

Proceedings of the Executive Committee Meeting of Indian Red Cross Society - Odisha State Branch held on 13.08.2025 at 11 AM in the New Abhishek Hall, Raj Bhavan, Bhubaneswar

The Executive Committee Meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society Odisha State Branch was held on 13.08.2025 at 11AM in the New Abhishek Hall, Rajbhavan, Bhubaneswar under the Chairmanship of Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha and President, Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch.

Hon'ble Minister, Health and Family Welfare cum Chairman, State Working Committee of IRCS-OSB and Hon'ble Minister, School and Mass Education cum Chairman, State Working Committee, Junior Red Cross, IRCS-OSB were present in the meeting. Commissioner-cum-Secretary, H & FW Department, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, S & ME Department, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, HE Department and Commissioner-cum-Secretary, PR & DW Department were also present. Some members attended the meeting virtually.

The list of members who attended the Meeting is attached as Annexure-A.

On arrival of the Hon'ble Governor, all the members stood up and the National Anthem was recited. After that, with permission of the Hon'ble Governor, Mrs Roopa Roshan Sahoo, Commissioner cum Secretary to Hon'ble Governor welcomed Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Hon'ble Ministers and members of the Executive Committee. She briefly discussed about the activities of the Red Cross which are being carried out with support of other Departments like H & FW, S & ME, HE, Commerce & Transport and PR & DW departments. She also highlighted the achievements of Odisha Red Cross in different fields including fund raising and membership mobilisation for which IRCS-OSB has secured first position in the country for 2022-23 and 2023-24 and going to receive awards from HE the President of India on 22nd September, 2025.

Shri Mukesh Mahaling, Hon'ble Minister, H & FW-cum-Chairman, State Working Committee of IRCS-OSB praised the services rendered by Red Cross in disasters and social service camps like Ratha Yatra, Puri and Mahasivaratri, Bhubaneswar.

Shri Nityanada Gond, Hon'ble Minister, S & ME-cum-Chairman, State Working Committee of Junior Red Cross IRCS-OSB praised Junior Red Cross for different activities and trainings imparted on first aid, road safety, plantation programmes etc. in the schools across Odisha.

Thereafter, with permission of the Hon'ble Governor, the Honorary Secretary of IRCS-OSB made a power point presentation on the agenda of the meeting. After detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken:

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the last Executive Committee Meeting held on 13th Feb, 2019 :

- a. In the last EC meeting, it was resolved to re adapt the existing State Branch Rules, 1990 instead of the Uniform Rules 2009 and Branch Committee Rules 2017 framed by the IRCS NHQ, New Delhi. Hon'ble Governor instructed to submit a comparative statement on the merits and demerits of both the old and new Rules for taking a fresh decision in this regard.



- b. Initially all the Blood Banks were run by the Red Cross Society. Subsequently, 55 Blood Banks were taken over by the State Government and operated under the name 'Odisha Blood Bank'. In the meeting it was decided to request H & FW department to rename them as 'Odisha Red Cross Blood Bank' since these were initially part of Red Cross. H & FW Department was requested to take appropriate action in this regard

2. Activities of Indian Red Cross Society for the Year 2024-25

The Annual Activity Report of the IRCS-OSB for the Year 2024-25 was placed in the meeting which was approved by the EC. The tentative Budget Proposal for 2025-26 was also approved by the EC.

3. Ratification of decisions of the Working Committee Meetings held on 28/02/2019, 09/08/2019, 17/12/2019, 02/09/2020, 08/07/2021, 16/04/2022, 11/03/2023/ 29/12/2023 and 25/06/2025

The meetings of WC held on 28/02/2019, 09/08/2019, 17/12/2019, 02/09/2020, 08/07/2021, 16/04/2022, 11/03/2023/ 29/12/2023 are more than two years old and hence the EC decided that there is no need to ratify them. Hon'ble Governor advised to conduct meetings of the WC and EC regularly as prescribed in the Rules so as to maintain transparency in the system.

The proceedings of the Working Committee (WC) meeting held on 25.06.2025 was discussed in detail and ratified with observations as mentioned below:-

- a. The actual receipts and Payments for 2024-25 and budget estimate for 2025-26 related to IRCS OSB and CRCBC Cuttack was discussed and approved.

- b. **Enhancement of DA of regular employees-** The proposal of enhancement of DA of regular employees of IRCS-OSB from 38% to 46% at par with Government employees was approved by the WC and was ratified by the EC. Further, the proposal to reduce the residency period of regularisation of contractual employees from 10 years to 6 years was not accepted by the WC and the EC also ratified the decision of the WC.

c. Approval of Audit Report for FY 2023-24-

- i. As decided by the WC, the EC also suggested to request IT Commissioner to waive the penalty imposed on IRCS-OSB for default in submission of IT returns during the FY 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2024, since Red Cross is a humanitarian Organisation and rendering emergency services at the time of bare need. Hon'ble Governor advised to file IT return every year in time to avoid this type of complications in future.
- ii. The EC ratified the decision of WC to keep Fixed deposits in Nationalised banks which provides higher rate of Interest.
- iii. The EC suggested that Jan Aushadhi being a scheme of Government of India to provide generic medicine at lower rates, may be exempted from GST. It was decided to request competent authorities not to charge GST as Red Cross is a humanitarian organisation involved in providing medicines to the needy at a cheaper rate.
- iv. Hon'ble Governor instructed the District Collectors-cum- Chairman, District Red Cross Branches to submit the UC against the grants received by them towards repair and restoration of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters constructed by the Red Cross. It was decided to hand over these shelter buildings to OSDMA for their further maintenance.



With the above observations, the audited Statement of Accounts of IRCS OSB for the Year 2023-24 was ratified by the EC.

- d. **Enhancement of DA:** The proposal of enhancement of DA of regular employees of the IRCS-OSB and its allied units from 46% to 55% as approved by the WC was ratified by the EC.
- e. **Additional Casual leave of 10 days:** The proposal of sanction of additional casual leave for ten days for the women employees of IRCS-OSB and its allied Units as approved by the WC was ratified by the EC.
- f. **Grant to SAHAYA-** Financial grant of Rs.3 Lakhs to SAHAYA, a unit working under IRCS-OSB at Cuttack for the DIBYANGS was approved by the WC and ratified by the EC. Hon'ble Governor suggested for management of SAHAYA through Collector-cum-Chairman District Red Cross Branch, Cuttack. Honorary Secretary was asked to take appropriate steps in this regard.
- g. **Opening of Thalassemia Unit-**The proposal of WC for opening of a Thalassemia Unit in the premises of IRCS-OSB following Government guidelines was approved by the EC. It was also decided to explore the possibility of obtaining CSR grants from Corporate Sectors for construction and management of the Thalassemia unit. H & FW Department may also assist in this regard.
- h. **Management of Blood Banks-** Hon'ble Governor instructed that Government guidelines should be strictly followed for engagement of personnel and management of the blood banks/centres under IRCS-OSB.
- i. **Consignment of Records-** The EC approved the proposal for consignment of old records by following Government guidelines.
- j. **Enrolment of members-**EC approved the proposal of recommending applicants for Patrons, Vice Patrons and Life members to IRCS-NHQ for their enrolment and obtaining certificates.
- k. **Renovation of IRCS-OSB Building-** The IRCS-OSB building requires renovation and extension due to extra work load. The EC suggested that proposals with estimate may be sent to H & FW department for allotment of funds.
- l. **Engagement of Internal Auditor -** The EC approved the engagement of M/s Manas Dash & Co. Bhubaneswar as Internal Auditor for IRCS-OSB for the Year 2024-25 and also instructed to complete audit and file returns within the date line fixed by the Government to avoid complications. Accounting process should be done in a transparent manner following Government guidelines.
- m. **Grant to CRCBC, Cuttack-** The request of CRCBC for further grant of Rs 21 Lakhs was not considered by the WC since IRCS-OSB had earlier sanctioned Rs 21 Lakhs (50%) already for construction of a Thalassemia unit at CRCBC, Cuttack. EC ratified the decision of Working Committee and suggested that CRCBC may complete the construction from their own source.
- n. **Residential Quarters for CRCBC, Cuttack-** EC approved the proposal and instructed Director, CRCBC to coordinate with the District Authorities of Cuttack for providing 30 Quarters for the staff Members of CRCBC, Cuttack.
- o. Hon'ble Governor instructed that appointment/engagement in the IRCS-OSB and its allied units should be done as per IRCS-OSB rules.
- p. It was decided that rules regarding transfer of employees for the better utilisation of their services should be done as per rule. Employees of one institution should work in that office instead of being deputed to other offices.

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- q. The EC approved the proposal of repair and renovation work of the IRCS-OSB building and the premises following proper procedure.
- r. As regards allocation of certain percentage of grants as administrative expenses of IRCS-OSB, the EC suggested to decide the matter in discussion with the departments who allot funds to Red Cross. H & FW Department may also provide funds in this regard.
- s. Hon'ble Governor suggested to settle the matter of Balasore District Red Cross Branch as per orders of Hon'ble High Court.
- t. The proposal of WC to nominate Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department as Vice Chairperson of the State Working Committee of IRCS OSB was approved by the EC.
- u. The House approved the proposal to keep a directory of blood donors in online mode so that rare group blood donors can be available to the general public at the time of urgency. The house suggested to take Initiation for the development of a user friendly mobile application with data of blood donors and availability of blood which can be used by the patients requiring blood.
- v. The proposal to expand the scope of IRCS-OSB without restricting it to a limited area was accepted by the EC. The Officers/members of IRCS-OSB may visit other states for gaining experience and to adopt the best practices for their implementation in IRCS- OSB.
- w. It was decided to take pro-active steps for fund mobilisation so as to take up innovative activities and make IRCS-OSB more vibrant.

With these observations, the proceedings of the last Working Committee Meeting held on 25.06.2025 were ratified by the Executive Committee.

4. **Drive to enhance Voluntary Blood Donation** – In order to ensure 100% voluntary blood donation and to bridge the demand and supply gap, Hon'ble Governor suggested to organise 2-3 blood donation camps every year in all Higher Secondary schools, Degree Colleges and Universities and Corporate Sectors and Industries. This will ensure supply of blood without asking for exchange. He instructed that Thalassemia patients and Sickle Cell patients should be treated properly and system should be developed to provide them blood easily and smoothly. Preventive strategies and awareness programmes should be organised at schools, colleges and communities to reduce Thalassemia and Sickle cell diseases. If possible, engagement of "Brand Ambassadors" for blood donation campaign may be opted. Also the highest/frequent blood donors could be felicitated.

5. Others:

- a. District Collectors cum Chairman District Red Cross branch were requested to transfer State Share of funds collected under Red Cross to the IRCS OSB.
- b. The proposal to start the project "Nutrition Kit to the TB Patients" in Mayurbhanj District for a TB Mukta Bharat was appreciated. In this programme, more than 2400 TB patients in Mayurbhanj district shall be provided food baskets for six months by IRCS-OSB.
- c. Hon'ble Governor suggested that IRCS-OSB should go for preliminary Eye testing of students in schools. One Teacher/ Junior Red Cross Counsellor from each school should be trained to use Folding Foropters (eye testing kit) for early detection of eye sight in school students. In this regard, IRCS-OSB may collaborate with LV Prasad Eye Institute, Bhubaneswar for technical support.

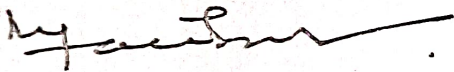
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- d. Hon'ble Governor emphasised on " Swasth Nari Swasth Odisha" programme to improve haemoglobin count in girls/ ladies and to fight against anaemia. Awareness campaigns should be done at schools, ladies hostels, tribal hostels, College/ School Hostels.
- e. The Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Higher Education Department pointed that Red Cross is facing accommodation problem during festivals in different places and also in organising State camps and Interstate camps/ National camps. He proposed for construction of Youth Red Cross Bhawans at Puri and Bhubaneswar for which HE department would provide funds. The proposal was appreciated and Honorary Secretary, IRCS-OSB was instructed to take required steps in this regard.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Hon'ble Governor and recital of National Anthem.



Honorary Secretary
IRCS Odisha State Branch



Hon'ble Governor of Odisha
President, IRCS Odisha State Branch