

Nurses to be recruited mostly from India:

Local health board, UK: to recruit 900 overseas nurses

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London: April 7 A local health board in the UK is to recruit as many as 900 nurses, mostly from Kerala, in the course of next four years to address workforce shortages, which is as high as 40 per cent in acute care and surgery.

The Swansea Bay University Health Board will hire 350 nurses from overseas in the current financial year, subject to approval by chief executive Mark Hackett, the BBC reported.

The health board employs nearly 4,200 nurses and midwives. It had 1,322 nurses and midwives currently over the age of 51 that could retire very soon or over the next few years.

According to a BBC report, the Health Board, which is responsible for NHS services in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, said it has previously recruited from the Philippines, Africa and the Caribbean, as well as India.

It would cost about 4.7 million pounds to employ 350 overseas nurses in 2023-24, but this would save 1.5 million pounds in agency and nursing bank costs, the report said.

The report said overseas nurses were offered a Band 5 contract, with a starting salary of 27,055 pounds, but initially received a Band 4 wage until they completed their UK registration.

The health board representatives recently went to Kochi, which led to the employment of 107 nurses, some with 15 years of experience, to help fill the void of Band 5 — filled by newly qualified nurses — within Swansea Bay.

Following compliance checks and obtaining a visa, these nurses will face a four-week OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) training programme in the health board's Nurse Education Training Suite based in Baglan HQ, before sitting for an exam to attain their Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) registration.

The decision to recruit specifically from India was based on the country's high number of quality nurses.

"In countries such as India there is a surplus of trained nurses. Ethically, we can recruit from these countries as they are not being left short of quality nurses. Often, the nurses we interview have only been given 12-month contracts in their home countries. So, they are also looking at more long-term commitments, which we can offer," said Lynne Jones, Head of Nursing Education and Recruitment. **Reference:** www.siasat.com **By----** **Dr. K.N. Mistry**

EXPANSION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION in INDIA from 2014-23:

(Narendra Modi took over as the Prime Minister of India on 26th May 2014.)

New Delhi: February 7, 2023: According to the data provided by the Government of India (GOI) in the Parliament on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, the number of Medical Colleges has increased from 387 before 2014 to 654. Further, there has been a 94-per cent rise in the number of MBBS seats, from 51,348 to 99,763, and a 107-per cent increase in the number of postgraduate (PG) seats, from 31,185 before 2014 to 64,559 as of February 7, 2023.

GOI helps State Governments in establishing new Medical by upgrading the District or Referral hospitals. GOI also helps upgrade Government Medical Colleges by providing support for Super Speciality blocks. 75 such projects have been approved. Out of these, 60 have been completed.

GOI has also approved 22 new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences. In 19 of these undergraduate courses have already started. To reduce the shortage of experienced Professors, when a large number of new Colleges has been started, the Government has increased the retirement age for teachers, Deans, principals and Directors.

February 28, 2023: In the budget of 2023-24, GOI has approved support for a Nursing College in every Medical College.