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

+ W.P.(C) 4092/2026 with CM APPL. 20063/2026 and CM APPL. 20064/2026

M/S DEEPAK AND CO

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Kirti Uppal, Senior Advocate
with Mr. Himanshu Pathak,
Ms. Archisha Satyarthi, Ms. Asmita
Shukla and Mr. Mohit Gupta,
Advocates

versus

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM
CORPORATION LIMITED

.....Respondent

Through: Mr. Saurav Agrawal, Mr. Anshuman
Chowdhury, Ms. Kiran Devrani,
Mr. Sumeet Singh and Ms. Samayra
Adlakha, Advocates

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMIT BANSAL

ORDER

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30.03.2026

1. The present writ petition has been filed seeking direction to respondent/ Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation ('IRCTC') to extend the tenure of the petitioner's contract in respect of Train No. 20977-78 (AII-CDG Vande Bharat Express) on parity with similarly placed contractors.
2. The petitioner *vide* communication dated 12th January, 2026 was awarded a temporary license for providing on-board catering services in the aforesaid train on a nomination basis for a period of one (1) month or takeover of services by a licensee, whichever is earlier, purely on *ad hoc*



basis. Relevant extract from the said communication is set out below:

With reference to above, it has been decided to award the temporary license for provision of onboard catering services in train no. 20977-78 AII-CDG Vande Bharat Express to M/s Deepak & Co. on nomination basis, effective from the date of commencement of regular services for a period of 01 month or takeover of services by new licensee/Railways/IRCTC, whichever is earlier, purely on adhoc basis.

3. Pursuant to the aforesaid communication, the petitioner started its services on 1st March, 2026 and which are to expire on 30th March, 2026 *i.e.* today.
4. Mr. Kirti Uppal, Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of petitioner submits that the respondent/ IRCTC had initiated a tender process for the aforesaid train on 28th March, 2026, after a copy of the present writ petition was served on the respondent/ IRCTC and the said tender is to be closed today.
5. In the opinion of the Court, the time given for the tender is very short.
6. Having heard the counsel for the parties, it is directed that the tender be kept open for two (2) days from today *i.e.* till 12:00 hours of 1st April, 2026 so that the petitioner as well as other prospective bidders get an opportunity to submit their bids.
7. In view of the direction passed above, the writ petition along with pending applications stands disposed of.
8. The grievance of the petitioner that even on nomination basis the respondent/ IRCTC awards contracts for a period of six (6) months, is kept open.
9. The order be given *Dasti* under signatures of the Court Master.

AMIT BANSAL, J

MARCH 30, 2026/ds