

**DIARY NO – 211832/2025**

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. \_\_\_\_\_ OF 2025**

**[PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE  
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

UNITED DOCTORS FRONT (UDF) Regd.

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

...RESPONDENT(S)

*(PAPER – BOOK)*

(KINDLY SEE INDEX INSIDE)

**ADVOCATE FOR THE PETITIONER:**

**MR. SATYAM SINGH & MS. NEEMA (AOR)**

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**OFFICE REPORT ON LIMITATION**

1. The Petition is/are within time.
2. The Petition is barred by time and there is delay of \_\_\_\_ days in filing the same,
3. There is delay of \_\_\_\_ days in re-filing the Petition and Petition for Condonation of \_\_\_\_ days delay in refilling has been filed.

**BRANCH OFFICER**

Place: New Delhi

Dated: \_\_.04.2025

**PROFORMA FOR FIRST LISTING**

Section:\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Central Act: Constitution of India

☐ Section: Article 32

☐ Central Rule: (Title) N.A.

☐ Rule No (s): N.A.

☐ State Act (Title): N.A.

☐ Section: N.A.

☐ State Rule: (Title) N.A.

☐ Rule No (s): N.A.

☐ Impugned Interim Order: N.A.

☐ Impugned final Order/ Decree: NA

☐ High Court: NA

☐ Names of Judges: NA

☐ Tribunal/Authority: N.A.

1. Nature of Matter: Civil

2. (a) Petitioner/ Appellant: UNITED DOCTORS FRONT (UDF) Regd.

(b) E-mail ID: NA

(c) Mobile Phone Number: N.A.

3. (a) Respondent: Union of India & Anr.

(b) E-mail ID: NA

(c) Mobile Phone Number:

4. (a) Main Category classification:

(b) Sub Classification:

5. Not to be listed before: N.A.

6. (a) Similar disposed of matter with citation, if any, & case details: No similar disposed of matter.

(b) Similar pending matter with case details: No similar pending matter.

7. Criminal Matters:

a) Whether accused/ convict has surrendered: NA

b) FIR No.: NA Date: NA

c) Police Station: NA

d) Sentence Awarded: NA

e) Period of sentence undergone including period of detention/custody undergone: NA

f) Whether any earlier case between the same parties is filed: NA

g) Particulars of the FIR and case: NA

h) Whether any bail application was preferred earlier and decision thereupon: NA

8. Land Acquisition Matters:
  - (a) Date of Section 4 Notification: N.A.
  - (b) Date of Section 6 Notification: N.A.
  - (c) Date of Section 17 Notification: N.A.
9. Tax Matters: State the tax effect: N.A.
10. Special Category (First petitioner/ appellant only): NA
11. Vehicle Number (in case of Motor Accident Claim matters): N.A.
12. Whether there was/is litigation on the same point of law, if yes, details thereof : NA

**Drafted by Advocate Satyam Singh**  
**FILED BY**

**Ms. Neema**  
**Advocate for the Petitioner**  
**AOR Code: 3973**

Filed on: .04.2025

## **SYNOPSIS**

The present Writ Petition, filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, seeks the urgent and meaningful intervention of this Hon'ble Court in the matter concerning the inhumane and unconstitutional working conditions of Resident Doctors employed in medical colleges and teaching hospitals across the country. The Petition is instituted by the United Doctors Front (UDF), a duly registered association representing the interests of medical professionals and concerned citizens, with the object of safeguarding the health, dignity, and welfare of Resident Doctors who are subjected to excessive, unregulated, and exploitative duty hours in clear contravention of established constitutional and statutory mandates.

Despite the unequivocal directives issued by this Hon'ble Court in Writ Petition (Civil) Nos. 348–352 of 1985, wherein all State Governments, Universities, and Medical Institutions were directed to implement a Uniform Central Residency Scheme by 1993, the regulatory framework concerning duty hours and rest periods remains grossly unimplemented. Pursuant to the above decision, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, vide its Notification No. S.11014/3/91-ME(D) dated 05.06.1992, laid down binding norms fixing the maximum duty hours for Resident Doctors at 12 hours per day and 48 hours per week, with corresponding entitlements to weekly holidays and annual leave. However, even after more than three decades, these directions

remain largely on paper, with medical institutions routinely violating the prescribed standards with impunity.

The continuous exploitation of Resident Doctors is not merely an administrative lapse but a violation of their fundamental rights under Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life with dignity. The egregious imposition of 70 to 100 working hours per week, often without sufficient rest, leads to chronic stress, physical exhaustion, mental health deterioration, and ultimately, preventable tragedies including suicides. The report of the National Task Force on Mental Health and Well-being of Medical Students, submitted in June 2024, paints a grim picture by recording over 150 suicides of medical students within a span of five years, primarily due to work-related stress, sleep deprivation, and institutional apathy.

It is further submitted that the issue has been repeatedly acknowledged by various authorities including the National Medical Commission (NMC), which, through the Post-Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023 (PGMER-23), makes only a vague reference to “reasonable working hours” without laying down any enforceable threshold or enforcement mechanism. A similar pattern of inaction is reflected in the Office Memorandum issued by the Registrar of AIIMS dated 06.09.2020, which, although reiterating the importance of compliance with the 1992 Notification, has remained ineffective in its implementation.

The recent remarks made by this Hon'ble Court in the RG Kar Medical College rape case on 22.08.2024, wherein the Court termed the working conditions of Resident Doctors as “inhuman”, only reinforce the systemic neglect and failure of the State to discharge its constitutional obligations under Articles 41 and 47 of the Constitution, which obligate the State to ensure humane conditions of work and public health.

The present Petition, therefore, seeks appropriate writs, orders, or directions to secure strict compliance with the 1992 Notification issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; to ensure formulation of a robust regulatory and enforcement mechanism for duty hour compliance; and to protect the fundamental and human rights of Resident Doctors across India, whose service to society should not come at the cost of their dignity, health, or life itself.

### **Prayer**

In the circumstances it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- (a) Issue a writ of Mandamus or an appropriate writ, order or direction to all government and private medical colleges/institutions in India to implement the residency duty hours as prescribed in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's Directive dated 05 June 1992 (Letter No. S-11014/3/91-ME (P)); and/or

- (b) Issue a writ of mandamus or an appropriate writ, order or direction to the concerned authorities to prepare and enforce duty rosters that respect the psychological and physical limitations of human beings, ensuring adequate rest between shifts; and/or
- (c) Pass such other and further order/orders as are deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

**Drafted by Advocate Satyam Singh  
FILED BY**

**Ms. Neema  
Advocate for the Petitioner  
AOR Code: 3973**

New Delhi  
Dated: 21.04.2020