

US agency on the lookout for nurses, plans training centre in city

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Chandigarh: Presently on the lookout for qualified and professional nurses from cities like Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Kochi, USA-based Health Systems Company, along with its Indian partners in healthcare placement, conducted preliminary interviews of hundreds of nurses from north India and Chandigarh at a city hotel on Thursday. As many as 42 professional nurses were shortlisted for one-year training to be held by the healthcare placement agency at Kochi and Delhi. On Monday, they had conducted preliminary interviews of nurses at Delhi and have shortlisted at least 111 nurses so far.

Speaking to *Times of Chandigarh*, Rita Marathey, director of the healthcare placement agency, said Health Systems Company is the largest non-profit healthcare service provider in Arizona and has recruited hundreds of qualified and professional nurses for some of America's leading hospitals. It has 20 hospitals, six long-term care centres, several family clinics, home care services and home medical equipment services.

Marathey said statistics



Paula Bradney addressing mediapersons in Chandigarh on Thursday.

indicated that USA alone needs over 400,000 nurses in its hospitals and their healthcare placement centre en-

ures that selected nurses pursue their exam preparations, US licensure and immigration without spending

money from their pocket.

Between January and June, many of the nurses in India were discouraged by the delay in issue of green cards to nurses from India, China and the Philippines. But now, with visa retrogression being eased, 50,000 additional visas have been released and many nurses from India should be able to reach USA by the end of this year, Marathey said.

About their visit to India, particularly to Chandigarh, to select nurses, Paula Bradney, regional director of Health Systems Company said, "I have earlier interviewed nurses in Kerala, Rajasthan and Karnataka. But nurses here have been found to be possessing better communication skills, education and are more compassionate." They have got at least 500 job opportunities for nurses in USA and the demand for Indian and Filipino nurses is very high there, Bradney said. Marathey said that Chandigarh has great potential for their healthcare placement services and they are planning to open a nurses' training institute here soon to facilitate training of nurses selected from this region, rather than going in for their existing training centres at Kochi and Delhi.