In this Issue:
- From the Secretary General’s Desk
- IRCS Centenary Celebrations
- IRCS Nhq Blood Bank
- Major Blood Donation camps
- Red Cross volunteers at Ganga Sagar Mela
- First Aid & Painting Competitions
- Programs from the field
- Republic Day Celebrations
- Training Programs
- Course Updates

Ms. Christine Cipolla, Regional Director Asia-Pacific, International Committee of the Red Cross called on Shri R.K. Jain, Secretary General IRCS on 15-01-2020 at IRCS Nhq. They discussed ways to consolidate existing projects and achieve better visibility and impact.

Activities planned for Centenary Celebrations:
- Coffee table book showcasing 100 years of Indian Red Cross Society’s Journey.
- An IRCS Museum.
- A postal stamp with Red Cross Centenary logo.
- All IRCS branches to hold four events, namely, JRC/YRC activities, Blood Donation and Medical Camp, Swachha Bharat Abhiyan, Sensitization in first-aid till April. The Blood donation & Medical camp will be held on February 20, 2020.
- A national painting competitions for Junior Red Cross members.
- A national First Aid competition for Youth Red Cross members.
- A youth fest of BIMSTEC Nations.
- An International Seminar of National Societies.

From the desk of The Secretary General

2020 is a special year for IRCS. Not only is it our Centenary year, this is a year when we have embarked on a mission to impact the lives of many more through our SERV upscale program and various blood services initiatives to build a resilient society.

I am sure that our august legacy of ‘Minimizing, Alleviating and Preventing Human Suffering’ for the last 100 years will be taken forward by our dedicated volunteers and staff members across the country!

We rolled out our Centenary year celebrations this month with the Junior/Youth Red Cross Painting and First-Aid competitions. I am absolutely delighted to see the enthusiasm and dedication with which our young ‘Red Crossers’ are participating and concurrently enjoying themselves. It is these young members who embody the spirit of the Red Cross Movement and champion the cause of our organization. I was also present at the launch of the centenary celebrations of Tamil Nadu State Branch this month where the Hon’ble Governor, Shri Banwarilal Purohit ji also launched the Special Cover at the occasion. On the same day, Arunachal Pradesh State branch also launched their centenary celebrations.

I encourage all branches, members and volunteers to take up some initiative at their level to mark this august occasion. Lets take this opportunity to celebrate our achievements and share them with the larger world! Wishing you the best!
Let’s donate Blood & Save Lives!
Students of NIT Warangal donated 1205 units of blood at a mega Blood Donation camp organized in their college.
While India recorded a blood shortage of a staggering 1.95 million units in 2017-18, these enthusiastic youth have motivated everyone to follow their lead!

**Shri Gaurav Dixit** is a regular blood donor at IRCS. He believes that donating blood voluntarily is the noblest way to serve Humanity! We salute his dedication!

**Did You Know?**
During the times of World War II, IRCS established the first Blood Bank in India at the All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health, Calcutta (West Bengal) in 1942 to meet the needs of the soldiers wounded in the battlefield!

**IRCS NHQ Blood Bank**
A single donation can save up to 3 lives

**Month of January 2020**
Donors – 2260
Voluntary Donors in camps – 2058
Voluntary Donors in-house – 202
Percentage of voluntary donors – 100%

IRCS bid farewell to 3 staff members this month as they retired after decades of service. Shri Daler Singh, Shri Mohan Singh and Shri C.K. Rai played a prominent role in enabling Red Cross to serve humanity. We thank them and will miss them dearly!

Stay informed, Stay protected.
Every year, the cold wave sweeping North India puts poor, needy and vulnerable communities at serious risk. While we enjoy the winter season from the comfort of our homes, several people succumb to these harsh weather conditions. They sleep in the open & are exposed to severe biting cold. However, Red Cross volunteers from Uttarakhand & Punjab State Red Cross Branches welcomed the new year on a positive note by distributing blankets to the needy, setting a noble example for everyone to emulate!

Volunteers were also actively engaged in Search & Rescue operations that supported a crowd of almost 40 lakh pilgrims. Besides, visitors who had gone missing or had got separated from their families were helped to reunite with their families through Indian Red Cross Society's Family News Service (FNS) program.

Ambulance services and free medical treatment was organized and relief materials like Dhoti, Saree, Blankets were distributed among the needy. However, it was the first time that young Red Cross volunteers from a 2019 Youth program (started with support of ICRC in 2015) single-handedly managed the first-aid desk at the ‘Joydeb Mela’ in Birbhum-West Bengal this year and provided first-aid care to the needy.

Practical training helps equip students with skills/abilities that support their professional studies, preparing them for work later on. Students of our 'Home Health Aide Course' gained confidence and developed practical skills through these sessions organized at IRCS.

Indian Red Cross Society is also inviting applications for a new batch of the 4 month 'Home Health Aide Course'. This course will enable participants to learn skills that will help them serve the elderly, disabled & critically ill, thus empowering themselves with a new skill set & become self reliant.
Red Cross volunteers across the country celebrated Republic Day 2020 by organizing several activities such as blood donation, free health & eye check up camps and cleanliness drives. Health & hygiene awareness campaigns were also conducted where volunteers went door to door to spread awareness among community members and distribute sanitary napkins to girls and women.

By tapping the potential of youth as ‘agents of good’, our J/YRC programs support young people to emerge as agents of change within their own communities and take care of the needs of vulnerable people. Recently, Youth Red Cross members organized several Road Safety awareness programs across the country to mark the 31st Road Safety Week and spread awareness on traffic rules, regulations and protocols.

With support from Karnataka Police Department, experts from Karnataka State Red Cross Branch facilitated training with Highway Patrol Police Personnel on casualty handling, first-aid for injuries & other lifesaving procedures. Being first responders in most cases of road accidents, this training will empower the Police personnel to save many lives.

Shri R.K. Jain (IAS, Retd.) Secretary General, IRCS participated in the inaugural function of the Centenary Celebration of Tamil Nadu State Red Cross Branch on 29-01-2020 in Chennai. Hon’ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Banwarilal Purohit ji was the Chief guest. A Special Cover was also released by the Hon’ble Governor on this special occasion.

IRCS Centenary Celebrations!

Take a look at our excited and enthusiastic Junior/Youth Red Cross members as they get ready for the National Painting & First-Aid competitions in Delhi!