



## 2020 as Year of the Nurse and Midwife: WHO

### Why in News

The [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) has designated the year **2020** as the “Year of the Nurse and midwife”, in honour of the **200<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale**.



- The declaration of “**Year of the Nurse and midwife**” will help to strengthen nursing and midwifery for Universal Health Coverage.
  - Strengthening nursing will help to achieve [Sustainable Development Goals](#), in particular the **(SDG) 3 - ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages, SDG 5-promoting gender equity and SDG 8- contributing to economic development**.
  - Nurses and midwives constitute more than 50% of the health workforce in many countries.
- The declaration will also help to endorse “**The NursingNow!**” a **three**-year campaign **(2018-2020)** to improve health globally by raising the status of nursing.
- Moreover, WHO is also leading the development of the **first-ever State of the World’s Nursing report** which will be launched in 2020.

### Florence Nightingale



- Florence Nightingale was a **British nurse, statistician, and social reformer** who is also considered as a **foundational philosopher of modern nursing**.
- She was born in Florence, **Italy**, on **May 12, 1820**. The year 2020 marks a **bicentenary year** of her birth.
- During the Crimean War, she and a team of nurses improved the unsanitary conditions at a British base hospital, greatly reducing the death count. Her writings sparked worldwide health care reform.
- She was known for her night rounds to aid the wounded, establishing her image as the '**Lady with the Lamp**'.

