

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.G.ARUN

Tuesday, the 4th day of November 2025 / 13th Karthika, 1947
WP(C) NO. 41064 OF 2025 (G)

PETITIONER:

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION (IAPMR),
REG. NO. S 18608, HAVING ITS OFFICE AT SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL, NEW
DELHI, REPRESENTED BY ITS HONORARY SECRETARY – DR. HARSHANAND PO
PALWAR THROUGH HIS POWER OF ATTORNEY HOLDER – DR. RAJESH B. NAIR,
NELEND A NEAR KALLIL TEMPLE, ASAMANNOR, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 683 545.

RESPONDENTS:

1. UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 001.
2. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ALLIED AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS (NCAHP), 2ND FLOOR, ACADEMIC BLOCK, NIHFW CAMPUS, BABA GANGNATH MARG, MUNIRKA, NEW DELHI, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRPERSON, PIN - 110067
3. STATE ALLIED AND HEALTH CARE COUNCIL, COMBINED COUNCIL BUILDING, RED CROSS ROAD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRPERSON, PIN - 695 035.
4. NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION, POCKET-14, SECTOR-8, DWARKA PHASE-1, NEW DELHI, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRPERSON, PIN - 110 077.

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to pass an interim order directing the respondents 2 and 3 and their officers to ensure that the Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapy Professionals should not proclaim themselves as first health care provider and in using the prefix 'Dr' in their names and to ensure that their professional services of Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapy Professionals shall be confined only as a supporting group for and under the qualified medical professionals pending disposal of the Writ Petition (C).

This petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and upon hearing the arguments of M/S.V.V.ASOKAN (SR.), S.PARVATHI, T.K.SREEKALA, NIKITHA SUSAN PAULSON, UTHARA ASOKAN & K.G.ANIL, Advocates for the petitioner, SRI.MAHADEV M.J., Central Government Counsel for the respondents 1 & 2 and of SRI.K.S.PRENJITH KUMAR, Standing Counsel for the 4th respondent, the court passed the following:

V.G.ARUN,J.

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Dated this the 4th day of November, 2025

ORDER

Admit.

2. Sri.Mahadev M.J, the learned CGC takes notice for respondents 1 and 2. Sri.K.S.Prenjith Kumar, the learned Standing Counsel takes notice for the 4th respondent. Issue notice to the 3rd respondent through speed post.

3. As pointed out by the learned Senior Counsel, there is an apparent conflict between the provisions of the Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916 and the clauses in the Competency Based Curriculum for Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy produced as Exts.P1 and P1(a) respectively. Interesting also to note that by Ext.P4 order, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had directed to forthwith remove the usage of the prefix “Dr.” for Physiotherapists in the Competency Based Curriculum for Physiotherapy – Approved Syllabus, 2025 on the premise that any Physiotherapist using the title 'Doctor' without holding a recognised medical qualification would be violating

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the provisions of the Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916. Although Ext.P4 was later withdrawn as per Ext.P5, I find the petitioner to have made out a prima facie case.

Hence, there shall be a direction to the competent authorities to ensure that the prefix “Dr.” mentioned in Exts.P1 and P1(a) is not used by Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists without recognised medical qualification.

Post on 01.12.2025.



Sd/-

**V.G.ARUN
JUDGE**

bng

APPENDIX OF WP(C) 41064/2025

Exhibit P1	TRUE COPY OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS UNDER CHALLENGE IN THE 'COMPETENCY BASED CURRICULUM FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY - APPROVED SYLLABUS 2025'.
Exhibit P1(a)	TRUE COPY OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS UNDER CHALLENGE IN THE 'COMPETENCY BASED CURRICULUM FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - APPROVED SYLLABUS 2025'.
Exhibit P4	TRUE COPY OF THE NOTIFICATION DATED 09.09.2025
Exhibit P5	TRUE COPY OF THE NOTIFICATION DATED 10.09.2025 ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE THROUGH DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES

