On 12 November 2023, a section of the Silkyara Bend–Barkot tunnel, planned to connect National Highway 134 in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, India, caved in while under construction. The collapse occurred at around 05:30 IST and trapped 41 workers inside the tunnel. Rescue operations were immediately launched, with a number of government agencies. IRCS supported the local authorities in the rescue operation and provided necessary support to the staff.

Hon’ble Chairman of IRCS has convened the meeting of the newly constituted Managing Body of IRCS, NHQ on 18th Dec, 2023. The meeting shall be held in hybrid mode.

Distribution of Relief Supplies

Relief items were issued by IRCS, NHQ as under;

Tamil Nadu;  
- 1000 tarpaulins
- 2500 hygiene kits

Assam;  
- 1000 woollen blankets

From the Desk of The Secretary-General

I take this opportunity to welcome our office bearers who joined Red Cross in recent months.

I would like to appreciate the state branches for their exemplary work and dedicated efforts during the disasters including floods, landslides, train accidents and other calamities. The branches of IRCS worked continuously in close coordination with the district administration & helped the needy & vulnerable by providing them with relief materials.

I’m happy to note that branches organised several TB and Leprosy awareness-raising events and distributed nutritional kits to TB patients. Awareness campaigns were also held to reduce stigma and discrimination against those affected.

I am pleased to hear that the Punjab State Branch of the IRCS is going to organize National Youth Exchange Programme from 24 to 29 December, 2023. I urge more and more youth from all the branches for their participation. I am also happy to inform that a new blood centre shall be soon dedicated to the public in Patna city, Bihar. My best wishes to the state branch.

Volunteers are the backbone of the Indian Red Cross activities. Branches should focus more on training of the volunteers to enhance their capacity for better response in times of emergency.

I congratulate Dr. Samaram, Chairman, IRCS NTR District, AP state for being honoured with Dr. YSR Award, (Andhra Pradesh Government award) from the Hon’ble Governor and the Chief Minister of the state for his contribution to the humanitarian work.

I also congratulate Haryana State branch for releasing its CPR awareness campaign booklet. I acknowledge the work done by the branch in generating a mass awareness in both urban and rural areas on a large scale on CPR.

The branches observed many important days this month like National Cancer Awareness Day, World Pneumonia Day, World Kindness Day, Constitution Day, Children’s Day, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Deepawali etc. Such observations give us an opportunity to connect with people & create awareness about Red Cross movement.
Meetings of IRCS, NHQ

on 7th Nov, 2023 Secretary General attended a virtual meeting with other National Society Leadership in connection with IFRC Presidential elections to be held on 11th December.

On 3rd Nov, 2023 Secretary MOUHA called on the Secretary General Sh. R.K. Jain to discuss the shifting of the IRCS premises to a new location. The alternative places already suggested were discussed and new locations, such as Nauroji Nagar also came up for consideration.

Digital transformation meeting in virtual mode was held on 8th Nov, 2023. It was primarily aimed to review the presentation made by the IT company I-Fi selected by the ICRC for the execution of the project. The Secretary General chaired the meeting in which officials of some state branches participated. Groups were formed to recommend for improvement in website, dashboard, warehouse, membership and similar subjects for digitization.

on 13th Nov 2023 Officer on Special Duty to the Governor of West Bengal visited IRCS, NHQ. He was requested to take appropriate measures to constitute an ad hoc committee with few members so that the functioning of the branch is resumed and the important tasks on hand, such as registration of vehicles given by the NHQ, is completed.

On 28th Nov 2023 the Country Director of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Mr. Hari Menon, called on the Secretary General. He informed about the priority areas of the foundation in which they have been providing financial support. The Secretary General informed Mr. Hari Menon about the priority areas of IRCS & the fields in which both can work together.

Deputy Secretary, IRCS, NHQ Sh. N.K Singh attended 17th edition of the Press Institute of India and ICRC Annual Media Awards at Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 24th Nov, 2023. The awards were given for the best article and best photograph on a humanitarian subject. The theme for 2023 was stories of resilience in humanitarian disasters; response and challenges. The inaugural address was given by Mr. Kedir Awel Omar, HOD, ICRC. Sh. Rajendra Ranoo, Executive Director of NIDM was the special guest. The panellists included; Dinesh C. Sharma, senior journalist and author, Gayatri Ramanathan, Journalist and communications professional, Urvashi Sarkar, Journalist and author, Surinder Oberoi, Senior Journalist, Divya Pushkarna, Disinformation Advisor, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Marie- Servane Desjonqueres, Senior Communications Advisor, ICRC.

Meetings of IRCS, State/UT branches

Dr. B. B. Sinha Member, National Managing Body & Chairman, IRCS, Bihar State Branch called on the Governor of Bihar Sh. Rajendra Arlekar. Discussions were held on the activities of IRCS, Bihar state branch and it was decided to open a new Blood Centre at Patna City.

Officials, staff and volunteers from IRCS, Nalgonda district branch, Telangana had the chance to interact with the Governor of Telangana, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan during her visit to MG University, Nalgonda, Telangana.
IRCS NHQ Blood Centre

A single drop of blood can make a huge difference

The Month of November, 2023
Donors – 1239
Voluntary Donors in camps — 1025
Voluntary Donors in-house — 214
No. of camps — 34
Blood/Blood Components issued - 3667 units

Donating Blood During COVID-19 is Safe!
IRCS NHQ Blood Center timings for blood donation:
Monday- Saturday (except 2nd Saturday): 9 AM - 7 PM
2nd Saturday, Sunday, Public Holidays: 10 AM - 6 PM
Note: The NHQ Blood Center is open 24/7 for issue of blood

IRCS NHQ Blood Centre

Thank you, donors!

Donate blood and save lives

Blood donation camp, Patna, Bihar
Blood donation camp, Hyderabad, Telangana was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Telangana State Branch Sh. Ajay Mishra in which 294 units of blood were collected

Blood donation camp was organised by IRCS Ranga Reddy district branch at Kanha Medical Centre, Chegur, Ranga Reddy district, Telangana. 187 units of blood were collected.

Blood donation camp at Nizamabad, Telangana with NCC cadets
Youth Red Cross Unit of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University (CCHAU), Hisar organised mega Voluntary Blood Donation Camp - 180 Units of blood were collected.
Blood Donation Camp was organised by the state Red Cross in 14 Odisha battalion Army NCC, Keonjhar, Odisha

Blood Donation Camp, Bokaro, Jharkhand

Blood Donation Camp, Kanker, Chhattisgarh

Blood Donation Camp, Pupri, Bihar

Blood Donation camp at Red Cross Blood Bank, Nalagarh, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh
Life members and volunteers of IRCS, Bhabhua, district branch, Bihar distributed nutritional food to 27 TB patients under Nikshay-Mitra scheme.

YRC volunteer of IRCS AP State Branch provided aid and amenities to the victims of train accident in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. Volunteers also supported the local administration in the rescue operation.

IRCS, Danapur branch distributed relief materials among the fire victims of Danapur market, Patna, Bihar.

Face masks & soap were distributed by the IRCS, Katihar district branch during district level one-day employment cum vocational guidance fair organized by the District Employment Exchange, Katihar, Bihar. A large number of unemployed students participated in it.

IRCS, Jammu branch distributed relief materials among the needy and vulnerable.

Distribution of Fruits/Sweets to the Mental Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre by the Hon’ble Governor & Chairperson, Hospital Welfare Section, HP State Red Cross Society.

Indian Red Cross Society Nagaland offers FREE AMBULANCE SERVICES during Hornbill Festival 2023 (December 1st-10th)
From Visama to any hospital in Kohima

Services Provided:
• On-the-spot First Aid Training
• Blood Donation Drive
IRCS, Andhra Pradesh state branch conducted a ToT training on first aid to medical officers at Tirupati. Dr. VLS Kumar, International first aid trainer & Dr. Pratheeth, authorised master trainer imparted the training to 25 medical officers.

IRCS, Haryana State Branch organised State Level Youth Red Cross Training Camp for boys from 26th to 31st October, 2023 at Haridwar. 241 participants from 16 Universities and 23 Colleges of Haryana participated.

IRCS, Haryana State Branch organised State Level Junior Red Cross Training Camp for girls from 3rd to 8th November, 2023 at Haridwar. 260 participants from 43 schools of 22 districts of Haryana participated in the camp.

First aid awareness program was conducted by Karnataka State Branch for the students of Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni college, at Malleswaram, Bangalore, Karnataka.

Eight days training on First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation was conducted at Indian Red Cross Society, J&K-UT Branch from 20th to 29th November, 2023 for the commercial vehicle drivers and others.

Students of GNM students of Bee ENN College of Nursing, Chak Bhalwal, Jammu along with their Clinical Instructor, Mr. Arjun Singh visited Red Cross Bhawan, Jammu on 17th Nov., 2023 to know about its core activities particularly during the period of man-made or natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, accidents etc.

IRCS KSB’s First Aid wing conducted a First aid Awareness Program at the CISF Barracks, in Bangalore, to 250 CISF personnel, stationed at Bangalore International airport (BIAL)
IRCS, Gujarat state branch and Ahmedabad Medical Association launched CPR & First Aid training on 4th Nov, 2023 for school children.

IRCS, J&K UT Branch under supervision of Sh. Rohit Khajuria, General Secretary organized a Youth Red Cross cum First-Aid awareness camp at Govt. SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu.

Hon’ble Governor of Haryana released CPR awareness campaign booklet and Newsletter for second quarter (July-Sep, 2023) on 23-11-2023 at Haryana Raj Bhawan, Chandigarh in the presence of Sh. Atul Dwivedi, IAS, Secretary to Governor Haryana, Dr. Mukesh Aggarwal, General Secretary, IRCS, Haryana, ADC to Hon’ble Governor Haryana and STO, IRCS Haryana. It is the great achievement for all the officers, officials and volunteers of Red Cross as 66,124 persons including students of educational institutions, employees of industries and general public in rural and urban areas have been made aware about CPR in the State.

District Red Cross Branch, Jind, Haryana organised District Level Youth Red Cross Camp at Chaudhary Ranbeer Singh University, Jind. 120 youth volunteers and counsellors participated in the camp.

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Induction training to the new YRC volunteers in Boudh Panchayat College, Boudh, Odisha

One day awareness programme on First Aid Intervention was held at Punya Children home for Girls, Thangmeiband, Imphal, Manipur

IRCS, Gujarat state branch and Ahmedabad Medical Association launched CPR & First Aid training on 4th Nov, 2023 for school children.

The state level Red Ribbon Quiz competition was organized by Uttarakhand State AIDS Control Committee in collaboration with Red Cross Uttarakhand.
Celebration of Important Days

**Deepawali**

At Mata Kaushalya Hospital (Govt.), Patiala, the Punjab State Red Cross State Branch Chandigarh distributed blankets and fruits to the underprivileged indoor patients on the occasion of Deepawali.

**Guru Nanak Jayanti**

A medical camp was organised on Guru Nanak Jayanti by IRCS Punjab at Sant Baba Kamalwale Gurudwara Sahib Patiala. 160 people were benefited from this camp.

**Chhath Puja**

IRCS Bihar state branch, medical camp, Danapur, Patna on eve of Chhath Puja

**Children's Day**

On Children's Day Dr. V Gopal, Chairman, IRCS Puducherry had a talk show at AIR, Puducherry. He motivated youth to join the Red Cross and serve the society

**Constitution Day**

Red Cross Drug de-addiction Centre Patiala organised a 5kms marathon which was dedicated to Anti-drug awareness. The event started with an awareness march from Polo ground Patiala. In this marathon, individuals of different age group participated. The Secretary of Punjab State branch S. Shivdular Singh Dhillon also participated in the marathon and completed the marathon.
Health Camps and Miscellaneous Activities

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Samaram, Chairman, IRCS NTR District, AP state received the Andhra Pradesh Government award, Dr. YSR Award, from Hon’ble Governor of AP and the Chief Minister for his outstanding services.

Announcement!

Dr. A K Gusai, General Secretary, Uttarakhand

Adv. K. Radha Krishnan, Chairman, Kerala

Dr. Justice, M. Jaichandren, Chairman, Adhoc Committee, Tamil Nadu

Sh. Sandeep Kumar Singh, Counsel General, West Bengal

The Punjab State Branch of the IRCS, going to organize National Youth Exchange Programme (Inter State Junior Red Cross Training cum Study Camp) from 24 to 29 December, 2023 at Sacred Heart School, Moga (Punjab).

Welcome!

New blood bank in Patna city, Bihar will soon be dedicated to the public.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Samaram, Chairman, IRCS NTR District, AP state received the Andhra Pradesh Government award, Dr. YSR Award, from Hon’ble Governor of AP and the Chief Minister for his outstanding services.

A state level Junior Red Cross camp was held at Revalsar (Mandi) from 15th to 20th November, 2023. The purpose of this camp was to promote the Junior Red Cross objectives like; promotion of health, service to the sick and needy & national and international friendliness.

Medical Camp and Drinking water facility was provided to the needy, Darbhanga, Bihar

Medical Camp, Bettiah, Bihar

Mrs. Kavita Vinod Khanna w/o. Late Sh Vinod Khanna ji Ex MP and actor along with her two classmates Mrs. Lene Tangevald and Mr. Olaf Nils Sunde visited Red Cross Drug De Addiction Centre Gurdaspur and interacted with all the thirty clients getting treatment in the centre.
Health Camps and Miscellaneous Activities

Under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan campaign launched by MSJE, an awareness seminar on drug abuse was organised at Developing Daffodils International School of Excellence by IRCA, Gurdaspur, Punjab

Tea service is launched at GMC Jammu for patients and their attendants.

Under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan campaign launched by MSJE, an awareness seminar on drug abuse was organised at Developing Daffodils International School of Excellence by IRCA, Gurdaspur, Punjab

IRCS, Senapati district branch conducted a cleanliness drive followed by distribution of hygiene kits to all the patients admitted at District hospital

A vocational training program regarding bee keeping was organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Gurdaspur, Punjab at Red Cross Integrated and Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts

On 06 Nov. 2023 IRCS, Punjab State Integrated Rehabilitation Centre, Kurali organized an awareness camp under “Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyaan” at Christian Sr.Sec. School, Kharar.

Free medical camp was organised for the senior citizens in Jaggarapalli, Boinpalli Mandal, and Khammam district of Telangana

An awareness camp was organised by Punjab Red Cross Drug Counseling and Rehabilitation Centre, Siswan Road, Kurali in collaboration with Brahma kumaris Ashram Kurali on 16-11-2023 under Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan. During this event yoga teacher of the centre conducted yoga class.

Dr. Ashok. K. Gusain, General Secretary, Uttarakhand state branch, visited Uttarkashi Silkiara tunnel and distributed 50 blankets.

Health awareness rally by YRC Volunteers of 20 Colleges of Boudh District in Palsaguda of Kantamal block
**World AIDS Day observed by Red Cross society Gurdaspur**

GURDASPUR (VERMA): World AIDS Day, observed on 1 December every year, stands as a global initiative aimed at increasing awareness about the AIDS pandemic stemming from HIV infection. This day reminds us of those who have lost their lives due to disease, supporting individuals living with HIV and advocating for prevention, treatment and support services. It is an occasion for people worldwide to join forces in the ongoing fight against HIV, express solidarity with those living with the virus and honor the memory of those who lost their lives due to AIDS related illnesses.

Keeping the importance of this day the Red Cross Integrated and Rehabilitation Centre, Gurdaspur has celebrated this day and get the pledge signed on a beautiful flex specially prepared for this event signed by the youngsters in various schools like Government Senior Secondary School, Village Babehali institutions, inmates/staff of the Centre plus from the people residing at prominent business places.

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**Red Cross treating youth falling prey to addiction: Kavita Vinod Khanna**

GURDASPUR (VERMA): "The Red Cross Drug De Addiction Centre being run by the Indian Red Cross Society Punjab State Branch Chandigarh is doing yeomen service for the treatment of misguided youth falling prey to addiction," Kavita Vinod Khanna, a late Sh Sh Vinod Khanna ji’s daughter, said.

These words were told from her son, who was involved with addiction but now she is cleared through her will power and determination. Mr. Pradeep Deep and Shetty Malhotra also accompanied them to start a five days ‘Art of Living’ course at this Centre under the aegis of the Kavita and Vinod Khanna ji’s son.

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**Free medical camp organised**

SADHAN

The Red Cross organized a free medical camp for the elderly in Leghgam, Bisagat Mandi, on Sunday. As part of this event, they provided free medicines for more than 35 elderly people.