chairman.

Thank you.

**Before the start of the statutory agenda items, a book titled "Initiatives" authored by Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, Vice-Chairman, providing highlights of his 3 years association with the Indian Red Cross was released by the Hon'ble Chairman.**

After the release, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, Vice-Chairman was requested to share his experiences in Red Cross.

**Sh. Avinash Rai Khanna:**

Hon'ble Chairman of Red Cross and St. John, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Governors, participating in this meeting and dear friends. I take this opportunity to request all the

Governors to take Red Cross and first aid to the Universities and Colleges. They are well positioned to do it as Chancellors of the Universities existing in their States.

I also thank Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Chairman, for agreeing to release this book which has details of my association with the Red Cross during last 3 years.

After this the Secretary General took up the statutory agenda of the Annual General Meeting:

### **Indian Red Cross Society**

First item was confirmation of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of IRCS held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

The Secretary General informed, "We have circulated the proceedings and no comments have been received from anyone". Hon'ble Chairman asked the online participants if they have any comments to offer. The participants nodded and waived their hands indicating confirmation of the circulated proceedings.

**The Secretary General announced that the second agenda items are for the adoption of Annual report of Indian Red Cross Society for the year 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.** He said "These Annual Reports were already circulated to branches by email and posted on the website. National Managing Body has approved it in its meeting when all the members of the managing body were present. So, if there are no comments. We can adopt this. We will put it on our website". The reports were, thus, adopted.

The Secretary General announced that the next item was the **adoption of Audited Annual Accounts** of Indian Red Cross Society for the year 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. He informed that the Audited Annual accounts have been approved by the National Managing Body of Indian Red Cross, have been circulated and posted on the website. Since there are no comments, we can adopt the Annual Accounts of three years. The Annual Accounts were adopted.

After that the next agenda item i.e., the **annual budget estimate** was taken up and the Secretary General said, "The Annual Budget estimates of Income and Expenditure of the IRCS for the year 2020-21 have been approved by the National Managing Body. And if, there are no comments we can adopt the Annual Budget estimates of Income and Expenditure of the finances of IRCS for the years 2020-21". The delegates nodded to indicate their approval and accordingly the item was approved and adopted.

Next item taken up for consideration was **Appointment of Statutory Auditors** for the years 2019-20 & 2020-21. The recommendation of the Finance Committee of the Indian Red Cross was informed that the existing Chartered Accountants, that is, M/s K. G. Somani & Co. Chartered Accountants for Disaster Relief Fund, including warehouses and for rest of the accounts M/s Sri Ravi Verma & Co. Chartered Accountants may be assigned the task to complete the audit of the Annual Accounts for 2019-20, and for the next year i.e., 2020-21. This was approved.

### **St. John Ambulance (India)**

Similarly, for St. John Ambulance (India), the first agenda item taken up was the confirmation of the proceedings, which are the joint proceedings of IRCS and St. John Ambulance, held in August 2016. The proceedings were submitted for adoption. The Secretary General informed that we could adopt the proceedings of the last AGM held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020 as no comments have been received.

Taking up the next agenda item, the Secretary General stated that the **Annual Reports** of the St. John Ambulance (India) for the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 have been approved by the National Council and have already been circulated. As no comments or suggestions have been received the General Body may adopt it. The Annual Reports were adopted.

After Annual Reports, the Secretary General took up the agenda of adoption of **Audited Annual Accounts** of the St. John Ambulance (India) for the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. He stated that the Audited Annual Accounts have been approved by the National Council and put up on the website. So, we can also adopt the Audited Annual Accounts in this AGM. Thereafter, the Annual Accounts were also adopted.

Next item for consideration was the **Budget Estimates of Income and Expenditure** of St. John Ambulance (India) for the years 2020-21. It was informed that these were approved by the National Council, put up on the website and circulated to the members. After the participants raised their hands, indicating their agreement, Budget Estimates for 2020-21 was also approved.

The Secretary General informed that about the **appointment of Statutory Auditors for St. John**, the National Council had agreed that the statutory auditors of IRCS will also be the Statutory Auditors of St. John. Therefore, the appointment of Shri Ravi Verma and & Co. Chartered Accountants for the year 2019-20 and 2020-21 was approved at existing remuneration.

Thereafter, Secretary General with the approval of the Chairman, opened the house for the views, suggestions, and comments of the Members of General Body. Hon'ble Governors present were requested one by one to give their comments and observations.

**Governor of Himachal Pradesh Bandaru Dattatreya**, "Honorable Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan and all others. I am happy to be here participating in the AGM of the Indian Red Cross. Our Himachal Red Cross is doing a good job. During the COVID all District branches are distributing food, masks and medicines in Districts. Some District branches distributed gloves, sanitizers and PPE kits in hospitals and primary health centres."

**Governor of Manipur Dr. Najma Heptulla** "In Manipur the Red Cross is doing the best in accordance with our ability. But we want to do more. For doing more we need more money."

**Principal Secretary to Governor of Jharkhand came online and said** "I am representing the Governor of Jharkhand in this meeting. The supplies received for Blood Centres and people have been distributed."

**The Governor of Uttarakhand could not be heard due to network issues.**

**CTM Suguna (retd.IAS), General Secretary Odisha State Branch,** “Odisha State branch has received relief supplies from NHQ in plenty. On behalf of the State branch, I thank the Secretary General and NHQ for the generous support.

**Dr. P. Vijay Chander Reddy,** Member National Managing Body, “I compliment the National headquarters for providing regular guidance and support during the COVID times during which relief supplies were sent all over the Country. The IRCS-NHQ provided support to the Blood Centres also, which is commendable. Red Cross in the Country mitigated suffering caused by the unprecedented miseries caused by COVID-19.

**Mr. Sudhanshu** from Bhubaneswar Odisha thanked Indian Red Cross Society on behalf of Odisha State Police. This senior police officer gave a detailed account of the blood donation camps organised by them in close coordination with the State branch. He also mentioned that no scarcity of blood was felt in their State during this period.

**Mr. Mukesh** from Gujarat introduced himself as a centurion donor. He also said that in his State Thalassaemia detection program and blood supplies to Thalasseemics has been a remarkable activity of the Red Cross.

**Dr. Himabindu Naik,** Member National Managing Body of IRCS and General Secretary of IRCS UP State branch informed that 40-45 District branches in her State helped migrant workers with food and medicine. During the flood also the District branches have provided substantial assistance to the affected people.

**Shri D.R Sharma,** Member National Managing Body and General Secretary of Haryana State branch said that his State has been winning blood collection shields in the past for collecting maximum blood in the Country. He wondered why his State did not get the shield despite maximum blood collection and wanted to know the reasons.

**Dr. Shekhar Chandratre,** “The NHQ response to the COVID -19 during the last seven months has been excellent. My suggestions would be that new technology and new ideas should be introduced in disaster management and health programs. Strategic development plan 2030 should always be kept in mind while undertaking any activity. The uniform rules should be implemented in all the States. NHQ should implement methods to reach the common people in the Country with its support.”

**Mr. Radhakrishna** from Telangana congratulated NHQ for convening the AGM during the time of pandemic. He thanked IRCS-NHQ for the material support and informed that Madam Governor of the State takes a lot of interest in Red Cross activities and inspires us do more all the time. He further said that his Chairman and the General Secretary are hardworking and very devoted. He proposed partnership with corporates for better funding which is being done in the State of Telangana.

**Mr. Ashitosh Purohit,** Chairman, M.P State branch and Member of the National Managing Body of IRCS provided detailed account of the relief and medical supplies received by the State branch from the IRCS-NHQ. He expressed his gratefulness for this support. He also shared details of the blood camps that were organised in the State and the advisory issued by the NHQ. He also

mentioned that blood was available in the State and their volunteers distributed masks and food and tried to maintain social distancing in public places.

**Dr. Vishwas** from Ahmedabad thanked IRCS-NHQ for the directions, guidance and material. He informed that first plasma donation to a COVID patient in the Country was organised by them.

**Dr. Sushil Kumar** from Ranchi, Jharkhand informed that the Jharkhand State was formed over two decades ago however no committee has been constituted so far.

**Dr. Bhawesh Acharaya**, Chairman of the Gujarat State branch in his intervention mentioned that central Government programs and financial support should be easily available in his State as the President of India is the President of the Red Cross and the Union Health Minister is our Chairman. He added that more participation of Red Cross at community level can be organised if more resources are channelled from the Government to the Red Cross.

**Dr. Neelam Jain** from St. John, Rajasthan stated that first aid proficiency certificates are not being issued by the IRCS-NHQ since March 2019. She desired that this should be expedited.

Secretary General, Sh. R. K. Jain summarised the comments and said, "We got some idea about what all of you are saying. We have heard about the shortage and lack of money. Some also talked about the work done during Corona pandemic and recent floods. I am sorry because of some technical glitch we could not listen to everyone clearly. But many of you, we have been able to hear clearly and if there is still any other suggestion, please write to us. We will take into account all your ideas. One of the participants also said about the problems of the First Aid Training and issue of certificates. We will consider these points and now I will request our Hon'ble Chairman to give his blessings and guidance on this occasion.

**Address by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Chairman:**

Good afternoon everybody, Hon'ble Governors, members of the National Managing Body, members of the National Council of St. John Ambulance (India), Red Cross and St John Ambulance members, volunteers and delegates, special invitees, observers, and other participants. We are privileged to hear Hon'ble Governors, Sh. Bandaru Dattatreya ji and Dr. Najma Heptulla. Some Governors wanted to speak but could not because of problem in communication lines. In any case we are grateful to all the Governors who are present in this meeting and who have sent their blessings through their representatives. I am grateful to all of them.

In this room we have Sh. Avinash Rai Khanna ji, Vice Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society and Mr. Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary Health, Govt. of India. I also acknowledge the presence of Mr. R. K. Jain, Secretary General of Indian Red Cross Society to whom we have been hearing and Dr. Vanashree, Director of the Blood Bank of Red Cross. I understand that Mr. Udaya Regmi, Head of IFRC, CCST, Delhi Office and Mr. Yahiya Alibi, Head of the Regional Delegation of the ICRC are also participating there and off course all the distinguished guests, awardees who have also joined us, delegates and all the observers of the two organizations and our staff of both the organizations.



So, first, let me express my gratitude to all of you for making yourself available for this General Body Meeting. As it has been described in detail by Mr. R. K. Jain, this meeting is taking place after almost 4 years. Although we had other meetings of the Red Cross and St. John, including Managing Body meeting, but this General Body meeting is taking place after 4 years.

I am delighted that we have been able to convene our General Body not physically but virtually at this COVID time. First, I would like to express my grateful thanks to our Hon'ble President of India, as you all know that the President of India is the President of Indian Red Cross Society and he is in fact the person who is supposed to be chairing this General Body Meeting. We have all seen that he is very committed to nation, to the society, to the poor people and to the activities of the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance. He has been helping us, guiding us all through and I must thank him because he delegated his power to me to preside over this meeting. Very recently he himself was kind enough to flag off the relief material to all the States from Rashtrapati Bhawan. Mr. Jain, myself and others were privileged to be part of a very grand symbolic function there. He continuously guides us. So, on behalf of all of us, I would like to express our respect for the President of India and the President of Indian Red Cross Society.

We have already passed the Annual Reports, Annual Accounts and Annual Budgets of both the organisations for the previous years. Now the planning shall be for the future. I am grateful to all the members. I am also grateful to Sh. Bandaru Dattatreya ji and Dr. Najma Heptulla ji who expressed their satisfaction and who have conveyed their wishes and blessings to the organization and given their suggestions. I am also happy that many of you have spoken today.

Some have expressed their satisfaction, and many have also expressed their appreciation for the hard and the sincere work that is being pursued by the headquarters. Being in Delhi, I have the privilege to watch what the headquarters does from very close. In the last couple of months, during COVID times, I had the privilege to be part of many functions in Indian Red Cross Society complex in New Delhi and in the field. It is also a very important year as Red Cross completed 100 years. If it were not COVID time we could have organized far more functions in much organized manner. But due to COVID the new normal is what we are witnessing today. There was some technical problem and disturbance because lot of people were joining the meeting little later than the proposed time. So, there were some glitches but now we hope to do similar meetings in a better manner as our Country has started learning about doing its work through virtual method ultimately. And you have heard the detailed description of all the relief related activities that have been pursued by the Indian Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance under the leadership of Mr. R. K. Jain.

I do not want to repeat those things, but I still remember during these nine months of difficult times when people were, in fact, under closed doors, but there was shortage of blood. I was getting messages from groups, such as Thalassemics, about non availability of blood. These patients survive on blood, so the lockdown made their life difficult. I held a meeting with the Secretary General and asked for his support and intervention to meet the crisis. Red Cross rose to the occasion admirably in the Country. It started sending its team and vehicles to the residences of the voluntary blood donors and collected blood for Thalassemics. It ensured regular supply of blood. An app was launched by the name of e-blood services where any Thalassemic, or others needing blood, could register their requirement for blood and then up to 4 bottles of blood were kept ready for 12 hours.

So, lot of such things happened during the last few months. A new screening centre for Thalassaemics was also started, which I had inaugurated. I also had the privilege to visit a Mandi in Delhi. Here, amongst the poorest of the poor, we distributed very good masks, which the Vice Chairman is also wearing today, which have been produced by the Red Cross Society. When I say it is a good mask, I technically say it is a good mask. It is not a loose mask, as it fixes well on the nose and covers the mouth and nose properly. And it's does not slip down, unlike others.

Masks, medicines, soaps, sanitizers, PPE kits, so many relief materials are being provided to the poor and needy since the start of COVID. I remember when there was cyclone in Odisha and in West Bengal or whether it was flood situation in UP or in Bihar or in Assam, I could see Red Cross volunteers all over. They work with so much of diligence, commitment, sincerity, and selfless approach.

We received so many good reports, which are very impressive and very inspiring accounts of the services delivered by the Red Cross volunteers. So, you have done us proud. The Country feels so happy about the performance of the Red Cross Volunteers. I would like to inform you that entire headquarters is very keen that their offices, various facilities, especially the blood centres in the whole Country, are not only up to mark but state of the art also.

There is a lot of support that is being offered and is also being planned by headquarters. You are more familiar than me about what all you have done and what the plans are for future.

We will use this occasion to also thank all the donors who have very passionately offered donation and material to the society for the poor people. This is because of the donations made by the donors to the Red Cross that we have been able to pursue the goals in a persistent manner and with significant consistency. There was no time during the COVID, we were short of material or short of funds. We could supply everything to the States without any complaints about shortage of supplies. Things like ventilators, oxygen concentrators and so many other things have also been donated to the Red Cross which Red Cross has given to the Govt. of India.

So, in this General Body, I make a very important announcement that you went to the places where migrant labours needed support. You provided them food, shelter and so many other things that were needed by them.

First meeting for COVID that we did in this Country was on 8<sup>th</sup> of January. That was within 24-48 hours of first report of corona virus prevalence in China was reported to the World Health Organization. On 8<sup>th</sup> October we completed nine months and we are now into the tenth month. The whole Country under the leadership of Narendra Modi ji has done quite well. We have worked as a total government approach, total society approach and everybody has worked very hard and sincerely.

Our Country with so much of diversity, so many States, so many Union Territories with population of about 1.3-1.4 billion, we have been able to perform much-much better than most of the countries of the world, including developed nations. Now we have active cases less than a million and already over 6 million patients have recovered and have gone back home.

We also have the highest recovery rate in the whole world which is more than 87% now. We have the lowest mortality rate of 1.53%, which is again the lowest in the whole world. We all

remember that from one laboratory in the Country, where the tests could be conducted at Pune, we have gone up to 1900 plus laboratories. The number changes every day and I think it is now about 1925 laboratories. And we are doing a million tests every day, about 1-1.5 million tests. We are close to having the vaccine also now. I am positive about it that in next few months we will develop a vaccine and in next six months we will be in the process of delivering the vaccine to the people of India.

That was the positive side of the whole thing. But, you see, if we do not follow the standard safety precautions, our life shall be in danger. That is why you see that now the most important thing for the whole Country is to ensure that we follow the precautions that have been advised by the Prime Minister and everybody. If we are alert, we can really cut down the transmission. The Country has to once again ensure that during this unlock, there is hardly anyone in the Country who is not following the precautions very sincerely. Hence, the Prime Minister has given a call for Jan Andolan and this is where I can see the Red Cross Volunteers role becoming more important. We have to be in touch with all other organisations and get this message across at the grass roots level, as, so far, we do not have any vaccine.

We need to follow the three vaccines that are physical distancing, wear masks properly and maintain hand hygiene. Instead of loose-fitting masks, wear a tight mask which can cover your mouth and nose properly. Wear it all the time, all day at least when you are out of your home. And the social and physical distancing, which has been very rightly described by the President and Prime Minister as 2 gaj ki doori, must be adhered to. And, of course, cleaning your hands frequently with soap and water is also not a difficult thing to do.

Please avoid unnecessary social gathering and going out unnecessarily. Ensure that you are not touching your nose and mouth with your hands. It does not involve any rocket science through which one can protect himself. If we are able to motivate the society and pursue this particular habit of following social distancing and habits, then, I am sure that in the coming months we can very easily eliminate the transmission of the virus at a very fast pace.

In the coming winters there is already a theoretical possibility of spreading of the respiratory viruses and their transmission. Also because of the festivals that are approaching in the coming weeks; we have to be more careful. So, there is need to take much more precautions, in a much more diligent and sincere manner. So, I would appeal in this General Body Meeting, while you are continuing with the great work you are doing, providing relief and relief material to the people of India, also make sure that within your own institutions, in your own organizations all our volunteers are involved in dissemination of this basic knowledge. Wherever you see a person without a mask, please stop and advise him because he is not only posing danger to his safety but is also posing danger for health of the others also.

This is probably the need of the hour and is the right time when because of unlock, there has been complacency. We can walk around; we can go to the market, but we cannot forget about the mask. We cannot take it casually. The government was bold enough to clamp the lockdown and government was also bold enough to start the unlock but we have to follow the norms for our own safety. The unlock was necessary to take care of the economy. Casual behaviour by people needs to be checked and corrected immediately so that may be this year itself we are able to check the transmission of COVID in the Country. And I want the Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance (India) volunteers to play a very-very critical and impressive role. I can wish all of you good health. I am sure that you will raise the flag of Indian Red Cross and St. John much

higher and we all feel proud to be associated with a great organisation like Red Cross. Once again congratulations, you have done very well during COVID time and we expect you to do much better in 2021 and there will be much more defined role for all of us when the Country starts vaccination and so many other activities.

So, once again thanks all of you, and specially my greatest gratitude to the Hon'ble Governors who have inspired us all by their presence in this General Body Meeting. Thank you, Namaskar, Jai Hind, Bharat Mata Ki jai.

After the address, Secretary General thanked the Chairman and assured him for active participation in the Jan Andolan to protect precious lives. Thereafter, he stated that the last item on the agenda is presentation of awards. He mentioned that the awards will be announced as it was a virtual meeting. Otherwise, the awards would have been given away to the awardees. Thereafter, following awards were announced, based on the scrutiny of the nominations by an Internal Committee, recommendations of the Awards Committee and approval of the Hon'ble Chairman.

### **Indian Red Cross Medal (Gold Medal)**

This is a gold-plated medal and is the highest award of Indian Red Cross Society. This award is given to anybody who has devoted services for the humanitarian cause of Red Cross. These awards are conferred to anybody who has rendered not less than 15 years of service to the Red Cross and there is no discrimination of race, position, or gender. The Society may give up to two medals in one year.

Following are the recipients:

#### **For the year**

##### **2016-17**

- (i) Dr. Binay Bahadur Sinha, Chairman, Bihar State Branch
- (ii) Dr. Bhavesh Fulchand Acharya, Chairman, Gujarat State Branch.

##### **2017- 18**

- (i) Dr. Neeli Ramchander, District Chairman, Nijamabad District, Telangana

##### **2018-19**

- (i) Shri Yarlagadda Dasaradha Rama Rao, Chairman, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh
- (ii) Shri Subhash Gupta, Member, Managing Committee, Haryana State Branch.

### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Certificate of merit is given to the Red Crossers who have rendered distinguished service for not less than 10 years. There is no discrimination based on race, position, or gender. The Indian Red Cross may give up to 6 awards of merit per year. Following are the recipients:

**For the year**

**2016-17**

- (i) Mrs. Geetanjali Panda, Executive Body Member, Puri District Branch, Odisha
- (ii) Shri M. Ragland Madhuram, District Secretary, Ramnad District, Tamil Nadu
- (iii) Dr. Illa Ravi, District Secretary, Krishna District Branch, Andhra Pradesh
- (iv) Dr. Rajkumar Shantilal Shah, Managing Body Member, Pune District Branch, Maharashtra.

**2017-18**

- (i) Shri Sanjeev Kumar Saxena, District Joint Secretary, Rajgarh District, Madhya Pradesh.
- (ii) Mr. Laishram Kuber Meetei, volunteer, Koengba District, Manipur.
- (iii) Shri Kamal Chandra Ghosh, Honorary Secretary, Purba Bardhman District Branch, West Bengal
- (iv) Mr. M. A. Syed Abudhahir, Joint Secretary, Dindigul District Branch, Tamil Nadu

**2018-19**

- (i) Ms. Arati Saha, Managing Committee Member of IRCS Nadia District, West Bengal
- (ii) Dr. P. K. Joshi, District Vice Chairman, Solapur District, Maharashtra
- (iii) Mohammed Amar, Vice Chairman, Wanaparthy District Branch, Telangana
- (iv) Dr. Ranjan Kumar Swain, District YRC Convener Secretary, Malkangiri District Branch, Odisha.
- (v) Mr. Appa Rao Akkone, Chairman, Gulbarga District Branch, Karnataka

**FUND RAISING & MEMBERSHIP SHIELD**

The two shields, which are given for Fund Raising & Membership Shield, were announced as under:

**Fund Raising and Membership Shields (Large) for States**

2016-17	Odisha
2017-18	Odisha
2018-19	Odisha

The Fund Raising and Membership Shields under Union Territory category

2016-17	Chandigarh
2017-18	Chandigarh
2018-19	Delhi

## Fund Raising and Membership Shields (Small) to State Branches

Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Position (State Branch)
2016-17	Himachal Pradesh
2017-18	Jammu & Kashmir
2018-19	Tamil Nadu

## BLOOD DONATION SHIELDS

For the highest blood donation category, the name of following awardees were announced:

Year	Name of State Branch
2016-17	Odisha
2017-18	Odisha
2018-19	Gujarat

For Maximum Blood collection vis-a vis population

Year	Name of State Branch
2016-17	Dadra Nagar Haveli
2017-18	Dadra Nagar Haveli
2018-19	Dadra Nagar Haveli

Secretary General informed that this year, NHQ has come out with one more award for the best three State/UT branches, which are based on quantifiable criteria, circulated in advance in consultation with branches. The first best branch will get Rs. 50 Lakhs, second best will get Rs. 30 Lakhs, and the third branch will get Rs. 20 Lakhs. The award money will be used by the branches for the purposes of Indian Red Cross only. The best three branches, as per the criteria are awarded to Gujarat State Branch, Punjab State Branch and Tamilnadu State Branch.

Secretary General informed that NHQ also decided to give awards to the best performing Red Cross Blood Centres, based on criteria which were finalised in consultation with States and circulated in advance. The best Blood Centre will get a cash prize of Rs. 50 Lakhs, and the second-best Blood Centre will get Rs. 40 Lakhs. This award money would be used for the purposes of Red Cross Blood Centres only.

It was announced that the award for best Blood Centre was given to Indian Red Cross Society, Ahmedabad District Branch, and second-best Blood Centre to IRCS, Blood Centre, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Following Awards were announced for **ST JOHN AMBULANCE (India)**

## **RAJ KUMARI AMRIT KAUR GOLD MEDAL**

2016-17

- (i) Shri Dilip Kumar Ghosh, Ambulance Officer, Eastern Railway Kolkata

2017-18

- (i) Dr. Ajay Mohan Shrivastava, St. John Ambulance, UP.

### **St. JOHN GOLD MEDAL**

2016-17

- (i) Dr. L. Tomcha Khuman, Life Member & First Aid Trainer of St. John Ambulance Manipur State Centre.

2017-18

- (i) Shri. K. Sundarajan of Southern Railway, Chennai.

2018-19

- (i) Sh. Pawan Kumar, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.

### **JIV RAKSHA MEDAL**

2016-17

- (i) Shri. Sushant Kumar Pattanaik, Asst. Commissioner, St. John Ambulance, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

2018-19

- (i) Shri. Milan Kumar Sahoo, Life Member & Joint Secretary, Cuttack District, St. John Ambulance (India), Odisha.

### **TRAINING SHIELD**

The Training Shield is given to the branch of St. John Ambulance (India) for imparting training to maximum number of persons in a year. For all the three years, i.e., 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 the shield goes to Haryana State Centre.

With the announcement of the above awards, Secretary General informed that these awards will be sent to the individual awardees and branches in due course.

Thereafter, with the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman, he stated that there was no other agenda and requested Dr. Vanashree Singh, Director Blood Bank, to propose a vote of thanks.

Dr. Vanashree: Thank you sir. Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family welfare, Govt. of India and Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance India, Dr. Harsh Vardhan ji, Hon'ble Governors of different States and Presidents of IRCS State Branches, Sh. Rajesh Bhushan ji, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Hon'ble Vice Chairman IRCS, Sh. Avinash Rai Khanna ji, members of the National Managing Body of IRCS and National Council of St. John Ambulance (India), Secretary General and Chief Commissioner of St. John Ambulance (India), Sh. R. K. Jain sir, My Yahia Alibi, ICRC Head of Delegation, Mr. Udaya, CCST IFRC, leaders of all branches, Red Cross & St John staff.

On behalf of Indian Red Cross Society, National Headquarters, I wish to thank all of you for your participation in IRCS Annual General Meeting. I would specially like to thank the contribution of all the volunteers for their continuous efforts along with their respective authorities during the flood and COVID-19 response activities for the Country. Our service to humanity has been appreciated by the authorities and affected communities. Your dedication helped Red Cross to move further and remain visible in the community. Once again, on behalf of the AGM organizing committee, I would like to thank all and wish you and your family excellent health. Thank you very much.

Thank You.