

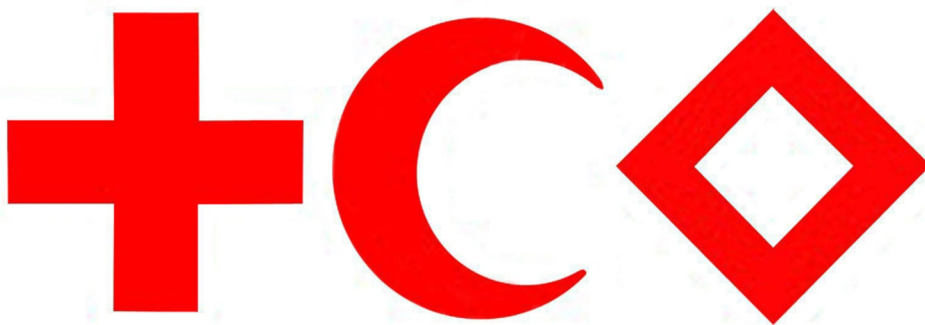


World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

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**.



Read more: [World Red Cross Day](#)

