



Speech of the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh &  
President of Indian Red Cross Society AP State Branch  
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan,  
on the occasion of launch of Mobile App on 26.06.2020 at  
11:30 AM at Raj Bhavan, Vijayawada

Dr. A. Sridhar Reddy, Chairman, IRCS, AP State Branch, Prof. K. Hemachandra Reddy, Chairman, AP State Council of Higher Education, Dr. P. Shyama Prasad, Vice Chancellor, NTR Health University, Sri B. Rajasekhar, Principal Secretary, School Education, Sri M. M. Naik, Commissioner of Collegiate and Technical Education, Sri Chinna Veerabhadhrudu, Commissioner of School Education, Sri Harindra Kumar, CEO, APCFSS and Sri Ashwini Kumar Parida, General Secretary & Chief Executive Officer, IRCS AP State Branch.

As you all are aware, we are passing through a most difficult time that the mankind has ever confronted in the recent history. COVID-19 has crippled the economy and paralysed normal life of people all over the world. We are fighting the battle against an invisible enemy. This is the biggest public health emergency that requires to be handled collectively as a society and as a community. Each one of us will be safe when collectively all of us are safe during the current pandemic situation.

Indian Red Cross Society, AP State Branch as an auxiliary organisation of the Government has been extending its support to the state machinery with its army of about 2000 Volunteers, in the fight against COVID-19 during the 65 days of lockdown imposed in the country from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup>May. The volunteers have been providing support to the frontline warriors by complementing their efforts by organizing relief camps, distribution of food packets, enforcing physical distancing and creating awareness among people through community surveillance. The services provided by the IRCS volunteers to the migrant labourers, supplementing the efforts of the Government machinery, has won the appreciation of all.

I specially thank the Junior Red Cross, Youth Red Cross and other Red Cross Volunteers for their unflinching services and dedication during the lockdown period in mitigating the suffering of the vulnerable and the needy persons.

It is necessary to consolidate the collective strength and sustain the enthusiasm and the commitment displayed by the volunteers during the current on-going battle against the COVID-19. In this connection, I request the Heads of School Education and Higher Education Departments to take immediate action by strengthening the Junior Red Cross and Youth Red Cross units and integrate them into the regular academic curriculum and make it as an integral part of the normal departmental activities. The IRCS, AP State Branch, will function alongside with them as an auxiliary organization of the govt.

To start with, one unit each of Junior Red Cross and Youth Red Cross should be set up in every School, College and University in the State, both govt and private. Secondly, a message to each student to enrol as a Red Cross Volunteer using the RED CROSS MOBILE APP, now being launched. Thirdly, the Teachers and Lecturers may be requested to provide hand-holding support to the students and help them to enrol through the smart phone based mobile app. Fourthly, the digital platform along with the centralized database created through the RED CROSS MOBILE APP should be utilized to train and guide the students by providing them online training to inculcate the spirit of voluntarism and also equip them with all the latest information to fight the battle against COVID-19. The students should be trained in the measures to be taken to protect themselves and their neighbourhood through extensive community surveillance and awareness creation against the deadly virus.

UNICEF has come forward to build partnership with Red Cross and the School Education Department in the capacity building of Junior and Youth Red Cross Volunteers by providing online training. We have to also educate our Junior and Youth Red Cross Volunteers to adapt themselves to the new academic environment in the Schools and Colleges which will be radically different from the past as much of the learning will now be through online digital mode.

Health safety measures such as physical distancing, use of Face Mask and frequent Hand Wash have become an integral part of our daily activity. Sanitation in schools and colleges has to be improved and hand washing stations should be provided with the active participation of our Red Cross Volunteers and with the support of the Parents Committees.

Our Youth Red Cross Volunteers under the NTR Health University should undertake extensive community surveillance activities providing support to the frontline health staff in our battle against COVID-19. Each Medical College and Health Institution must organize at least one Mega Health Camp in a quarter by involving the Youth Red Cross Volunteers once normal situation is restored.

The performance of each School, College and University will be evaluated and awards will be presented to these institutions and the Districts for their achievements, during special occasions.

The School Education and Higher Education Departments should use the Red Cross Mobile app as a monitoring tool and take necessary corrective steps wherever required. I request the Heads of these two departments to include Junior and Youth Red Cross activities, as a part of their regular departmental reviews with the Regional and District Officials and officers and award them suitably based on their performance.

I request the Chairman, IRCS AP, General Secretary and other office bearers, to plan and focus more on important activities such as Voluntary Blood Donation and regular tree plantation for the next 3 months and motivate the Junior and Youth Red Cross Volunteers to take active role by participating themselves and making others to do so. It should be ensured that no one dies in the State due to non-availability of blood in our Blood Banks in the State.

I will personally review the performance of the Junior and Youth Red Cross volunteers and I request you all to work together make the IRCS AP State Branch, a role model for the country.

I wish you all great success in the launch of IRCS AP State Branch Mobile App. Thank you.

Jai Hind