



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

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Prakash Javadekar
Minister of Human Resource Development
305-C, Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi

Dear Honourable Minister Javadekar,

On behalf of the 70,000 academic staff members of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), I am writing to express concern over recent developments that violate internationally recognized rights of academics in India.

The directive issued this May to apply civil service rules of conduct to academics, the August raids on prominent Dalit scholars, K. Satyanaryana and Anand Teltumbde, and the October proposal limiting the right to strike at Delhi University, are serious violations and worrisome trends.

We lend our voice to those expressing opposition to these actions, and welcome your recent comments that the government does not intend to put restrictions on freedom of speech at any university. We join others in calling for the formal withdrawal of the conduct rules, and justice for academics and other activists who were detained and had research materials seized in the August raids.

We call on India to uphold the 1997 UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel which states that all academics should have the right to pursue their teaching and research without discrimination of any kind and without fear of repression by the state. Democracy depends on a thriving higher education sector in which professors have the freedom to express their opinion about the institution, its administration, and the system in which one works.

Sincerely,

David Robinson
Executive Director

cc. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada