



# INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

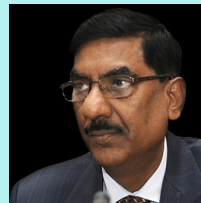
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## From the desk of The Secretary General

February 2020 has been a very special month for IRCS. We are taking several initiatives to strengthen our blood services and achieve 100% voluntary blood donation.



February is also the month when we organized a pan- India blood donation drive to mark the centenary celebrations. Several blood donation camps were organized by Red Cross across the country to encourage people to come forward and donate blood. I am absolutely delighted to share with you the success of our endeavor through this newsletter. It is heartening to see so many people come forward to share their love with those in need. What also needs special mention is the fact that several youth came forward on this occasion. I appreciate their cognizance and am certain that their efforts will strengthen our endeavour to create awareness in society on the imminent need to achieve 100% VBD.

The efforts put in by all State/UT branches to make this day a success is commendable. This assures me that each member of our strong family embodies the spirit of the Red Cross Movement in letter and spirit. I congratulate all states for their achievements.

I am also pleased to see several branches, members and volunteers take up initiatives at their level to mark this august occasion. Let us all take this opportunity to celebrate our achievements and share them with the larger world! Wishing you the best!

A 2 day Induction Program was held for the National Managing Body Members on the 13th & 14th of February. Heads from ICRC and IFRC also participated in the workshop and assured IRCS of their commitment to support its ambition to become one of the leading NS's in the world.



## Activities planned for Centenary Celebrations :

- ◆ Coffee table book showcasing 100 years of Indian Red Cross Society's Journey- underway.
- ◆ An IRCS Museum- underway.
- ◆ A postal stamp with Red Cross Centenary logo.
- ◆ All IRCS branches to hold four events, namely, JRC/YRC activities, Blood Donation and Medical Camp, Swachha Bharat Abhiyan, Sensitization in first-aid till April. **Blood donation & Medical camp activities were held on February 20, 2020.**
- ◆ A national painting competitions for Junior Red Cross members.
- ◆ A national First Aid competition for Youth Red Cross members.
- ◆ A Youth Fest 2020 (postponed).
- ◆ An International Seminar of National Societies (postponed).



## Let's donate Blood & Save Lives!


A mega Blood Donation camp was organised in Jadcherla, Telangana to mark the occasion of ex- Minister Dr. Laxma Reddy's birthday. On a single day, 1296 units of blood was collected. A camp was also organised for cancer patients. Dr. Laxma Reddy was felicitated with a Seva Medal sent by Hon'ble Governor & Hon'ble President, IRCS State Branch Telangana, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan for achieving the highest collection of Voluntary Blood Donation in the state.




Meet Shri Rahul Sholapurkar!  
A centurion donor, he recently donated blood for the 162nd time at Nagpur.  
'By donating blood, you save someone's life. I encourage all youngsters to follow suit', says Rahul!

### Fighting Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

There is a lot of information about the Corona outbreak, and not all of it is true. To ensure people receive information that is accurate, IRCS NHq has taken steps to ramp up its efforts to tackle the epidemic. An advisory has been issued to all State/UT branches to take multiple initiatives to fight the spread of fake news and reach people with life-saving information. IEC material in the form of an infographic has also been circulated.



**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19**  
**ADVISORY FOR STATE/UT BRANCHES**



**Protect yourselves & others.**  
**Practice good hygiene etiquette to ensure the safety of your family and others around you!**

**Do's** ✓

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water. Also use an alcohol based sanitizer.
- Dispose off used tissues into closed bins immediately after use
- Visit a doctor if you feel unwell. Cover your mouth and nose when you visit the doctor.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue/hanky/bent elbow when sneezing or coughing

- Stay away from large gatherings
- Use medical masks

**Don'ts** ✗

- Shake hands. Maintain a safe distance from anyone with cough and fever.
- Spit in public places
- Touch your eyes, nose and mouth

Information Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

## IRCS NHQ Blood Bank

A single donation can save upto 3 lives

### Month of February 2020

Donors - 2958  
 Voluntary Donors in camps - 2815  
 Voluntary Donors in-house - 143  
 Percentage of voluntary donors - 100 %



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Uddhav Thackeray visited the Red Cross Bel Air Hospital at Panchgani, Satara, Maharashtra on Feb 1, 2020. Red Cross runs a TB, HIV/AIDS hospital & sanatorium with a College of Nursing.



### Be the sunshine in someone's life!

Meet Vikas

Initially reluctant due to fear of injection, he was initiated into blood donation 8 yrs ago by his elder brother. 'Bhaiya said it will hurt a bit, but you will feel great that you helped someone in need', says Vikas, now a regular donor at NHQ blood bank.







## Blood Donation & Medical camps were organized for IRCS' centenary celebrations- 20th February, 2020

*'What comes from the heart, goes to the heart'- S T Coleridge*

As part of the Centenary Celebrations for the month of February, Indian Red Cross organized Blood Donation and Medical camps across the country on the 20th of February. Thousands of enthusiastic & generous donors joined us on the day from different states and walks of life to donate blood & give someone the 'gift of life'.

In an endeavour to reach as many people as possible, our State/UT branches successfully conducted a number of blood donation camps at various locations.

A mega blood donation camp was organized at Cyient in Telangana to mark the occasion. Hon'ble Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan graced the occasion with her presence.

The response to the clarion call of Hon Governor was overwhelming with over 500+ Engineers donating blood to mark the occasion.

On the same day, Madhya Pradesh State Branch started a non-stop 24 hour blood donation camp in Bhopal at 6:15 AM. This camp created a world record for the longest ever blood donation camp, winning a 'Golden Book of World Records' award! We salute the dedication & commitment of Red Cross volunteers, staff and donors who came forward to make this initiative a huge success! Kudos to your spirit!

Shri Biswa Bhushan Harichandan, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh participated as Chief Guest at a program organized by Andhra Pradesh State Red Cross Branch to make 'most people sign up for blood donation in eight hours!' 10,200 students from the city of Vijaywada participated in the blood donation pledge drive organised on the day. Andhra Red Cross made it to the Guinness Book of World Records for this achievement and earned appreciation of the Hon'ble Governor for mobilizing youth and spreading awareness on the importance of Voluntary blood donation.

To celebrate the centenary, Tamil Nadu State branch organized a very successful mega blood donation camp at VIT University.

As per the information received till date, states such as Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra organized several medical and diagnostic camps for the needy. Free medicines were also distributed to the beneficiaries during the camps.

A total of 15,290+ units of blood was collected through camps conducted on the 20th of February.

We thank all donors, volunteers and staff for their generosity and enthusiasm that helped turn this mega pan- India drive into a huge success!



## The Regional HELP Course!

The fourth edition of the two week multi-disciplinary regional HELP Course in India, organized by the International Institute of Health Management Research, Delhi and International Committee of the Red Cross, in academic collaboration with National Institute of Disaster Management, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), India and Indian Red Cross Society was launched in Delhi on the 24th of February. IRCS nominated five participants for this edition of HELP Course. These participants go a long way to help their branches fortify support during health emergencies. At the closing ceremony, Shri R K Jain (IAS Retd.), Secretary General, IRCS congratulated all the faculty & participants for the success of this edition of the HELP Course in India.





# Initiatives taken by States to celebrate Indian Red Cross' Centenary



To celebrate our centenary, various State Branches are undertaking a myriad of initiatives at the state level to celebrate this landmark year in the history of the movement. Tamil Nadu State Branch is celebrating the centenary by organizing Motorcycle Relay Rally program across all districts of Tamil Nadu from the 6th Feb to 15th March, 2020. Volunteers are disseminating information on activities of Red Cross, its programs as well as the Centenary Year celebrations! Several volunteers, staff, Youth/Junior members & others from the state branch are actively participating in the program. Various cultural performances are also being showcased to mark the occasion!

Karnataka State Branch is organizing 52- weekend workshops as part of the state's centenary celebration initiatives! Indeed, the response to the programs conducted till date as a part of the program series has been overwhelming with several youth participating. The workshops are facilitated by experts with the aim to provide deeper insights on important issues and to cultivate critical thinking among today's youth.

To celebrate the centenary, IRCS District branch Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand organized a medical expedition cum training program at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering which focused on first Aid.

Haryana State Branch is organizing exhibition buses which are demonstrating the humanitarian activities conducted by Red Cross in all 22 Districts of Haryana. Three such buses were flagged off by the Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, Shri Satyadev Narayan Arya on 28th February.



IRCS Uttarakhand's block level volunteers, under the leadership of the State Chairman, Shri K.S. Tolia, met the State Met Director to learn about weather forecasts & natural hazards. They are working towards creating a cadre of informed volunteers who will empower villagers prepare for weather & climate threats to build a resilient community.

Thank you Prof. Tanuja Nesari, Director- All India Institute of Yoga for conducting a session on "Ayurvedic approach towards Psychosomatic Disorders" for the students of Health Promotion through Ayurveda and yoga course! The session was very informative as well as interesting for all the participants.

The Valedictory Ceremony for 28th batch of 'Health Promotion through Ayurveda & Yoga' course was held recently. Dr. I Basava Reddy, Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga & Dr. Adarsh Gupta, Asst. Director CCRAS graced the occasion with their presence & shared valuable information with participants.



# Let's Connect



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