

Indian Red Cross Society

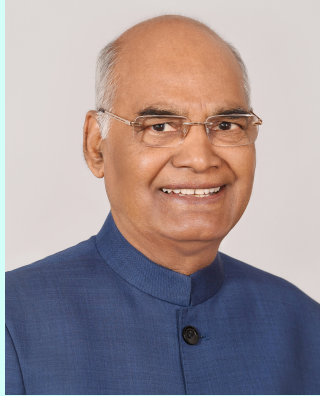
World Red Cross Day 2020- Special Bulletin



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Message from the Hon'ble President of Indian Red Cross Society (President of India)



**Shri Ram Nath Kovind,
President of India**



MESSAGE

I am happy to know that The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is commemorating the World Red Cross Day on 8th May. This year also marks the 100th anniversary of IRCS which makes this World Red Cross Day a special one.

For all these years, IRCS has been at the forefront of disaster preparedness and response, blood services and community health and has effectively played its role as auxiliary to the Government. IRCS's large pool of trained volunteers and its grassroots presence enables this Society's humanitarian outreach. The ongoing multi-dimensional response by IRCS to the COVID-19 emergency exemplifies its strengths.

I congratulate all the volunteers, members, staff and other stakeholders of IRCS on the occasion of World Red Cross Day and wish that its endeavours will continue to benefit people for years to come.

Rnkovind
(Ram Nath Kovind)

New Delhi
May 07, 2020

Message from the Hon'ble Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society (Union Health Minister)



**Dr Harsh Vardhan,
Hon'ble HFM**



**डॉ हर्ष वर्धन
Dr Harsh Vardhan**

संस्कृत, एवं परिवार कल्याण, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी
य पूरवी विज्ञान मंत्री, भारत सरकार
Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare,
Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
Government of India

MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) including its volunteers, members and other stakeholders on the occasion of World Red Cross Day. This year marks the centenary year for IRCS and its humanitarian endeavors. IRCS' work is not limited only to disasters and emergencies but it also an active contributor to humanitarian assistance efforts be it in the form of blood donation drives, maintenance of blood banks, etc.

2. IRCS has always supplemented the efforts of the government in its various health programs. This time also it is performing a major role during COVID-19 side-by-side with the government. The theme of this year's World Red Cross Day - 'Keep clapping for Volunteers' is clearly appropriate for the occasion for appreciating the yeoman service that IRCS volunteers have been rendering to the world at large and India in particular.

3. I exhort you all to please join me in applauding the efforts of IRCS Volunteers and others for their relentless service to the community.

Harsh
(Dr. Harsh Vardhan)

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About Henry Dunant

Henry Dunant (born Jean-Henri Dunant; 8 May 1828 – 30 October 1910), also known as Henri Dunant, was a Swiss humanitarian, businessman and social activist. He was the visionary, promoter and co-founder of the Red Cross. During a business trip in 1859, Dunant was witness to the aftermath of the Battle of Solferino in modern-day Italy. He recorded his memories and experiences in the book, *A Memory of Solferino*, which inspired the creation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1863. The 1864 Geneva Convention was based on Dunant's idea for an independent organisation to care for wounded soldiers. Dunant was the founder of the Swiss branch of the Young Men's Christian Association YMCA. In 1901 he received the first Nobel Peace Prize together with Frédéric Passy, making Dunant the first Swiss Nobel laureate.

IRCS Response to COVID-19

Key statistics:

- 40000 + Volunteers in around 550 districts
- More than 20 Million people benefitted through our vast activities including blood services, cooked food & dry ration, shelter, medicines, PPEs, Thalassaemic, transportation services etc.
- The total value of support provided by IRCS in both cash & kinds is approximately Rs. 35 crore
- Successfully managing uninterrupted supply of blood/blood component through our 89 Blood Banks.

Variety of activities

- Community kitchens, distribution of dry ration
- Community surveillance & community service (home delivery of medicines & essential items)
- Logistic support to quarantined homes & centers
- Red Cross Ambulances for transporting patients
- Distribution of masks, gloves, soaps, IEC material, etc.
- Shelter Homes, Red Cross Hospitals & Isolation centers
- Establishing link between stranded people & their families
- Advocacy & social distancing

Flagging off relief material by Hon'ble Chairman



Hon'ble HFM, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Chairman Indian Red Cross flagged off relief material for COVID19 response in the presence of IRCS' Secretary General, Sh. R.K. Jain, IAS (Retd), Mr. Udaya Regmi, Acting Head of Country Cluster, IFRC & Mr. Yahia Allbi, Head of Regional Delegation, ICRC. He appreciated the selfless service of over 40,000 Red Cross volunteers who are working in around 550 districts. He added that the distribution of COVID19 relief material is a testimonial of the organization's inimitable dedication towards society.



Message from the Secretary General



"The World Red Cross day for me is all about the relentless services of the volunteers which has made IRCS to achieve its humanitarian agenda for 100 years. All of our interventions over the years, be it disaster preparedness and response community health, blood services and even the recent COVID-19 response, have been made possible because of the dedication and efforts of our volunteers. I would also like to take this opportunity to convey our sincere gratitude for our Hon'ble President & Chairman for continuously motivating us and also recognising the role and capacity of IRCS as auxiliary to the government. On this World Red Cross Day, I am proud to recognise the work of our all volunteers and staff through out the country who are in the frontline responding to the needs of communities affected by COVID-19 pandemic. I congratulate all of you on this world Red Cross day with the commitment that IRCS will continue to help the people in need for years to come."

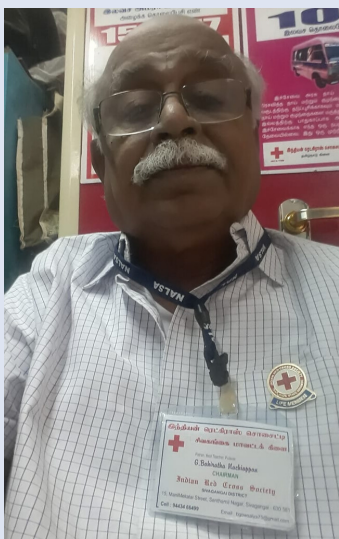
Sh. R.K. Jain, IAS (Retd) Secretary General, IRCS

Vision for IRCS

- Ensure better and quicker humanitarian services by increasing capacity, improving systems and embracing new technology
- Focus on fund raising, resource mobilization & institutional partnerships so as to ensure self-sustainability
- Contribute more to the international RCRC Movement through institutional learning as well as funding and technical support
- Expand key programs, e.g. – SERV throughout the country
- Explore and venture into new areas of humanitarian services
- Ensure projects/interventions are implemented with results based approach
- Roll out integrated livelihood projects for covid19 affected communities



IRCS – the Savior



"I got associated with Indian Red Cross Society as a JRC Junior Volunteers in 1955 and enrolled as Life Member in 2003. I strongly believe that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more. It is heartening to see Indian Red Cross Volunteers rendering yeoman humanitarian services for the global pandemic COVID-19. At the age of 77, I feel proud to be associated with this global network for humanitarian works. We are always in the frontline during any disaster and this was once again proved through our response against COVID-19."

Sh. C. Bagiratha Nachiyappan, Chairman, IRCS Sivagangai

