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Chandigarh PGI scraps interviews after nurses call off strike

Two days after more than 1,200 nurses called off their indefinite strike, the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research on Monday cancelled the walk-in-interviews for 150 nurses scheduled to be held on Wednesday. The hospital administration had advertisement for the same in the wake of the strike.

The PGI Nurses' Association extended its support to the strike call of All India Government Nurses' Federation to press for their demands regarding the Seventh Pay Commission.

A statement issued by the PGI on Monday said: "The institute was planning to conduct walk-in-interviews to recruit Staff Nurses Grade II in view of the recent strike. Now that the strike has been called off, the walk-in-interviews for nurses have been cancelled."

The officials said the decision to cancel the interviews was taken by the administration on Monday.

"The nurses have reported back to work. The administration felt there is no need to hire more nurses. Had the strike continued for more days, we would not have cancelled the notices. Recruitment of nurses was important to keep the services functional at emergency and trauma centre," said an official.

On Saturday, the PGI had issued a notification announcing the walk-in-interviews for 150 staff nurses and had mentioned the date of interview as Wednesday.

"The number of posts as advertised can be increased/decreased at the sole discretion of PGI Director.. The Director PGI also reserves the right to withdraw this advertisement at a short notice or may not fill any of the vacancy as advertised above," reads the notification.

The PGI Nurses' Association on Saturday night called off the indefinite strike after representatives from the All India Nurses' Federation and the Union health ministry held a five-hour meeting in New Delhi to discuss the demands regarding the Seventh Pay Commission. All the demands were met by the ministry.