

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF INDIAN RED CROSS  
SOCIETY, TAMIL NADU BRANCH ORGANISED BY INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY,  
TAMIL NADU BRANCH AT KALAVARNAR ARANGAM, ANNA SALAI, TRIPPLICANE,  
CHENNAI ON 28.01.2020 AT 11.00 A.M**

**Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam**

**Thiru R.K. Jain IAS (R),**  
Secretary General, IRCS NHQ

**Dr. Harish L. Metha,**  
Chairman, IRCS TNB

**Thiru Shankar Naganathan,**  
Vice President, IRCS TNB

**Thiru M.S.M. Nasruddin,**  
General Secretary, IRCS TNB

**ThiruRM.Balasubramaniam,**  
Vice Chairman, IRCS TNB

**Dr. C.Indernath,**  
Treasurer, IRCS TNB

**Thiru Benjamin William,**  
Secretary General (Singapore)

**Chief Postmaster General**

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

It is my pleasure to be here on this occasion of inauguration of the Centenary Celebrations of Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu Branch, one of the oldest branches in our country.

It is also a day to pay tribute to our **Founder of Red Cross, Henri Dunant**, and to the millions of volunteers who have followed in his footsteps, to provide assistance and humanitarian service to the poor and downtrodden. He said, **“We are everywhere for everyone. This is our commitment to you and our commitment to humanity.”**

In this Special occasion, I would like to recall the **motto of Henry Dunant** on initiating Red Cross Movement **“Red Cross Volunteers -- true Samaritans of Humanity -- should always be ready in every country to devote themselves to the great cause of suffering humanity in time of war as in time of peace. They are most valuable stays of this world – wide humanitarian task. The Red Cross aroused emulation for devotion in a practical way, among nations and people without distinction of origin, race, language and color”**.

There are milestones in our history that have influenced people’s lives for a long time. The establishment of the Indian Red Cross Society in 1920 was one among them.

I am delighted to share a few highlight of Indian Red Cross Society.

During the First World War in 1914, India had no organization for relief services to the affected soldiers, except a branch of the St. John Ambulance

Association and by a Joint Committee of the British Red Cross. Later, a branch of the same Committee was started to undertake the much needed relief services in collaboration with the St. John Ambulance Association in aid of the soldiers as well as civilian sufferers of that Great War.

The Indian Red Cross Society came into existence on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1920, when fifty members were formally nominated to constitute the Indian Red Cross Society and the first Managing Body was elected from among them with Sir Malcolm Hailey as Chairman.

Indian Red Cross Society is a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Relations between the IRCS and the India Delegation of the Federation are strong.

On this occasion, I would like to recall the names of some of the stalwarts of Indian Red Cross Tamil Nadu Branch such as Mr. Eugene Francis Greatorex, Mr. Odd Gran, Tmt. Rutti Rajamannar, Dr. A. Lakshmana Swami Mudaliar and Tmt. Sarojini Varadappan.

The Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu Branch, was formed on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1920 and has 100 years of successful service to its credit. It has 32 District Branches and 84 Sub Branches throughout the State. Due to

the vision of its great humanitarian leaders and hard work of others associated with it, this institution has been a story of progress.

The activities of the Indian Red Cross Society are carried out under the banner of its seven Fundamental Principles, viz., Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.

Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu Branch, is a welfare hub today, comprising noble services in a wide array of Services, such as Day Care Hospitals, Disaster Management & Relief activities, Artificial Limbs to the differently-abled persons, Physiotherapy treatment, Family Counseling Centre, Creche Units, Training in Nursing aide, Blood Donation camps, Free Hearse Service / Drop Back Vehicle (JSSK), Health Care Centre for Women & Children at Chintadripet and Health & Hygiene Promotion Programme for School Children in Tiruvallur District.

I was told that on the eve of centenary celebrations, the following programmes are being conducted across Tamil Nadu.

- Competitions like Essay Writing, Oratorical for Junior Red Cross and Youth Red Cross Volunteers in Schools and Colleges across Tamil Nadu.
- Blood Donation & Medical Camps in all Districts of Tamil Nadu.

- Swatch Bharath Campaign in all Districts of Tamil Nadu.
- Orientation on First Aid and Disaster Management Programs in all Districts of Tamil Nadu etc.

I am very much delighted to inaugurate the Centenary Red Cross Museum with the historical Photo Gallery and Short Film about Red Cross.

Today, an Ambulance Service is being introduced in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in two places for the benefit of the residents in and around Tambaram near Chennai and Thiruparankundram near Madurai.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe that the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be an impetus to the Indian Red Cross Society to develop further its humanitarian activities and provide an impetus for our public to further support its activities.

I have always made public my personal appreciation of the services rendered by the Red Cross and its volunteers.

Therefore, I am delighted to share with Red Cross Family Members the inspiring message of compassion to humanity with humility which everyone associate with this great humanitarian organization.

**Shri Veda Vyasa** also brings out the greatness of helping people by stating succinctly in two words – **‘paropakarah punyaya’ – Helping others is the best virtue.**

It has always been part of the tradition of India to care for the weak, the poor and the suffering. Let us be true to that tradition and devote ourselves to the task of engaging in compassionate social responsibility.

As President of the institution, I assure you that I am personally committed to making Tamil Nadu branch Red Cross Society a top and best branch in India for carrying our numerous welfare programmes for the poor and needy.

I want the District Collectors who are President of the Indian Red Cross Society in Districts to be more active and play a pivotal role in function of Indian Red Cross Society. I want 100 percent transparency in functioning of Red Cross Society. Corruption Free services is the need of hour. Please take all efforts to achieve this. I expect you to follow the Seven Fundamental Principles of Indian Red Cross Society in letter and spirit.

I wish the Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu Branch will take up more such activities to serve most vulnerable in the days to come. I thank

Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu Branch, for organizing this function  
and wish you success in the years to come.

Thank you all.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....

Jai Tamil Nadu.....