



रेड क्रॉस संवाद

Indian Red Cross Society's E-newsletter | February 2019

From Secretary General's Desk



R K Jain, IAS (Rtd.), Secretary General IRCS, NHQ

I am happy to share the February edition of रेड क्रॉस संवाद, the Indian Red Cross Society's monthly e-Newsletter. I would like to express gratitude for the encouraging response and feedback that we have received on the launch of the e-Newsletter.

In February, the Indian Red Cross Society volunteers swung into action as the state of Jammu and Kashmir was gripped by an intense winter and heavy

snowing. Working alongside the government administration, the volunteers extended relief to those in need.

We signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the India Meteorological Department for sharing of data on weather forecasts and its dissemination to help communities build resilience towards disasters, including extreme weather conditions.

A lesson learnt workshop was held in Chennai on sharing experiences from Kerala Flood 2018 and Cyclone Gaja responses by IRCS with close to 50 participants.

We bid farewell to Jeremy England, the outgoing Head of Delegation of ICRC in New Delhi, after a three-year stint. As movement partners, we at National Headquarters celebrate the spirit of humanitarian service that unites us.

These and more updates from the branches, are in this issue, so please read on.

As I mentioned in the last issue, we are looking forward to the meeting of senior leadership from State Branches.

Thanks for your support. I urge you to keep this conversation alive through suggestions and encouragement.

R K Jain, IAS (Rtd.), Secretary General IRCS NHQ

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National Headquarters Update

Farewell to Mr. Jeremy England



Mr. Jeremy England, the outgoing head of delegation of the ICRC New Delhi, was presented a Red Cross shield at his farewell held on 26 February at IRCS National Headquarters. Senior officers and staff from National Headquarters and the delegation team were present at the farewell.

MoU with IMD on information sharing



Building resilience of vulnerable communities by weaving into response plans information about extreme weather like heat wave, drought, excess rainfall, related to climate change, will get a boost with IMD-IRCS partnership on data sharing and community dissemination.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian IRCS will share weather and forecast information that will help in making communities more resilient to disasters and health epidemics. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to this effect earlier on 4 February 2019.

“IMD will collaborate with IRCS to raise awareness on weather monitoring and forecasting as part of a community-based preparedness programme of IRCS in the identified districts,” Dr. M Mohapatra, Head of Indian Meteorological Department, said.

“IRCS and IMD will work to make weather and forecast data easy to understand and actionable for the community,” said Shri R K Jain, Secretary General, Indian Red Cross Society, National Headquarters. “In addition to its central mandate of humanitarian response during emergencies and disasters, Indian Red Cross Society is involved in creating community resilience at state, district and block levels. This partnership will allow both the organisations to create informed and resilient communities,” Shri Jain added.

[Read media release](#)

Lessons learnt workshop on Kerala floods and Cyclone Gaja





A lessons learnt workshop in Chennai highlighted the areas of challenge as well good practices.

The Kerala floods of 2018 and Cyclone Gaja were two of the big disasters that Indian Red Cross Society responded to last year, which continues with focus moving to relief and rebuilding.

In order to capture some of the key learnings and sharing views of the volunteers and teams that were directly involved, the National Headquarters, IFRC and ICRC together hosted a two-day lessons learnt workshop on 20 and 21st February by in Chennai with 53 participants from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, IFRC and ICRC.

*The Blood Bank at IRCS
NHQ has been serving people
in need of blood transfusions,
while actively promoting
voluntary blood donation at
the national level.*



Updates from Branches

IRCS responds as heavy snowfall disrupts life in Jammu and Kashmir



Indian Red Cross volunteers in Jammu and Kashmir worked relentlessly to extend support to people as the state went through a bitter winter and disruptions in everyday life.

With heavy snowfall and sub-zero temperatures, the state of Jammu and Kashmir experienced a harsh winter this year. The life in the valley and parts of

the Jammu region came to a standstill with the disruption of electricity supply, drinking water and public transport.

Working with the state authorities and security force personnel, the Indian Red Cross Society volunteers provided help to people in need as roads and railway tracks were blocked due to heavy snow build-up and avalanches. Participating in rescue, relief and medical care being extended in their respective districts, the Red Cross volunteers worked alongside police, civil defense and SDRF.

[Watch a video](#)

Tamil Nadu: IRCS extends relief to Gaja affected communities



The digital platform of Open Data Kit (ODK) was used by IRCS to meticulously collect details of beneficiaries and track distribution. Forty volunteers from four districts were trained in ODK use for efficient and online management of beneficiary listing and relief tracking.

Indian Red Cross Society distributed relief materials to the families affected by Cyclone Gaja that hit Tamil Nadu last year on 16th November 2018. The relief distribution was in continuation of the response initiated by the Tamil Nadu State and Districts branches since the cyclone wreaked havoc with wind speeds reaching up to 120 kilometers per hour. The cyclonic storm had left at least 45 people dead. About 250,000 people were evacuated and housed in 493 shelters. Over 55,000 houses were completely

destroyed with half of them being thatched structures.

The current distribution of relief material is part of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support 3,500 families based on a need assessment done earlier by the State Branch and IRCS National Headquarters.

[Read more](#)

Odisha: Red Cross 'wining hearts'



"Red Cross is rendering yeomen's service all over the world & winning hearts," said Hon'ble Governor & President of Indian Red Cross, Odisha State Branch while presiding over the Executive Committee on 13 February 2019.

West Bengal: New website launched



The Indian Red Cross Society West Bengal State Branch has launched a new website. The Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, who is also President of the State Branch, Keshari Nath Tripathi, unveiled the portal.

[Check out the website](#)

**Partners for Resilience
workshops**

A series of training of trainers and capacity building workshops were held in Uttarakhand, Assam and Gujarat this month for Indian Red Cross volunteers under the Partners for Resilience programme which seeks to build resilient communities by influencing the local elected representatives and other stakeholders. These workshops saw participation of state-level officials from India Meteorological Department. The volunteers will continue working with the communities through the integrated risk management framework.



Training of Trainers in Uttarakhand on integrated risk management under Partners for Resilience programme.



Training of Trainers in Assam on integrated risk management under Partners for Resilience programme.



IRCS Katihar District Branch in Bihar has donated Rs 75000 to Bharat Ke Veer Corpus, Bharat Ke Veer is a fundraising initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on behalf of members of the Indian Armed Forces.

Manipur: WASH and Mockdrill





WASH and Mockdrill programmes were held at Manipur's Bishnupur District by IRCS Branch. There was enthusiastic participation by students, teacher and staff of Bishnupur Public school; Fire department, police and traffic police.



Over 170 girl students from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya took part in in the WASH program conducted by IRCS Imphal East District Branch.

Telengana: SERV State-level Training



IRCS Telengana held a three-day state-level training of trainers for SERV members from the state.

A three-day training of Social and Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV) state level training of trainers workshop was held from 13 to 16 February. 34 participants from 17 districts of Telengana took part in the workshop that was inaugurated by Professor K. Sayanna, Vice Chancellor, Kakatiya University, Warangal.