



THROUGH HUMANITY TO PEACE



Indian Red Cross Society

(CONSTITUTED UNDER ACT XV OF 1920)

Telefax : 91-11-23717454
Phones : (PBX Lines) 23716441, 42, 43
Website: www.indianredcross.org
Email : ircs@indianredcross.org

Headquarters :
1, RED CROSS ROAD
NEW DELHI - 110 001

Message from the Joint Secretary

Friends, as we celebrate the birthday of one of the foremost humanitarians of our time, Henry Dunant, we realize that he not only witnessed the Battle in Solferino, that left thousands dead and injured without any form of help being provided to them; but who indeed took upon himself the challenge to form a group of volunteers and after much effort was able to start a movement, a Movement that we call the Red Cross, in 1863. You may be aware that he was along with Frederic Passy, the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.

India today is faced with many challenges like the increasing incidents of crop failure due droughts or unseasonal rain, the cities that are faced with flash floods, the threat of changing climate from environmental degradation and from increasing dumping of electronic and solid waste. It is therefore important that volunteers of Red Cross, especially the young, should try and educate people of the country on limiting wastage of scarce natural resource like fresh water and actively work towards better solid waste disposal methods that will enable less pollution of our water sources. The promotion of renewable energy is also to be supported in larger measure.

The World Red Cross Day is therefore a time for all of us to introspect, a time to think how each one of us can work to make our country greener, the air and environment cleaner and think and actively work to prevent waste of scarce natural resources. It is also a day for our youth to not only think of themselves but also to think of the other person. It is important to empathize with the needy and vulnerable. Faced with several difficult circumstances it is patience that can see us through in almost all cases. Patience is an important quality that needs to be discovered again.

In the recent past, the Indian Red Cross, National Headquarters has launched several new initiatives especially the First Medical Responders programme in the most disaster prone states to address these issues as well as to make communities more resilient. It also is focussed on providing quality First Aid to the people of the country. Our programmes also address to make India "Clean India" and "Open Defecation Free" by 2019.

Friends, the theme for World Red Cross Day for the year is, "Everywhere for everyone". I appeal to all that as members, volunteers and staff, look for the opportunity to be there, wherever people need you. Even if you do not belong to Red Cross, carry the spirit of the great organization and as a human being just be there where there is pain and suffering, for as Swami Vivekananda said "*Where can we go to find God if we cannot see Him in our own hearts and in every living being.*"

With best wishes.



Dr Veer Bhushan