From the Desk of The Secretary General

The United Nations General Assembly declared 3rd June as international World Bicycle Day to recognize the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle, which are affordable, environmentally friendly and sustainable means of transportation. The world now realizes that this cheapest mode of transport is also best for health to cover short distances. Now many world leaders are also riding bicycles and I feel that it should be adopted as an alternative means of transport.

In this month on 4 June the world also observed United Nation’s International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression to raise awareness about the children who have suffered a lot throughout the world and are victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. On this day UN affirms the commitment to protect the rights of children.

It is important for us to be sensitive towards the children. Our junior & youth Red Cross members are benefited a lot by our fundamental principles, health & hygiene and other programmes by which they are sensitized about the poor and needy community.

Many of our branches, schools and colleges observed World Environment Day on 5 June. Our environment is threatened like never before due to our greed. This greed has been creating imbalance which is harmful to the humanity. Environmentalists have been giving warnings which have gone largely unheard. The very existence of our planet earth is endangered.

3rd Nityanand Gupta Memorial Oration cum Alumni Meet—10th June, 2019

Indian Red Cross Society organised third Nityanand Gupta Memorial Oration cum Alumni Meet on 10th June 2019 for the Alumni of Post Graduate Diploma Course in Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation. It was attended by alumni from last 10 years and other humanitarian organizations working with IRCS.

The occasion was graced by Sh. R.K Jain, Secretary General (IRCS) and Mr. Marwan Jilani, Head of Country Cluster, IFRC. Special oration was delivered by Dr. Akhil G郜, head of Climate Change programme at Deptt. of Science & Technology on how climate change is causing extreme weather patterns in India.

During the meet President of Alumni Association, Dr. Ajay Bahl desired to build a strong network of disaster professionals and to conduct regular events on disaster preparedness. His words were endorsed by other members of the alumni. Sh. R.K Jain, appreciated alumni students for coming to attend the event and encouraged them to undertake disaster preparedness activities in the future. The alumni thanked IRCS for organizing the wonderful event.

Watch video at https://player.vimeo.com/video/345613068
International Yoga Day Celebrations on 21st June, 2019 at IRCS, NHQ

Watch event coverage at https://player.vimeo.com/video/345613181

27th Batch of Health Promotion Course through Ayurveda and Yoga was inaugurated on 25th June, 2019. 47 students have been enrolled in this batch and course will culminate on 24th September, 2019. Classes are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. at the DMC building of the Indian Red Cross Society. The 50-hour certificate course (3 months, Part time Programme) is being conducted in collaboration with the CCRAS and the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga with the support of the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

IRCS– NHQ Blood Bank

Month of June 2019
Donors - 1697
Voluntary Donors in camps—1385
Voluntary Donors in house—217
Replacement Donors in house—195
Percentage of voluntary donors—94.40%

Livelihood Project of IRCS—”Harvest of Hope”

IRCS support to farmers in Maharashtra and Odisha

Harvest of Hope - Livelihood Project Series

https://indianredcross.org/ircs/program/livelihood#series
Red Cross Red Crescent launches Climate Training Kit 2.0

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre launched an updated and expanded version of its principal training resource for National Societies, the Climate Training Kit. On June 28, 2019.

The IFRC’s specialist reference centre on climate change developed the new kit together with the International Federation’s own secretariat and the Netherlands-supported Partners for Resilience (PfR) programme. (The Climate Centre is hosted by the Netherlands Red Cross in The Hague.)

The kit, of which the first version was rolled out in 2014, incorporates many additional modules and tools, including content covering cities and young people.


Request for Storage Centre: Linkage of Private / Government hospitals in Delhi & NCR with IRCS Blood Bank as Mother Blood Bank

Details available at https://indianredcross.org/ircs/program/BloodBank/StorageCentre

Blood Bank has started using Facebook Blood Donation feature having 22 million registered blood donors on FB. Through this tool, blood bank can reach out donors near the location of camps as well as NHQ and increase walk in for voluntary blood donation. Follow Blood Bank FB page at Follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/indianredcross

Dr Vanshree, Director Blood Bank, IRCS, NHQ received award for

"Special achiever in blood bank and blood transfusion service"

on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, 14 June

Visits

- Secretary General was in Geneva from 24-27 June to participate in the National Society Annual Legal Adviser’s Meeting. During this meeting subjects such as the statutes of the National Societies, issues relating to the International Humanitarian Law and agenda for the Statutory Meetings of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement scheduled to be held in Geneva during the month of December were discussed. Shri R K Jain, Secretary General, also held bilateral talks with other officials of the national societies and the leadership of the ICRC and the IFRC. He met the IFRC Secretary General separately as well.

- Shri R K Jain also visited Male, Maldives, on 29-30 June to participate in the Annual South Asia National Society’s Leadership meeting. Shri Jain presented the new initiative taken by the IRCs in recent months. The leaders of the region decided to initiate a communication channel amongst themselves for more sharing, better response and good coordination.

- 5th Commonwealth Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on International Humanitarian Law was held in Kigali, Rwanda on 9-14 June. IRCS was represented by the Chairman of the West Bengal state branch Mr C R Das and Deputy Secretary Shri N K Singh. Issues relating to IHL in the commonwealth countries and proposed resolutions on IHL to be considered in the International Conference were debated and discussed.
Cyclone VAYU heading towards Gujarat was likely to landfall on 13th June, 2019 morning. It changed its course on Thursday (13th June, 2019), and did not make landfall on Gujarat coast. However, all our Red Cross Branches in the area were ready and at standby. The State and District Branches monitored the situation and were in readiness. Following branches were in prepared mode:-

- Kutch
- Dwarka
- Porbandar
- Bhavnagar
- Gir Somnath
- Rajkot

As the State faces such threat occasionally, Gujarat State Branch requested for emergency alert to all our Red Cross network.

Red cross preparation in Alang Red Cross Hospital Bhavnagar. Alang ship breaking yard has many migrant labours. 50 volunteers packed food packets and started kitchen for the migrant labours.