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

+ W.P.(C) 6237/2021 & CM APPL. 34878/2022, CM APPL.
28549/2024

SV CHAK & ORS.Petitioners

Through: Ms Aakanksha Kaul with Ms.
Ashima Chopra, Advs.

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.Respondents

Through: Ms. Nidhi Raman, CGSC with
Mr. Akash Mishra and Mr. Arnav Mittal,
Advs. for R-1 to 3

Mr. Shrutanjaya Bhardwaj, Ms Shubhanshi
Phogat, Mr Yash Tayal, Ms Siddhi
Nagwekar, Ms Anushka Singhal, Ms Yashi
Bajpai, Advs. for R-29, 30,31, 35 and 42

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C. HARI SHANKAR

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE OM PRAKASH SHUKLA

ORDER

% **20.05.2026**

1. This writ petition arises out of order dated 1 April 2021 passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal¹ in OA 1212/2017.
2. The petitioners were the applicants in the said OA.
3. The petitioners, in the said OA, challenged their seniority vis-a-vis the private respondents before the Tribunal, as reflected in the seniority list dated 1 January 2015.

¹ "the Tribunal" hereinafter



4. The Tribunal has noted the contentions of learned Counsel for both sides and, thereafter, without deciding the matter on merits, has merely granted liberty to the petitioners to file a representation to the respondents.

5. The respondents have not challenged the aforesaid order passed by the Tribunal. The findings of the Tribunal have, therefore, attained finality.

6. The petitioners' grievance is that the Tribunal ought to have decided the case on merits rather than relegating them to a representation.

7. We find ourselves in agreement with learned Counsel for the petitioners.

8. We see no reason why the Tribunal did not decide the matter on merits and relegated the petitioners to a representation.

9. With the consent of learned Counsel for the parties, therefore, the impugned judgment, to the extent it merely relegated the petitioners to a representation, is quashed and set aside.

10. OA 1212/2017 shall stand remanded to the Tribunal for adjudication on merits.

11. In order to expedite the matters, both sides would appear before



the Tribunal on 7 July 2026.

12. To facilitate hearing by the Tribunal, learned Counsel for the parties are also directed to place on record short notes of their respective submissions not exceeding four pages each at least a week in advance.

13. No adjournment would be sought by either side on the next date.

14. We request the Tribunal to decide the matter as expeditiously as possible.

15. The writ petition is disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

16. All applications pending in this writ petition also stand disposed of.

17. The interim order which has been operating would stand in force pending disposal of the OA by the Tribunal.

C. HARI SHANKAR, J.

OM PRAKASH SHUKLA, J.

MAY 20, 2026/dsn