



Speech of
Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
At

**The programme to plant one lakh saplings on a single day
organized by the Indian Red Cross Society, Andhra
Pradesh State Branch at Loyola College, Vijayawada at
11AM on 11th December 2019**

Guests on the dais, Ladies and Gentlemen, ANDARIKI NAMASKARAM.

At the outset I extend my warm felicitations to the newly elected members of the Governing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society, Andhra Pradesh State Branch. As newly elected members of the IRCS Governing Body, you have enormous responsibility lying ahead of you in the service of the people. I have no doubt that all members of the Governing body will rise to the occasion and keep the flag of Indian Red Cross Society flying.

I wish that the seven fundamental principles of the Indian Red Cross Society – Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality be your guiding force at all times.

Today is an important day as we have all gathered here on the occasion of the programme to plant one lakh saplings on a single day.

Trees are like lungs of the planet as they breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen.

There are innumerable benefits of tree plantation such as reduce the risk of floods, improve air quality, remove carbon from atmosphere, minimize the impact of climate change.

People living around trees are benefited by a positive impact on mental health and well being, reducing stress and encouraging outdoor activities. In addition to improving environmental quality trees provide a beautiful and healthier surroundings to live and work.

Another cause of worry is environment pollution due to excessive use of plastic. Our country generates 26,000 tonnes of plastic every day, out of which 40% remain littered on the streets, rivers etc. making our country the 15th biggest plastic polluter in the world. During the monsoon season, the plastic dump accumulates water and becomes a source of breeding ground

for mosquitoes exposing people to wide spread mosquito-borne diseases such as Dengue fever, viral fever etc.

My sincere advise to all the people is to give up single-use plastic. Our Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi himself has given a call for a nation-wide movement to give up single-use plastic from 2nd October this year, on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

I request the members of the AP State Branch of Indian Red Cross Society to launch wide spread awareness and education programmes on important issues affecting the society today such as Global warming, air and water pollution, overuse of fertilisers, benefits of organic farming, the negative impact of use of plastics and polythene, conservation of energy and fuel resources etc. This can done by constituting teams of volunteers including subject matter experts and organizing special programmes in schools and colleges by way of lectures as well as organizing photo exhibitions, elocution competitions, drawing competitions etc.

I wish the newly elected Governing body of Indian Red Cross Society, AP State Branch, all success in their endeavours to serve the society in the best possible manner.

Jai Hind