



सत्यमेव जयते

RAJ BHAVAN

Press Note:

Establish junior and youth Red Cross units in schools and colleges – AP Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

Vijayawada, June 26: Launching the mobile app for enrolment of volunteers brought out by AP Branch of Indian Red Cross Society, Andhra Pradesh Governor Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan, said there is a need to establish Junior Red Cross and Youth Red Cross units in schools and colleges to inculcate the spirit of voluntarism among the youth. Addressing the gathering at a programme held at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan at Vijayawada on Friday, the Governor said that presently the world is passing through a difficult time that the mankind has ever confronted in the recent history, due to the corona virus pandemic. Governor Sri Harichandan said the COVID-19 has crippled the economy and paralysed normal life of people all over the world and that people are fighting the battle against an invisible enemy. He said 'this is the biggest public health emergency that requires to be handled collectively as a society and as a community'.

The Governor said that the Indian Red Cross Society, AP State Branch as an auxiliary organisation of the Government has extended support to the state government 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 25th March to 31st 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, said the Governor.

Governor Sri Harichandan urged the Heads of School Education and Higher Education Departments to take necessary steps to establish Junior Red Cross and Youth Red Cross units in schools and colleges and integrate them into the regular academic curriculum. The Governor said the mobile app launched by the IRCS AP State Branch will help in mass enrolment of youth volunteers and to maintain communication with them.

The Governor stressed the need to spread awareness on health safety measures such as physical distancing, use of face mask and frequent hand wash, which have now become an integral part of our daily activity. He emphasised on the need to improve sanitation in schools and colleges and setting up of hand washing stations.

The Governor directed the officials of Red Cross officials to focus more on Voluntary Blood Donation and tree plantation as a regular activity.

Sri A.K. Parida, General Secretary & CEO of IRCS AP State Branch explaining features of the mobile app said it is first of its kind in the country and helps Red Cross to enrol volunteers, maintain centralised database, send SMS to volunteers etc.

Sri Satish Chandra, Special CS, Higher Education, Sri Mukesh Kumar Meena, Secretary to Governor and Vice President of IRCS AP, Prof. K. Hemachandra Reddy, Chairman, AP State Council of Higher Education, Dr. P. Shyama Prasad, Vice Chancellor, NTR Health University, Dr. A. Sridhar Reddy, Chairman, IRCS, AP, Sri M. M. Naik, Commissioner of Collegiate and Technical Education, Sri Chinna Veerabhadrudu, Commissioner of School Education, Sri Harindra Kumar, CEO, APCFSS, Ms. K. Petri Selvi, Special Officer, have also participated in the programme.