

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES AS TO HOW TO APPLY FOR THE H.P.F.S.
(ACF) (MAIN) EXAMINATION-2025**

1. All candidates declared qualified in H.P. Forest Service (ACF) (Preliminary) Examination -2025 shall have to apply afresh for HPFS (Main) Examination. Candidates who do not apply afresh by submitting Online Recruitment Application will not be allowed to appear in HPFS (Main) Examination – 2025.
2. The candidates are required to visit the official website of the Commission <https://hppsconline.hp.gov.in/HPPSC/ApplicantRegistration/Home/Login>
3. The detail of examination fee to be paid by the candidates is given below:-

Sr. No.	Category	Fees
1.	The Candidates (male / female) of General, Economic Weaker Section (EWS) (not included in BPL category), Wards of Freedom Fighter categories (WFF), Ward of General – Ex Servicemen i.e. Dependent Sons, Daughters & Wives of Ex. Servicemen categories and General- Ex. Servicemen of Himachal Pradesh who are relieved from the Defence Services on their own request before completion of their normal tenure of service under the Government of India.	600.00
2.	The Candidates (male / female) of Other States (including reserved category(s) candidates of other states.)	600.00
3.	The Candidates (male / female) of SC, ST, OBC, wards of SC/ST/OBC Freedom Fighter categories (WFF), Wards of SC/ST/OBC Ex. Servicemen i.e. Dependent Sons, Daughters & Wives of Ex. Servicemen, EWS covered under UR – BPL categories of Himachal Pradesh and Ex-Servicemen candidates of Himachal Pradesh belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories who are relieved from the Defence Services on their own request before completion of their normal tenure of service under the Government of India	150.00
4.	The Ex-Servicemen candidates of Himachal Pradesh who are relieved from the Defence Services after completion of their normal tenure of service under the Government of India.	No fee

Note-I:- The Candidates who belong to any of the reserved category and there is no post reserved for such category but the candidates are claiming fee concession available to them

shall have to upload the category certificate in support of their claim.

Note-II:- Examination fee once paid will not be refunded.

4. MODE OF PAYMENT:-

The desirous and eligible candidates shall pay the examination fee fixed category – wise online by debit / credit card / UPI / any other online digital mode, as the case may be, on or before the prescribed closing date for submission of online recruitment applications through OTR portal. While making payment the candidate(s) shall pay the fixed amount only after accepting the “Terms and Conditions to apply online”. Fee once paid shall neither be refunded under any circumstance nor can it be held in reserve for any other examination or selection.

Note: Candidates should note that payment of fee can be made only through the modes prescribed above. Payment of fee through any other mode is neither valid nor acceptable. Applications submitted without the prescribed fee/mode shall be summarily rejected.

5. ADMISSION/ REJECTION:

1. Incomplete Online Recruitment Applications (ORA) submitted without requisite examination fee/fictitious fee, scanned photograph & scanned signatures of prescribed size, will be rejected straightway.
2. The candidates who have paid requisite fees and uploaded all supporting documents will be allowed to appear in the Screening Test/ Personality Test on their claim basis.

Note:-

Original certificates will have to be produced at the time of personality Test. If their claim is found to be incorrect; besides rejection they may render themselves liable to penal action by the Commission.

6. E-CALL LETTERS:

No Admit Cards / Call Letters will be sent by post and provisionally admitted candidates will have to download their respective e-Admit Cards / e-Call letters along with instructions to the candidates for the concerned post(s) from the official website of the Commission. Therefore, the candidates are advised to remember their USER IDs and Password(s) earlier created by them to Log-In to download their respective e-Admit Cards / e-Call letters. 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-Admit Cards, failing which he / she will not be allowed to appear in the screening Test / Examination, in any condition / circumstances, whatsoever. The Candidates should also bring original Identity proof alongwith E-admit Card on the day of examination. If any candidate, appears at a centre other than those indicated by the Commission in his / her Admit Card, he / she shall not be allowed to appear in the examination and his / her candidature will be liable to be cancelled.

7. In service candidates are required to furnish No Objection Certificate from the respective employer. No such candidates who are employees of the Govt. shall be interviewed unless he/she brings N.O.C. from the concerned employer.
8. List of Documents to be uploaded on the OTRS portal by the candidate(s):
 - a. Matriculation certificate for age proof.

- b. Degree certificates alongwith Marks Sheets of all years/Consolidated Mark Sheet in support of Educational Qualifications.
- c. Valid Category certificate(s) in support of their eligibility, if any, viz., S.C., S.T., O.B.C., E.W.S., Ex-Servicemen, Ward of Ex-Servicemen, WFF etc. (All these certificates alongwith undertaking wherever required, should be on Proforma prescribed by the Government of H.P. from time to time. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other backward Classes Certificates should be in accordance with the instructions of the Govt. issued vide letter No.PER(AP)-C-F(10)-4/2010 dated 5th August, 2019).
- d. Bonafide Himachali Certificate in case of reserved category candidates.
- e. Valid EWS/BPL Certificate. (Candidates applying under EWS category will have to submit either Income & Asset Certificate or valid BPL Certificate countersigned by B.D.O. alongwith non-SC / ST / OBC certificate issued by the competent authority on the format prescribed by H.P. Government vide letter No. PER(AP)-C-B(12)-1/2019 dated 11th June, 2019).
- f. Ex-Servicemen Discharge Certificate/Service Book. (The candidates belonging to Ex-Servicemen of Himachal Pradesh will have to furnish Discharge Certificate / Service Book and full detail in respect of their P.P.O. No., Rank etc. and NOC with date of retirement from the Defence Services to claim the benefit of reservation for the category of Ex-Serviceman of Himachal Pradesh. The Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs) released on or after 13-02-2020 shall have to upload proof of having received gratuity).

9. SCHEME OF EXAMINATION:

a) Main (Written) Examination:-

Rules relating to the subjects and standards of the competitive examination for the post of Himachal Pradesh Forest Service (HPFS) (Assistant Conservator of Forests) Class-I (Gazetted).

1. The candidates who will qualify the written examination will be called for physical standard test and the candidates five times of the number of vacancies will be declared successful in the written examination.
2. The written examination shall include three compulsory and two optional papers.
3. A candidate shall specify in his/her application form the optional subjects he/she desires to take, but may intimate any change of intention to the Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission not later than the last date notified for submission of applications online.
4. A candidate shall answer the Optional papers in English or Hindi only which is at his / her option choice.
5. No candidate shall be considered to have qualified the written examination unless he / she obtains atleast 40% marks in each compulsory paper and 45% marks in aggregate.
6. Provided that in case there is a tie between or amongst the candidates on account of having obtained equal minimum qualifying marks in the written examination, all such candidates shall be called for the interview / personality test.
7. The names of the candidates who are called for interview / personality test shall be arranged in order of merit on the basis of the aggregate marks obtained in the written examination.
8. The ranking will be decided on the basis of the marks obtained in all compulsory and optional papers excluding marks of English papers though it would be necessary to

obtain 40% marks in each optional paper to qualify.

9. Provided that the final ranking shall be determined on the basis of marks obtained by the candidates in the main examination (written as well as interview / personality test).
10. In the event of a tie, order of merit shall be determined in accordance with highest marks secured in the interview/personality test and if the marks in the interview/personality test are also equal, then the order of merit shall be decided in accordance with the highest marks obtained by such candidates in the compulsory papers and if the marks in the aggregate of the compulsory papers are also equal, then the elder candidate shall be placed higher in the merit.
11. Credit will be given for good English / Hindi including orderly, effective and exact expression combined with the economy of words, in all subjects of the examination and not only in subjects which are especially devoted to English/ Hindi.
12. All papers shall be of three hours duration.

COMPULSORY:

1. General Knowledge:

General knowledge including knowledge of current events and of such matters of every day observation and experience in their scientific aspects as is expected from an educated person who has not made special study of any scientific subject. The paper will also include questions on Indian Polity including the political system and the Constitution of India, History of India and Geography of nature which the candidate should be able to answer without special study.

100 marks

2. General English:

The question paper will be designed to test the candidate's understanding of his power to write English correctly and idiomatically. It will also include questions to test the candidate's knowledge of grammar, idiom and usage. Passages will be set for summary or précis. Besides there will be an essay on current topics on State / National / International events. The essay will carry 30 marks. Summary or précis 20 marks and other shall be of 50 marks.

100 marks

3. Hindi:

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|---|----------|
| (i) Essay on current topics on State/National/International events. | 30 marks |
| (ii) Translation of an English passage into Hindi. | 10 marks |
| (iii) Explanation of Hindi Prose and Poetry in the same language. | 20 marks |
| (iv) Idioms, Corrections, comprehension and grammar etc. | 40 marks |

Total: 100 marks

4. Optional Subjects:

- (i) Agriculture
- (ii) Botany
- (iii) Chemistry
- (iv) Computer Applications / Computer Science;
- (v) Engineering (Agricultural / Chemical / Civil / Computer / Electrical / Electronics / Mechanical)
- (vi) Environmental Science

- (vii) Forestry
- (viii) Geology
- (ix) Horticulture
- (x) Mathematics
- (xi) Statistics
- (xii) Physics
- (xiii) Veterinary Science
- (xiv) Zoology

Candidates are required to offer two of the above subjects. Total number of questions in the question papers of optional papers will be eight. All questions will carry equal marks. Each paper will be divided into two parts viz. Part-I and Part-II and each part shall contain four questions. Out of eight questions five questions are to be attempted. One question from each part will be compulsory. The candidates will be required to answer three other questions out of the remaining six questions, taking atleast one question from each Part. In this way, atleast two questions will be attempted from each Part i.e. one compulsory question plus one more

200 marks each subject

Note-I— The standard of the examination in these subjects will be that of a Bachelor's degree.

Note-II— No candidate shall be allowed to take more than one subject from the following:-

- i) Agriculture, Agriculture Engineering and Veterinary Science.
- ii) Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.
- iii) Computer Application / Science and Computer Engineering.
- iv) Electrical Engineering and Electronic Engineering.
- v) Mathematics and Statistics.

Note-III— Syllabus of optional subjects is available on Commission's website.

Provided further that only those candidates who qualify the written test will be called for the physical test and the number of candidates called for physical test will be five times the number of vacancies advertised.

10. PHYSICAL STANDARDS:-

MALE:

Height: 163 Cms

Chest: 79 Cms without expansion and 84 Cms with expansion.

Capacity to walk: 25 Kms in 4 Hours.

FEMALE:

Height: 150 Cms

Chest: 74 Cms without expansion and 79 Cms with expansion.

Capacity to walk: 16 Kms in 4 Hours.

The minimum height standards in the case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes and to races such as Gorkhas, Assamese, Meghalaya, Ladakhis, Sikkimes, Garhwalis, Kumaonis, Naga, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizo, Lahaul & Spiti shall be as under:-

Male candidate: 152.0 Cms.

Female candidate: 145.0 Cms.

11. Health Certificate:

- (a) The candidates selected for training will have to produce Medical Certificate issued by a duly constituted Medical Board in the form prescribed under Article 19 of the Central Civil Services Regulations, or the corresponding rule in the Supplementary Rules testifying to the candidate's sound hearing and general physical fitness for rough outdoor work in the Forests Department.
- (b) Candidates will be required to produce the medical certificate issued by the Chief Medical Officer or equivalent authority of the district concerned.

Note:- This post is not suitable for the persons with benchmark disabilities.

12. Interview / Personality test:

Total number of candidates who shall qualify the written and physical standard test and to be called for interview/personality test will be three times the number of vacancies advertised who will have before the Commission a record of their career. They will be asked questions on matters of general interest. The object of the interview/personality test is to assess the personal suitability of the candidate for the service.

The test is intended to judge the mental caliber of candidate. In broad terms, this is really an assessment of not only their intellectual qualities but also social traits and their interest in current affairs including the knowledge of customs, manners and dialects of Himachal Pradesh. Some of the qualities to be judged are mental alertness, critical powers of assimilation, care and logical exposition, balance of judgments, variety and depth of interest, ability for social cohesion and leadership, intellectual and moral integrity.

100 marks

Note:

DETAILED SYLLABUS FOR THE HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST SERVICE (HPFS) (ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS) IS AVAILABLE ON THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE COMMISSION.

13. OTHER CONDITIONS

1. It may be ensured by the candidates before submitting the applications that furnishing of false information and documents or supersession 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 or any factual information in the application form come to the notice at any time during the service of person, the service would be liable to be terminated.
2. No request for change of category shall be entertained.
3. No request for change of optional subject shall be entertained after the submission of Online Recruitment Application for Main Examination.
4. Dispute, if any, shall be subject to court jurisdiction at Shimla.
