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

Tuesday, the 30th of AUGUST 2016

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

Ceremonial Session

RASHTRAPATI BHAWAN AUDITORIUM

30 August 2016

On the arrival of Hon'ble President National Anthem was played after which all dignitaries, guests and the delegates occupied their seats.

Welcome Address delivered by Joint Secretary, Dr Veer Bhushan

Respected Shri Pranab Mukherjee ji, Hon'ble President of India and President of the Indian Red Cross Society and St John Ambulance India, Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare & Chairman of the two organizations, Hon'ble Governors and Presidents of the respective state Red Cross and St John branches, awardees, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a privilege and honour to welcome all the esteemed invitees to this Annual General Meeting of Indian Red Cross Society and St John Ambulance (India). I take this opportunity to express sincerest gratitude on behalf of the Indian Red Cross Society and St John Ambulance India, to the Hon'ble President of the two organizations for convening the Ceremonial Session of the Annual General meeting for the third time in the hallowed precincts of the Rashtrapati Bhawan Auditorium. It is indeed a privilege for all of us to be present here, memories of which we all cherish for a very long time. Sir, under your visionary guidance the two organizations are serving the people by making them resilient as well as by alleviating their suffering in emergent circumstances. Kindly accept our warm welcome, sir.

It is my pleasant duty to welcome Shri J P Nadda, Chairman of our two organizations. Since taking over the reins of management of the two organizations, there has been a surge of growth and implementations of programme. His focus on voluntary blood donation and blood safety, outreach through IT, first aid trainings and making our people resilient to disasters has energized us to forge relationships with new partners. Sir, we are indeed fortunate to be guided by a leader who is focused on achieving humanitarian objectives with an unflinching commitment.

I extend a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Governors and Presidents of the respective state and UT branches of both organizations. Their participation shows their commitment to the shared objectives of Red Cross and St John Ambulance.

I also extend a hearty welcome to Sri Avinash Rai Khanna, Vice Chairman of the National Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society and Sh. S C Goyal, Vice Chairman, St John's Ambulance India.

A warm welcome to the esteemed members of the Managing Body of Indian Red Cross Society and the National Council St John Ambulance (India).

It is with pleasure that I welcome Shri C K Mishra, Secretary, Health; Dr Jagdish Prasad, Director General Health Services, Shri Rajiv Gupta, Secretary, Youth affairs and other senior

officers of partner departments and ministries of the government, especially the ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the nodal Ministry.

I welcome Mr Henk Bekedam, WHO representative to India, Heads of IFRC and ICRC for the region and invited representatives from the two organizations and partner RC societies.

I welcome all members of State and Union Territory branches of Red Cross and St John state/ district and railway centre office bearers, delegates, observers, special invitees and national headquarter staff and others. Thanks for being here today to make the programme a success.

Sir, as you are aware, Dr. S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General of both organizations passed away in harness in November last year. Dr. Agarwal was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan award as well as the highest award of the Red Cross movement, the Henry Dunant Medal. In his loss the Red Cross movement in general and the Indian Red Cross Society in particular has lost a guiding light. I and all members of the Red Cross and St John Ambulance family offer our condolences to his family.

The reports of the two organizations have already been circulated. However I wish to share with you a few important initiatives that have been taken by the National HQ and Branches.

The National HQ has been implementing the First Medical Responders programme in 18 State and UT branches. The district administration of Mandi has worked on this model and trained more than 9000 Red Cross volunteers as FMRs in all the panchayats of the district. The FMRs have been working among the community educating them on First aid, water sanitation and hygiene as well as participating in social programmes with mahila mandals to implement their version of Beti Bachao, Meri Ladli and other national campaigns that have made an impact in the district. One outcome noticed has been that boy – girl sex ratio has improved in the district.

Another such initiative has been taken by the Chandigarh UT branch. The activity is titled Kalam Express in remembrance of our past President Late Shri APJ Abdul Kalam. It is a mobile school to provide home - based education to children with multiple disabilities. The children who cannot commute to schools to attain education will be covered under this home-based education facility. The van will cater to the children with special needs in peripheral slums, rural and rehabilitation colonies. The children are being provided all necessary support services like medical attention and rehabilitation services. Kalam Express van will reach every child twice a week. Chandigarh branch has appointed an educator and a physiotherapist to teach the children with multiple disabilities. Presently 193 children are being covered under this initiative.

Sir, it is such initiatives driven by local need that will be the tools for change. I thank the branches for enthusiastically participating in such noble work in the country. I thank the branches for enthusiastically participating in such noble work in the country. With these words I once again welcome everyone present here and assure you that the Red Cross principles and the idea of “Service to humanity is service to God” shall be our motto for delivering our humanitarian service to the most vulnerable.

After this address Hon'ble Chairman of the two organisation's was requested to deliver his address:

Hon'ble President of India and President of Indian Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee ji, Hon'ble Governors and Vice Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance India, Mr. Leon Prop, Head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in India, Mr. Jeremy England, Head of the International Committee of Red Cross, members of the Managing Committee of the Indian Red Cross and National Council of St. John's Ambulance India, ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, I would like to express my thanks to Hon'ble President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee ji for kindly agreeing to preside over this ceremonial session of annual general meeting of St. John's Ambulance and Indian Red Cross Society today at Rashtrapati Bhavan auditorium.

Sir, your continued guidance and support to two organizations has strengthened their functioning so that they could respond to the various exigencies that this country has faced in the last two years. As you are aware that Indian Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance India are two of the oldest humanitarian organizations in the country, both having a history that spans almost a century, their mandates have been changing since their formation from volunteers providing support to soldiers, and the non-combatants who were affected by the two world wars, and thereafter during the partition and the several wars fought by the country post-independence.

In addition to the above, presently they provide services in diverse fields from the St. John's Ambulance India providing first aid trainings and ambulance services to the country through the association ring and the brigade ring respectively. The Indian Red Cross Society's interventions in disaster risk reduction, disaster relief and response restoring family link and health interventions include but blood services and first aid, the two organizations cover the range of humanitarian interventions.

Sir, in any country the government makes plans for well-being of its citizens and also mechanisms to implement them in today's times. When the needs are diverse, most players are called upon to participate in this implementation that includes civil society organisations, NGOs. However, there are roles that only the Red Cross can play due to the fact that through the mandate given to the National Societies by the Red Cross, statutes that they work as auxiliary to the government, the IRCS has been fulfilling its mandate admirably.

It forms an interface between the community and the administration right down to the district level, especially, in districts when the district collectors are the Presidents of the district branches. Sir, having suffered the wrath of nature in Uttrakhand in 2013, India has witnessed extreme flooding in Jammu and Kashmir in 2014 and in Chennai in 2015, in addition to earthquake, and manipulating huge loss of lives and property.

Given this background, the role of humanitarian organizations like ours to make our people more resilient to such disasters cannot be but underlined. According to the Indian Red Cross, it has been implementing the disaster management program since 1996. However, in 2011, the First Responders Program replaced this with the objective of training community volunteers across the structured training platform.

The steady increase in the number of such FMR volunteers from four thousand 2011 to the current 16,000 speaks of the increasing reach of this program being implemented in 18 State and Union Territory branches. This program also incorporates regular refresher training and several community outreach programs for community awareness. The response by these volunteers in the recent floods in Jammu and Kashmir and Chennai are testimony to their effectiveness.

Further, these volunteers are also involved in bringing connect between the community and the several social schemes like a Jan Dhan Yojna, Insurance schemes, etc. apart from involvement in programs like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Swasth Bharat, Swacch Bharat. Recently the IRCS has also built in the elements of climate change adaptation and environmental management in its program to make it more relevant to the current concerns. We have also supported the people of Nepal, Fiji and Sri Lanka by dispatching relief items in coordination with NDMA.

I hope that Indian Red Cross will play its role more proactively to be an integral part of the district disaster management plan to ensure a positive impact on making communities more resilient to the disasters which may impact them in future. The Red Cross movement is a strong advocate for voluntary blood donation across the world. In India, it contributes substantially to the blood collection through 161 blood banks which operate under the Red Cross umbrella including the blood bank at the National Headquarters which is a NACO designated model blood bank.

I congratulate them on this effort. I would like to exhort the Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance volunteers to take the lead and strongly and persistently promote voluntary donations across the country. In this effort to increase the resilience of the people especially in the health sector, IRCS embarked on supporting the RNTCP in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI in 2009.

Currently, it is being implemented in five state branches. More than thousand patients were enrolled in 2015 and more than 500 have been enrolled so far in 2016. Ninety-seven percent of the patients have adhered to the treatment. This program also educates community on TB facts and attempts to reduce stigma and discrimination against the TB patients.

I am happy that several such patients are there for the program now. The St. John's Ambulance India along with Red Cross trains lakhs of persons including students in first aid in an effort to standardize the first aid training. A center of excellence in first aid training is proposed to be set up within the Central Training Institute of National Headquarters situated at Bahadurgarh at

Delhi - Haryana border, for which we have been able to secure technical support from several international and national partners.

I hope similar centers will be established in different regions of the country. I am happy that the new evidence based manual for first aid, the Indian first-aid manual has been jointly published by the IRCs and St. John's Ambulance India, with the technical support of the evidence-based center of the first aid of the Belgium Red Cross Flanders. We foresee that this will be an important step towards providing a uniform standard of first aid training by the Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance India and increase the capacity and confidence amongst our first aid providers who will be able to intervene and assist victims of accidents more effectively across the country.

Sir the St. John's Ambulance India Brigade wing provides ambulance and volunteer services during several important congregations like Ganga Sagar Mela, Kumbha Mela, Godavari Pushkar Mela, Republic Day, Independence Day, across the country. I am sure that in the coming years these ambulance services will show a remarkable ascendancy in becoming a premier pre-hospital care provider in the country.

Volunteers are the core strength of both the IRCS and St. Johns Ambulance India. I would again like to congratulate all the award winners of both the organizations who will be receiving awards today for their outstanding services to the cause of the suffering of humanity. They are truly the embodiment of the spirit of voluntary action and through them I congratulate all the volunteers of both the organization's without whose selfless spirited services, these organizations would not exist.

Volunteerism, Humanity, Impartiality, Independence are some of the seven principles of Red Cross which also guide the work of St. John's Ambulance. I have tried to summarize some of the important

works of both the organizations today. The efforts of the two organizations will substantially contribute to building community resilience in the line of the objects of Sendai Declaration of March 2015 and the Paris Agreement.

I feel that in today's time, the message that these organizations bring can energize the youth to take a lead and leave the world a better place to live for future generations.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.

Awards/Medals presented at Rashtrapati Bhawan Auditorium by Hon'ble President

RED CROSS GOLD MEDAL

NAME OF AWARDEES, for the year 2014-15

Dr. A. Sridhar Reddy

Andhra Pradesh

Dr. Atul Vinayakant Desai

Gujarat

For the year 2015-16

Mr. Gopal Krushna Mishra,
Mr. Sanjeev Mehrotra

Odisha
Uttar Pradesh

Shields presented at Rashtrapati Bhawan by Hon'ble President

INDIAN RED CROSS SHIELDS

FUND RAISING AND MEMBERSHIP SHIELD, for the year 2014-15

Ist position

ODISHA STATE BRANCH

IInd position

DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI- U.T BRANCH

NAGALAND

For the year 2015-16

Ist position

ODISHA STATE BRANCH

IInd position

CHANDIGARH – U.T. BRANCH

HIMACHAL PRDESH

Shields presented at Rashtrapati Bhawan by Hon'ble President

HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY BLOOD COLLECTION SHIELD

For the year 2014-15

ODISHA STATE BRANCH

For the year 2015-16

ODISHA STATE BRANCH

HIGHEST NUMBER OF BLOOD COLLECTION SHIELD – ONE Vis-à-vis Population

For the year 2014-15

Dadra & Nagar Haveli

For the year 2015-16

Dadra & Nagar Haveli

Medals/Shields presented at Rashtrapati Bhawan by Hon'ble President

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE (INDIA)

NAME OF AWARDEES FOR RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR GOLD MEDAL

FOR THE YEAR 2104-15

Shri Ashim Nath

No. II West Bengal

FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

Shri G. Manikandan

No. 20 Southern Railway

ST. JOHN GOLD MEDAL

FOR THE YEAR 2014-15

Dr. Anwar I. Mansuri

Gujarat State Centre

FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

Shri Gobinda Chandra Satapathy

Odisha State Centre

JIV RAKSHA MEDAL

FOR THE YEAR 2014-15

Master Beedhovan

Kerala, Pallithura PO, Trivandrum

FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

Dr. Arun Gupta

Delhi Brigade

MEMBERSHIP SHIELD

FOR THE YEAR 2014-15

Maharashtra State Centre

FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

West Bengal State Centre

TRAINING SHIELD

FOR THE YEAR 2014-15

Haryana State Centre

FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

Haryana State Centre

After the presentation of awards Hon'ble President delivered his address -:

Address by Hon'ble President

1. I have immense pleasure in welcoming you to the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India).

2. I join the distinguished speakers who spoke before me in condoling the sad demise of Dr. S.P. Agarwal, Former Secretary General of the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India). Both these organizations and the people that he has served will long remember him for his contribution.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. I would also like to congratulate the winners of the awards conferred today. These awards are a fitting recognition of the outstanding work of individuals and organizations in relief and rescue, promoting health, providing care to the vulnerable and advancing these objectives by educating communities.

4. Chairman, of the Red Cross Society and St John Ambulance India, Hon'ble Shri J P Nadda, has presented a comprehensive Annual Report. What stands out is the dedication and commitment of the workers of both the Red Cross and the St John Ambulance. They have taken several commendable initiatives, taking their ongoing programmes to new levels of service and success. In many challenging situations, their timely assistance has robustly supplemented the efforts of Government.

5. For all that they have done, they have earned the admiration and gratitude of our whole society.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. We live in an age when so called 'Man-made disasters' are the order of the day. The work of the Red Cross in risk reduction, capacity building, humanitarian logistics, development work, disaster and crisis management has been invaluable in providing relief and succour across the world. Migration - whether internal or across borders is always a cause of concern. In such situations the need is - not only of material relief and involvement of well-trained volunteers - but also for hands-on support by society at large - delivered in a sensitive and humane manner.

7. In our country, especially, where economic, educational and social diversities often present difficulties in implementation of national developmental programmes, the involvement of volunteers and voluntary organizations in addressing these challenges is very helpful indeed.

8. Therefore, I am happy that the cadre of First Medical Responders created by the Red Cross at community level is now available in 18 states.

9. I would, however, stress that our vast country needs more numbers – more skilled human resources - not only for times of trouble but also when normalcy prevails - to help bring our Government's social programmes within the reach of the target communities. In this context, I laud the exercise made by Indian Red Cross Society to join the "BetiBachao, BetiPadhao" programme and the "Swachh Bharat" initiative.

10. The Indian Red Cross' Post Graduate Diploma Course in Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation is, similarly, a very good initiative. A network of manpower, ready for deployment is a boon when disasters occur – and can help to develop preparedness for mitigating the effects when catastrophe strikes.

11. Equally important is the Maternity and Child Welfare programme of the Red Cross – which has been particularly effective and popular in remote parts of our country. Its 'Universal Immunisation - Catch up programme' and 'Mission Indradhanush' have also been very successful.

12. I would like to see these programmes being constantly reviewed and updated to preserve their relevance and efficiency.

13. I would also encourage involvement of the younger generations in programmes for small children and the aged. With greater numbers of students joining the Indian Red Cross and the St John Ambulance, a key aspect of their overall education will be achieved. Capacity development at school level should inculcate, at a tender age, the values of selfless service to society; these values should make our children sensitive and alert to social ills so that they can focus on these in a positive way and contribute to the development of innovative solutions.

14. I am happy to learn that both organizations – the Indian Red Cross Society well as St John Ambulance (India) are financially sound; nevertheless, I would emphasise the need for corporate and philanthropic organizations to lend their support at all levels.

15. With regard to the new projects that have been mentioned, I am delighted to note that over the last two years, the Indian Red Cross Society and St John Ambulance have trained almost seven and a half lakh volunteers in first aid. I am also glad to learn that they now have plans to create a world class centre of excellence in First Aid near Delhi.

16. In the meanwhile, I am told, 2500 brigade divisions of St John Ambulance, continue to attend to casualties and save lives on a daily basis. Their presence at religious congregations, celebrations of national days and rallies are examples of the wide scope of their hard work.

17. For all their efforts, I thank the Indian Red Cross and St John Ambulance (India) and for their work and vision, for instituting the awards conferred today and for their contribution to humanitarian work in our country.

18. I commend the Red Cross for its wide network of blood banks – including the Model Blood Bank at its National Headquarters. They have successfully been promoting voluntary blood donation across our nation.

19. I also welcome their initiative of paying special attention to the training and enrollment of the future generations of volunteer members - and their efforts to ensure at least one trained 'first aider' in every family.

20. Last but not the least, I would also like to recognize the thousands of unsung heroes who have not received awards today but whose invaluable work and commitment have been vital saving lives and helping the needy all over India. They are the ones, who, at the grassroots make it possible to realize the many lofty achievements of these organisations.

21. As I wish you all greater success in your endeavours in the service of the nation, I would like to leave with you the inspiring words of Mahatma Gandhi which come to my mind:

Quote:

"Consciously or unconsciously, every one of us does render some service or other. If we cultivate the habit of doing this service deliberately, our desire for service will steadily grow stronger and will make not only for our own happiness but that of the world at large." Unquote. A drop from you voluntarily can convert the drop into an ocean and if we have this approach there will be no dearth for creating an ocean of kindness, sympathy and understanding for the more vulnerable sections of the society.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.

The Deputy Secretary proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Proceeding – Business Session – AGM- 30.08.16; DRDO Bhawan

Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India and Hon'ble Chairman of IRCS and St. John Ambulance (India), Sh. Jagat Prakash Nadda was welcomed and greeted on his arrival at the venue i.e. DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi, of the Business session of the AGM.

Dr. Veer Bhushan, Joint Secretary of Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India) welcomed Hon'ble Minister with a flower bouquet.

Welcome Address, Dr Veer Bhushan, Joint Secretary:

I welcome Hon'ble Chairman of both the organisations, Sh. Avinash Rai Khanna, Vice Chairman, Indian Red Cross Society, and Sh. S. C. Goyal, Vice Chairman, St. John Ambulance (India), Honorary Treasurer, members of the National Managing Body & National Council, Secretaries of the state and district branches of IRCS and St. John Ambulance Centre, delegates who have come from the different parts of the country, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

I extend my humble and sincere thanks to Hon'ble Minister, Sh. Nadda, for guiding us through out and for your participation in the ceremonial session, and for highlighting some of the most important achievements of both the organisations in recent years.

I would like to thank the Hon'ble President of two great organizations for kindly hosting us for the ceremonial session for the third time at Rashtrapati Bhawan Auditorium. It was an occasion, that I am sure will be in our memory for a long time and will inspire us to do better every time. I have great pleasure in welcoming all of you who have come from all across the length and breadth of the country to share your unique experiences and participate in the process of strengthening both these organizations, so that we can do better in coming years. I am honored to welcome today Sh. J. P. Nadda, the Chairman of our two organizations. Sir, I on behalf of all the members and volunteers of Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance India extend a warm welcome to you. Under your visionary and proactive leadership, the society has forged ahead in the implementation of various programs and activities.

I have pleasure in welcoming Sh. Avinash Rai Khanna, Vice Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society, under whose guidance, we have been able to hold all the meeting of the sub-committees and taken important decisions in good time. I also welcome Sh. S. C. Goyal, Vice Chairman, St. John Ambulance (India), who has, probably for the first time in the country, initiated the process of using motorcycles as ambulances to provide first aid and transport injured in the city of Delhi. A warm welcome to all the awardees who have set up high standards for all of us to do humanitarian work. I am sure each of you will take it upon yourself to ensure that all volunteers and members with whom you work will be inspired by your personal dedication and deliver the very best to the vulnerable people.

Ladies and gentlemen you will be happy to learn that since the last general meeting of the national headquarters of both the organizations, we have continued to develop and expand various program and I've also diverted our attention on environmental and climate change issues. The nation and our neighbors have seen huge devastation in form of floods in Chennai and other places in the subcontinent. Fiji, Sri Lanka saw unprecedented flooding and earthquakes jolted Nepal and adjoining states of India. I am pleased to inform you that the Red Cross has been at the forefront of response within and outside the country and has dispatched relief in record time to the affected states in India as well as to the countries abroad. The first medical responders' program has been growing in strength, now covering 18 most disaster-prone states. I am happy to report that the implementation by the state and UT branches has been very good. We now have more than 19000 FMRs, 500 instructors and 160 master trainers. We have conducted refresher trainings of master trainers, instructors and volunteers. The adaptation of our model by the district administration in some places as well as the training of youth members nominated by the department of youth affairs in Andhra Pradesh have been the high points of this program. Several outreach programs have been held by the district branches and the community members. I am sure all this brought more resilience in the community. Video conferencing is being used for better interaction and with branches that have established the facility which has been provided by the Indian Red Cross Society, National Headquarters. I, however, exhort all those other branches that have not fully established this facility to do so quickly and come on board. The website of National Headquarters has links for e-learning for the volunteers of both organizations on a range of topics of humanitarian aid as well as personality building. These are also open for non- members. I am sure many will use the facility in the coming days. Further, I proudly announce that our Facebook page and first aid app has also been created. Hon'ble Chairman has graciously agreed to make it public today. The new first aid manual is published with the support of Belgian Red Cross Flanders and with the technical support of the faculty of all India Institute of Medical Sciences, National Centre for Disease Control and experts from Red Cross and St. John Ambulance. The old copies of the first aid manual will be replaced free of charge. I hope that the state centres of St. John ambulance and state branches of Red Cross will send their request in the format already circulated.

The 10th batch of our part time PG Diploma course in disaster preparedness and rehabilitation that was conducted in national headquarters, in collaboration with Guru Govind Singh University has passed out. The 20th batch of the certificate program on Health Promotion through Ayurveda and Yoga, that is being conducted in collaboration with the department of AYUSH, CCRAS and Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga has been enrolled and classes are scheduled to start soon. The Indian Red Cross has been working closely with the government as an auxiliary body, supporting various health programs. Since the last AGM, about 2000 TB patients, who had defaulted from treatment have completed their treatment and thousands have been made aware about the disease. Volunteers have also worked in communities to reduce stigma and discrimination towards these patients. Our volunteers took active part in promotion of universal immunization and participated in sanitation, hygiene promotion and road safety drives.

Our organizations promote non remunerated voluntary blood donation to ensure the availability of safe blood. The 166 blood banks and other branches have collected about 90%

blood from such voluntary donors. However, we aim to collect hundred percent blood from the voluntary donors in the coming years. And I solicit your support for this purpose.

Ladies and gentlemen, the society works closely with ministries and other departments of the government. We are working closely with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and our relationship with National Disaster Management Authority and the National Institute of Disaster Management has evolved over the years. We work closely with the Red Cross movement partners and are making efforts to develop partnerships with different corporate and philanthropic organizations. We have developed partnerships with Belgian Red Cross, Israel Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, University of Dublin, IIT Mandi, IIM Gandhi Nagar, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, amongst others. I want to share with you that while our Society raises its own resources for its program and functions, it also received donations from some corporate bodies and individuals for the victims of floods in J&K and Chennai. On behalf of the society, I thank the donors for their support.

The St. John Ambulance (India's) association wing along with the Red Cross trained more than 7.5 lakh people in first aid and allied subjects. We propose to set up a Centre of Excellency in first aid at the Red Cross training institute, Bahadurgarh for which the boards of Indian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance have already given their approvals. Several other centres are also planned across the country. Through these centers we would be able to prepare world class trainers and impart high quality first aid training across the country. I am sure that with your support we will achieve the goals that we have set up.

The reports of the Indian Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance (India) for years 2014 & 15 and 2015 & 16 are already circulated and are available with you. These reports have been approved by the Managing Body of the Red Cross and the National Council of St. John Ambulance (India). Similarly, the accounts and budgets, which have already been approved by the Managing Body and the National Council, are also with you. We will consider the appointments of auditors of the two organizations today. I compliment the respective departments for the preparation and printing of the reports and accounts. The Hon'ble President of India and the President of the Indian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance (India) presented different awards which included shields, medals and certificates to our best performing branches, distinguished office bearers and volunteers. The Hon'ble Chairman will be giving away certificates of merit to Red Cross members and volunteers for their service to humanity. I congratulate all our awardees. This is a great occasion for all of us as our humanitarian endeavors get recognized in this meeting. I conclude by again thanking the Hon'ble Chairman for presiding over the meeting. Thank you.

Post his address, the Hon'ble Chairman was requested to give the Indian Red Cross Society Award of Merit Certificates.

For the year 2014 and 15,

Mr. Azgar Ali Shakh from Jammu and Kashmir.

Ms Emory Caroline from Meghalaya.

Mr. Uday Shankar Prasad Singh from Bihar.

Mr. Apoorv Kumar Ghosh from West Bengal.

Dr Vikram Dinkar Phatak from Maharashtra.

Mr. T Raja Sheker from Telangana.

For the year 2015 & 16,

Dr. Nandani Rangaswami from Tamilnadu.

Mr. Raja Sinha Ginger from Haryana,

Mr. Rajiv Nayan Tiwari from Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. S. S. Saini from Chandigarh.

Mr. Oma Kanta Nakh from Odisha.

and Mr. Sumeet Ajay Bhai Thakkar from Gujarat.

After the certificates were given, Hon'ble Chairman, Shri JP Nadda delivered his address.

Sh. Avinash Rai Khanna, the Vice Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society, Sh. S. C. Goyal, Vice chairman of St John Ambulance (India), Sh. M. P. Gupta, the Honorary Treasurer of Indian Red Cross Society, Veer Bhushan Ji, respected representatives of the state branches, members from the press, electronic media and print media, and dear friends.

It is indeed a matter of great happiness for me to be present here. First in the ceremonial function and now in the business session of the Annual General Body meeting where we are going to discuss and deliberate on various issues, and the working of the Indian Red Cross Society and St John's ambulance (India).

Dear friends, first, I would like to congratulate all the awardees who have received the awards.

It is their full involvement and their participation in the activities of Red Cross, and their dedication and sincerity with which they have worked, that today they have got the awards. I, on behalf of Red Cross Society and my team members would first like to congratulate them.

I am also grateful to Hon'ble President, who gave his valuable time today. It is because of his involvement that we get inspired to work more and see that we are able to deliver our services in the best possible manner. I, along with you all would like to assure him that we will go forward in the direction that has been shown by him. As desired by him, we will go a long way in making our Red Cross a meaningful society and a meaningful organization.

Dear friends, I would also like to thank my colleagues, Vice Chairman, Sh. Avinash Rai Khanna, Sh. S. C. Goyal, Veer Bhushan and Mr. Gupta, and their team for having worked hard to realize the goals and aspirations of Red Cross Society. So, I congratulate them and all their team members.

The role of Red Cross Society and the St. Johns is to work as part of the civil society. When we talk about helping the society, we talk about the interventions in the disaster

management and the support to be given to the government, to the needy in the times of a calamity. The civil societies are working on one hand, and the government is working on the other hand, the two together work under our Hon'ble President. The Health Minister, along with the Governors and the Deputy Commissioners at the district level, work coherently to alleviate suffering of the people. But we all know that despite our best efforts, gaps still exist between the government and the civil society. Our prime objective should be to fill this gap. And for that, it is nobody, it is only we, the representatives of Red Cross, who can do it, who are in one way the representative of the government also, and at the same time work in coordination with the civil societies and can fill the gap.

So, in all our projects which we make in coming times, and all our programs which we design, we should see to it that our role is to fill the gaps. The efforts and support of the government is immense, and we need to capture it. The same way, the civil societies are also making efforts to do their best, but, as I said, gaps still exist. The work and the dimensions of the society have changed. So, the disaster management has also become a very specialized work. Hence, we must ensure that we attune ourselves and train ourselves in the best possible manner for various types of disaster management.

I'm happy to note that St John and Indian Red Cross have together given a lot of emphasis on training and a number of centers are proposed to be started for training. We are trying to go for a center of excellence also, and that's a very good idea. But at the same time, how we can improve the quality of training is one aspect which we should address seriously. The first medical responders program is being implemented in 18 states and UT branches and the number of volunteers has increased many fold. I must appreciate your good job, but at the same time, again, I will say that we should also give emphasis on the quality of the training. The St John's Association, through their 82 State, railway and army centers are imparting the first aid training. This is also commendable.

Aiming for hundred percent voluntary blood donations is also one of the very important goals. I'm happy to note that we have done a good job with NACO, and our blood donation centers are working well. But there is always a scope to improve the services. We are also increasing the capacity of blood donation and its storage. But our blood donation centers should also be up to mark and willing to improve so that they can meet international standards.

In the morning session, Hon'ble President had talked about the participation of the Red Cross workers in 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', 'Swachha Bharat, Swastha Bharat' and other such programs. One of the programs, he put stress on, was Indra Dhanush, a very important activity which I would also like to emphasize upon. You see, approximately every year some 2 crore 70 lakh children are born in this country out of which 90 lakhs are devoid of immunization. Now, when we talk about healthy India and Swastha Bharat, we can't have a healthy India, if we are unable to address take care of these children. That is why we started the mission Indra Dhanush. I'm very happy to share with you that we were able to immunize 54 lakh children last year. This year we are going to increase it to 65 lakh and during the next year we will cover at least 85-90% of immunization under Indra Dhanush program. Our volunteers can take active part in this. We must find out the children, the left outs, map and cover them. For this, we will need to make a micro plan. Two years back, 10 lakh children used to be hospitalized just because of diarrhea, and 1 lakh lost their lives. We introduced rotavirus vaccine and now we are able to save 1 lakh children every year. We also reduced

the number of children hospitalized substantially. Hence, we have to actively engage ourselves to ensure that this immunization program becomes universal.

We introduced one program where your support is needed. It is about deworming. Children used to suffer from worms. We got to know that by giving them one tablet a year, this could be checked. You will be happy to know that in 2015, we administered 8 crore children and in 2016, we administered 21 crore children. Magical results were achieved by this small intervention. So, Red Cross could participate in such public outreach activities.

I'm very happy to note that IIT Mandi has taken up the task of re-evaluation of our work. This is very important academic activity. Also, a third-party evaluation gives us a foresight on how we are working and how we could move forward. The partnership with Belgian Red Cross, the University College of Dublin, Irish Red Cross, are welcome steps.

I would also like to stress upon corporate partnerships. The corporate world should be brought on board.

Dear friends, in today's Annual General Body meeting we will be noting your valuable suggestions and try to improve our working. Thank you very much.

After the address of the Chairman, Dr. Veer Bhushan, Joint Secretary of Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India) announced -:

Launch of First Aid Mobile APP

In our attempt to bridge the digital divide between the community and the Red Cross, between the volunteers and the headquarters, district, state, sub-district headquarters and the National headquarter, we have now launched two initiatives. The first initiative, that is now on the screen is the first aid mobile application. This is an application which has been prepared and created by the students of BITS Pilani, (Birla Institute of Technology and Science). This hall does not have an internet, so we shall show you the pictures. You can download it free from the Google Play Store on Android phones. We have already placed it on the Play Store. I request you sir for your permission to now actively promote this first aid application.

Launch of Facebook Page

The second initiative is more out of our desire to connect with people and as I was saying, it is the launch of IRCS' Facebook page. Unfortunately, this hall does not have internet connection, so Hon'ble Chairman has kindly placed his launch message which is on the screens of the hall. It is one of the first messages which have been placed on this Facebook page. So, thank you very much sir for your kind approval.

After above announcements Statutory Agenda was taken up as follows -:

Approval of the Proceedings and Adoption of Reports & Accounts

You have on your chairs the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on the 18th of November 2014. These have also been circulated. So, we welcome comments, if any, or we will consider it passed. Sir, it is passed.

The Annual Reports for the year 2014-15 & 2015-16 and Annual Audited Accounts for the same period were circulated and are available with you today. They have to be adopted by the general body. After adoption they shall be tabled on both houses of the Parliament. As no comments have been received, we consider them adopted.

The annual budget estimates for the income and expenditure for year 2016-17 are also circulated. I will request the Honorary Treasurer to kindly say a few words about that.

Sh. M.P. Gupta, Treasurer

Respected Chairman and friends,

The revised budget estimates for the current year 2016-17 show a surplus of 9.96 crores. The Managing Body decided in the last meeting that we must use this money, otherwise the income tax authorities will charge tax on it. So, it is proposed that we spend about 6 crores on capital expenditure during this year. For the next year, the net surplus is going to be 8 crores. And similarly, about 5 crores will be spent on capital expenditure. What I wish to mention is that though we have surpluses, there are very few proposals to use it on capital works.

Now I shall take up the appointment of the statutory auditors for the years 2016-17. The Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society had decided that the statutory auditors for the disaster relief funds shall be M/s K G Somani and Co. and for the rest of the accounts, it will be M/s Ravi Verma and co. General Body is requested to approve it. As there are no observations, we consider it approved.

St John Ambulance (India)

Now we come to the agenda of St John Ambulance (India).

The Annual Reports for the year 2014-15 & 2015-16 and Annual Audited Accounts for the same period were circulated and are available with you today. They have to be adopted by the general body. As no comments have been received, we consider them adopted.

Presenting the accounts and budget estimates, Honorary Treasurer mentioned that the annual budget estimates for the income and expenditure for year 2016-17 were also circulated and laid on the table of delegates.

Honorary Treasurer informed that St John has a surplus of about Rs. 50 lakhs, after a very long time, and the National Council in its meeting has decided that we should ask for proposals from the state branches, up to Rs 50,000 each for capital expenditure, so that the amount is used. The next item is for the appointment of statutory auditor for the year 2016-17. M/s Ravi Verma and Co. are the statutory auditors for the year. They are proposed to be the statutory auditor for the year 2016, if that is approved. Since no voices heard, it is also approved.

Thank you very much.

After the completion of the statutory part of the General Body, floor was opened for discussions and suggestions by the Joint Secretary.

Before that it was mentioned that following the last AGM, we had requested all the branches, state centers and all the members from the St John and Indian Red Cross Society

to come up with their suggestions or comments to us. Fortunately, or unfortunately not many comments were received. So, we again sent a letter to all of them asking for comments in case there were any.

We have not received any formal comment, or any query that needs to be raised. There may, of course, be some delegates who would like to ask questions, Sir, if, you kindly permit.

Hon'ble Chairman opened the floor for suggestions and comments. Some of the important points raised are as under:-

1. One St John delegate said, "Sir, HT may like to speak on this, but I would like to say, basically, under proper sections of income tax, St John, as well as Red Cross are exempt from their income which is not taxable. The National headquarter has been able to get this exemption. But all of us do not have this exemption.

HT responded that each and every state and district branch must have its own income tax exemption. They cannot club it with the National headquarter. This is as per the orders of the income tax authorities. Kindly ensure that all branches have their own income tax account, own PAN cards and once you have them, you can ask for exemption. You can show our certificate to say that when the national headquarter and so many other branches are getting it, you are also entitled for it.

2. Myself, my name is Dr. Subramaniam. I'm the Chairman of Nellore District Red Cross, Andhra Pradesh. Sir, we are running more than 12 projects including cancer hospitals, first aid center, generic medicines, HIV AIDS hospital etc. See all people are working here, but what I say is district branch should work like a state branch.

3. Delegates from Bihar, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu raised several questions on the blood programme. They also talked about introduction of NAT test in their blood banks. It was informed that NAT is not mandatory. However, if blood banks have the resources and capacity, they are at liberty to start the test. Our emphasis is on non- remunerated, repeated voluntary blood donation. We should also try to target 100% voluntary blood collection. Eliza IV, most probably, will come next year.

Hon'ble Chairman also intervened and said that Red Cross would address, whatever it can. However, the support that is needed from the Ministry of Health should be sent to me through the National Headquarters.

After that Dr Vanshree Singh, Director Blood Bank was asked to propose vote of thanks.

Vote of thanks; Dr. Vanshree Singh: Good evening everybody.

On behalf of National Headquarters of Indian Red Society and St John Ambulance India, I, extend thanks to Sh. J. P. Nadda ji, the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Hon'ble Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society and St John Ambulance for finding time from his busy schedule and agreeing to preside over this business session of the AGM of both the organizations. We thank you sir for kindly giving away the certificates of merit to the Red Cross workers for their distinguished service to the organization, as well as for your kind words that will certainly motivate all the participants present here.

I also want to thank Sh. Avinash Rai Khanna, Vice chairman of Indian Red Society and Sh. S. C. Goyal, Vice Chairman of St John ambulance India for kindly attending this function. While congratulating the awardees again, I wish to thank all the members of the National Managing Body of Indian Red Cross Society and those of National Council of St. John Ambulance (India), along with all the delegates from the State and Union Territory branches from Indian Red Cross Society and St. John ambulance, who have traveled a long distance to attend today's Annual General Meeting. I am sure, your suggestions and encouragement will guide us to work towards making these glorious organizations achieve greater heights and recognition. It is our common endeavor to work for the most vulnerable in our country, at all times. Finally, I would like to thank all the staff of the DRDO Bhawan and Indian Red Cross Society, National Headquarters who have tirelessly worked to ensure a successful meeting.

Thank you.