



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

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew



It is a pleasure to share my thoughts on the occasion of World Red Cross Day 2023. India has a rich and proud history of volunteerism. The tradition of shramdaan, offering to work in the service of humanity is practiced by millions of people.

As the largest democracy with one of the fastest growing economies in the world, India continues to address the challenges of inequality and uneven human development, with volunteers playing a critical role in ensuring that neighbourhoods, villages and communities become a little better every day.

Volunteering is a distinct human characteristic. It is a socio-psychological bridge connecting the self and the individual consciousness to the collective consciousness of the community. Volunteering has been at the very heart of the Red Cross since its inception in 1920.


Volunteers are the backbone of all Indian Red Cross activities, helping branches to run successful programmes and assisting millions of vulnerable people in need. Beyond delivering services, our volunteers play a vital role in improving community resilience and empathy. They also advocate fiercely on behalf of vulnerable people. The scale and scope of what they undertake and achieve every day across the world is astonishing.

This year, the theme for World Red Cross Day is: **Everything we do comes #fromtheheart**. The theme highlights the universal, human, and diverse aspects of the Red Cross Movement by focussing on volunteers and their involvement within communities.

World Red Cross Day is a time to celebrate the spirit of humanitarianism and recognize the individuals who make a difference in their communities. While I know that you choose to volunteer selflessly and without expectation of being recognized or rewarded, today I wish to do just that. I would like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Your generosity has had a profound and lasting impact on the communities in need for generations.

Youth have a particularly vital role in leveraging volunteer programmes to shape a better future. I urge branches to target on the capacity-building activities of the volunteers that work towards their mission, vision and strategy.

Everyone at Red Cross is forever grateful to each of you. I wish all Red Cross staff members and volunteers a Happy World Red Cross Day.


R.K Jain, IAS (Retd.)
Secretary General