Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission

Advertisement No. 10/2018
Dated: 02nd October, 2018

Online Applications are invited from desirous and eligible candidates for recruitment to 71 posts of Horticulture Development Officer in the department of Horticulture, Himachal Pradesh through ‘One Time Registration System’ (OTRS) on web link: www.hppsconline.in/RPS/Home.aspx, which shall be available on Commission’s website up to 21st October, 2018 till 11:59 P.M. (IST), thereafter link will be disabled.

Candidates are also advised to register themselves on new ‘One Time Registration System’ (O.T.R.S.) for which link is also available on Commission’s website: www.hppsc.hp.gov.in/hppsc. Instructions for registering in ‘One Time Registration System’ (O.T.R.S.) is available on Commission’s website.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:-

1. Date for determining eligibility of all candidates in respect of essential qualification(s) and experience, if any, etc., shall be the prescribed closing date for submission of application through OTRS portal i.e. 21st October, 2018.

2. The candidates must read instructions carefully, which are available on website of the Commission before applying for the post(s) concerned.

3. The candidates must ensure their eligibility in respect of category, experience, age and essential qualification(s) etc. as mentioned against concerned post in the advertisement to avoid rejection at later stage.

4. The benefit of reservation for various post(s) will be admissible only to the candidates, who are bonafide residents of Himachal Pradesh in respect of categories, viz., S.C., S.T., O.B.C., Ex-Servicemen, WFF and Persons with disabilities (Loco motor Disabled / Visually Impaired/ Hearing Impaired) etc.

5. The reserved category candidates belonging to other States will be treated as GENERAL CATEGORY CANDIDATES and the benefit of reservation and fee concession will not be admissible to such candidates.

6. Number of post(s) is/are tentative and may increase or decrease from time to time.

7. No in service (regular service) candidate will be interviewed unless he / she brings NOC from the concerned employer.

8. Examination fees once paid will not be refunded.

9. Disputes, if any, shall be subject to Court jurisdiction at Shimla.
Detail of post(s) and eligibility conditions are given as under:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No. (I) : Department of Horticulture, H.P.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sr.No.</td>
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Pay band: ₹ 10300-34800/- + ₹ 5000/- (Grade Pay)  
(Contractual Amount= ₹15300/-PM)  
AGE: 18 to 45 years.

**ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATION(s):**

(i) M.Sc. Horticulture/Agriculture in any one of the following disciplines/subjects:-

Pomology, Fruit Breeding & Genetic Resources, Post Harvest Technology/Fruit Technology, Floriculture & Land Scaping, Mycology & Plant Pathology/Entomology & Apiculture or Biotechnology, Vegetable Crops, Microbiology, Soil Science & Water Management, Agriculture Economics & Agriculture Statistics, Agriculture extension, M.Sc. Food Technology, Master of Science(Horticulture) Fruit Science, Master of Science(Horticulture) Vegetable Science, Master of Science (Horticulture) Floriculture and Land scape Architecture, Master of Science(Agriculture) Plant Pathology, Master of Science(Agriculture) Entomology, Master of Science(Agriculture) Nematology, Master of Science (Agriculture) Seed Science and Technology, Master of Science(Agriculture) Soil Science, Master of Science(Agriculture) Agricultural Economics, Master of Science Food Technology, Master of Science Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Master of Science Microbiology, Master of Science Statistics and Post Graduate Associateship in Fruit and Vegetable Technology equivalent to M.Sc Horticulture (Post Harvest Technology) and Master of Science(Agriculture) specialization in Plant Breeding & Genetics.

However, the incumbent should be B.Sc.(Horticulture/ Agriculture) with Horticulture as elective subject or B.Sc.(Hons.) Horticulture/ Agriculture with Horticulture as elective subject in four years degree program.

(ii) **DESIRABLE QUALIFICATION:**

Knowledge of customs, manners and dialects of H.P. and suitability for appointment in the peculiar conditions prevailing in the Pradesh.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Detailed instructions for filling up Online Applications / O.T.R.S. are available on the above mentioned website.

a) Desirous/ eligible candidates should apply online through OTRS portal on the official website of the Commission. Applications received through any other mode would not be accepted.
b) The candidates, who wish to apply for more than one post, should apply separately for each post and will have to pay the requisite examination fees for each post in the prescribed manner.

**EXAMINATION FEES:-**
The detail of fee for respective categories is as under:-

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Examination Fees</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>General Category</strong> (including General Physically Disabled, i.e. Orthopedically disabled, Deaf &amp; Dumb, Hearing impaired/ W.F.F. of HP/ Ex-Servicemen of HP relieved from Defence Services on their own request before completion of normal tenure, General wards of Ex-SM of H.P., i.e. Dependent sons, daughters and wives of Ex-SM of H.P. and candidates of other states (including reserved category candidates of other states))</td>
<td>₹ 400/-</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>Ex-Servicemen of H.P.</strong> (Ex-Servicemen, who are relieved from Defence Services after completion of normal tenure)/ <strong>Visually Impaired of H.P.</strong></td>
<td>No Fee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mode of Payment:-**

Candidates can pay requisite Examination Fees through ‘e-Payment’ i.e. through Debit Card or Credit Card of any Bank.

Before applying online, all candidates are advised to go through detailed instructions given on the above mentioned website.

**FACILITATION COUNTER FOR GUIDANCE OF CANDIDATES:-**

In case of any guidance/ information/ clarification regarding Online Applications / O.T.R.S., candidates can contact HPPSC’s Reception Counter in person or on **Toll Free No. 1800-180-8004 or Ph. No. 0177-2629738** on any working day between 10:00 A.M. to 05:00 P.M. Queries related to online applications/ OTRS can also be mailed by the candidates on e-mail ID **hppscotr@gmail.com**.

**ADMISSION/ REJECTION:-**

The requisite documents uploaded by the candidates on OTRS portal, will be scrutinized and list of candidates proposed to be rejected will be uploaded on the website of the Commission for information of all concerned. Besides, concerned candidates will be informed through e-mail(s) and SMSs. No separate intimation in this regard will be sent by post.
Seven days’ time will be given to provisionally rejected candidates to upload their representation(s) along with the supporting documents in support of their eligibility on OTRS portal, if any, against the proposed rejections, from the date of uploading the list of rejected candidates on the website of the Commission for the concerned post(s), failing which, no representation(s) will be entertained thereafter.

Candidates are advised to visit the Commission’s website from time to time for updates in their own interest.

**e- Admission Certificate(s):**

No Admission Certificate(s) will be sent by post and provisionally admitted candidates will have to download their respective e-Admission Certificate along with instructions for the concerned post(s) from the official website of the Commission. Therefore, the candidates are advised to remember their User ID(s) and password(s) earlier created by the candidates to log in to download their respective e-Admission Certificate(s). The provisionally admitted candidates will have to paste a passport size photograph duly self attested / attested by a Gazetted Officer on the space provided on the downloaded e-Admission Certificate(s), failing which he/she will not be allowed to appear in the Screening Test/ Examination, in any condition/ circumstances, whatsoever.

**SUBMISSION OF CERTIFICATES/ DOCUMENTS:**

- **THE CANDIDATES WILL HAVE TO UPLOAD ALL THE REQUISITE DOCUMENTS/CERTIFICATES, i.e. ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS(S), AGE, EXPERIENCE AND CATEGORY IN SUPPORT OF THEIR ELIGIBILITY ON THEIR PROFILE GENERATED ON THE OTRS PORTAL AVAILABLE ON THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE COMMISSION.**
- Furnishing of false information or suppression of any material fact(s) in the Online Application form(s) would entail disqualification of the candidate and he / she will be disqualified from appearing for recruitment to any post to be advertised by this Commission for a period of three years from the date of submission of application by such candidate(s).
- The detailed particulars of such candidates will be uploaded on the website of the Commission to blacklist such debarred candidates.

Note: Original certificates will have to be produced at the time of personality test. If any, if their claim is found to be incorrect; besides rejection they may render themselves liable to disciplinary action by the Commission.

**CATEGORY CLAIMS:**

The category of the candidate claimed in the profile before he/she applied for the post shall be treated as final. In case his /her category undergoes a change before the last date notified for submission of online recruitment application form then the candidate shall have to cancel his/her previous application and apply afresh under the category which he /she intends to claim after updating category in his/her profile. In such a situation the fees deposited by the candidate earlier shall stand forfeited and he/ she shall have to deposit fresh fees as is applicable for the category claimed by him/her.

Disabled of Himachal Pradesh candidates must possess such certificates(s) in support of their claims made in the Online Application(s) while applying for the concerned post(s).

The benefit of reservation will be admissible on parental basis only. All the candidates belonging to reserved categories are also required to go through the relevant instructions of the Government of Himachal Pradesh issued from time to time in order to ensure that they are eligible under a particular category.

1. **EX-SERVICEMEN OF HIMACHAL PRADESH:**
   The candidates belonging to Ex-Servicemen of Himachal Pradesh will have to furnish Discharge Certificate and full detail in respect of their P.P.O. No., Rank, and date of retirement from the Defence Services to claim the benefit of reservation for the category of Ex-Serviceman of Himachal Pradesh.

2. **WARDS OF EX-SERVICEMEN OF HIMACHAL PRADESH, i.e. DEPENDENT SONS, DAUGHTERS AND WIVES OF EX-SM OF H.P.**:
   Dependent sons, daughters & wives of Ex-Servicemen of Himachal Pradesh (Wards of Ex-Servicemen of Himachal Pradesh) may apply against the posts specifically reserved for Wards of Ex-Servicemen category (i.e. Dependent sons, daughters and wives) and not against the posts reserved for Ex-Servicemen of H.P. in order to avoid rejection of their candidature at any later stage for the concerned post(s). Candidates belonging to Wards of Ex-SM category will have to submit a Dependent Certificate issued by the competent authority and a latest affidavit duly attested by the authority authorized under the Indian Oath Act to the effect that no person in the family has been rehabilitated through employment against the posts reserved for Ex-Servicemen with the H.P. Govt./Corporation/Board/Autonomous Body of H.P. as well as Central and other State/Union Territory Government or PSU/Autonomous Body/Banks etc. under the control of the said Central or other State/Union Territory Government. The daughters of Ex-Servicemen will also have to submit an undertaking to the effect that she is un-married and dependent upon her father in support of her category claim on the day of personality test.

3. **OBC of H.P. (OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES OF HIMACHAL PRADESH):**
   The candidates belonging to OBC of H.P. category must produce OBC certificate(s) on the prescribed format valid till the relevant term of the Financial Year (i.e. 1st April to 31st March) as notified by the Government of Himachal Pradesh (in the Department of Revenue) in Rajpatra dated 09th January, 2012. Candidates must have a valid OBC Certificate covering the entire period from last date of submission of online applications till date of personality test along with an undertaking that his/her status as OBC has not been changed and he/she has not been excluded from the category of O.B.C. of H.P. on account of being covered under creamy layer.

4. **WFF OF H.P. (WARDS OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH):**
   For the posts reserved for Wards of Freedom Fighters of Himachal Pradesh (WFF of H.P.), sons/grandsons/daughters/granddaughters of Freedom Fighters of Himachal Pradesh, who have been appointed on regular basis as well as married daughters/granddaughters shall not be entitled for the benefits of reservation.
provided to the wards of Freedom fighters in Government services, against the identical posts in the same scale. The employed children/ grand children and married daughters/ granddaughters of Freedom Fighters will be deemed to have been excluded from the definition of Ward of Freedom Fighter for the purpose to this extent. The children/ grand children of Freedom fighters of Himachal Pradesh, who have been appointed in Govt. / Semi Govt. or Private Sector etc. services against the post(s) reserved for the wards of Freedom Fighters on regular basis will remain entitled to compete for higher rank/ grade posts/ services on the basis of reservation earmarked to the wards of Freedom Fighters of Himachal Pradesh. The un-married daughters/ granddaughters will have to submit an affidavit being spinster (un-married) in support of their claim(s) issued by the authority authorized under the Indian Oath Act. Otherwise such candidates will be rejected straightway.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS:-

(i) The date of determining the eligibility of all candidates in terms of essential qualification(s), experience etc., if any, shall be reckoned as on the closing date, 21st October, 2018 for submission of Online Applications through OTRS portal.

(ii) If no post is reserved for a particular reserved category falling under vertical reservation, then such candidates can be considered against General / UR category, provided such candidates will have to fulfill the criteria, i.e. age limit, experience, qualification etc., which are applicable to General category candidates. In other words, when a relaxed standard is applied in selecting SC/ ST/ OBC candidate, for example in the age limit, experience, qualification etc. then such candidates would be deemed as unavailable for consideration against unreserved vacancies in accordance with the instructions of the Government (in the Department of Personnel) issued vide letter No. PER (AP)-C-F(1)-2/2001 dated 12th November, 2014.

(iii) For recruitment to the post(s) to be filled up on the basis of experience, it will be necessary for the candidates to have the required experience for determining his/ her eligibility after acquiring the requisite essential educational qualification(s).

(iv) The decision of the Commission regarding eligibility etc. of a candidate for admission to Personality Test or selection will be final and no correspondence / personal enquiries will be entertained.

(v) Onus of proving that a candidate has acquired requisite degree/ essential qualification by the stipulated date, shall be on the candidate and in the absence of proof to the contrary, the date as mentioned on the face of certificate/ degree or the date of issue of certificate/degree shall be taken as date of acquiring essential educational qualification. No extra opportunity shall be provided to the candidates to produce appropriate certificates at the time of personality test(s).

(vi) In respect of equivalent clause in Essential Qualifications, if a candidate is claiming a particular qualification as equivalent qualification as per the requirement of advertisement, then the candidate is required to produce order/ letter in this regard, indicating the Authority (with number and date) under which it has been so treated otherwise the candidature/Online Application is liable to be rejected.

AGE:- As mentioned against the post.
Clarification:-

(i) Five years relaxation in upper age limit is admissible only to the bonafide SC of H.P. / ST of H.P. / OBC of H.P. / WFF of H.P. / Persons with disabilities of Himachal Pradesh. For H.P. Govt. employees and Ex-Servicemen of H.P.; age relaxation is as per Government’s instructions issued from time to time.

(ii) Age of a candidate shall be reckoned as on 01.01.2018.

SCREENING TEST/ EXAMINATION/ PERSONALITY TEST/ FINAL SELECTION:-

(i) In cases where the number of eligible candidates for recruitment to the post(s) advertised by the Commission is inordinately large, the Commission may limit / shortlist the number of eligible candidates to be called for personality test(s) by subjecting them to either Computer based Screening Test (objective-type) or Offline Screening Test (objective / descriptive) of two hours duration. Marks obtained in the Screening Test are only meant to short list the number of candidates for personality test(s) and are in no way to be presumed by the candidates as being their merit for final selection. Any correlation drawn by the candidates between their score in the Screening Test and final merit at a later stage is completely unwarranted. No representation(s) shall be entertained in this regard. Final selection of a candidate will be made solely on the basis of his/ her performance in the Personality Test, which will be of maximum 100 marks. The minimum pass marks in personality test are 45 for the candidates of general category and 35 marks for the candidates of reserved categories.

(ii) Where selection is to be made on the basis of performance of the candidates having qualified the screening test, before the interview board, a candidate scoring more marks in the personality test shall be placed above the candidates scoring lesser marks in the personality test. If the candidates will score equal marks in a personality test, then a candidate securing more marks in the screening test will be placed above the candidate securing lesser marks in the screening test. In case the marks of screening test are also equal then the candidate who is senior in age will be placed above the candidate junior in age.

(iii) The key of Computer Based Screening Test (objective type) shall be uploaded on the website immediately after the conduct of screening test for calling objections from the candidates. Three days time from the day of publishing the key (day of publishing the key plus 3 (three) days up to 11:59 P.M. of the last date of receipt of objections after which the link will be disabled) shall be given for inviting objections in the key which shall be submitted only in online mode. The objections, if any, will be got verified from the concerned subject expert and, if found correct, a revised key of that screening test shall be uploaded on Commission’s website immediately after declaration of result of screening test for the concerned post and no objection(s) shall be entertained thereafter.
(iv) The key of Offline Screening Test (objective type) shall be uploaded on Commission’s website immediately after the conduct of Screening Test(s) for the concerned post(s) for calling objections from the candidates. Seven days time (day of publishing the key plus seven days up to 05:00 P.M. of the last date of receipt of objections) shall be given for inviting objections in the key which shall be submitted only in offline mode. The objections, if any, will be got verified from the concerned subject expert and, if found correct, a revised key of that screening test shall be uploaded on Commission’s website immediately after declaration of result of screening test for the concerned post and no objection(s) shall be entertained thereafter.

(v) There will be negative marking for incorrect answers (as detailed below) for all questions:

a. There are four alternatives for the answers to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, one fourth (0.25) of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.

b. If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happen to be correct and there will be same penalty as above for that question.

c. If a question is left blank i.e. no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no penalty for that question.

Note: Where there will be two correct answers instead of one correct answer out of four options of a question, all those candidates who will click / encode any one of these two correct answers will be awarded marks allotted to that question.

(i) The marks / merit list of appeared / admitted candidates will be displayed on Commission’s website after final recommendation for appointment to the Government of H.P. (in the concerned Department).

(ii) The above details (i) can be viewed only by the candidate concerned by operating his/her Log in user Id.

(iii) For more information of candidates, HPPSC (Procedure & Transaction of Business and Procedure for the Conduct of Examinations, Screening Tests & Interviews etc.) Rules, 2007 (as amended up to 02th July, 2018 pertaining to selection procedure etc. is available on Commission’s website.

(iv) The eligibility of candidate(s) called for the personality test will be determined on the basis of original documents produced on the day of personality test and the Commission will not be responsible if the candidature of any candidate is rejected at that stage or at the time of verification by the appointing authority. As such, admission to the screening test/ examination/ personality test shall be purely provisional.

(v) Summoning of the candidate(s) for Personality Test; conveys no assurance whatsoever that they will be selected or recommended. Appointment orders to the selected candidate(s) will be issued by the appropriate appointing authority.

(vi) If any person with disability requires scribe/ reader, having disability of 40% or more, he / she has to request for the same in writing to the Commission alongwith copy of disability certificate issued by the competent authority at
least seven days prior to the screening test for the concerned post. Such applications will be entertained on merit and as per rules.

(vii) Re-checking/re-evaluation, for the written examination(s)/Screening Tests will not be allowed in any case.

(viii) Disputes, if any, shall be subject to Court jurisdiction at Shimla.

OTHER CONDITIONS:

1. All candidates, whether in Government Service or Government owned Industrial or Public Enterprises or other similar organizations or in private employment should submit their applications online through OTRS portal directly to the Commission. No in service (regular service) candidate will be interviewed unless he/she brings NOC from the concerned employer.

2. Contract/Casual/adhoc/daily rated/work charged employees do not need to produce NOC from the concerned employer.

3. It may be ensured by the candidates before submitting the applications that furnishing of false information and documents or suppression of any factual information in the application form would entail disqualification. If the fact that false information/document(s) has been furnished or that there has been suppression of any factual information in the application, comes to the notice at any time during the service of a person, his service would be liable to be terminated.

4. The candidates applying for the post(s) should ensure that they fulfill all the eligibility conditions for admission to the examination. Their admission at all stages of screening test/examination for which they are admitted by the Commission, viz., written examination and Personality Test will be purely provisional, subject to their satisfying the prescribed eligibility conditions. If on verification at any time before or after the written examination or personality test, it is found that they do not fulfill any of the eligibility conditions; their candidature for the concerned examination will be cancelled by the Commission.

5. Candidate, who is or has been declared by the Commission to be guilty of:-

   (a) Obtaining support for his/her candidature by the following means, namely:-
       • offering illegal gratification to, or
       • applying pressure on, or
       • blackmailing, or threatening to blackmail any person connected with the conduct of the examination, or

   (b) impersonating, or

   (c) procuring impersonation by any person, or

   (d) submitting fabricated documents or documents which have been tampered with, or
(c) making statements which are incorrect or false or suppressing material information, or

(f) resorting to the following means in connection with his/her candidature for the examination, namely:

- obtaining copy of question paper through improper means,
- finding out the particulars of the persons connected with secret work relating to the examination,
- influencing the examiners, or

(g) using unfair means during the examination, or

(h) writing obscene matter or drawing obscene sketches in the scripts, or

(i) misbehaving in the examination hall including tearing of the scripts, provoking fellow examinees to boycott examination, creating disorderly scene and the like, or

(j) harassing or doing bodily harm to the staff employed by the Commission for the conduct of their examinations, or

(k) being in possession of or using mobile phone, pager or any electronic equipment or device or any other equipment capable of being used as a communication device during the examination; or

(l) violating any of the instructions issued to candidates along with their admission certificates permitting them to take the examination, or

(m) attempting to commit or as the case may be abetting the commission of all or any of the acts specified in the foregoing clauses; may in addition to rendering himself/herself liable to criminal prosecution, be liable:

- to be disqualified by the Commission from the examination for which he/she is a candidate and/or

(n) to be debarred either permanently or for as specified period:

- by the Commission from any examination or selection held by them.
- by the Central Government from any employment under them, and

(o) if he/she is already in service under Government to disciplinary action under the appropriate Rules. Provided that no penalty under these Rules shall be imposed except after:

- giving the candidate an opportunity of making such representation, in writing as he/she may wish to make in that behalf; and
- taking the representation, if any, submitted by the candidate within the period allowed to him/her into consideration.

6. The centres of holding the examination(s) are liable to be changed at the discretion of the Commission. However, every effort will be made to allot the examination centre(s) of their choice to the candidates. But, the Commission may, at its discretion, allot a different centre to a candidate when circumstances so warrant.
CHECK LIST:

VERIFY THE FOLLOWING BEFORE SUBMITING THE ONLINE APPLICATION OR DOCUMENTS/ CERTIFICATES:-

a) That no column is wrongly filled or kept blank as the information furnished therein would be used to determine the eligibility of candidates to be called for personality test.

b) That the following documents/ certificates are uploaded on OTRS portal in support of claims made/ information given in the Online Application:-
   i) Degree/ Diploma certificates along with Marks Sheets of all years in support of Educational Qualifications. The provisional certificate(s) along with marks sheets of all semesters/ years.
   ii) Matriculation certificate for age proof.
   iii) Experience certificate(s) wherever required.
   iv) Order/ letter in respect of equivalent Educational Qualifications claimed, indicating the authority (with number & date) under which it has been so treated.

DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION(s):

No candidate will be eligible for admission to the examination:-

a. If he/ she has been dismissed from any previous Govt./ Semi Govt. service;

b. If he/ she has been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude or has been permanently debarred/ disqualified from appearing in any examination or selection;

c. If he / she is found either directly or indirectly influencing the selection process in any manner; or

d. If he / she is an un-discharged insolvent.

Abbreviations:


Sd/-
(H.S. Choudhary) IAS,
Secretary,
H.P. Public Service Commission
Ph. No. 0177-2624313/ 2629739