

## **The New Indian Express**

### **Applicants who had qualified in 2011 competitive exams still stuck in limbo**

HYDERABAD: As preparing for competitive examinations in Telangana is turning into a never-ending ordeal, students want an examination calendar on the lines of Union Public Services Commission (UPSC) exams to be introduced in the state.

The recruitment system in the state is so derailed and fraught with inconsistencies that the youth preparing for state government jobs have to wait for years just for a notification. Even after the notification is issued, it is taking years to complete the exam process.

“The last time Group I examination was held in 2011. But the exam was cancelled due to legal issues and bifurcation. Youth preparing for Group I services in Telangana have been put on wait for more than six years and we cannot pursue any other course, as it difficult to continue the preparation simultaneously,” said M Krishna, a 32-year-old youth from Nalgonda, who qualified in Group I 2011 examination, but is forced to prepare for the competitive examinations again.

Even in case of Group II and other competitive examinations, inordinate delays, postponements, legal tangles have become the order of the day. As a result lakhs of students are stuck in the preparatory mode for years together and are even losing other career opportunities.

While there are just 1,000 Group II jobs up for grabs, more than five lakh youth have applied. A student preparing for a competitive exam has to spend between Rs 7,000 to Rs 12,000 per month to stay in Hyderabad and continue his/her coaching, which is a huge burden, as most of the youth in Telangana belong to lower income or middle class background. Many even leave private jobs to prepare, with a hope that they will get a government job in future.

“With the government taking years to release a notification and conduct the examination, youth aspiring to get jobs feel betrayed. What about the lakhs of disappointed youth who do not get selected even after preparing for years as there are very few posts? An examination calendar has to be released and followed every year. This will help them in planing their career well. A system similar to UPSC has to be introduced in Telangana so that posts will be filled up according to their ranks through the same

test,” said A Giri, a youth preparing for Group II exam who is also a member of Telangana Vidyarthi Udyama Vedika, an organisation formed to fight for a timely notification for state jobs in Telangana.

The problem is so severe that many youth preparing for competitive examinations are getting depressed. At Sahayam counselling centre at Osmania University, at least five youths are suffering with depression and have sought help.

When a senior official of Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) was contacted, an official said that unless the government has clarity on the number of vacancies in all departments and the number of new recruitments needed every year, an examination calendar may not be possible. “Introduction of examination calendar and following it without fail will help youth in a great way and streamline the process of recruitments. But the government has to take a policy decision,” the official concluded.