

Dr S P Agarwal Remembered



A meeting was held at the IRCS National Headquarters to pay homage to Dr S P Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS, and St John Ambulance (India), who passed away after a brief illness on the morning of 17 November, 2015. All the staff members and officers of the National Headquarters, Dr Kamla Gidwani [Vice Chairperson of the National Council of St John Ambulance (India)], Mr Suresh Deora (Member, National Managing Body), Heads of Delegations of the ICRC, IFRC, CRC and Belgian Red Cross (Flanders) their delegates & officers were present. Ex staff/officers and students of the PG Diploma Course in Disaster Preparedness & Rehabilitation also joined the meeting. Chairing the assembly, Dr Veer Bhushan, Joint Secretary of IRCS and St John Ambulance (India) shared the vision of Dr Agarwal and recalled his astute leadership. Several participants, including Dr Gidwani, Mr Deora, Ms Mary Werntz, ICRC and Ms Susan Johnson, CRC remembered the passion and compassion with which Dr Agarwal worked.



Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Chairman, Indian Red Cross Society & Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India along with Hon'ble Mrs. Mallika Nadda visited the Indian Red Cross Society stall set up at "Shauryanjali"- an exhibition organized by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Indo-Pak war of 1965.

The Indian Red Cross stall had several photographs of its work done for the displaced persons from the war torn border areas and the

The exhibition had exhibits including the vehicles, arms and ammunitions used, artistically recreated battle sites and showcased various important engagements by the Army, Navy and the Air Force. Indian Red Cross had on display photographs as well as a video presentation of its work including relief camps set up for war displaced persons, collection & packing of amenity stores and gift parcels for the Indian prisoners of war, exchange of lists of prisoners of war & their repatriation, psycho-social support by Red Cross lady welfare officers to jawans admitted in service hospitals, training in home nursing to lay ladies as well as dispatching blood collected from voluntary blood donors to treat injured personnel.

injured jawans as well as for repatriation of the Prisoners of War held by India and Pakistan, along with its movement partner the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) during the war.

The exhibition, formally inaugurated by the Union Minister of Defence, Mr Manohar Parrikar, on 15 September 2015, was visited by the Hon'ble President and Vice President, the Hon'ble Prime Minister as well as by several cabinet ministers and other dignitaries. Dr S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General of IRCS, delegates from the ICRC and from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) also visited the exhibition.

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Quarterly
Review of Activities
IRCS
National Headquarters

India Pulse

this issue

From the desk of Secretary General
Shauryanjali
New Partnerships-TB Project India
Systems-ICRC supported activities
Successful CRC phase ends
Brach Activities



From the Desk of Jt Secretary General

I am in shock and deep sorrow while placing the second issue of our E Newsletter. The doyen who conceived it is no more. But the show must go on, and this shall be a true tribute to the noble soul. He had desired that it would be appropriate to publish it every quarter for better connectivity, and I shall honor that.

During this period our blood banks were under tremendous pressure due to unprecedented dengue outbreak in the country, including in Delhi NCR. The challenge was mountainous as family members of some of the staff in our blood bank also got affected. There increased workload and the working hours of staff got stretched to meet the demands.

Also, we had the opportunity to participate in the high profile exhibition of the 50th Anniversary of the Indo-Pak War of 1965. Held in the lawns of the India Gate, we used the opportunity to showcase our work during that war. The details of all this and more are covered in this issue of our newsletter.

Once again, our real tribute to Dr Agarwal would be to keep the wheel propounded by him rolling.

A DOYEN OF HUMANISM PASSES AWAY



Dr Satya Paul Agarwal, the serving Secretary General of the Indian Red Cross Society & St John Ambulance (India) passed away on 17 November 2015 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

after a brief illness. He was 70. Dr Agarwal had been the Secretary General of the Indian Red Cross since 2005. He received the Henry Dunant Medal, for the Indian Red Cross work following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. He was the chair of the IFRC Advisory Body on Sustainable Development and Health and one of the former vice presidents' of the IFRC. Remembering Dr Agarwal, Dr Veer Bhushan, Joint secretary, Indian Red Cross said that, "He helped prepare vulnerable populations for disasters by starting First Medical Responders(FMR) programme. He also established modern emergency operations centres in several state headquarters and had set up a dedicated national water and sanitation response team". Jagan Chapagain, who was the IFRC head of Asia Pacific until earlier this year, said, "First Medical Responders are a fitting legacy of Dr Agarwal's passion for health care and the welfare of the most vulnerable people."

Among his many achievements was the modernisation of the Red Cross blood bank at New Delhi.

He set up a University affiliated Post-graduate diploma course in disaster preparedness and rehabilitation in 2006. He also set up a course on health promotion through Ayurveda and Yoga. This is run in collaboration with the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, with the support of the government.

A neurosurgeon and academician, Dr Agarwal was India's longest-serving Director General of Health Services, holding the post from 1996 to 2005. As a public health administrator, he played a pivotal role in disaster relief operations and responses to diseases such as pneumonic plague and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. He served on the governance or management boards of prestigious organisations like Tuberculosis Association of India, National Disaster Management Authority, the Bureau of India Standards etc.

He received the Dr B. C. Roy National Award for Eminent Medical Person in 2002, the Lifetime Achievement Award for Tuberculosis in 2005, and a Doctorate of Science from Punjab University in 2007. In 2010, Dr Agarwal received the Padma Bhushan award, the third highest civilian honour in India.

Dr Agarwal authored and edited several books. His death has been condoled by all, including the Secretary General and the President of the IFRC.



The local Red Cross branch volunteers and staff have helped in evacuation of people from their homes, given first aid, water bottles/pouches, and provided chapattis/other cooked food to those who have taken refuge in schools, places of worship or community centers. In the temporary shelters gas stoves and dry ration is also being supplied.

500 trained first medical responders (FMRs) and Red Cross volunteers have been instrumental in evacuation, relief and other response services in their areas of operation. The other relief items include family packs, cotton blankets, dhotis, sarees, kitchen sets and mosquito nets that have been provided locally.

Topping up the efforts of the local branches the IRCS NHQ released non food items to support 2300 families in Tamil Nadu, 1000 families in Andhra Pradesh and 200 in Karnataka. NDRT, NDWRT and other trained personnel are on ground with all possible relief and support.

In accordance with the preliminary quick assessment of the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu branches the national headquarters proposes to provide kitchen sets, mosquito nets, bed sheets, cotton blankets, tarpaulin sheets, hygiene kits, stationery for school children and vocational tools for those who have lost their livelihood. IRCS seeks fund support to help a further 10,000 most affected families in Andhra and Tamil Nadu.

Bid Adieu to the Head of the South Asia Regional Delegation



Indian Red Cross Society bid adieu to the Head of the South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Mr. Simon Missiri. In a brief function Dr. S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS thanked Mr. Simon for his valuable and rewarding tenure in the region. He shared some of the instances, such as, raising of DREF (Disaster Relief Emergency Fund) and response coordination during Nepal Earthquake, which were managed appropriately due to Mr Simon's astute leadership. Mr. Simon in his address said, "National Societies such as India, Indonesia & Kenya hold the future of the Red Cross Movement." He expressed satisfaction on his two year stint at New Delhi and desired to be remembered as a friend of the Indian Red Cross Society.

Mr. Simon moved to the Geneva Headquarters of the IFRC after finishing New Delhi's assignment.



ICRC Supports IRCS on a range of activities

"Together we are strong", was the echoing sentiment at the recent state branch coordinators meet for the ICRC supported programmes held at the NHQ from 1-5 December. The ICRC supports many activities in 13 IRCS state branches, as per the Plan of Action. During the sessions, there was continued focus on applicability/awareness of IHL, Budgeting, Safer Access, Youth and Junior Red Cross programmes and other areas of functionality which need capacity building. Addressing the session, Dr Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS said that the main objective of the meet was to identify major gaps in functioning from the branches. Ms Mary Werntz, Head of , ICRC Regional Delegation based in New Delhi, appreciated the frank discussions held on a variety of issues while dwelling on finding the right solutions to accelerate success of activities. She also affirmed that the ICRC was here to support the IRCS in all ways possible.

RFL/FNS Workshop



FNS/ RFL participatory workshop was held on 2nd November 2015 at IRCS NHQ. Participants from IRCS Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal state branches, ICRC and IRCS headquarters participated.

The workshop objectives were

to share the achievements of the ICRC support to the IRCS FNS department since 2012, analysis of the on going cases and plan for better implementation of the activities in annual plan of action.

TB Project



The Irish Red Cross supported TB Project, "Prevention & Management of Tuberculosis, including MDR—TB 2015", is progressing satisfactorily in the two Punjab districts namely, Amritsar and Jalandhar. Out of the targetted 400 defaulted Cat-1 & 2 cases, the volunteers have been able to put back on treatment 353 cases till November.

The program also has a Nutritional support component that has achieved 99 % adherence.

Five TB screening camps were also held in which 7845 people were screened for prevalence of the disease.





ABC PEER EDUCATOR TRAINING

The first National Training of Educators of ‘Youth as Agents of behavioral change’, was held between 14 – 20 December 2015. ‘Youth as agents of behavioral change’ is a flagship initiative of the IFRC to promote a culture of non violence and peace by educating and creating a cadre of master trainers who would provide ethical leadership role in the community and also spread a set of humanitarian values and personal skills like empathy, active listening, critical thinking, non violent communication etc amongst their peers.

The faculty comprised of international experts of IFRC and the 8 day course was held at the National Institute of Biological at NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh.

“This is a very good opportunity for all of you to get trained as agents of behavioral change. But it should not stop here. You have to take it forward to your peers and others to trigger the change. First bring the change in you and then embark on changing others”, said Dr Veer Bhushan, Joint Secretary, addressing the course participants.

Youth leaders from 13 state Red Cross branches have come to Delhi to attend the course. The convener of the programme, Dr Vanashree Singh said that the full time residential course has been designed to create a cadre of trainers who would be empowered with the necessary skills to take the learning to the community level ensuring this peer learning approach. Mr Bhavesh Sodagar, IFRC said that the Indian Red Cross is among the 125 national societies to have adopted this approach of bringing behavioral change among the community.

Officials of the IFRC, ICRC and Indian Red Cross Society also attended the opening session.



**Tamil Nadu
Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram**

The Government of India launched Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram had been lapped up by the IRCS Tamil Nadu state branch in 2013. The 22 drop back vehicles transported 6842 mothers with babies between July– September 2015. From incep-

tion, when there were 5 drop vehicles to the present 22, 30160 mothers and babies have been transported.

STATUTORY MEETINGS IN GENEVA

Dr Veer Bhushan, Joint Secretary and Mr Manish Choudhary, Deputy Secretary, IRCS attended the General Assembly, Council of Delegates and the Diplomatic Conference of the Red Cross movement held during the first fortnight of December 2015. IRCS pledged to participate in the One Billion Coalition goals of the IFRC.

The One Billion Coalition is a transformative initiative to scale-up community and civic action to strengthen individual and community capacity to thrive in the face of adversity. The goal is that by 2025, at least one billion people around the world will have taken active steps to become safer, healthier, and more prosperous.

Maharashtra



The Bel-Air Hospital in Panchgani, Maharashtra was awarded the Times of India Healthcare Achievers Award 2014 in the category of ‘Innovation in managing long term condition’. Healthcare Achievers Awards 2014 is an initiative by The Times of India and New India Assurance Co. to celebrate achievements and recognize those healthcare providers who have raised the bar in healthcare with their dynamic spirit and innovative outlook .

Madhya Pradesh : Mahila Halfway Home



The Gwalior district branch in the state of Madhya Pradesh has a unique service for those ladies who had been psychoneurotic and psychic patients. Those treated and cured are sometimes unable to be accepted by their families. They have no place to go, suffer ignominy and hence become vulnerable.

The district branch runs a ‘Mahila Halfway Home’ for such ladies. It is situated in the premises of the Mental Hospital in the city. The centre was started in July 2015 and has 10 inmates. The inmates are provided accommodation, food, bed, medicines, medical facilities and round the clock security.

There is provision for worship, bhajan, counseling by lady counselors, educational activities, music & entertainment and all other essential services for a healthy physical and mental well being. Recently they have been provided a master tailor to teach them cutting, stitching and embroidery.

Necessary staff for looking after them have been appointed by the district branch.