

AEE recruitment exams from tomorrow

- The Computer-Based Test will be held in two shifts each day
- The morning session will be from 9 am to 12 noon, while the afternoon session will be from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm

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VIJAYAWADA

THE Computer-Based Test (CBT) for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical) in Andhra Pradesh's state power

utilities will be conducted from August 23 to 27 with all arrangements in place to ensure a fair, transparent and rule-based examination process.

APCPDCL chairman and managing director P Pulla Reddy said the examinations would be conducted strictly in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and security protocols, ensuring equal opportunity for all eligible candidates.

The CBT examinations will be held in two shifts each day. The morning session will be conducted from 9 am to 12 noon, while the afternoon session will be held from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

Candidates have been in-



structed to carry their original hall ticket along with any one valid photo identity proof, including an Aadhaar card, PAN card, voter ID, passport or driving licence.

As part of the security arrangements, candidates will undergo face verification and screening through metal detectors before entering the examination centres. Mobile phones, smart watches, calculators, electronic devices, books, papers and other unauthorised materials will not be allowed inside the examination halls.

Pulla Reddy cautioned candidates against intermediaries or individuals making false promises of securing em-

ployment. He advised aspirants not to fall prey to such fraudulent claims and to rely only on official notifications and information issued by the concerned State power utilities. The APCPDCL CMD said the recruitment process would be conducted on the principles of fairness, transparency and merit, with strict adherence to the prescribed procedures.

"All necessary measures have been taken to ensure the smooth and transparent conduct of the examinations," he said, adding that the power utilities were committed to maintaining the integrity of the recruitment process and providing a level playing field for all eligible candidates.

Cops file FIR on pellet gun victim's complaint after Rahul's dharna

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police on Friday registered a first information report (FIR) in the case of 19-year-old Sahil Lochab, who allegedly suffered pellet injuries during the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest, hours after Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi staged a sit-in outside the Parliament Street Police Station. However, no individual has been named as an accused in the FIR.

As per the latest information, the police registered the FIR under Sections 118 and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Section 118 deals with voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt using dangerous weapons or means, while Section 125 concerns acts endangering the life or personal safety of others.

The drama unfolded in the early hours of Friday when Gandhi and a few Congress leaders accompanied Lochab to the police station after the latter al-



Rahul Gandhi at the Parliament Street Police Station

leged that the Delhi Police had refused to register the FIR. They first went to the Connaught Place Police Station; however, after being informed that the New Delhi Deputy Commissioner of Police, Sachin Sharma, was at the Parliament Street Police Station, they soon reached the spot.

Visuals show that Gandhi, decked up in his white T-shirt and light-brown pants, walked into the police station, taking the officials by surprise. He first pressed the officials to register the complaint; however, as the officials refused, he began

his sit-in outside the police station. He also said that he would not end his sit-in until the officials agreed to register Lochab's complaint.

Three pellets were lodged in his (Lochab) eye, and 200 in his body. There are shells near his heart that cannot be touched. Delhi Police say they did not fire pellet guns. Who fired pellet guns if not cops? Police said they had orders from the top not to file an FIR on the complaint of the victim," Rahul told the media.

He also showed the metallic pellets recovered from the student's body.

CITING 'POLITICAL' ANGLE...

Centre denies permission for CM Revanth's US visit



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Oxford University, London, on Friday

- ▶ Trip to UK okayed; officials will proceed to America
- ▶ Revanth will take return flight from London on Aug 23

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE official TelanganaRising delegation, led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, has been forced to cancel their visit to the United States of America (USA), after the Union Ministry of External Affairs, citing "political" angle, denied the CM permission to visit America.

The state government had sought the Centre's permission for trips to the UK and the US as per policy and protocol, but only the UK trip was approved.

The Centre informed the state government of the refusal of permission to visit America, after the official delegation had reached the UK.

Responding to the Centre's decision, the Chief Minister said: "The only purpose of the visit was to, as part of the New Education Policy of the Centre, bring the world's best institutions to India, to Telangana, to Hyderabad. They would have been an answer to our youth's aspirations to get education, skills, and training from the best Ivy League and top global institutions."

"I have always believed we should all think beyond politics and elections when it comes to nation building and future of the youth" he said. Although visibly shocked by the "political denial" of permission for him to further TelanganaRising and education, and to contribute to Viksit Bharat, Revanth Reddy has decided to comply with the Centre's decision and return to India from London, taking a flight back to Hyderabad, instead of proceeding to Boston, USA.

The Chief Minister has instructed the officials to go ahead with the US trip and conclude all the MoUs and

Proposed prog not appropriate to CM's office: MEA

Clarifies denial of 'political clearance' for Revanth's US visit

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday clarified that the proposed programme for Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visit to the United States was not considered appropriate "to the office held and the purpose of the visit", and therefore political clearance was not granted. Responding to a question on Telangana Chief Minister being denied political clearance for his proposed US visit, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said visits by Chief Ministers and other dignitaries are assessed by the ministry before political clearance is accorded. "Let me say that the visits of Chief Ministers, as with other dignitaries, are assessed by the Ministry of External Affairs to accord political clearance. The programme proposed in such cases should be appropriate to the office held and the purpose of the visit. In this particular case regarding the United States, that was not so, and therefore the clearance was not given," Jaiswal said. He, however, clarified that political clearance had been granted for Revanth Reddy's visit to the United Kingdom. The MEA's response comes after Revanth Reddy, earlier in the day, claimed that the Centre had denied permission for his proposed visit to the US, forcing the Telangana Rising delegation to cancel the US leg of its tour. According to the Telangana Chief Minister's Office, the state government had sought Central clearance for the Chief Minister's proposed visits to the UK and the US, but permission was granted only for the UK leg. The CMO said the state government was informed about the denial of permission for the US visit after the official delegation had reached the UK. The Chief Minister's Office said Revanth Reddy will now return to Hyderabad from London on August 23 instead of travelling to Boston.

partnership agreements.

Revanth Reddy will continue, as per the scheduled program, his visits to and interactions with Oxford, Cambridge, London School of Economics, the London Business School, University of London, among others. He will also be meeting with top sports institutions and skilling leadership in the United Kingdom, and try to

formalise partnerships with Telangana. "My resolve and endeavour to make Hyderabad one of the top global cities, where any common Indian can get education and a certificates from Harvard and Oxford, or an MIT and LBS or LSE, is because while most leaders have wanted to send their children abroad, I want to bring the world's best to India," he observed.

NTA clarifies on Rs 200 answer key challenge fee

NEW DELHI: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has said that its 'answer key challenge' system is designed to be fair to all students, and rejected concerns about it being expensive. An NTA answer key challenge is an online process where candidates who take an exam (like JEE Main, NEET, or UGC NET) can object to errors in the provisional answer key.

The NTA has been under fire lately over issues ranging from NEET-UG paper leak to errors in the UGC-NET examinations. "On the concern being raised that answer key challenges are 'too expensive': a quick clarification for candidates. The answer key challenge system is designed to be fair to every student, not just the one who challenges," NTA said in a post on X. "One challenge, everyone benefits. If even a single candidate challenges a question, and the subject experts accept the challenge, the revised answer key applies to every candidate who wrote the exam," it said.

The NTA said that fee is charged for challenging an answer to discourage frivolous challenges and it is refunded if the challenge turns out to be right. "The Rs 200/ question is refunded to the candidate whose challenge is upheld. The fee exists to discourage frivolous challenges, not to profit from genuine ones," the agency said. "So if you have identified a genuine error and raised it, if found correct will not only be refunded but one accurate challenge from any candidate can correct the record for lakhs of others," it added.

SPLIT WIDE OPEN

Sack & expel Surekha, chorus Cong legislators

Some demand action against Rajgopal Reddy, Chinna Reddy

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HYDERABAD

INDICATING that the split in the Telangana unit of the Congress is wide open, Congress MLAs and MLCs on Friday demanded that the party high command must step in and remove Minister Konda Surekha from the Cabinet and expel her from the party as she had failed to condemn the unpalatable remarks made by her daughter, Konda Susmitha, against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Some of the legislators also demanded immediate action against Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy and Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy.



Cong MLAs & MLCs at a meeting in Gandhi Bhavan in Hyd on Friday

aiah, Vemula Veeresham, and Venkat Balmoor, along with MLAs Revuri Prakash Reddy, Balu Naik, Chikkudu Vamshi Krishna, B. Manohar Reddy, G. Madhusudhan Reddy, Nayini Rajender Reddy, Gandra Satyanarayana, K. R. Nagaraju, K. Rajesh Reddy, Veerlapalli Shankar, Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Kunduru Jayaveer Reddy, B. Lakshma Reddy, Vedma Bhojju, Mandula Samel, and MLC Baswaraj Saraiah, strongly criticised Surekha. They said that if she had no connection with her daughter's remarks, she should have publicly condemned them. Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah said criticism from opposition parties was expected, but criticism of the party leadership from within the Congress was unacceptable. He questioned the criticism directed at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stat-

ing that the Chief Minister had worked hard to bring the Congress to power and had been consistently strengthening the party. Ilaiah demanded that Konda Surekha respond to the remarks made by her daughter and criticised those making allegations against the Chief Minister. Ilaiah said it was unfortunate that "some leaders within the party" were publicly criticising the Chief Minister and stressed the need to maintain discipline and unity within the Congress.

Government Whip Vemula Veeresham said Konda Surekha should have condemned her daughter's remarks if she was not associated with them. He alleged that Surekha's statements were causing embarrassment to the Congress party and recalled that she had faced criticism earlier over controversial remarks concerning an actress.

CM to visit Anakapalli district today

Continued from P1

Five days later, Naidu is likely to visit Araku Valley to flag off the pilot project of 'Sanjeevani'. The project aims to build robust health services in the tribal region, enhancing quality medical service for the tribals. According to sources, the Chief Minister is visiting Araku Valley on August 27 for the launch of the Sanjeevani. Meanwhile, District Collector Vijaya Krishnan,

Visakha Range IG Gopinath Jatti, Superintendent of Police Tuhin Sinha along with other officials examined the arrangements made for the CM's visit on Saturday. As many as 1,200 police personnel have been deployed for security purposes. The Chief Minister will land at the helipad opposite MPP School in A. Koduru before reaching the venue to participate in the Swachh Andhra – Swarna Andhra programme.

ED adds money-laundering angle

Continued from P1

The ED registered a separate case based on findings emerging from the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the murder, including information that Rs 4 crore allegedly changed hands before the

murder. The agency is examining the source of the money, the recipients, and the persons allegedly behind the transaction. Five ED teams reportedly carried out the searches simultaneously. When officials reached Avinash Reddy's Pulivundula residence in the

morning, they found the house locked. They waited before summoning his uncle, Manohar Reddy, who opened the premises. Manohar Reddy said the officials examined documents relating to various assets. The ED officials seized Rs 24 lakh unaccounted mon-

ey from the premises of Avinash Reddy and seized keys of two bank lockers.

Searches were conducted also at the residences of Sunil Yadav and Devireddy Siva Shankar Reddy, both accused in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case. Another search was carried out at the residence of Erra Gangi Reddy at T. Thummalpalali in Thondur

mandal. The ED also questioned Dr Chaitanya Reddy, son of Siva Shankar Reddy. He was reportedly summoned from Kadapa and questioned over allegations surrounding his visit to Kadapa Jail, where he allegedly intimidated approver Dastagiri, then lodged there as a remand prisoner, under the pretext of conducting a medical camp.

National GST meeting

AP govt's AI-powered GST model draws wide attention

Legal-AI Officer Asst trained on GST laws, 22,000 judgments

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh has successfully showcased its pioneering GST administration model, based on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), at the sixth National Coordination Meeting held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Friday. The tech-driven model, appreciated widely, now has potential to emerge as a benchmark and replicable model for GST administration across the country.

The meeting, chaired by the Union revenue secretary, was attended by the GST Council Secretariat, CBIC and senior tax officials from States and Union Territories. Andhra Pradesh's presen-

tation, titled "Use of AI/ML and Automation in GST Tax Administration — From Case Selection to Litigation," was included as a dedicated agenda item. The Commercial Taxes Department explained how AI-based systems are being used for case selection and allocation, return scrutiny under Section 61, audit under Section 65, inspection under Section 67 and litigation before the First Appellate Authority, GST Appellate Tribunal and High Court. The system integrates data from four sources and uses 19 analytical reports and a 35-parameter risk matrix to identify and classify cases before they reach officers. High-value cases are routed for additional scrutiny through statutory mechanisms. The

department also demonstrated its Legal-AI Officer Assistant, trained on GST laws and about 22,000 judgments from courts and tribunals. It has been extended across three litigation forums and is assisting officers with drafting instructions, para-wise remarks, and replies for more than 13,700 cases.

The department presented data comparing AI-assisted operations with the earlier manual system. During six months of AI-driven return scrutiny, revenue detection reached Rs 743.43 crore, compared with Rs 365.75 crore during the comparable legacy period. Detection per case also rose sharply to Rs 27.63 lakh, against Rs 3.08 lakh under the earlier process.

The department stressed



that AI does not replace statutory decision-making. It generates drafts and analytical inputs, while officers take decisions and digitally sign notices and orders, ensuring traceability.

The presentation received strong interest from participating States. Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Assam and Meghalaya have sought details of the system and are planning visits to Andhra Pradesh to study its architecture and workflow.

The Revenue Secretary commended AP's initiative as a model that other States could consider adopting.

New H1B fee move clears White House review

NEW DELHI

A proposal from the Donald Trump administration that could raise or otherwise change fees for petitions for the H1B work programme has cleared a key White House regulatory review, bringing it closer to publication and implementation, reported the US-based outlet, Bloomberg Law.

While details of the proposal are not available for public viewing yet, any increase or change in H1B fees could hit Indian professionals hard, who accounted for a majority of all H1B approvals and renewals in 2025. According to the report, the proposal from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), identified as RIM 1615-AD20 was cleared

by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) on Wednesday. This proposal will be published by the DHS publicly in the coming weeks.

The move comes as the Donald Trump Administration continues to overhaul the H1B programme from the ground up, a visa route that is heavily used by highly skilled Indian professionals looking to live and work in the US. The DHS proposal concerns fees associated with H1B visa workers' petitions. But the proposal's precise provisions remain under wraps as the DHS has yet to publish the regulation. It is therefore not yet known how much the fees could increase, which H1B petition would be affected or when any changes will take effect.

PM pitches for India as global space hub

Continued from P1

The CEOs said the government's decision to open the space sector to private participation had generated considerable enthusiasm and created multiple new opportunities for entrepreneurs. They also appreciated the support extended by the government and spoke about growing collaboration within the industry.

Congratulating the entrepreneurs for entering and expanding in a relatively new area, Modi said the confidence demonstrated by private space companies had reinforced the vision behind opening the sector to private participation.

The Prime Minister pointed out that several countries either lacked the

resources to invest in space or were not inclined to make such investments, arguing that this provided India with a significant opportunity to strengthen its position in the global space industry. He urged the companies to explore applications beyond their existing areas of work and focus on how space technologies could make people's lives easier. Modi also stressed the importance of closer cooperation between space companies and organisations working in other sectors. Citing examples, he suggested that companies developing technologies to tackle space debris could collaborate with environmental organisations to expand their applications.