

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 13/2026

NRI INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDIC MEDICAL SCIENCES & ORS. Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

FOR ADMISSION

IA No. 15645/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

With

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 72/2026

FOR ADMISSION

IA No. 20576/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

Date : 23-01-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PAMIDIGHANTAM SRI NARASIMHA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ALOK ARADHE

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Animesh Kumar, AOR
Mr. Nishant Kumar, Adv.
Dr. Sumit Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Aprajita, Adv.
Mrs. Palak Joshi, Adv.
Ms. Tanya Tanvi, Adv.

Mr. D. S. Naidu, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Animesh Kumar, AOR
Mr. Nishant Kumar, Adv.
Dr. Sumit Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Aprajita, Adv.
Mrs. Palak Joshi, Adv.
Ms. Tanya Tanvi, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Ms. Archana Pathak Dave, A.S.G.
Ms. Ankita Chaudhary, AOR
Mr. Parmod Kumar Vishnoi, Adv.
Mr. Shreyas Balaji, Adv.
Mr. Chand Kapoor, Adv.

Mr. Niranjana Reddy, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Vikash Chandra Shukla, AOR
Mr. Siddharth Relan, Adv.

Mr. Lakshya S. Pandey, Adv.
Ms. Isha Barshiliya, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. By our order dated 22.01.2026, we had directed the (National Commission for Indian System of Medicine) to file an affidavit about the status of "vacant seats" as well as its opinion on reduction of percentile in the facts and circumstances of this academic year 2025-2026. In furtherance of our directions, the Secretary, National Commission for Indian System of Medicine has filed an affidavit which indicates the following facts:

"1. That the deponent is the Secretary of Respondent No. 2, and being well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and duly authorized, hence competent to swear and affirm the present affidavit.

2. That the present matter was listed on 22.01.2026 before this Hon'ble Court where the answering respondent was directed to file a status report/affidavit regarding the data of vacant seats available in BAMS course for the Academic Year 2025-2026. The present affidavit is filed in compliance of the said direction of this Hon'ble court.

3. That in the present academic year 2025-2026, total 12,36,531 students qualified in NEET UG-2025 for the sanctioned seats available 2,23,487 in all streams of allopathy and Ayush Courses. Out of 12,36,531, total 60,346 students qualified from the State of Madhya Pradesh and total 1,25,727 students qualified from the State of Maharashtra in all streams.

4. That the total number of seats for UG Ayurveda for Academic Year 2025-2026 are 43,626 across the country. Out of 43,626, State of Madhya Pradesh has sanction seats of 3,480 and State of Maharashtra has 12,339 seats. The status of seats in both the States are as follows:

The status of seats in state of Madhya Pradesh

is as follows:

- Total seats-3480 (AIQ-76 & State Quota-3404)
- State admitted seats-2968
- All India admitted seats - 76
- Total Admitted Seats (AIQ+State Quota)-3044
- Vacant seats 436 [AIQ-0 & State Quota-436]

The status of seats in state of Maharashtra is as follows:

- Total seats-12339 (AIQ-869 & State Quota-11470)
- State admitted seats-11432
- All India admitted seats - 857
- Vacant seats-50 (AIQ-12 & State Quota -38]

Note: Total number of vacant seats for Academic Year 2025-2026 is 1308 which is 3.10% of all seats.

The copy of the press release by National Testing Agency (NTA) on 14.06.2025 is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R2/1.

The copy of data of seats vacant in UG Ayurveda Course for A.Y. 2025-26 is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R2/2.

5. It is submitted that the next NEET exam for the academic year 2026-27 has been already announced to be conducted on 03.05.2026.

6. It is submitted that reduction in the qualifying percentile cannot be considered at this stage for Ayush UG courses for the Academic year 2025-2026 as the academic year have already begun and students have started taking classes on 01.11.2025.

7. It is submitted that the request of various institutes/counselling authorities have already been considered and the Commission has acceded their request and extended the cut-off date

thrice from 28.11.2025 to 10.12.2025, from 10.12.2025 to 20.12.2025 and 14.01.2026 to 23.01.2026.

8. It is also pertinent to note that NEET Admission at this stage would result in delayed commencement and completion of compulsory internship, thereby, affecting the eligibility of students to appear in the All India Ayush Post Graduates Entrance Test (AIAPGET), as the internships completion dates have already been fixed earlier.

9. That in the present academic year the cut-off score for admission in Ayush UG Course ranges from 686-112. Any further reduction in percentile would adversely affect the quality and standard of education. It is also on the lower side from the previous year cut-off which ranges from 720-127.

10. That any option of extending the cut-off and lowering the percentile would hamper the scheduled exam of the first semester of the academic year ASU&H colleges are affiliated with different universities where they have flexibility to exercise in conducting examinations according to the rules and norms. Hence, further extension of cut-off date will affect the existing students.

11. The counselling boards have already ceased registering new students after the initial deadline. Extending the admission date will not align with the existing procedures, thereby undermining the objective of AYUSH.

12. It is submitted that in the academic year 2024-2025, 15 percentile was reduced then also 7% seats were vacant all over the country in AYUSH courses. That in the present academic year, only 1308 (AIQ+STATE QUOTA) seats are vacant at the time of third extension of cut-off date i.e. 22.01.2026 i.e. only 3.10% of total ayurveda seats. The decision to reduce percentile is based on the statistics/data is based on the available seats and qualified students. There is no fixed formula to reduce the percentile in each academic year, therefore the petitioner could not take advantage of last academic years as example to reduce for this academic year i.e. 2025-2026.

13. It is pertinent to mention herein that to reduce percentile, the answering respondent has to consider the interest of students and the standard of medical education. Moreover, to reduce percentile, multiple factors have to be looked into like total number of qualified students available at 50th Percentile, total number of available students on each vacant seats, total number of vacant seats in all States. It cannot be done by looking at the data of one particular state or few colleges."

2. Having considered the facts as reflected in the affidavit and having heard the learned senior counsel appearing for the petitioners, we are of the opinion that the selection and appointment for the academic year 2025-2026 must now come to an end. We are not inclined to pass any interim orders. Accordingly, all the applications for interim directions are dismissed.

3. However, in order to consider the larger issues raised by the learned counsels, let the present matters be tagged along with SLP (C) Nos. 83-84 of 2026.

(KAPIL TANDON)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(NIDHI WASON)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR