On the occasion of
International Nurses Day
12th May 2019
Indian Nursing Council
(Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India)
wishes to congratulate the
nursing fraternity of India and the world and
acknowledge their valuable contribution to
the field of nursing and health care.
The International Council for Nurses (ICN) has chosen “Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Health for All” as its theme for International Nurses Day, 2019.

**Aim for the year 2019:** Nurses are essential in transforming health care and health systems such that no person is left behind, without access to care or impoverished because of their need for health care.

**Health for All:** “Health for All means that health is brought into reach of everyone in a given country.” Health in this context means not just the availability of health services, but a complete state of physical and mental health that enables a person to lead a socially and economically productive life.

**Universal Health Coverage:** “Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.”

**From the Health for All to Universal Health Coverage:** “We know that, when universal health coverage is achieved, poverty will be reduced, jobs will be created, economies will grow, and communities will be protected against disease outbreaks. But we also know women’s economic opportunities will advance, and their children’s health and development will follow in step.”

**Resources:** Becoming a voice to lead means talking to governments, community leaders, policy makers and investors. In ICN toolkit you will find everything you need to campaign for access to health and universal health coverage, and to provide the evidence you need to convince others that health is a human right. Use ICN resource and evidence pack, ICN video, ICN posters, or ICN social media banners to spread the word and use your voice to lead!

**Become a Voice to Lead:** More than any other health profession, nurses spend the most time with patients and their families and have first-hand knowledge of the stories that have an impact on the health and well-being of patients. Every nurse has a story and every story has the potential to improve the health system and enable individuals and communities to achieve their highest attainable standard of health. From these insights comes the power for change. Policy makers are distanced from the requirements that make an effective and people-centred health system; to them it is peripheral. To nurses, it is the daily lived experience. The right to the highest attainable standard of health requires nursing insight to challenge how the system works and how it can be improved.

“National Florence Nightingale Awards for Nurses-2019” has been postponed.