

National Florence Nightingale Awards 2021

November 9, 2022

In news– The President of India presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2021 to the Nursing professionals recently.

The National Florence Nightingale Awards –

These awards were **instituted in the year 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India as **a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.**

Who is Florence Nightingale?

- **Florence Nightingale, byname Lady with the Lamp, British nurse, statistician, and social reformer** who was the foundational philosopher of modern nursing.
- She was born in Florence, Italy, on May 12, 1820, and was named after her birthplace, where her parents.
- However, she grew up and spent her life in England, living in Derbyshire, Hampshire, and London.
- **Nightingale was put in charge of nursing British and allied soldiers in Turkey during the Crimean War.**
- **She spent many hours in the wards**, and her night rounds giving personal care to the wounded established her image as the **“Lady with the Lamp.”**
- Her efforts to formalize nursing education led her to **establish the first scientifically based nursing school—the Nightingale School of Nursing, at St. Thomas’ Hospital in London.**
- She also was **instrumental in setting up training for midwives and nurses** in workhouse infirmaries.
- **In 1859 she published her book Notes on Nursing: What It Is, and What It Is Not**, a step-by-step guide explaining her methods for attending to the sick.

- She was the **first woman awarded the Order of Merit (1907)**.
- **International Nurses Day, observed annually on May 12, commemorates her birth** and celebrates the important role of nurses in health care.
- WHO **designated the year 2020 as the “Year of the Nurse and midwife”**, in honour of the **200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale**.