



# THE NURSING JOURNAL OF INDIA

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## High Court Favours TNAI's Stand for Nurses Salaries

In line with its mandate for socio-economic welfare of nurses, consequent upon some complaints from States about low salaries and poor working conditions, TNAI had filed a petition in Supreme Court in 2011 for intervention and passing necessary orders. The apex court, based on recommendations of a Committee, directed the States to take appropriate action. In the meantime, TNAI filed a petition in Delhi High Court for implementation of the ruling. We are happy to share with you that Hon'ble High Court Delhi has recently (**through its order dt. 22 July 2019**) endorsed the TNAI's plea for nurses in Delhi. Although the ruling needs to be honoured in letter and spirit nationally, at least the nurses in Delhi shall have a legal backing to settle scores over unfair salaries or working conditions, if required.

Major reason behind high infant mortality, poor child health and low survival in India is the suboptimal breastfeeding; only 55 percent of the newborns are exclusively breastfed. Around one lakh child deaths and huge morbidities of child or mother due to diarrhea, pneumonia, obesity, breast and ovarian cancers, type 2 diabetes can be drastically cut down if breastfeeding is practiced optimally. The WHO and UNICEF recommend giving colostrum to the newborn, exclusive breastfeeding during 0-6 months of age and continuing it till two years or beyond. To promote this practice, the 120+ countries with support from World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), UNICEF, WHO and their partners celebrate Breastfeeding Week during 1-7 August annually. This year's slogan, Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding: Now and for the Future means that encouraging breastfeeding by educating women is not enough, they need to be enabled. Provisions of the IMS Act 1992/2003 need to be honoured. The target of enhancing breastfeeding up to 65.7 percent of children can be met only through concerted efforts from all sections of populations.

Not many are aware that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated 2020 as the 'Year of the Nurse and Midwife', in honour of the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. For nurses, this will be "once in a generation opportunity" to showcase the profession. Nations of the world will unite in celebration of the benefits that nursing and midwifery staff bring to the health of the global population like the Sustainable Development Goals or Universal coverage. The year is significant also because 'The State of the World's Midwifery 2020 Report', of which WHO is partner shall be launched and the NursingNow, a three-year global campaign (2018-2020) that aims to improve health by raising the profile and status of nursing worldwide, shall culminate.

Run in collaboration with the WHO and the International Council of Nurses (ICN), NursingNow seeks to empower nurses to take up 21st century health challenges and maximise their contribution to achieving Universal Health Coverage. It has five core areas: ensuring that nurses and midwives have a more prominent voice in health policy-making; encouraging greater investment in the nursing workforce; recruiting more nurses into leadership positions; conducting research that helps determine where nurses can have the greatest impact; and sharing of best nursing practices. Part of the campaign, The 2020 Nightingale Challenge calls on employers across the world to invest in developing leadership skills of young nurses (brief of ICN Report at pp 165-66).

Evelyn P Kannan  
Chief Editor & Secretary-General, TNAI

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