



NAINA BIENNIAL 2026 AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

NAINA's Nursing Excellence in India Award

National Association of Indian Nurses of America (NAINA) Nursing Excellence in India Award is designed to provide a global recognition honoring a nurse currently serving in India who demonstrates excellence, innovation, engagement, and empowerment in the nursing profession, while making a meaningful difference.

Nomination Criteria

To ensure a high standard of professional recognition, all nominees must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a currently practicing registered nurse (RN) in India
- Have a minimum of 10 years of professional nursing experience
- Current Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) Member

Evaluation Criteria

Nominees should demonstrate strong evidence in the following areas:

1. Professional Practice Excellence

- Consistent delivery of high-quality patient care
- Clinical expertise and commitment to best practices
- Recognition by peers, patients, or institutions

2. Innovation and Measurable Impact

- Development or implementation of innovative solutions in healthcare
- Evidence of measurable outcomes (e.g., improved patient outcomes, system improvements, education advancements)
- Potential for scalability or replication

3. Education & Leadership

- Active participation in professional nursing organizations
- Championing leadership roles, mentorship, or team development
- Engagement in community or public health initiatives



4. Research and Advocacy Empowerment

- Synthesizes innovative solutions for widespread healthcare influence.
- Implements local innovations for moderate evidence-based system improvements.
- Advocacy for patients, nurses, or healthcare systems
- Mentorship and empowerment of fellow nurses

5. Global and Cross-Border Contribution

- Contributions that connect or strengthen relationships between nursing communities in India and abroad.
- Participation in international collaborations, knowledge exchange, or partnerships
- Efforts that align with increasing engagement with NAINA

6. Overall Impact & Story

- Narrative reflects transformational professional nursing contributions.
- Sustainable contributions that have solid, meaningful impact over time.

Required Documents

Each nomination must include the following in one PDF document:

- A **nomination statement** (300 words) addressing the evaluation criteria
- **Nominee's CV** (maximum 3–5 pages recommended)
- At least **one letter of recommendation** from a supervisor or senior leader (maximum two) with their contact information.

Evaluation Considerations

- Demonstrated **impact over time**, not just isolated achievements
- Evidence-based outcomes and contributions
- Potential to **inspire broader engagement**, especially among nurses in India

Additional Notes:

- Submission due date: August 31, 2026
- This is a one-time award per individual.
- TNAI will be involved in the finalist selection process.



- The award will be distributed via Zoom for finalists who are unable to be present in person.
- Finalists must be available for the mandatory Zoom award presentation on October 3rd, 2026, between 6:00–8:00 AM IST (7:30–8:30 PM CST USA).

Please refer to the Rubric section below for award eligibility, evaluation criteria, and scoring details.

Warm regards,

Maya

Maya E Joseph, Ph.D., RN, CCRN

Awards and Scholarships Committee Chair, NAINA

www.nainausa.org

nainaawardsandscholarship@gmail.com





NAINA Global Nursing Excellence Initiative Award – Scoring Rubric

Criteria	Exemplary (5)	Accomplished (3)	Developing (1)
Professional Practice Excellence	Exceptional clinical leader widely recognized for excellence and expertise.	Consistent and reliable clinical performance and commitment to best practices.	Basic clinical competence with minimal external recognition.
Innovation & Impact	Innovative solutions with broad, measurable impact and high scalability.	Some innovation resulting in moderate system or patient improvements.	Minimal innovation with unclear or localized impact.
Education & Leadership	Highly influential leader "Championing or Orchestrating" high-level roles and community involvement; transformational advocate and mentor with widespread influence and a memorable impact on nursing empowerment.	Moderate engagement in leadership roles and professional participation; active mentorship and support for fellow nurses; contributes meaningfully to staff development.	Limited involvement or influence in leadership roles; passive participation in staff development; limited history of advocacy or mentorship.
Research and Advocacy Empowerment	Transformational advocate with widespread influence in mentorship and healthcare systems; synthesizes innovative solutions with broad, measurable impact and clear potential for global scalability or replication.	Demonstrated efforts in mentoring colleagues and advocating for patient care; successfully implements local innovations with moderate evidence-based results and system improvements.	Limited evidence of advocacy or mentorship initiatives; minimal evidence of innovation or unclear impact on patient outcomes.
Global & Cross-Border Impact	Exceptional connector between nursing communities in India and NAINA/International groups; work explicitly aligns with NAINA's mission and increases international engagement.	Demonstrated collaboration or knowledge exchange between nursing communities in India and abroad; meaningful participation in cross-border knowledge exchange.	Minimal international engagement or cross-border connectivity; contributions lack alignment with global nursing goals or NAINA.
Overall Impact & Story	Powerful, inspiring, and memorable narrative reflecting transformational professional contribution.	Solid and meaningful contribution to the nursing profession with a clear impact story.	Limited or unclear impact story with minimal evidence of broader influence.