



**102 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

**CWP-36962-2025 (O&M)
Date of Decision:17.03.2026**

ANANT HOODA AND OTHERS

....PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA AND OTHERS

....RESPONDENT(S)

**CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ROHIT KAPOOR**

Present: Mr. R. S. Dhull, Advocate for the petitioners.
Mr. Pankaj Middha, Addl., AG, Haryana.
Mr. Amit Rao, Advocate for respondent No.2.
Mr. Hemen Aggarwal, Advocate
for the applicant-respondent No.3-UGC.

ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA, J. (Oral)

CM-3968-CWP-2026 (placing on record)

1. This application under Section 151 CPC has been filed on behalf of applicant-respondent No.3-UGC for placing on record affidavit on behalf of respondent No.3-University Grants Commission (for short, 'UGC').

2. For the reasons mentioned in the application, the same is allowed. The affidavit is taken on record. Registry is directed to tag the same at the appropriate place.

Main Case (O&M)

3. The petitioners have approached this Court raising a grievance regarding the action of respondent No.2-Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak (for short, 'University') in cancelling their admission to the Ph.D. course vide Minutes of Meeting dated 29.11.2025 on the

ground that the admission itself could not have been granted to them.

4. Undisputedly, the grant of admission to the Ph.D. course is regulated by the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 (for short, 'Regulations of 2022'). Respondent No.3-UGC has filed an affidavit, wherein the procedure for admission to the Ph.D. course has been specified in paragraphs No.8 and 9 of the affidavit. As per the affidavit, the procedure for admission is laid down in Regulation 5 of the Regulations of 2022. Regulations 5(1), (2), and (3) of the Regulations of 2022 are reproduced below:-

“(1) The admission shall be based on the criteria notified by the institution, keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the UGC and other statutory/regulatory bodies concerned, and taking into account the reservation policy of the Central/State Government from time to time.

(2) Admission to the Ph.D., programme shall be made using the following methods:

i. HEIs may admit students who qualify for fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests based on an interview.

And/or

ii. HEIs may admit students through an Entrance Test conducted at the level of the individual HEI. The Entrance Test syllabus shall consist of 50% of research methodology, and 50% shall be subject-specific.

iii. Students who have secured 50% marks in the entrance test are eligible to be cancelled for

the interview.

iv. A relaxation of 5% marks will be allowed in the entrance examination for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/differently-abled category, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

v. HEIs may decide the number of eligible students to be called for an interview based on the number of Ph.D., seats available.

vi. Provided that for the selection of candidates based on the entrance conducted by the HEI, a weightage of 70% for the entrance test and 30% for the performance in the interview/viva-voce shall be given.

(3) Universities and Colleges which are eligible to conduct Ph.D., programmes, shall:

i. Notify a prospectus well in advance on the institution's website specifying the number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, the procedure for admission, and all other relevant information for the candidates;

ii. Adhere to the National/State-level reservation policy, as applicable.”

5. It is admitted that none of the petitioners were admitted on the basis of any entrance test conducted by the University. It is also undisputed that the NET certificates issued in favour of the petitioners had already lost their efficacy, inasmuch as their term of one year for admission to the Ph.D. course had already expired by the time admission was granted.

6. In such circumstances, the decision taken by the University to cancel the admissions offered to the petitioners on the ground of being inconsistent with the Regulations of 2022 is strictly in accordance with law. Admission has to be granted in accordance with the Regulations of 2022, and once it is shown that such Regulations have not been followed in the matter of granting admission, no exception can be taken to the cancellation of the petitioners' admissions.

7. At this stage, learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the University be directed to hold an entrance test for the petitioners.

8. Such a prayer cannot be accepted, inasmuch as the holding of an entrance test is required at the stage of offering admission and not at a later stage. Even otherwise, it would be within the jurisdiction of the University to consider whether any subsequent entrance test can be conducted to regularize the admissions offered to the petitioners.

9. Leaving it to the University to take an appropriate decision in that regard, this petition is ***disposed of***.

10. All pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, also stand disposed of.

[ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA]
JUDGE

[ROHIT KAPOOR]
JUDGE

MARCH 17, 2026

Rahul Joshi

1. Whether Speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
2. Whether Reportable	Yes/No