MESSAGE

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." I agree to a great extent that while helping others we can find learning about ourselves in the process.

Volunteerism is one of the most challenging and rewarding opportunities to bring a change in the people around you. It is a way of giving back to the community while also developing essential social skills and gaining valuable experience. Philanthropy, like Red Cross voluntarism, is realizing the enhancing influence of cultural diversity.

Whether it is a call for blood collection drives, disaster relief, or just community outreach, the Red Cross volunteers and staff do an exemplary job not only in meeting the immediate needs of the community but also help in the preparedness and planning for long-term support.

Every year on 8th May, the world observes World Red Cross Day to mark the birth anniversary of Jean Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross and recipient of First Nobel Peace Prize. Every year, a theme is selected to celebrate the day, and plethora of events are planned all around the world around that topic.

The theme for this year is Everything we do comes #fromtheheart. The theme focuses on foregrounding the volunteers of the Red Cross and their contribution to society. No movement can be successful without volunteers working passionately towards a common cause and the Red Cross Movement is no different.

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I have had the opportunity to meet Red Cross members, volunteers and staff. During my visit to some of the Red Cross branches, I also interacted with some passionately enthusiastic Red Crossers. Red Cross should enrol more volunteers and staff, to enhance contribution in our humanitarian tasks.

There is no better exercise for our heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up. I urge more and more young people to get involved in volunteering and make a difference in society. As a part of world's largest humanitarian network, I urge all Red Crossers of the country to help needy and vulnerable.

I wish all Red Cross staff members and volunteers a very happy World Red Cross Day.

(Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya)