



# ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

19, DR. P.K PARIJA ROAD, KATAKA-753001

## NOTICE

No. 4200./PSC, Dt. 18.07.2026

1E- 24 -2025/26 [DR-II]

## ADVERTISEMENT NO. 06 OF 2026-27

WEBSITE - <https://opsc.gov.in>

|     |                                                                                                                                |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I.  | Assistant Horticulture Officer (Group-B) in Class-II of Group-B Service under Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment |
| II. | No. of Vacancies-22 (07-w)                                                                                                     |

Online applications are invited from the prospective candidates through proforma application to be made available on the Website of the Commission (<https://opsc.gov.in>). The link for Registration and Payment of Examination fees shall be available from 28.07.2026 to 28.08.2026 till 5.00 P.M. (Note: 28.08.2026 (5.00 P.M.) is the last date/closing date for submission of Registered Online Application) for recruitment to 22 (Twenty two) posts of Assistant Horticulture Officer in Class-II (Group-B) Service under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment in Level-10, Cell-1 of ORSP Rules, 2017 with usual dearness and other allowances as may be sanctioned by the Government of Odisha from time to time. The posts are temporary and likely to continue.

**2. VACANCY POSITION:** As per requisition furnished by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, the vacancy position for the post of Assistant Horticulture Officer is 22 (07-w). Out of which 06(02-W) vacancies are for UR category, 07(02-W) vacancies are reserved for SC category and 09(03-W) vacancies are reserved for ST category.

Also, 01 post is reserved for PWDs whose permanent disability is 40% or more and 01 post for Ex. Servicemen. Candidates belonging to the categories of Ex. Servicemen & PWDs shall be adjusted against the categories to which they belong.

**3. AGE:** A candidate must have attained the age of 21 (Twenty One) years and must not be above the age of 42 (Forty Two) years as on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2026 i.e. he/she must not have been born earlier than 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1984 and not later than 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005.

**4. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:** A candidate must have possessed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture [B.Sc. (Horticulture)] or Agriculture [B.Sc. (Ag.)] from any University or Institution recognized by any State Government or the Government of India.

**No other equivalent qualification except Degree in Horticulture or Agriculture will be accepted.**

**5. EXAMINATION FEE:** The candidates other than SC, ST and PwD category shall have to pay the examination fee amounting to (₹700/-) Rupees Seven Hundred only through online mode while filling the Online Application Form. The examination fees paid shall be refunded only to those candidates who actually appear in both the papers of Written Examination. Applications without payment of examination fees (except SC/ ST/ PwD candidates) will be taken as incomplete and outrightly be rejected.

Refund shall be issued in due course after completion of the Written Examination. Refunds will be processed to the original mode of payment used at the time of the transaction by the candidate. (Credit Card, Debit Card, UPI, Net Banking, Wallet, etc.)

**6. METHOD OF SELECTION:** The selection of candidates for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Horticulture Officer shall be made on the basis of **Written Examination (MCQ Pattern)** and Personality Test (**Interview**).

**7. WRITTEN EXAMINATION:** The Written Examination will be tentatively held on **27/09/2026 (Sunday)**. The detailed Schedule and Centre of Examination will be notified in due course.

The candidates are advised to visit the Website of the Commission at **<https://opsc.gov.in>** for detailed information for applying to the above post. Applications received through any other mode would not be accepted and summarily be rejected.

**KATAKA**  
**DATE : 18/07/2026**

  
**SECRETARY**  
**ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**KATAKA**



# ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## ADVERTISEMENT NO. 06 OF 2026-27

### **Recruitment to the posts of Assistant Horticulture Officer in Class-II (Group-B) of Odisha Horticulture Service, under Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment.**

**WEBSITE - <https://opsc.gov.in>**

Online applications are invited from the prospective candidates through proforma application to be made available on the Website of the Commission (<https://opsc.gov.in>). The link for Online Application and submission shall be available from 28.07.2026 to 28.08.2026 (5:00 P.M.) (Note: 28.08.2026 (5:00 P.M.) is the last date/closing date for submission of Registered Online Application) for recruitment to **22 (Twenty Two) posts of Assistant Horticulture Officer** in Class-II (Group-B) of Odisha Horticulture Service, under Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, carrying the Scale of Pay at Level-10 of the Pay Matrix under ORSP Rules, 2017, in consistent with pre-revised scale of pay under PB-2-Rs.9,300-34,800/- with Grade Pay of Rs.4,600/- with usual Dearness and other Allowances as may be sanctioned by the Government of Odisha from time to time. The posts are temporary and likely to continue. The recruitment is to be conducted according to the provisions mentioned in the Odisha Horticulture Service (Methods of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2014 and its amendment from time to time.

### **2. Vacancy Position:**

As per requisition furnished by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, the vacancy positions are mentioned below:

| Sl. No.      | Category | No of Vacancies  |
|--------------|----------|------------------|
| 1            | UR       | 06(02-w)         |
| 2            | SEBC     | 00(00-w)         |
| 3            | SC       | 07(02-w)         |
| 4            | ST       | 09(03-w)         |
| <b>Total</b> |          | <b>22 (07-w)</b> |

Out of the total **22(07-w)** vacancies, the details of reservation for **Ex-Servicemen and Persons with Disabilities whose permanent disability is 40% or more** are detailed below:

| Sl. No. | Category                 | No of Posts reserved  | Total     |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1       | Ex. Servicemen           | 01                    | <b>01</b> |
| 2       | Person With Disabilities | <b>Cat-I (LV)- 01</b> | <b>01</b> |

Candidates belonging to the categories of Ex-Servicemen & Persons with Disabilities (whose permanent disability is 40% or more) shall be adjusted against the categories to which they belong.

**NOTE:-**

- a) PwD candidates must upload their Permanent Disability Certificate. Certificate showing Temporary Disability will not be accepted and the application shall be liable for rejection.
- b) As per Rule-2 (ii) of Odisha Ex-Servicemen (Recruitment to State Civil Services and Posts) Rules, 1985 – an Ex-Servicemen, amidst other definitions as stated therein, is a person who has to serve for not more than six months for completing the period of service as a requisite for becoming entitled to be released or transferred to the reserve. Further, according to the Odisha Ex-Servicemen (Recruitment to State Civil Services and Posts) Amendment Rules, 2021 issued vide General Administration and Public Grievance Department Notification No. 15318/Gen., dt. 09.06.2021, those Ex-Servicemen who have already secured regular employment under the State Government in civil posts and services shall not be eligible for benefit of reservation if any, for Ex-Servicemen in the State Government, but they would be permitted the benefit of age relaxation as admissible for Ex-Servicemen for securing another employment in any higher post or service under the State Government.
- c) Experience has shown that candidates obtain SC/ST certificate etc. prior to the date of application and upload the same along with online application. Such certificates sometimes get cancelled subsequently. If the cancellation of certificate is detected at any subsequent stage, the candidature of such candidates will be cancelled under that category.
- d) In case of non-availability of eligible/suitable women candidates belonging to the respective categories, the unfilled vacancies of that category shall be filled up by eligible or suitable male candidate(s) of the same category.
- e) Exchange of reservation between Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe will not be considered in the event of non-availability of eligible and suitable S.C. / S.T. candidates.
- f) The number of vacancies to be filled up on the basis of this recruitment is subject to change by the Government without notice, depending upon the exigencies of public service at the discretion of the State Government.

### **3. AGE:**

A candidate must have attained the age of 21 years and must not be above the age of 42 years on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2026 i.e. he/she must not have been born **earlier than 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1984 and not later than 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005.**

The upper age limit prescribed above shall be relax-able by **05 (five)** years for candidates belonging to the categories of Scheduled Castes (S.C.), Scheduled Tribes (S.T.), Women & Ex-servicemen and **10 (Ten) years for Persons with Disabilities whose permanent disability is 40% or more.**

**Persons with Disabilities belonging to the categories of SC/ST shall be eligible for cumulative age relaxation benefit of 15 (Fifteen) years.**

**Although age relaxation is permissible to Persons with Permanent Disabilities, reservation of post is only meant for persons with permanent disabilities belonging to Cat-I-LV, as requisitioned by the Government.**

Provided that a candidate who comes under more than one category mentioned above, he/she shall be eligible for only one benefit of upper age relaxation, which shall be considered most beneficial to him/her.

(SAVE AS PROVIDED ABOVE THE AGE LIMITS PRESCRIBED CAN IN NO CASE BE RELAXED).

Date of birth entered in the High School Certificate or equivalent certificate issued by the concerned Board/Council will only be accepted by the Commission.

### **4. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:**

A candidate must possess a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture [B.Sc. (Horticulture)] or Agriculture [B.Sc. (Agriculture)] from any University or Institution recognized by any State Government or the Government of India.

**No other equivalent qualification except Degree in Horticulture or Agriculture will be accepted.**

### **5. EXAMINATION FEE:**

As per Odisha payment of recruitment examination fees and Refund Rules, 2025 published vide Government in G.A. & P.G. Department Notification No. 34124-GAD-SC-rules-0020/2025/Gen. dated 10.10.2025, the candidates other than SC, ST and PwD category shall have to pay the Examination fees.

The candidates other than SC, ST and PwD category shall have to pay the examination fee amounting to **Rupees Seven Hundred (₹700/-) only** through online mode while filling the Online Application Form.

The examination fees paid shall **be refunded only to those candidates who actually appear in the both the papers of Written Examination. Applications without payment of examination fees (except SC/ ST/ PwD candidates) will be taken as incomplete and outrightly be rejected.**

Refund shall be issued in due course after completion of the Written Examination. Refunds will be processed to the original mode of payment used at the time of the transaction by the candidate. (Credit Card, Debit Card, UPI, Net Banking, Wallet etc.)

However, the candidates shall have to furnish their bank account details i.e. Account Number, IFSC Code, Name of the Account Holder and Name of the Bank branch in the required field in the Online Application Form which will be required in case of failure of refund of money through the original mode of payment owing to technical glitches or other issues, if any. The Bank Account must remain valid/active. The onus of furnishing the correct bank account details lies with the candidates and the Commission (OPSC) shall not entertain any correspondence from any candidate in this regard.

## **6. METHOD OF SELECTION:**

**a.** The selection of candidates for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Horticulture Officer shall be made by way of competitive examination consisting of **Written Examination** and **Interview**.

### **b. (i) Written Examination (200 marks): -**

- The Written Examination will be of Total **200 Marks** consisting of **2 (Two) Papers** with **100 marks each** of Objective Type Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ Pattern) with Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) Evaluation.
- Both Papers will consist of 100 marks with 100 questions each carrying one mark.
- There will be a penalty for wrong response by way of negative marking. For each wrong response, **25% marks** will be deducted from the marks secured for correct answers.
- For un-attempted questions, "zero" mark will be awarded.
- The duration of the Written Examination will be 2 (two) hours for each paper.

- The plan of Written Examination in tabular format is mentioned as follows:

| Paper            | Full Marks | No. of Questions | Duration | Marking Scheme                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------|------------|------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Paper –I</b>  | 100        | 100              | 2 hours  | For each correct answer <b>01 mark</b> will be awarded. For each wrong response/ answer, <b>25% marks</b> will be deducted from the marks awarded for correct answer. For each un-attempt question "zero" mark will be given. |
| <b>Paper –II</b> | 100        | 100              | 2 hours  | For each correct answer <b>01 mark</b> will be awarded. For each wrong response/ answer, <b>25% marks</b> will be deducted from the marks awarded for correct answer. For each un-attempt question "zero" mark will be given. |

**N.B.:** Both Papers will be of Horticulture subjects.

- The Commission will fix qualifying marks for each Paper and/or aggregate for each category of candidates.
- The candidates who obtain such minimum qualifying marks in the Written Examination as may be fixed by the Commission supra will be shortlisted for the Personality Test (Interview) based on the Marks secured in the Written Examination out of 200 Marks in the ratio of about 1:2 of the advertised vacancies for different categories subject to a minimum of 5.

**(ii) Personality Test / Interview:** - It shall consist of **25 (twenty five) marks**.

**(c) Select List:** -

- The Select List of the candidates in different categories will be drawn in order of merit based on the Aggregate Marks secured both in the Written Examination and Interview (out of 225 Marks) as per the norms laid down in Rule 17 (1) of the said Amendment Rules, 2018.
- If two or more candidates obtain equal marks in aggregate, those who secure more marks in the Written Examination will be placed higher in the list. In case the marks secured in Written Examination be equal, the order of merit shall be determined in accordance with age, i.e. the candidates older in age shall be assigned higher position.

**(d) Syllabus:** -

**The Syllabus of Paper I and II of the Written Examination appended at Appendix-A.**

**NOTE: - Details relating to this recruitment like mark secured by last selected candidate (LSC Mark), individual marks etc. shall only be declared in the Website of the Commission after publication of the Final Results and Select List.**

## **7. DATE OF EXAMINATION**

The Written Examination will be held tentatively on **27/09/2026 (Sunday)**. The detailed Schedule and Centre of Examination will be notified in due course.

After completion of the Written Examination, the Provisional Answer Key to both the Papers shall be uploaded in the website within 10 days of the examination, inviting suggestions/objections, if any, from the candidates. Those candidates who do not challenge the Provisional Answer Key shall forfeit their right to agitate the matter subsequently in any forum in any other manner.

## **8. PLACE OF EXAMINATION**

The Written Examination for the posts of Assistant Horticulture Officer shall be held at Kataka and Bhubaneswar, depending upon the number of candidates applied. The programme of the Written Examination shall be notified well in advance.

## **9. OTHER ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS:**

- i. The candidate must be a citizen of India;
- ii. A candidate must be of sound mental and physical health having active habits and free from any physical defect likely to affect adversely his efficiency in service. A candidate, who after such medical examination as the Government may prescribe, if not found to satisfy these requirements shall not be appointed to the service:  
Provided that this provision shall not be applicable in case of physically handicapped candidates.
- iii. He/She must be able to read, write and speak Odia; and have –
  - a. passed Middle School Examination with Odia as a language subject; **or**
  - b. passed Matriculation or equivalent examination with Odia as medium of examination in non-language subject; **or**
  - c. passed in Odia as language subject in the final examination of Class–VII from a School or Educational Institution recognized by the Government of Odisha or the Central Government; **or**
  - d. Passed a test in Odia in Middle English School standard conducted by the School & Mass Education Department of the Government of Odisha / Board of Secondary Education, Odisha.

- iv. A candidate, who has more than one spouse living, will not be eligible for appointment unless the State Government has exempted his/her case from operation of this limitation for any good and sufficient reasons;
- v. Government servants, whether temporary or permanent, are eligible to apply provided that, they possess the requisite qualification and are within the Prescribed age-limit as provided under Para-3 & Para-4 of the Advertisement respectively. They must inform their respective Heads of the Office in writing regarding submission of their application for this recruitment and furnish "No Objection Certificate" during document verification. So the candidates must obtain NOC well in advance.
- vi. If a candidate has at any time, been debarred for a certain period/chance(s) by the Odisha Public Service Commission or other State Public Service Commission or U.P.S.C. from appearing at any examination / viva voce test, he/she **will not be eligible** to apply for that specified period / chance(s);
- vii. **Only those candidates, who possess the requisite qualifications, are within the prescribed age limit and fulfill other eligibility conditions strictly etc. by the closing date for submission of registered online application form, will be considered eligible;**
- viii. Every candidate selected for appointment shall be examined by the Medical Board and any candidate who fails to qualify the Medical Board shall not be eligible for appointment.

## **10. IMPORTANT POINTS:**

- i. A candidate found guilty of seeking support for his/her candidature by offering illegal gratification or applying pressure on any person connected with the conduct of the recruitment process or found indulging in any type of malpractice in course of the selection or otherwise, shall, in addition to rendering himself/herself liable to criminal prosecution, be disqualified not only for the recruitment for which he/she is a candidate, but also may be debarred, either permanently or for a specified period, from any recruitment or selection to be conducted by the Commission;
- ii. The provisions of the Odisha Conduct of Examination Act 1988 (Odisha Act-2 of 1988) are applicable to the examination conducted by the Odisha Public Service Commission.



- iii. **Online applications submitted to OPSC, if found to be incomplete in any respect, are liable for rejection without entertaining any correspondence with the applicants on that score;**
- iv. **Admission to Written Examination/ Interview will be provisional. If on verification at any stage before or after the Examination/Interview/ Publication of Result, it is found that a candidate does not fulfil all the eligibility conditions, his/her candidature will be liable for rejection. Decision of the Commission with regard to eligibility or otherwise of candidate shall be final;**
- v. This advertisement should not be construed as binding on the Government to make appointment;
- vi. **Reservation and Relaxation etc. meant for S.C. / S.T. by Birth are admissible to the Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes of Odisha only;**
- vii. All persons appointed under the Government of Odisha on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2005 shall not be eligible for pension as defined under Sub-rule(1) of Rule-3 of the Odisha Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 1992; but shall be covered by the defined Contributory Pension Scheme in accordance with the Odisha Civil Services (Pension) Amendment Rules, 2005;
- viii. Any misrepresentation or suppression of information by the candidate in the online application form will result in cancellation of his/her candidature or penalty, as decided by the Commission shall be imposed on the candidate;
- ix. Mere empanelment in the select list shall not confer any right for appointment unless the Government is satisfied after making such enquiry as may be deemed necessary that the candidate is suitable in all respects for appointment to the Service.
- x. A candidate who claims change in his/her name after having passed the H.S.C. examination, is required to furnish copy of publication of the changed name in the local leading daily newspaper as well as copy of notification in the Gazette in support of his/her change of name;
- xi. **Submission of NPS application is mandatory for all recommended candidates at the time of joining in Government services.**

**11. CERTIFICATES / DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED AS WELL AS SUBMITTED AT THE TIME OF DOCUMENT VERIFICATION, IF CALLED FOR:**

While submitting online application, the candidates are advised to upload all the following original scanned documents/certificates in the e-Chayan portal of the Commission.

- i. H.S.C. or equivalent certificate in support of declaration of age issued by the concerned Board / Council;
- ii. Intermediate /+2 Examination Certificate issued by the concerned Board/Council;
- iii. Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture/Agriculture Certificate issued by the recognized University/Institution;
- iv. Mark-sheets in support of all the aforementioned examinations passed (i.e HSC to Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture/Agriculture) including fail marks, if any, issued by the concerned Board/Council/University/Institution as the case may be;

**NOTE-1:**

- (a) Candidates who have not been awarded percentage of marks, but only **"grade marks"**, should, along with their applications, produce the Conversion Certificate from the concerned University indicating the actual equivalent percentage of marks and the conversion formula, failing which, their applications are liable to be rejected.
- (b) While filling up the marks in the relevant box of the online application form, the candidate has to mention the actual marks secured (**excepting marks secured in the Extra Optional/4<sup>th</sup> Optional Subject**) in each semester/examination passed (i.e. H.S.C. to Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture/Agriculture).
- v. Four recent passport size photographs within six months (**unsigned and unattested**) which has been uploaded in the online application forms.
- vi. **Caste Certificate in support of claim as SC / ST, wherever applicable (Please see Note: 2);**
- vii. Required Odia Test Pass Certificate;
- viii. Persons with Disabilities are required to submit/upload Permanent Disability Certificate (indicating percentage of permanent disability i.e. 40% or more) issued by the concerned Medical Board wherever applicable;

- ix. **Ex-Servicemen are required to submit/upload Release Certificate issued as per Orissa Ex-Servicemen (Recruitment to State Civil Services and Posts) Rules, 1985 vide G.A. Department notification No.22586-Gen., dt.16.10.1985.** Further, Ex-Servicemen candidates must submit an Affidavit, undertaking that he/she has not been appointed against any civil posts and services after retirement from military service **[Refer Note-(b) under Para-2]. Format of Affidavit is enclosed at Appendix-B.**
- x. No Objection Certificate issued by the Competent Authority/Head of Office; wherever applicable.
- xi. Proof of identity i.e. Aadhar / EPIC/ DL/ Passport/PAN Card.
- xii. **The Third Gender / Transgender candidates shall upload their Identity Certificate/Card issued by the Competent Authority as well as requisite document in support of change of their name on getting the Third Gender/ Transgender Status, if any**

Also, the candidates who qualify in the written examination, shall be required to bring with them the hard copy of online application form along with copies of above relevant uploaded certificates/documents and originals of the same for verification of their eligibility as per terms and conditions of the advertisement, the date of which shall be notified later on in due course, failing which his/her application will be rejected for the said post. The candidates are required to mention on each copy of documents **"Submitted by me and Certified as genuine and has not been cancelled"** and put their **full signature and date on the same.**

**They must not attach the original certificates to their applications.**

**NOTE -2:**

- i. **Candidates claiming to be belonging to S.C. /S.T. categories of Odisha by birth are required to submit copy of the relevant Caste Certificate issued by the competent authority in the prescribed form.**
- ii. **Women candidates belonging to S.C. / S.T. categories are required to submit Caste Certificates showing "daughter of .....". Caste Certificates by virtue of marriage (i.e. showing "wife of .....") are not acceptable and liable for rejection.**
- iii. **Community (Caste status) once mentioned by the candidates in the online application form shall not be changed under any circumstances.**

**The Competent Authorities are as prescribed by the Government of Odisha under relevant Reservation Rules.**

**NOTE-3:**

**Bachelor's Degree Certificate in Horticulture/Agriculture [B.Sc.(Horticulture)/B.Sc.(Agriculture)], SC/ST Caste Certificate, Odia Test pass certificate, Permanent Disability Certificate of Person with Disabilities (indicating % of permanent disability) and Release Certificate of Ex-Serviceman [issued as per Orissa Ex-Servicemen (Recruitment to State Civil Services and Posts) Rules, 1985 vide G.A. Department notification No.22586-Gen., dt.16.10.1985] must have been issued by the Competent Authority on or before the date of submission of the registered online application form by the candidate. Any such certificate issued after the last date for submission of Online Application Form will not be entertained to consider eligibility.**

**12. GROUNDS OF REJECTION OF APPLICATIONS:**

Applications of candidates will be rejected by the Commission on any of the following grounds: -

- a. **Incomplete online application form.**
- b. **Non-submission of hard copy of online application form at the time of verification of original documents.**
- c. **Declaration not signed (full signature) by the candidate in the hard copy of online application form.**
- d. **Not passing Odia Test (M.E. standard)/not furnishing Odia Test pass evidence by the date for submission of registered online application form as required under Para-9 (iii) of the Advertisement.**
- e. **Not coming within the age limit as mentioned in Para-3 of the advertisement (Age relaxation shall not be allowed to P.W.D. candidates with less than 40% permanent disability).**
- f. **Not having prescribed requisite qualification by the date of submission of registered online application form as provided under Para-4 of the advertisement.**
- g. **Not furnishing copies of certificates/documents as provided under Para-11 of the Advertisement.**
- h. **Non-payment of examination fee (wherever applicable), as provided under Para-5 of Advertisement.**
- i. **Submission of wrong information / false information/forged manipulated certificates/testimonials with respect to qualification/Age/Category status (SC/ ST/ PWD/ Ex-Servicemen/ Women)/Odia Test pass evidence etc.**
- j. **Suppression of facts / information about eligibility, if any.**
- k. **Any other ground as per the decision of the Commission.**

**NB: Application /candidature of a candidate shall be rejected at any stage of recruitment process, whenever discrepancy is noticed/ detected.**

### **13. HOW TO APPLY:**

- a. Candidates must carefully go through the details of this Advertisement available in the Website of OPSC before filling up online application form.
- b. Candidates must apply online through the concerned Website of the OPSC <https://opsc.gov.in>. Applications received through **any other mode** would not be accepted and summarily rejected.
- c. **Before filling up the online application form, the candidates must go through detailed instructions available at OPSC portal.**
- d. The online application form is automated and system driven & will guide the candidate seamlessly in filling the application. The requisite options shall be enabled and information shall be asked as per data furnished by the candidate. Before filling up the information, ensure that accurate information is fed. The candidate must also verify the submitted copy of online application after its submission. If the candidate further wants to modify any information, she/he has to cancel the application and apply again within the last date of submission of application.
- e. Candidates are requested to upload the scanned image of latest passport size photograph along with scanned image of his/her full signature and scanned image of Left-hand Thumb Impression (LTI) in the online application form. Uploaded photograph, Specimen (full) signature and LTI must be clearly identifiable / visible; otherwise the application of the candidate is liable to be rejected by the Commission and no representation from the candidate will be entertained.
- f. Candidates should keep at least four copies of latest passport size photograph which is uploaded to the online application form for future use.
- g. *On successful submission of the online Registration, a unique "**Permanent Public Service Account Number (PPSAN)**" will be assigned to the applicant. Candidates are required to take a printout of the finally submitted online Registration/Re-registration and finally submitted Online Application forms and put his/her signature under the declaration for submission to OPSC along with copies of requisite certificate & documents as and when asked.*
- h. **The candidates are advised to submit the Online Application Form well in advance without waiting for the closing date to avoid the last hour rush.**

- i. Certificate of Admission to the written examination to the eligible candidates will be uploaded in the Website of the OPSC prior to the date of written examination, which will be published in the Website of the Commission and Newspapers. The candidates are required to download their Admission Certificate from the Website of the Commission and produce the same at the Examination centre for admission to the written examination. No separate correspondence will be made on this score.
- j. "NOTICE" to candidates for document verification & interview shall be uploaded in the website of OPSC prior to the date of Document Verification/Interview.
- k. **Any complaint** on the conduct of examination must be sent to the Grievance Wing of the Commission by e-Mail ([opsc@od.gov.in](mailto:opsc@od.gov.in)) within **07(Seven) days of completion of the examination.**
- l. **Experience has shown that the candidates do submit online application form with omission/error/without uploading documents and subsequently send e-mail/letter to the Commission for rectification. The Commission is under no obligation to entertain such request/representation.**

#### **14. FACILITATION COUNTER :-**

*To resolve any technical problems faced during registration and in filling up of online application forms, candidates may contact OPSC Technical Support **over Telephone No. 0671-2304707** between 10.30 A.M. to 1.30 P.M. & 2.00 P.M. to 5.00 P.M. on any Odisha Government working days.*

*In case of any guidance/information on this advertisement & recruitment, candidates may go through the **FAQ** available in the website of the Commission or contact the O.P.S.C. Facilitation Counter over Telephone No. 0671-2304141/2305611 & Extn.- 227 on any working day between 10.30 A.M. to 1.30 P.M. & 2.00 P.M. to 5.00 P.M.*

*The candidates are required to visit the website of the Commission at <https://opsc.gov.in> for detailed information about important notices, rejection of applications, the date & time of written examination, document verification & interview and also keep track of publication of various notices to the effect in the leading local daily newspapers for information.*



## 15. GENERAL:

Candidates submitting forged/manipulated documents will be debarred from appearing examination conducted by Odisha Public Service Commission for 03 years.

### CLOSING DATES

***THE LINK FOR ONLINE APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION SHALL BE AVAILABLE IN THE WEBSITE FROM 28/07/2026 to 28/08/2026 (05:00 P.M).***

**NB:-** THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORMS IF FOUND DEFECTIVE IN ANY RESPECT, ARE LIABLE TO BE SUMMARILY REJECTED.

**PLACE: KATAKA**

**DATE : 18/ 07/ 2026**

  
**SECRETARY**

**ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION,  
KATAKA**

**SYLLABUS FOR THE WRITTEN EXAMINATION FOR DIRECT  
RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT HORTICULTURE OFFICER  
(GROUP-B) IN AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**PAPER – I**

|                        |                                                  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Total Marks</b>     | <b>100</b>                                       |
| <b>Total Questions</b> | <b>100 (Objective Multiple Choice Questions)</b> |
| <b>Duration</b>        | <b>02 hours</b>                                  |

**A. Agro meteorology:** Agro climate zones of India & Odisha, Agro-ecology for horticultural crops, Weather & climate, Crop-Weather relationship, Weather forecasting, Climate change, Vulnerability and risks, Climate resilience and Climate smart practices.

**B. Soil and nutrition:** Soils of Odisha, problematic soils and their management; Essential plant nutrients & crop growth; Manures and fertilizers, integrated nutrient management for horticultural crops, nutrient use efficiency.

**C. Water management:** Water resources of Odisha, Irrigation development, Soil-plant-water relation, Water requirement and irrigation efficiency, Irrigation scheduling, methods of irrigation; Micro-irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler) and fertigation, Water use efficiency & Water productivity, Irrigation water quality, stress management, Drainage.

**D. Weed management:** Weeds and their classification, Crop weed association, Weed competition & allelopathy; Weed prevention, eradication and control, Integrated weed management; Herbicide and their uses, Selectivity and environmental impact.

**E. Dry land farming:** Rainfed and dry land horticulture; Drought management, Contingent planning; Soil moisture conservation, water harvesting & recycling, watershed management; Conservation agriculture/ horticulture.

**F. Integrated Farming System:** Farming system and Horticulture, Integrated farming system models (horticultural based).

**G. Seed Technology:** Seed quality, seed dormancy, seed production, certification and storage etc.

**H. Plant Protection:** Important insect pests, diseases and nematodes of Horticultural crops and their management. Biological control and Integrated Pest Management of Horticulture crops.

**I. Agril. Economics:** Cost of cultivation of Horticultural crops; Entrepreneurship in Horticulture; Agri-business Management; Marketing, Supply & value chain, Concept of FPO; CBBO.

**J. Agril. Statistics:** Basic statistical principles; Data collection, compilation, analysis, interpretation and presentation.

**K. Related Subjects:** Tillage and tillage implements; Farm machineries and equipment's for Horticulture; Crop growth & Development; Use of PGRs; Different cropping pattern and crop rotation; Crop diversification; Organic farming & certification; Protected cultivation; Wasteland Management; Biotic & abiotic stress management; Schemes on Horticulture; Apiculture, Mushroom cultivation, Composting and Vermicompost; Digital initiatives of State Government.

#### **PAPER – II**

|                        |                                                  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Total Marks</b>     | <b>100</b>                                       |
| <b>Total Questions</b> | <b>100 (Objective Multiple Choice Questions)</b> |
| <b>Duration</b>        | <b>02 hours</b>                                  |

**A. Plant propagation and nursery management in Horticulture:** Importance of plant propagation, sexual & asexual method of plant propagation in horticultural crops, advantages & limitations, Propagation methods of horticultural crops: cutting, budding, grafting, layering, tissue culture, propagation through specialised plant parts. Plant propagations structures, media preparation; nursery act, registration & accreditation, Hi-tech nurseries. Insect, Pest and disease management of nursery plants.

**B. Fruit crops:** Scope and importance of fruit crops, classification of fruit crops, area, production and distribution. Growing zones of fruit crops, agro-climatic zones and suitable fruit crops for tropical, sub-tropical and wasteland. Soil & Climate, Commercial varieties, planting, cultural practices, management of nutrient, water and weed, inter-

cultural operation, Physiological disorders, Plant protection measures, harvesting and yield, post-harvest management of important crops;

Commercial fruit crops: Mango, Banana, Citrus, Pine-apple, Guava, Papaya, Sapota, Ber, Pomegranate, Litchi and Custard apple.

Niche Crops: Aonla, Jamun, Ber & Jackfruit.

Exotic Crops: Passion fruit, Avocado, Dragon fruit & Strawberry.

**C. Plantation crops:** Scope & importance; area, production and distribution; Soil & Climate, Commercial Varieties, Seed rate, Spacing and planting/transplanting; Management: Nutrient, Water & Weed, Plant protection measures, harvesting and yield; Post-harvest Management: Grading, Processing, Packaging and Value addition; Marketing of important commercial plantation crops.

Commercial plantation crops: Coconut, Areca nut, Cashew nut, Oil palm, Palmyra palm, Date palm, Cocoa, Coffee & Tea.

**D. Vegetable crops:** Scope and Importance; area, production & productivity, cultivation of important tropical, subtropical, temperate, under exploited, perennial vegetable crops: soil & climate, Commercial varieties, hybrids; seed rate, spacing & time of sowing/transplanting; Nutrient, Water & Weed Management; physiological disorders, plant protection, harvesting, Post Harvest Management;

Export potential, value addition, off season cultivation of important Vegetable crops , Solanaceous Vegetables (Potato, Tomato, Brinjal, Chilli & Capsicum); Major Cucurbits (Pumpkin, Cucumber, Watermelon, Bitter gourd, Bottle gourd & Ridge gourd); Pod Vegetable (Pea, French bean, Cowpea, Cluster bean and Dolichos bean); Okra ; Cole Crops, (Cabbage, Cauliflower & Knol Khol); Bulb Crops (Onion & Garlic); Root Crops (Radish, Carrot, Beet root & Turnip); Leafy Vegetables (Amaranthus, Basella, Spinach); Tree Vegetables (Drumstick & Curry leaves); Tropical tuber crops (Sweet potato, Cassava, Yam & elephant foot yam & Taro)

**E. Spices, Condiments, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants:** History, Scope and Importance, Cultivation practices: Soil & Climate, Commercial varieties, Spacing, Seed Rate, Sowing/Planting Time; Management- nutrient, Water and Weed; Plant Protection, Physiological disorder; Harvesting and yield; Post Harvest Management of Important Crops:

Betel Vine, Black Pepper, Cardamom, Ginger, Turmeric, Curry Leaf, Coriander, Fenugreek, Fennel, Cumin, Periwinkle, Rauwolfia, Ocimum, Kewda, Aloe vera and Lemon grass.

**F. Ornamental Horticulture:**

History of gardens: Types and styles of gardens, parks; Principles of landscaping; Garden Features; Ornamental trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers, house plants. Flower arrangements, Bonsai, Urban Horticulture, Bio-aesthete planning.

Scope and Importance, Soil, Climate, Cultural operations; Nutrient, Water and Weed management; Crop Protection and Post Harvest management of important commercial flower crops: Rose, Marigold, Chrysanthemum, Gladiolus, Jasmine, Crossandra, Dahlia and Tuberose.

Protected cultivation and Post Harvest Management of important commercial flower crops: Rose, Orchid, Carnation, Anthurium & Gerbera.

Lawn and its maintenance; Cultivation of important cut foliage.

**NOTE:**

1. The question will be of Bachelor's Degree standard.
2. The distribution of questions amongst topics in both the Papers shall be decided by the Commission.

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**AFFIDAVIT**

I, ....., s/o. ...., aged about ..... years, resident of ..... Roll No. .... a candidate for recruitment to the posts of ....., pursuant to Advt. No. ...., do here by solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am the deponent of this affidavit and permanently residing at .....
2. That I have been released from Military Service on.....
3. That since then I am working as ..... under the Department of..... Govt. of Odisha/Govt. of India.

**OR**

That since then I am working as ..... at .....

**OR**

That I have not secured regular employment in any Civil Posts and Services under Government of Odisha.

4. That this affidavit shall be produced before the competent authority, Odisha Public Service Commission, Cuttack for the purpose of being considered in service under the Ex-Serviceman quota/ not under Ex-Serviceman quota and hence this affidavit.
5. That the facts stated are true to the best of my knowledge, belief and information.

Place:

Date:

Deponent

Verification

I the above named deponent being present today before the ..... premises do hereby verify and declare that above statements are all true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I identify the deponent

Verificant

**N.B: Strike off the portion which is not applicable.**

