

### 300 MEDICAL STUDENTS PROTEST AT HAJI ALI

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**MUMBAI:** More than 300 medical students gathered at Indian Medical Association House (IMA) demanding that the Union Health Ministry equalise Under Graduation (UG) and Post-Graduation (PG) medical seats. The movement, called 'Save the doctor' also seeks the Union Ministry's nod to including the one-year compulsory rural medical practice in the PG internship.

The undergraduate and post graduate doctors marched from IMA Hall at Haji Ali to the Mahalaxmi Race Course, with candles and black ribbons as a mark of protest.

The campaign aspires to create a mass movement by getting people to sign a petition on the website [www.savethedoctor.in](http://www.savethedoctor.in), which will then be sent to the union health minister.

"Young doctors of India are losing their productive years in studying to get a PG seat. There is a dearth of specialists in the country and limited PG seats will gravely affect the number of specialist doctors available in the coming years. The 'Save the Doctor' movement is a step to resolve the problem and we need the support of the nation," said Dr Narendra Saini, secretary general, IMA.

Doctors complained that in the last PG entrance exam under NEET, more than 90,000 doctors appeared for the test to claim one of the 12,000 seats. Adding to this, the one-year compulsory rural posting as a pre-requisite to apply for the PG course has worsened the situation.

Young doctors are losing their productive years in studying for a PG seat. That will affect the number of specialist doctors in the future.

DR NARENDRA SAINI  
secretary general, IMA