

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के तहत सांविधिक निकाय
Statutory Body under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

PRESS RELEASE

International Conference on “Nurses and Midwives for Universal Health Coverage” hosted by Indian Nursing Council (INC) in collaboration with Jhpiego and endorsed by International Council of Nurses (ICN) from 29th November to 1st December, 2018 at Hotel Eros, Nehru Place, New Delhi

The International Conference on ‘Nurses and Midwives for Universal Health Coverage’ was inaugurated by Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon’ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, which was hosted by Indian Nursing Council and endorsed by International Council of Nurses with technical support of Jhpiego. He said, that the theme is aptly chosen to emphasise the significant role of nurses and their contribution towards achieving the target of Universal Health Coverage.

India has also embarked on an ambitious scheme to achieve Universal Health Coverage, through “**Ayushman Bharat Yojana**”. Government of India has taken a decisive stride towards achieving Universal Health Coverage and has made plans to prepare mid-level healthcare providers to provide primitive and preventive services at the health centres.

Aim

The Conference aims at bringing together nurses and midwives from across the globe to explore the strategies, approaches, and best practices to prepare nurse leaders to work within and promote Universal Health Coverage.

The Conference provides a platform for presentations of best practices, innovations and research results in Universal Health Coverage and nurses’ role in achieving it. It also provides opportunity to explore the scope of inter-professional collaborations, inter-sectoral partnerships and utilization of technology in strengthening the nursing cadre to improve the health outcomes. A lot of delegates from India and abroad are participating in the said Conference. The President, 3 Vice-Presidents and 10 other Board Members of International Council of Nurses will also participate in the Conference. Four plenary sessions, 60 oral paper presentations and 40 poster presentations are expected in the Conference.

नर्सिंग शिक्षा के समान स्तर को प्राप्त करने का प्रयास

Striving to achieve uniform standards of Nursing Education

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Inaugural Function on 29th November, 2018

Welcoming the guest and delegates Dr. T. Dileep Kumar, President, Indian Nursing Council, referred to the theme of the Conference i.e. Nurses and Midwives for Universal Health Coverage and the important role nurses have to play in delivering Universal Health Care to the people.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation – Chief Guest

On this occasion, the Chief Guest launched the “Nursing Now Campaign” in India and pledge of Nursing Now Campaign was taken by all the delegates. Appreciating the Nursing Now Campaign, the Chief Guest also remarked that it should be rather a Nursing Forever Campaign.

The Chief Guest also referred to the important role played by nurses from birth to death and the noble role played by nurses in serving humanity.

He stressed that actually Health Care is Human Care and the nurses have to play critical role in providing Health Care. Referring to the theme of the Conference i.e. Universal Health Coverage, he drew attention to the Ayushman Bharat Yojana launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister in providing health care to citizens of our country and the importance of quality nursing education in this context. He also underlined the role played by Indian Nursing Council and its President Dr. T. Dileep Kumar in ushering quality nursing education in India. He also mentioned that Ministry of Commerce is working on a scheme to facilitate large number of Indian nurses to work in foreign countries as nursing is a truly global profession. He also assured that Government of India will be doing everything to promote nursing profession for health care.

It was also highlighted that a signature campaign will be taken up in the Parliament for the Nursing Now Campaign.

Dr. Annette Kennedy, President, International Council of Nurses (ICN)

She remarked that ICN is having its Board Meeting for the first time in India and thanked INC President's role in this and also in organising the Conference.

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Referring to the challenges worldwide in the Health Sector, she underscored the need for various International Organisations like UN, ILO and Jhpiego to work together. She also referred to the Nursing Now Campaign that it will be coinciding the 200th Birth Anniversary Year of Florence Nightingale.

Dr. Leslie Mancuso, President and Chief Executive Officer, Jhpiego

She remarked that she is a Nurse first and the President and CEO, Jhpiego later. She noted that Jhpiego has been working closely with Indian Nursing Council and Government of India in tackling the health challenges in India and underscored the importance of nursing education in achieving Universal Health Coverage. She also lauded the efforts of Indian Nursing Council and its President in ushering in providing quality nursing education in India. She also stressed the need for collaboration of all concerned agencies in achieving Universal Health Coverage.

Dr. Amit Arun Shah, Project Management Specialist-Reproductive Health, US Agency for International Development (USAID)

He remarked that for five decades USAID has been associated with Government of India and other agencies in the health programme. He also referred the relevance of the topic of the Conference i.e. Universal Health Coverage and the importance of strengthening the nursing cadre to achieve this. He underscored the need to take all the required steps for nursing professional to get the required respect it deserves.

Shri Ganesh Singh & Shri Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Hon'ble Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha)

President, INC was thanked for organising this Conference and the importance of the topic of the Conference i.e. Universal Health Coverage. It was mentioned that nowhere else in the world a scheme of the magnitude of Ayushman Bharat Yojana covering 50 crore people have been attempted. The importance of the requirement of the availability of the trained nurses and hence of nursing education was underlined. President, INC and its staff were congratulated for organising two International Conferences (BRICS & ICN) within two months. INC's efforts to create the Live Register of Nurses through NRTS Project was also lauded.

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It was also mentioned that Ayushman Bharat Yojana initiated by Prime Minister of India, which is popularly known as Modi Care is similar to Obama Care initiated by Mr. Barack Obama, the erstwhile US President.

The Hon'ble Members of Parliament also indicated that a signature campaign will be taken up in the Parliament for the Nursing Now Campaign.

ICN

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 National Nurses Associations (NNAs), representing more than 20 million nurses worldwide. Founded in 1899, ICN is the world's first and widest reaching international organisation for health professionals. Operated by leading nurses internationally, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all, sound health policies globally, the advancement of nursing knowledge, and the worldwide presence of respected nursing professionals and a competent and satisfied nursing workforce. ICN is a permanent invitee to World Health Assembly which is organised by World Health Organisation (WHO) every year in Geneva. Health Ministers, Health Secretaries & Director General (Health) of all the member countries attend this World Health Assembly. This Assembly discusses issues on Health. ICN is having an opportunity to intervene while passing with World Health Assembly resolution during World Health Assembly. Recently i.e. in 2016 effective intervention was made by ICN with regard to resolution passed by World Health Assembly on Human Resource for Health 2030.

As per the Statement of Director General WHO Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus **“The world is also facing a shortfall of 18 million health workers needed to deliver and sustain Universal Health Coverage by 2030. More than half of that shortfall is Nurses and Midwives.”**

WHO Global Strategy on **Human Resource for Health Workforce 2030** adopted by Member States in 2016 proposes a framework for making the most effective use of health workers and developing countries specific investment plans to address workforce strategies.

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There is an urgent need of reviewing nursing staffing norms in India and to work for recruiting nurses as per norms so that they can provide quality health care with an ultimate objective of addressing the UHC.

ICN is having global voice at the global level. Every year ICN organises International Nurses Day with a specific theme and advise the member countries to work towards development of nurses and midwives.

ICN Board is represented by 14 Members viz. Annette Kennedy, President (Ireland); Pamela Cipriano, First Vice-President (USA); Thembeke Gwagwa, Second Vice-President (South Africa); Sung Rae Shin, Third Vice-President (South Korea); Fatima Al Rifai (Emirates); Ioannis Leontiou (Cyprus); Karen Bjoro (Norway); Brigita Skela-Savic (Slovenia); Roswitha Koch (Switzerland); Maria Eulália Juvé (Spain); Lisa Little (Canada); Erika Caballero (Chile); Lian-Hua Huang (Taiwan); Wu Ying (China) who are elected at the global level. For the first time, ICN Board Members are coming to India and holding their ICN Board Meeting in India from 2nd to 4th December 2018. As India is not a Member of ICN Board, it is a great opportunity for Indian Nurses and Midwives to meet International Council of Nurses (ICN) Board Members and to interact with them. During the Conference ICN Board Members will be serving as Panellists in the various Plenary Sessions.

Relevance of the topic of the Conference i.e. UHC in the Indian Context

It is pertinent to note here that India is embarking on the ambitious target of achieving Universal Health Coverage for all its citizens and Ayushman Bharat Yojana has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to achieve this vision. This initiative has been designed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals set by UN where the underlying commitment is to **“leave no one behind”**.

It focuses on nursing plays an important role to achieve the target of Universal Health Coverage and the Conference will provide a platform for nurses from various countries to share their country's policy and plans for achieving the Universal Health Coverage and will help in throwing new light on the problems being faced by other countries in meeting the challenge of Universal Health Coverage.

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