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

\+ W.P.(C) 7524/2026

SIDDHARTH YADAV .....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, Ms. Divya Aggarwal, Mr. Shubham Bahl, Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Ms. Kritika Matta, Ms. Anjali Bansal, Ms. Tanya Rose, Ms. Bhumica Kundra, Mr. Nikhil Pawar, Mr. Shakib Malik, Mr. Lovekesh Chauhan, Mr. Manas Verma, Advs.

versus

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) & ANR. ....Respondents

Through: Ms. Prabhsahay Kaur, Standing Counsel, Mr. Bir Inder Singh Gurm and Mr. Kamlendu Pandey, Advs.

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C. HARI SHANKAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD KUMAR

JUDGMENT (ORAL)

% 06.07.2026

C. HARI SHANKAR, J.

1. This writ petition is directed against order dated 6 April 2026 passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal[1] in OA 1239/2026.

2. The petitioner applied for appointment as a Patwari in the Delhi

[1] "the Tribunal" hereinafter

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Development Authority[2] as a candidate belonging to the Other Backward Classes[3] who did not belong to the Creamy Layer and was therefore a Non-Creamy Layer[4] candidate.

3. Admittedly, as per the conditions of the advertisement, the requisite OBC-NCL certificate was required to be issued by the competent authority during the period 1 April 2025 to 5 November 2025.

4. Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, learned Counsel for the petitioner, submits that, in fact, the OBC-NCL certificate of his client was issued on 19 April 2025, which was within the prescribed window.

5. The petitioner's candidature was rejected on the ground that the OBC-NCL certificate had not been issued during the period 1 April 2025 to 5 November 2025, as is reflected from the communication dated 20 March 2026.

6. Instead of examining the correctness of the respondents' view that the petitioner's OBC-NCL certificate had not been issued between 1 April 2025 and 5 November 2025, which was the ground on which his candidature was cancelled, the Tribunal has proceeded on a complete tangent and has dismissed the OA filed by the petitioner on the ground that the certificate pertained to Financial Year 2025-2026 whereas, as per the advertisement notification, the OBC-NCL status was required to be determined with respect to the Financial Year

[2] "DDA" hereinafter
[3] "OBC" hereinafter
[4] "NCL" hereinafter

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2024-2025.

7. In the first place, this is not a ground on which the petitioner's candidature was cancelled. The Tribunal has therefore proceeded on a ground which was foreign to the ground on which the cancellation of the petitioner's candidature had taken place. It is settled from the time of ***Commissioner of Police v. Gordhandas Bhanji***[5], memorably reiterated in ***Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner***[6], that an order must stand or fall on the basis of the reasons contained therein.

8. As such, it would normally not be permissible for the Tribunal to examine the correctness of the cancellation of the petitioner's candidature on a ground other than that on which the candidature was cancelled.

9. Besides, the Tribunal appears to have applied, to the OBC-NCL certificate, a test which, as per the notification, applied to EWS candidates.

10. Mr. Kamlendu Pandey, learned Counsel appearing on behalf of Ms. Prabhsahay Kaur, learned Standing Counsel for the DDA, fairly admits that this error has taken place on the part of the Tribunal.

11. As such, with consent of parties, the impugned order is quashed and set aside.

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[5] **AIR 1952 SC 16**
[6] **(1978) 1 SCC 405**

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12. OA 1239/2026 stands remanded to the Tribunal for a reconsideration on the aspect of correctness of the cancellation of the petitioner's candidature.

13. The writ petition stands allowed to the aforesaid extent.

14. In order to expedite matters and as selection is involved, we direct the parties to appear before the Tribunal on 16 July 2026.

15. Neither side would seek adjournment from the Tribunal on the said date. We request the Tribunal to hear the matter on the said date and thereafter render judgment as expeditiously as possible.

16. *Dasti*.

C. HARI SHANKAR, J.

VINOD KUMAR, J.

JULY 6, 2026/*dsn*

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