

DUTA DELHI UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Prof. Shyama Rath
The Secretary
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Sub: Continuation of Ph.D./M.Phil. Increment

Dear Madam,

Continuation of Ph.D./M.Phil. Increment- DUTA firmly advocates for the continuation of non-compounded PhD/M.Phil. increments as mandated by the UGC Regulations, 2018, asserting that these incentives are statutory entitlements essential for attracting talent and sustaining academic excellence. The association maintains that these Gazette-notified regulations carry superior legal authority over the Ministry of Education's 2017 administrative directive—a position reinforced by the Delhi High Court's consistent stance that courts must be slow to interfere with expert statutory bodies' pay and qualification norms. This nationwide crisis was largely triggered by a February 2023 Kerala High Court ruling in *State of Kerala v. Dr. Louis J. Kattady (W.A. No. 332/2018)*, which restricted additional increments for dual degrees, leading the Kerala Finance Department to issue a severe recovery order in November 2025 to withdraw increments granted since 2016 retrospectively. DUTA demands that the findings of the **UGC Expert Committee** (formed in March 2025) be made public immediately and implemented to restore the financial and professional dignity of highly qualified faculty.

Regards,

(Prof V.S. Negi)
President, DUTA

(Prof. Bimlendu Tirthunker)
Secretary, DUTA