

Nursing a deficit, US co ropes in Modi

Our Delhi Bureau

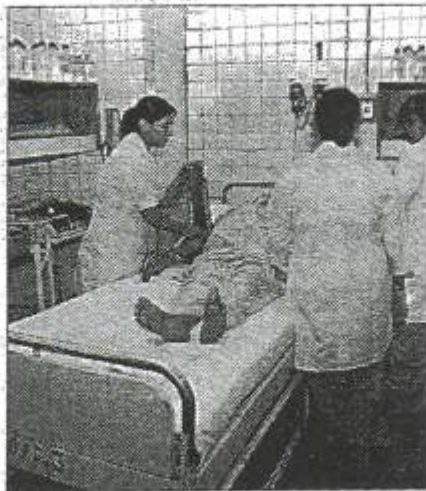
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THE US now looks to India to fill up the shortage for nurses in the country. Banner Health, a non-profit healthcare provider in Arizona, has tied up with Healthcare Placements India, a KK Modi group company. This is Banner's first venture into India for nurses and have signed up 50 nurses trained by Healthcare Placements.

Most of those selected are from Kerala, a state traditionally known for providing nurses. In fact, Ms Charu Modi Bharia, director Healthcare Placements has started another chapter in Cochin, in response to the demand. The nurse as per the arrangement will have a three day work week on 12 hour shifts.

They will initially have a two-year contract, in which time they will earn roughly around Rs 38 lakh.

According to Ms Cathy Jacques of Banner Staffing Services, these nurses will be paid \$4000 as relocation fee. The visa processing



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and procedures for the nurses and their immediate families will be taken care of by the company. Stressing the fact that Indian nurses will be paid the same rates as their Ameri-

can counterpart, Ms Paula Bradney, regional director, Banner Staffing Services said, that Indian nurse can also avail of the opportunity to work overtime and earn \$30 per hour during the day and \$36 per hour for night shifts.

The areas in which Banner Health is looking for nurses are critical care, medical surgical, neo natal intensive care, pediatric intensive care. There is also some interest in cardiovascular intensive care. There interest however is not merely limited to female nurses. They would be interested in male nurses, with specific focus on bedside care.

Banner Health has 20 hospitals and six long term care centres. At Banner alone there is a requirement for 1,000 registered nurses. Addressing the press, Ms Paula Bradney said that in Arizona alone, where banner Health operates, there are vacancies for 10,000 nurses.

Modi Healthcare Placements is geared towards addressing shortage of nurses in developed countries like the US and UK. The company helps nurses through the entire process of relocation.