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

+ W.P.(C) 5690/2025

SHASHANK SHEKHAR PANDEY

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Shivam Pandey, Mr. Priyanshu
Upadhyay, Ms. Shruti and Mr.
Abhinav Sharma, Advs.

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Neeraj, Mr. Soumyadip
Chakraborty and Mr. Vedansh Anand,
Advs. for R-1/UOI.

Mr. Sanjay Khanna, Standing
Counsel with Ms. Pragya Bhushan,
Mr. Tarandeep Singh and Ms.
Vilakshana Dayma, Advs. for R-
2/NTA.

Mr. Arjun Mitra, Adv. for R-3/JEE
Advance, IIT Kanpur.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS MAHAJAN

ORDER

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01.05.2025

CM APPL. 25990/2025 (exemption)

1. Allowed, subject to all just exceptions.
2. The application stands disposed of.

W.P.(C) 5690/2025 & CM APPL. 25989/2025 (by the petitioner under Section 151 CPC seeking directions)

3. The present petition has been filed seeking direction to the respondent no.2/National Testing Agency (NTA) to rectify the discrepancies in the

petitioner's recorded response sheet for the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) – 2025, Session 2 and to duly consider all the 46 questions attempted by the petitioner, in respect of the petitioner's application No.250310868069.

4. The case as set out by the petitioner in the present petition is that the petitioner appeared in Session 2 of JEE (Main) – 2025 held on 04.04.2025. According to the petitioner, when he submitted his answer sheet, a pop-up message was shown depicting the attempted questions as 46 and un-attempted questions as 29.

5. Mr. Shivam Pandey, the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner submits that the respondent no.2/NTA published the provisional answer key along with the recorded response sheet on 11.04.2025 with a deadline of 13.04.2025 for the candidates to raise the objections against the answer key only, with there being no provision to challenge the recorded response sheet or errors therein.

6. He submits that upon downloading his response sheet, the petitioner discovered that although he had attempted 46 questions, only 29 questions were shown as attempted. He submits that there were 75 questions in total, however, it appears that the respondent no.2/NTA had inverted both values.

7. He submits that in case the petitioner is not permitted to register for JEE (Advanced) for which the last date is tomorrow i.e. 02.05.2025, he will be gravely prejudiced in case, eventually, merit is found in the contention of the petitioner.

8. He has also handed over an interim order dated 22.08.2022 passed by this Court in W.P.(C) No.11927/2022, titled ***Ms. Aishani Ojha v. National Testing Agency & Anr.*** wherein under similar circumstances, the respondent

therein was directed to register petitioner's application and process the same subject to the outcome of the said writ petition.

9. He submits that a similar relief may be granted to the present petitioner and the logs pertaining to his response for Session 2 JEE (Main) – 2025 may be directed to be produced before this Court.

10. In view of the above, issue notice.

11. Mr. Neeraj, the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respondent no.1/UOI accepts notice. Likewise, Mr. Sanjay Khanna, the learned Standing Counsel appearing on behalf of the respondent no.2/NTA also accepts notice.

12. Since JEE (Advanced) appears to be a necessary party, therefore, on the oral request of the learned counsel for the petitioner, JEE (Advanced) is impleaded as respondent no.3 in the present petition. Let amended memo of parties be filed within a period of two working days from today.

13. Mr. Arjun Mitra, the learned counsel for the JEE (Advanced) has joined through V.C. and is requested to accept notice on behalf of the newly impleaded respondent no.3/JEE (Advance). Accordingly, Mr. Mitra accepts notice on behalf of newly impleaded respondent no.3/JEE (Advanced).

14. Having regard to the fact that the last date for registration for JEE (Advanced) is tomorrow i.e. 02.05.2025, this Court is of the view that pending disposal of the present writ petition, JEE (Advanced) be directed to register petitioner's application and process the same.

15. Considering the facts and circumstances noted hereinabove, the petitioner is permitted to register his application for JEE (Advanced) and, accordingly, the newly impleaded respondent no.3/JEE (Advanced) is directed to process the same.

16. Mr. Mitra is also requested to ensure smooth processing of the petitioner's application for JEE (Advanced) Examination – 2025. In case of any necessity, the learned counsel for the petitioner is at liberty to contact and follow-up the matter with Mr. Mitra.

17. It is further directed that the result of the petitioner may not be declared and the same may be placed before this Court in a sealed cover.

18. It is clarified that the interim directions given hereinabove shall be subject to outcome of the present writ petition and the same will not create any special equities in favour of the petitioner.

19. Re-notify on 19.05.2025. In the meanwhile, the respondent no.2/NTA shall file its counter-affidavit and also produce logs pertaining to petitioner's response in Session 2 of JEE (Main)-2025.

20. A copy of the order be given *dasti* under signatures of the Court Master.

VIKAS MAHAJAN, J

MAY 1, 2025

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