

World Red Cross Day- May 8th, 2020

Message from the Secretary General



“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”

– Helen Keller

The year 2020 is incredibly special for Indian Red Cross. Not only have we completed the 100th year of our founding, I am filled with pride to see Red Crossers across the country carrying forward our 100-year long legacy of service to humanity.

The COVID19 pandemic is unlike anything the world has ever witnessed before. As countries struggle to contain the outbreak, they are concurrently preparing to deal with that which lies in its wake. Indian Red Cross had scaled up preparedness in time so that impact on the most vulnerable sections could be minimized. Today, our staff & volunteers are leaving no stone unturned to reach those who are often left behind. Watching them fills me with hope – hope that we will be able to soon overcome this crisis.

It is heartening to also see the world come together as a large family in response to this health crisis. We might be physically distant but are socially connected in our goal to defeat this pandemic. I am certain that our combined efforts will help us tide over this crisis. The extract from the poem, For Whom the Bell Tolls, by the renowned metaphysical poet, John Donne, very appropriately portrays the present-day grim reality that poses a challenge to the very existence of mankind itself.

No man is an island,
Entire of itself.
Each is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main....

Though we do not know exactly when, but at some point in time, the pandemic has to end, for I too have faith in the optimism conveyed by the poet, PB Shelley through these beautiful lines, ‘If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?’ Meanwhile, I urge you all to continue marching on and keep the humanitarian spirit alive.

Keeping in mind the words of Martin Luther King Jr. ‘We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope,’ I and my team at NHQ firmly stand behind you all. You are the real heroes of this crisis as you risk your own lives to keep the world safe. You are our backbone, our pride & the strength of our 100 year journey. As we embark on the journey of another 100 glorious years, on this occasion I want to assure you that, today & always, we stand firmly behind you! Wish you all the best on this World Red Cross Day!

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