



World Red Cross Day

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Why in News

Recently, the World Red Cross Day was celebrated by the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS).

Key Points

- World Red Cross day is observed on **May 8 on the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant**, who was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Henry Dunant was also the **recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize**.
- The main aim of the Red Cross Society is basically to inspire, initiate and encourage all kinds of humanitarian activities under all times and circumstances.
- **Programmes** conducted by the Red Cross Society can be broadly **categorised into four parts** including the promotion of humanitarian principles and values; disaster response; disaster preparedness; and health and care.
- The Red Cross Society is **based on 7 principles** namely, humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary, unity and universality.

Indian Red Cross Society

- IRCS is a **voluntary humanitarian organization** to protect human life and health with the help of its network of over 1100 branches throughout India.
- It was **established in 1920** and has completed its 100 years of existence.
- It is a **part of** the largest independent humanitarian organisation in the world, the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**.
- Its **mission** is to provide relief at the time of disasters/emergencies and also promotes healthcare facilities among vulnerable people and communities.
- The **President of India** is the President and the **Union Health Minister** is the Chairman of the Society.

Source: PIB