

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

Source: BS

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed annually on 8th May to honour the humanitarian efforts of millions of volunteers worldwide.

- **Theme 2025:** "*Keeping Humanity Alive*" reflects a commitment to humanitarian service amid rising inequalities, health crises, and conflicts.
- Historical Background: The day was established in 1948 to commemorate the birth of Henry Dunant, born on 8th May 1828, who was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the first Nobel Peace Prize laureate, sharing the award with Frédéric Passy.
 - After witnessing the horrors of the Battle of Solferino (1859), Dunant advocated for humanitarian aid bodies, leading to the formation of the ICRC in 1863 and later the Geneva Conventions.
 - The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, with over 80 million members, includes the ICRC, 191 National Societies, it provides protection and aid during conflicts and disasters, upheld by the red cross, red crescent, and red crystal emblems.
- **Significance:** The day honors volunteers aiding in emergencies, wars, and disasters, while promoting principles of humanity, impartiality, and neutrality.
- Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS): Founded in 1920, provides disaster relief and healthcare, with the President of India as its President and the Union Health Minister as its Chairman.



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