



2025:DHC:10206-DB



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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

Date of decision: 19.11.2025

+ W.P.(C) 17536/2025
NIRANJAN KUMAR AND ORS

.....Petitioners

Through: Mr.Shrikant Prasad, Mr.Nitish
Kumar, Mr.Aryan Kumar &
Mr.Paul Kr. Kalai, Advs.

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS

.....Respondents

Through: Mr.Apoorv Kurup, Sr. Adv. &
Mr.Amit Tiwari, CGSC with
Ms.Ayushi Srivastava, GP,
Ms.Nidhi Mittal, Mr.Aayush
Tanwar, Mr.Arpan Narwal &
Mr.Kushagra Malik, Advs.
along with Mr.Rajeev Singh,
PEDE(N) Railway Board.

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NAVIN CHAWLA
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MADHU JAIN

NAVIN CHAWLA, J. (ORAL)

CM APPL. 72497/2025 (Exemption)

1. Allowed, subject to all just exceptions.

W.P.(C) 17536/2025 & CM APPL. 72496/2025

2. This petition has been filed by the petitioners, challenging the Order dated 12.11.2025 passed by the learned Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as the, 'Tribunal') in O.A. No. 296/2025, titled *Niranjan Kumar & Ors. v.*



Union of India & Ors., dismissing the O.A. filed by the petitioners herein.

3. The petitioners, by the above O.A., had challenged the advertisement dated 22.01.2025 issued by the respondents for the Level-1 posts in the Indian Railways, prescribing the minimum educational qualification for the same as “*10th Pass or ITI or equivalent National Apprenticeship Certificate (NAC) granted by NCVT*”.

4. The petitioners claim that the educational qualification for the said post had been changed after the recruitment process had commenced by an advertisement dated 28.12.2024 issued by the respondents.

5. The learned Tribunal rejected the said submission by observing as under:-

“Also the rules of the game were not changed mid way as we have observed that the clock started to tick not on 28th December 2024 (Date of indicative notice) but on 22nd January, 2025 (Date of Publication). We have observed that UPSC, Railways etc follow the practice of advance notice to alert the applicants but this in no way signifies that advertisement for recruitment had been issued on the date of indicative notice. For all practical purposes, the date of issue of the recruitment advertisement would be counted as on 22.01.2025 (the date shown as the date of publication). The minimum educational qualification for Grade I posts was changed from Xth pass + ITI or NCA equivalent to Xth pass or ITI or NCA equivalent on 02.01.2025 (before the issue of the advertisement). We are therefore of the considered opinion that the balance of convenience in this case lies with



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Bench of this Court in its Order dated 05.03.2025, was made while issuing notice on the Writ Petition filed earlier by the petitioners, which petition, in fact, came to be disposed of by an Order dated 28.07.2025 passed by this Court.

14. Any observations made in the *interim* Order passed by this Court in W.P.(C) 2771/2025, therefore, cannot have a binding effect on a finally adjudicated O.A. as also the present Writ Petition. Post the Order dated 05.03.2025 passed in W.P.(C) No. 2771/2025, the learned Tribunal has considered the O.A. on merits, including on the above submission of the petitioners. We have already agreed with the observations of the learned Tribunal in its Impugned Order in this regard and have found no merit in the submissions of learned counsel for the petitioners.

15. We, therefore, find no merit in the present petition. The same along with the pending application is accordingly dismissed.

NAVIN CHAWLA, J

MADHU JAIN, J

NOVEMBER 19, 2025/rv/ik