

International Volunteer Day – 2023

Message from Secretary General

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.” – Sherry Anderson



It gives me great pleasure to express my opinion on this International Volunteer Day (IVD), 5th December, 2023. Volunteerism is an enormous renewable resource for social, economic, humanitarian tasks, dissemination, health promotion and disaster management activities throughout the world. As the world faces mounting challenges, volunteers are often the first to help. Volunteers are at fore in crises and emergencies.

Volunteering has a long and illustrious history in India. Millions of individuals follow the tradition of shramdaan, which involves offering to work for the sake of humanity.

Since the Red Cross was founded in 1920, volunteerism has been at its core. All Indian Red Cross operations rely heavily on volunteers, who support branches in managing fruitful programs and providing aid to millions of vulnerable individuals in need. Our volunteers are essential to enhancing community empathy and resilience in addition to providing services.

This year, the theme for International Volunteer Day is: ***the power of collective action: if everyone did.*** The theme highlights that if everyone volunteered, the world would be a better place to live.

When it comes to utilizing volunteer programs to create a brighter future, youth are especially important. I urge branches to focus on the volunteer capacity-building initiatives that support their purpose, vision, and strategy.

International Volunteers Day is a time to recognize the volunteers who make a difference in their communities. Everyone at Red Cross is forever grateful to each of you. I thank my volunteers for their selfless work without fear or favour in all Red Cross pursuits. I wish all Red Crossers a Happy International Volunteer Day.

R.K Jain, IAS (Retd.)

Secretary General