

# **The Times of India**

## **Para teachers up in arms against JTET**

RANCHI: A large group of para teachers from across the state protested near Morhabadi Ground on Monday demanding cancellation of the second Jharkhand Teachers' Eligibility Test (JTET), which is scheduled to be held on November 20.

Para teachers have threatened self-immolation if the state government does not meet their demands. Bajrang Prasad, one of the protest leaders, said, "When JTET was organised in 2013, about 11,000 para teachers cleared the examination, but 4,000 of them have not yet been recruited despite vacancies in government schools."

They are also demanding recruitment before the next exam is held. Prasad said, "The SDO promised that we would be allowed to meet the chief minister on Tuesday. If the state government fails to meet our demands by September 15, we will opt for self-immolation on September 19."

JTET passouts of 2013, who have not yet been recruited, will also protest near the CM's residence on Tuesday

"How can the government go ahead with another JTET examination when there are thousands of candidates who have not been recruited despite clearing the first exam?," said Shamim Ali, who will lead Tuesday's protest.

At least one lakh candidates appeared for the JTET exam in 2013, of which about 64,000 candidates cleared the test. However, till date, 53,668 candidates are still awaiting recruitment despite there being teaching jobs available in government schools.

"Why clear the exam if you are not recruited? Though some of us have certificates to show, we are still unemployed," said Manoj Kumar, a JTET passout.

JTET passouts, who have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to intervene in the matter, will be submitting a letter to the governor after the protest.