



The Red Chronicles

May
2026

A Monthly e-Newsletter,
published by Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch

Celebrating
HUMANITY
Inspiring
HOPE

United in Humanity.
Driven by Compassion.



8
MAY

WORLD
RED CROSS
AND RED
CRESCENT
DAY

Thank you

to all our volunteers,
donors and partners
for being the strength
behind every life
we touch.



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5

First Aid Training
Programmes
Conducted



114

Participants
Trained in
First Aid



300+

Participants in
World No Tobacco
Day Programme



67

Beneficiaries of
Health Screening
Camp



1

Blood Donation
Camp
Organized



“ The Red Cross is not only an association,
it is a sentiment. It is the spirit of humanity.

– Jean Henry Dunant
Founder of the Red Cross Movement



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Monthly e-Newsletter of Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch

ircsassam.org

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Message from the General Secretary

As we celebrate the spirit of the Red Cross Movement during the month of May, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our volunteers, members, donors, partners, and well-wishers who continue to uphold the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.

The observance of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day across Assam once again demonstrated the strength of our humanitarian network and the dedication of our district branches. From awareness programmes and health camps to blood donation initiatives and first aid training, our volunteers continued to serve communities with compassion and commitment.

The Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch remains steadfast in its mission to alleviate human suffering and build resilient communities through humanitarian action. Let us continue to work together to create a healthier, safer, and more compassionate society.

Deba Prasad Sarma
General Secretary
Indian Red Cross Society,
Assam State Branch



If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

- Mother Teresa -



May 2026: Month at a Glance

The month of May 2026 was marked by a wide range of humanitarian initiatives undertaken by the Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch and its District Branches. The observance of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day served as the highlight of the month, bringing together volunteers, students, and community members in celebration of the spirit of humanity and service. Other notable activities included health awareness programmes, a voluntary blood donation camp, a cancer screening and health check-up camp, observance of International Nurses Day and World No Tobacco Day, as well as five First Aid Training Programmes that trained 114 participants in essential life-saving skills. Through these initiatives, the Society continued to promote health, preparedness, and community resilience across Assam.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2026

The month of May was marked by the widespread celebration of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, observed annually on 8 May, the birth anniversary of Jean Henry Dunant, founder of the International Red Cross Movement and the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

District branches of the Indian Red Cross Society across Assam organized a variety of programmes to commemorate the occasion, highlighting the values of humanity, compassion, voluntary service, and community solidarity.

At Red Cross Hospital, Chandmari, members, volunteers, and officials came together to celebrate the spirit of humanitarian service and reaffirm their commitment to serving vulnerable communities. Similar programmes were organized throughout the State, bringing together hundreds of volunteers, students, teachers, and community leaders.

The Dibrugarh District Branch observed the day by paying tribute to Jean Henry Dunant and reflecting on his enduring legacy of selfless service and humanitarian action.

The Darrang District Branch organized a comprehensive programme that included flag hoisting, awareness activities, and discussions on the role of the Red Cross in contemporary society. The programme witnessed the participation of district officials, volunteers, and members of the public.

The Charaideo District Branch, Sonari Unit, celebrated the occasion through awareness sessions on health, nutrition, and mental well-being. Resource persons from various professional backgrounds addressed participants and emphasized the importance of community health and humanitarian service.

The Karbi Anglong District Branch, Sribhumi District Branch, Udalguri District Branch, and several other units also organized commemorative programmes, awareness campaigns, and volunteer engagement activities to mark the day.

Educational institutions actively participated in the celebrations. The Youth Red Cross Unit of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya, Eraligool, conducted a plantation and cleanliness drive involving students and faculty members. Likewise, the Junior Red Cross Wing of Jurbari Hazi Kasim Ali High School organized a special observance featuring tributes to Jean Henry Dunant and discussions on the principles of the Red Cross Movement.

Collectively, these programmes reached hundreds of participants and reinforced the importance of humanitarian values in everyday life.

Glimpses of World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day Celebrations by Various District Branches.



Celebrating Service and Care **International Nurses Day Observance**

Date: 12 May 2026

Participants: 56

Organised by: IRCS, Sribhumi District Branch

The Indian Red Cross Society, Sribhumi District Branch observed International Nurses Day on the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

The programme recognized the invaluable contribution of nurses to healthcare systems and communities. Participants paid tribute to the dedication, compassion, and professionalism demonstrated by nursing personnel in delivering quality healthcare services.



Building a Culture of Preparedness **First Aid Awareness Programme for Students**

Date: 15 May 2026

Participants: 100

Venue: Nichols Higher Secondary School

A one-day awareness programme on First Aid and Emergency Response was organized by the Junior Red Cross Unit and Bharat Scouts & Guides members of Nichols Higher Secondary School.

The session introduced students to basic first aid techniques, emergency response measures, safety practices, and the importance of humanitarian service. Through demonstrations and interactive learning, participants developed greater awareness of lifesaving skills and preparedness.



Voluntary Blood Donation for Humanity

Blood Donation Camp at Mahadevpur, Namsai

Date: 17 May 2026

The Indian Red Cross Society, Dibrugarh District Branch, in collaboration with the All Lekang Area Youth Association and Marwari Arogya Bhawan Hospital, Dibrugarh, organized a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp.

The initiative promoted the importance of voluntary blood donation and encouraged community participation in life-saving humanitarian action. Donors were recognized for their contribution towards strengthening the availability of safe blood for patients in need.



Advancing Community Healthcare

Cancer Screening and Health Check-up Camp

Date: 28 May 2026

A comprehensive health camp was conducted focusing on the early detection and prevention of cancer and other health conditions.

A total of 67 individuals received medical consultation and screening services, including cervical cancer screening, clinical breast examination, oral cancer screening, blood sugar testing, haemoglobin testing, bone mineral density assessment, and distribution of medicines.

The initiative emphasized the importance of preventive healthcare and early diagnosis in improving health outcomes and reducing disease burden.



World No Tobacco Day Observed

Date: 31 May 2026

Participants: 300

Venue: Vidya Niketan, Jayantipur, Rangia

World No Tobacco Day was observed with an awareness programme aimed at educating students and community members about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption.

The programme emphasized the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles, preventing tobacco-related diseases, and creating a tobacco-free society through awareness and informed decision-making.



First Aid Training Programmes (FAT) – May 2026

During May 2026, the Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch successfully conducted five First Aid Training (FAT) programmes in collaboration with various industrial and corporate establishments across Assam.

The training programmes were organized at:

- Huhtamaki India Ltd., Guwahati – 30 participants
- Oil India Limited, Duliajan – 30 participants
- Oil India Limited, Duliajan – 29 participants
- Rangpur Steel Udyog – 14 participants
- GTC Techno Exploration Pvt. Ltd. – 11 participants

A total of 114 participants received training in basic first aid, CPR, bleeding control, fracture management, emergency response, and workplace safety practices.

These programmes continue to strengthen emergency preparedness and empower individuals with essential lifesaving skills.

Inspiration Corner ***The Legacy of Jean Henry Dunant***

In 1859, a young Swiss businessman named Jean Henry Dunant witnessed the aftermath of the Battle of Solferino, where thousands of wounded soldiers were left without medical care. Moved by their suffering, he mobilized local communities to provide assistance regardless of nationality or affiliation. His vision eventually led to the creation of the International Red Cross Movement, which today serves millions of people across the globe. More than a century later, every volunteer, donor, trainer, nurse, and humanitarian worker who serves under the Red Cross emblem continues that legacy—proving that one act of compassion can inspire a movement that transforms lives.

Conclusion

The activities carried out during May 2026 reflect the Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch's unwavering commitment to humanitarian service, health promotion, volunteer engagement, and community resilience across the State. Through the observance of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, health awareness initiatives, blood donation activities, and capacity-building programmes, the Society continues to uphold the values of humanity, compassion, and voluntary service, reaching communities and inspiring positive change throughout Assam.



In the News

A feature on the humanitarian legacy of the Red Cross

- by Shri Deba Prasad Sarma, General Secretary, IRCS, ASB

Red Cross legacy in Assam and beyond

DEBA PRASAD SARMA

The Red Cross has shown that humanitarian service, compassion, and community resilience remain essential amid conflicts and global challenges.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement stands today as one of the world's most enduring symbols of compassion, neutrality, and humanitarian service. Founded in 1863 under the leadership of Jean Henry Dunant, a Swiss humanitarian deeply moved by the suffering he witnessed at the Battle of Solferino in 1859, the Movement emerged from a simple yet powerful idea: that care should be given to all wounded people, irrespective of their side in a conflict. This vision led to the establishment of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, laying the foundation for a global humanitarian network.

World Red Cross Day was first observed on May 8, 1948, marking Dunant's birth anniversary. In 1984, it was renamed World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day to reflect the Movement's inclusivity and global reach. Each year, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies adopts a theme to guide collective humanitarian action. This year's theme, 'United in Humanity,' serves as a powerful reminder that, in a world often divided by conflict and inequality, our shared humanity must remain the guiding force.

Since its inception, the Movement has been at the forefront of responding to human suffering caused by wars, disasters, and health emergencies. Over time, its mandate has expanded to include promoting healthcare, strengthening community resilience, encouraging social inclusion, and upholding humanitarian values. Today, with more than 15 million volunteers and staff worldwide, the Red

Cross and Red Crescent network is the largest humanitarian organisation on the planet. Its emblem – a red cross on a white background – continues to symbolise protection, neutrality, and hope for vulnerable populations.

Recent global crises highlight the continued relevance of the Movement. During the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Red Cross teams have provided emergency shelter to over 1.8 million people and helped restore access to safe water for nearly 11 million individuals. Such interventions underscore the Movement's unwavering commitment to alleviating suffering, regardless of geography or politics.

India's association with the Red Cross began in the aftermath of World War I. Recognising the need for a structured humanitarian organisation, Sir Claude Hill introduced legislation that led to the formation of the Indian Red Cross Society in 1920 through an Act of Parliament. Since then, the IRCS has grown into a vital partner in national humanitarian efforts, with over 1,100 branches across the country. It plays a crucial role in disaster response, blood services, health promotion, and community welfare.

A defining aspect of the Red Cross Movement is its commitment to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) – a body of rules designed to protect civilians and limit the effects of armed conflict. Through awareness, advocacy, and engagement with governments, armed forces, and civil society, the Movement promotes respect for IHL. By delivering neutral and impartial aid – food, shelter, medical care, and psychosocial support – the Red Cross not only alleviates suffering but also fosters

trust, dialogue, and pathways toward peace.

In India's Northeastern region, where communities often face the dual challenges of natural disasters and socio-political complexities, the Red Cross has played a significant role in promoting resilience and social cohesion. It has supported populations affected by floods, landslides, and displacement, while also encouraging inter-community dialogue and cooperation.

The Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch (IRCS-ASB) exemplifies this commitment at the grassroots level. With 34 district and subdivisional branches, it has been actively engaged in a wide range of humanitarian activities. These include community-based disaster risk reduction programmes, blood donation drives, health and hygiene awareness campaigns, and emergency relief operations during floods and other disasters. The branch also undertakes livelihood support and psychosocial care initiatives, particularly for vulnerable and disaster-affected communities.

Historically, the IRCS Assam has demonstrated remarkable service during critical periods. It provided assistance to Tibetan refugees in Missamari in 1969, supported relief efforts during the language disturbances of 1961-62, extended aid during the Indo-China War of 1962, and contributed to epidemic response efforts in 1965. The Society also played a vital role during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, assisting refugees and displaced populations. These contributions earned the Assam branch recognition for its dedication and humanitarian spirit.

Beyond emergency response, the IRCS Assam has focused on capacity building and pre-

paredness. Through training programmes in first aid, home nursing, disaster management, and community health, it empowers individuals and communities to respond effectively to crises. Such initiatives are essential for building long-term resilience and reducing vulnerability in a disaster-prone region like Assam.

The Red Cross Movement's unparalleled contribution to humanity has been recognised globally with the Nobel Peace Prize on four occasions – in 1901 (awarded to Henry Dunant), 1917, 1944, and 1963. These honours reflect the Movement's unwavering dedication to alleviating human suffering and promoting peace and dignity across the world.

As we observe World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day this year, the message is clear and urgent. In an era marked by climate change, conflicts, pandemics, and growing inequalities, the need for humanitarian action has never been greater. The theme 'United in Humanity' calls upon each of us – individuals, communities, and institutions – to reaffirm our commitment to compassion, service, and solidarity.

The Red Cross reminds us that humanitarianism is not limited to organisations – it is a shared responsibility. Whether through volunteering, donating, spreading awareness, or simply extending kindness to those in need, every action counts.

On this occasion, let us renew our pledge to uphold the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and voluntary service. Together, we can build a more compassionate, resilient, and peaceful world – united in humanity.

(The author is the general secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch)



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Don't Use



RED CROSS EMBLEM

Only for Red Cross staff and on Red Cross Properties

Use These



AMBULANCE



DOCTOR



PHARMACY



HOSPITAL

The use of Red Cross is regulated by the Geneva Conventions and Indian Red Cross Society Act, and its misuse is an offence.

Indian Red Cross Society

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