The President of India and Indian Red Cross Society, Smt. Draupadi Murmu, graced the ceremonial session of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) on 17th July, 2023 at the Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre.

This AGM took place physically after a gap of six years. OSD, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Members of the Managing Body of IRCS, Heads of the Delegations of the IFRC and ICRC, awardees, delegates, guests, observers and other distinguished dignitaries participated in the meeting.

More than 300 delegates from across the nation participated in the meeting. The AGM was held in the physical presence of Governors and Lieutenant Governors from nine states and Union Territories, while several others joining virtually.

Hon'ble President of India felicitated the best performing Red Cross State and UT branches and distinguished Red Crossers for their outstanding contribution to the Indian Red Cross Society. A total of seven awards in three different categories were presented.

The Business Session was presided over by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Chairman of IRCS and Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, GoI. He gave merit certificates to 6 distinguished Red Cross workers.
The President said that philanthropy has been considered as the most important human value in Indian tradition. She was happy to note that the Indian Red Cross Society has been serving people for more than 100 years. She lauded IRCS for having shown its commitment through relief work during the natural disasters and health emergencies. She appreciated all the members and volunteers of the Society for their dedication and service to humanity.

She appreciated IRCS officials & volunteers for their dedication, compassion and selfless service that inspires others. She expressed confidence that the Indian Red Cross Society would continue to work more for the welfare of humanity.

The President was happy to note that the Indian Red Cross Society is meeting about 10 percent of India's blood requirements through its 100 blood donation centres and mobile blood collection drives across the country.

She said that the Indian Red Cross Society is playing an excellent role by safely collecting blood for those in need and promoting the culture of voluntary blood donation.

She urged members of the Red Cross Society to work for removing misconceptions related to blood donation, and to connect people, especially the youth, with this noble social cause.

The Ceremonial Session started with the welcome of the Hon'ble President of India & Hon'ble President of IRCS. After the Presidents arrival presidential band played the National Anthem. Then Secretary General, IRCS, Sh. R.K Jain initiated the proceedings and delivered his welcome address. He highlighted the key activities of IRCS during the FY 21-22 including Disaster & Covid Pandemic response, Blood Services etc. He also talked about adherence measures on transparency and accountability and new initiatives like Online Examination of First Aid.

After Secretary General’s address, the Hon'ble Chairman and Hon'ble HFM Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated the Hon'ble President with her portrait prepared by the traditional artists of Mithilanchal, Bihar i.e Sikki Art.

Thereafter the Hon'ble Chairman and Hon'ble HFM Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the meeting. After his address the Hon'ble President of India and Hon'ble President of IRCS Smt. Draupadi Murmu ji presented the awards to the distinguished Red Crossers for their outstanding humanitarian service. Then Hon'ble President addressed the meeting.
Addressing the assembly, Dr Mandaviya stated that the Red Cross is born to serve the needy and vulnerable. He added that "Indian Red Cross Society should aspire to win the next Nobel Peace Prize for its humanitarian work." He also stated that the "Indian Red Cross has to reach the next level by engaging in relief programs beyond Indian boundaries."

The Union Health Minister informed that in order to bring more efficiency and transparency, state IRCS branches should give a monthly report in the form of PPT to their Hon’ble Governors so that Red Cross work is disseminated and more and more people get attached to the organization. He also said that Red Cross should work transparently so that it becomes the first choice to get funding under CSR from the corporate world.

Hon’ble Chairman & Hon’ble HFM, Dr. Mandaviya, lauded the IRCS for providing medical & humanitarian help in any disaster or humanitarian crisis and promoting the health & care of vulnerable people & communities.

Hon’ble Chairman and Hon’ble HFM also highlighted various initiatives of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi’s Govt to create a healthy & prosperous India like Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Ayushman Bharat, TB and Sickle cell anemia eradication programs and encouraged Red Cross to play significant role by contributing to achieve the goals..
Presentation of Awards

Hon’ble President conferred Red Cross Gold Medal upon Dr. LN Ambati Natraj from Telangana and Dr. Goparaju Samaram from Andhra Pradesh. IRCS, Odisha State branch was given a shield for raising maximum funds and IRCS Jammu & Kashmir UT Branch was given a shield for raising maximum funds in relation to its population for the year 2021-22 amongst the UT Branches. Gujarat State branch and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, UT branch received Blood Donation Shields for highest voluntary blood collection.

Red Cross Gold Medals

Dr. LN. Ambati Natraj, Chairman, Mahabubnagar District, Telangana, has received Red Cross Gold Medals for his services which include:
1. Organising 150 Blood Donation camps and collecting in total 20,859 units of blood.
2. Work during COVID pandemic and collecting donation of over ₹35,00,000
3. 100% JRC/YRC Registration in Mahabubnagar District
4. Donated blood himself 148 times + 2 times plasma donation.

Dr. Samaram has also received many other awards including Gold Medals and Certificates by the Governor and others from the year 2000 to 2019. He has so far received 42 Gold Medals, 31 Silver Medals and 45 Merit Certificates.

Fund Raising and Membership Shields

1st Position (State Branch) Large Shield - Odisha (For FY 21-22)
1st Position (UT Branch) Large Shield - Jammu & Kashmir (For FY 21-22)

Odisha State Branch has raised funds to the tune of Rs. 2,220,55,146.67 and contributed to NHQ its share of Rs.33,08,272. It held the first position in the category of State Branches. The % collection vis a vis population is 47.95%.

In the category of Fund Raising and Membership UT Branch Jammu & Kashmir raised the highest funds to the tune of Rs.151246/- and % collection vis a vis population is 1.12%.

Fund Raising and Membership Shield (Small)
2nd Position (State Branch) Small Shield - Haryana (For FY 21-22)

Haryana State Branch has raised funds to the tune of Rs.32,34,350 and contributed to NHQ its share of Rs.4,86,217. It held the second position in the category of State Branches. The % collection vis a vis population is 10.85%
Gujarat State Branch was awarded shield for collection of highest number of voluntary blood in the year 2021-22. It collected 2,77,616 units of blood. The Vice Chairman of Gujarat State Branch Sh. Ajay Desai collected the shield.

Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu UT Branch was given shield for maximum Blood collection vis-à-vis population for FY 21-22 (1.349% collection vis-à-vis population). Ms. Charmie Parekh collected the shield on behalf of the branch.

The Business Session was presided over by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon’ble Chairman of IRCS and Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, GoI. Members of the Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society, delegates, observers, awardees were among others present at the Business Session.

Sh. R.K. Jain, Secretary General presented the following agenda for consideration and adoption by the General Body: 1. Confirmation of the proceedings of the last Annual General Meeting held on 17th May, 2022. 2. Presentation, consideration and adoption of (i) Annual Report and Audited Annual Accounts of IRCS for the year 2021-22. (ii) Annual Budget Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the year 2023-24 (iii) Approval of the appointment of the Statutory Auditors for the year 2023-24.

The Governors from different State/UT Branches shared their views, suggestions, and comments during the session.

The Hon’ble Chairman IRCS & Hon’ble HFM, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the delegates and also presented Indian Red Cross Certificate of Merit for FY (2021-22) during the Business Session.
Chairman's Address

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Chairman, IRCS, addressed the business session. He congratulated all recipients of awards. He stated that IRCS may win the World Peace Prize for its work. He exhorted Red Crossers to work towards it to fulfill this cherished award. He went on to say, “Health is not a commerce in India; it is a service in India,” emphasising that service is more than just a phrase; it is our culture, and the Red Cross can do a lot in the sphere of service to mankind. He stressed the importance of expanding IRCS coverage at the state, district, and block levels. He also stated that the Red Cross should work transparently in order to become the first choice for corporate CSR financial assistance.

Indian Red Cross Certificate of Merit (2021-22)

Indian Red Cross Society Certificate of Merit was awarded for the year 2021-22 to the following:-

1. Prof. Dr. Dilip Dasharath Karad, Maharashtra
2. Sh. Bijay Kumar Singh, Jharkhand.
3. Sh. Premraj Nial, Odisha
4. Dr. Anil Garg, Uttar Pradesh
5. Sh. Kalyandas Lilaram Ramchandani, Gujarat
6. Dr. Laishram Manglem Singh, Manipur.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
Prof. Dr. Dilip Dasharath Karad from Barshi Sub district branch, Maharashtra has been associated with Red Cross for 32 years. He was felicitated with the Red Cross Certificate of Merit for his remarkable work which included formation of junior and youth Red Cross units in 16 educational institutions, enrolment of 56 members, collection of donations for Red Cross of over Rs. 40,00,000 and organizing 130 blood donation camps.

Sri Vijay Kumar Singh from East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand has been associated with Red Cross for almost 37 years. He received Red Cross Certificate of Merit for his service to Red Cross which included enrolment of 185 members, organising 82 blood donation camps in which 7500 units of blood were collected, conducting 300 rural health camps, provided ambulance services, free eye camp project, and raised over Rs. 38,000 for the branch.

Shri Premraj Nihal Burla, from the Boudh District branch in Odisha, has been involved with the Red Cross for 15 years. He received the Red Cross Certificate of Merit for his outstanding contributions, which included recruiting 82 members and organising 170 blood donation camps, where 8458 units of blood were collected.

Dr. Anil Garg is the vice chairman of the Ghaziabad district branch, Uttar Pradesh. He has been involved with the Red Cross for 44 years. Dr. Garg received the Red Cross Certificate of Merit for his outstanding contributions to the organisation, which included enrolling 4740 members, conducting first aid trainings, and holding 20 blood donation camps in which 400 units of blood were collected. He also assisted in the delivery of general aid.

Kalyan Das Leela Ram Ramchandani from Dahod District of Gujarat has been associated with Red Cross for over 25 years. He was awarded with the Red Cross Certificate of Merit for his excellent service to the organisation, which included training in first aid, distributing aids & appliances to differently abled, enrolling new members, screening thalassaemic patients, and establishing new taluka level branches.

Dr. Laishram Manglem Singh has been associated with Red Cross Manipur for over 23 years. He received the Red Cross Certificate of Merit for his dedicated volunteer activities, which included enrolling 130 members, organising 26 blood donation camps, and leading relief teams during natural disasters such as landslides and fires.

Business Session concluded with the Vote of thanks by the the Vice Chairman, IRCS, Dr. Anant Pandhare ji

Blood -Donations
IRCS NHQ Blood Centre
A single drop of blood can make a huge difference

The Month of July, 2023
Donors – 1872
Voluntary Donors in camps — 1702
Voluntary Donors in-house — 170
No. of camps— 35
Blood/Blood Components issued - 4136 units

Donating Blood is Safe!

IRCS NHQ Blood Center timings for blood donation:
Monday- Saturday (except 2nd Saturday): 9 AM – 7 PM
2nd Saturday, Sunday, Public Holidays: 10 AM – 6 PM
Note: The NHQ Blood Center is open 24/7 for issue of blood