

## **APPSC drops move to erase TS history from Group I syllabus**

HYDERABAD: THE AP Public Service Commission (APPSC) has decided to stand down from erasing references to the history of Telangana from the curriculum that candidates for its competitive exams (Group-1, Group-2 and others) are required to read. The reason is that it finally dawned on APPSC that it the history of the two Telugu states cannot be surgically separate after all.

For instance, several places that are now in Telangana played a key role in the growth of Telugu language and literature, right from the era of Nannaya, Tikkana and Potana (the Kavitravam) to even modern times. Similarly, the contribution of the Qutb Shahis and the Asaf Jahis to Andhra history and culture cannot be skirted around in a lesson. So the APPSC authorities realised that without going into the history of erstwhile Hyderabad State one cannot get a comprehensive view of the social and cultural history of Andhra Pradesh.

As per the newly framed syllabus for the Group-1 recruitment exam, in Section-1 of Paper-2, aspirants will have to read about the role played by people from Andhra in the Telangana Armed Struggle in the chapter on “Role of the Left Parties in Anti-Feudal and Anti-Colonial Struggles”. Similarly, in Section-2 of the same paper, they have to understand the developments leading to the formation of the present Telangana state while studying the ‘Social and Cultural History of AP’.

“The proposal to omit portions of Telangana history from the syllabus did not stand scrutiny. The Telugus, whether they are Andhras or Telangana people, share a common history. From the time of the Satavahanas to the regime of the Qutb Shahis and the Nizams, several areas in Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telangana were ruled by a common ruler. Hence, we can’t omit the entire history of Telangana from the syllabus,” said Giridhar Aramane, APPSC’s principal secretary, told New Indian Express.

The Andhra Pradesh government has overhauled the syllabus for the competitive exams to be conducted for recruiting employees under Group-1, Group-2, Group-3 and Group-4 categories.