



सत्यमेव जयते

Speech of the Hon'ble Governor  
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan  
on occasion of Valedictory event of Cycle Rally  
to mark centenary celebrations of India Red Cross Society  
on 25.03.2021 at SS Convention Hall, Vijayawada

My dear Members of the Red Cross family,

It gives me immense pleasure to participate in the closing ceremony of Cycle Rally organized on occasion of Centenary Celebrations of the Indian Red Cross Society, covering all districts of Andhra Pradesh. At the outset, I congratulate each one of you, every volunteer, staff, donor, Govt. official and everyone, who took part in this Challenging Mission and for making it a grand success.

The success of this event is very much evident by looking at the turnout of the Junior and Youth Red Cross Volunteers in every district and at every place throughout the cycle rally.

My special wishes and blessings to the Youth Red Cross Volunteers and members of the Red Cross who have cycled in the scorching sun for the past 10 days and still beaming with the same energy and enthusiasm.

I am happy to note that the Indian Red Cross Society has completed 100 Glorious years in the service of Humanity in India by the year 2020. To mark this occasion, several activities have been undertaken such as Essay Writing Competition, Elocution, Painting and Short Film Competition.

I am happy to learn that the objective of the Cycle Rally is very well registered and the team has been successful in creating awareness among general public on the benefits of

- Blood Donation
- Tree Plantation
- Hygiene Promotion etc.

I have been informed by the organizers that two teams have participated in the event - One Cycling Team of Youth Red Cross volunteers which started the Rally from Srikakulam on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 and reached

Vijayawada today and another team that started from Anantapur on the same day and reached Vijayawada today.

I congratulate Dr. Sridhar Reddy for demonstrating his leadership skills and Team work in making this event a grand success. He was an inspiration to the fellow cyclists by participating in the cycle rally himself and riding all the way from Srikakulam to Visakhapatnam covering 130 KM. Dr. Sridhar Reddy and his team have continuously monitored the rally on 24 / 7 basis and ensured the success of the event.

I am happy to note that the General Secretary & CEO Shri A.K. Parida has taken all precautions for the safety and well being of the participants by arranging an Ambulance with all First Aid material along with water and food, throughout the rally.

I appreciate the services of District Collectors & Presidents of IRCS District Branches, Police personnel and other chief functionaries at the district-level who have participated in the event and extended their support for successful conduct of this rally.

I am happy to say that the IRCS, A.P. State Branch has always been in the forefront in rendering self-less services such as Disaster Management, tree plantation, maintaining shelters for the elderly and orphans, providing Health Care, Community Care, Capacity Building initiatives, services to the differently-abled, under- privileged, needy persons in the society.

On this occasion, I would like to recall the yeoman services rendered by the Red Cross during Covid-19 crisis, which were exemplary and commendable. The IRCS units responded to the crisis by offering their services to the Nation through distribution of food, dry rations, vegetables, face masks, gloves, sanitizers etc. as well as dissemination of information, advocacy by supplementing the efforts of the Government in its activities to prevent spread of the virus. A.P. State Branch has opened dedicated toll-

free helpline number for Covid served by around 2000 Volunteers every day. When transportation of Migrants became an issue, District Branches of IRCS, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore & Ananthapuramu have opened relief centres alongside National Highways and served food, distributed food packets, buttermilk, biscuit packets, beverages, hot milk to lakhs of migrant workers during the crucial phase of Covid-19 crisis. The IRCS AP State Branch also established separate counters for registration of migrant workers for their transportation and coordinated with the Govt. for arranging buses, trains to reach their native places.

I congratulate all the District Chairmen, Secretaries and the Volunteers who have rendering self-less services to the society.

I once again congratulate each and every participant of the cycle rally and the IRCS, A.P. State Managing Committee for their sincere and committed efforts in delivering the Red Cross services to the needy.

I wish you all good luck and success in all your future endeavours!

Jai Hind