

## HPPSC Attendance Mobile App

## Procedure for recording and verifying attendance of candidates

### Spotlight

In the sensitive environment of recruitment examinations conducted by the Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC), accuracy, transparency, and fairness are paramount and non-negotiable. Traditionally, attendance marking at examination centers relied on manual processes, leaving room for delays and discrepancies. With the introduction of the HPPSC Attendance Mobile App, this critical function has undergone a significant digital transformation. The Attendance app facilitates the AI Face Authentication based real-time verification of the applicants at the Examination Centres. Designed specifically for the HPPSC Recruitment Examinations, the app modernizes the way candidate's attendance is recorded and verified. Authorized examination staff can mark attendance in real-time using mobile devices, ensuring a faster and more reliable process. Integrated GPS functionality ensures that attendance is captured only at designated examination centers, preventing any possibility of proxy attendance or location-based discrepancies.

To enhance the integrity of the process, the app also incorporates advanced technologies such as facial recognition and geo-tagging. These features provide an additional layer of verification and significantly reduce the risk of impersonation. Attendance records are made available to the authorities, allowing live monitoring across multiple examination venues. This enables quick identification of irregularities and ensures strict adherence to examination protocols.

Transparency remains central to this initiative. The app maintains a secure digital audit trail of attendance, which can be accessed for review or grievance redressal. This fosters greater trust among candidates and reinforces the credibility of the recruitment process. By eliminating paperwork, reducing manual errors, and saving valuable administrative time, the HPPSC Attendance Mobile App streamlines examination process and management. Aligned with the vision of Digital India, it represents a forward-looking step towards building a more efficient, transparent, and technology-driven public recruitment system.

In addition, another very useful 'HPPSC Applicant' app is also being extensively used by the aspiring applicants. It is a single-window digital platform designed to streamline the recruitment process where candidates can create and maintain a one-time registration profile, apply for recruitment advertisements, track application status, download admit cards/interview letters/appointment letters, view archived applications and raise queries via Help Desk. The app is also seamlessly integrated with DigiLocker, enabling secure and paperless verification of candidate credentials thereby reducing dependency on physical documents and minimizing the risk of forgery.

## Guest Speak

**Smt. Nivedita Negi, IAS**

**Secretary, HP Public Service Commission**

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Shimla, for their invaluable contribution towards the successful development and implementation of Online Recruitment System at HP Public Service Commission (HPPSC). The latest digital initiatives of integration of DigiLocker and development of HPPSC Applicant and HPPSC Attendance apps have played a crucial role in optimizing activities and timelines of the recruitment process.



The integration of the DigiLocker facility has enhanced the ease of verification of documents and reduced dependency on physical records, thereby prompting efficiency and paperless governance, which is need of the hour.

The HPPSC Applicant app has enabled Candidates to submit their applications through mobile phones, especially helped candidates residing in far flung areas of the State and brought accessibility, convenience and inclusivity in the recruitment process. Further, the introduction of HPPSC Attendance app for face authentication has provided an additional security measure to the system and will help to check impersonation & bring further transparency in conducting examinations.

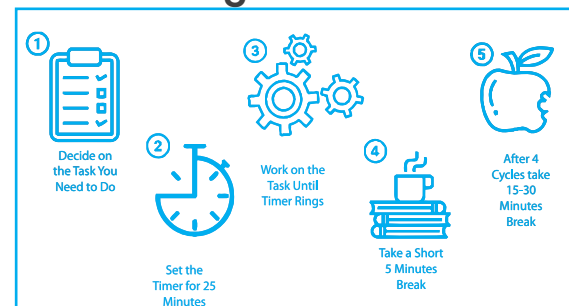
I am happy to share that these digital initiatives of HPPSC have drawn wide appreciation and several Public Service Commissions have been regularly visiting the Commission to learn from the new innovative digital initiatives of the system, developed with support and cooperation of NIC Himachal Pradesh.

I, on behalf of the Commission once again place on record my deep sense of gratitude for the dedicated support and cooperation extended by NIC Himachal Pradesh and look forward to continued collaboration in future digital initiatives and reforms.

## Tech Tips

### The Pomodoro Technique for High Productivity and Time Management

The Pomodoro Technique is a popular time management method developed by Francesco Cirillo in the late 1980s, which divides work into short, focused sessions (usually 25 minutes) called 'Pomodoros' to increase productivity. A short 5-minute break is taken after each session, and a longer break of 15–30 minutes is mandatory after four sessions.



The Pomodoro technique is a way to manage your time and make tasks seem more achievable by breaking them down into manageable chunks. By completing revision tasks in a short time frame, whilst giving your brain a breather, you'll be ticking things off your list without becoming overwhelmed by too much information. This helps in better planning and increases productivity.

#### Key Benefits and Features

**Improved Concentration:** Continuous work leads to distractions, but 25 minutes of focused time improves Concentration.

**Reduction in Fatigue:** Taking breaks in between reduces mental fatigue.

**Increased Productivity:** This technique helps in better management of time.

**Simplicity:** All it takes is a timer (a tomato-shaped kitchen timer was used initially), pen and paper.

This technique is very effective for people who struggle to concentrate while working or suffer from the habit of procrastination.

## In Focus

Shri Mukesh Agnihotri, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, HP launched the HimAtithi-JSV (<https://himatithi.nic.in/jsv/>) on 20 January 2026, an online system for reservation of JSV Rest Houses by the Government Employees as well as general public.



Safer Internet Day under the theme "Smart Tech, Safe Choices – Exploring the Safe & responsible Use of AI" was organised by NIC HP on 10 February 2026. Employees, Students and Representatives of PRIs/ULBs participated in the workshop.

Swachhta Pakhwara was organised by NIC HP between 01 to 15 February 2026. All the officer and officials of NIC HP took Swachhta Pledge and participated in various Cleanliness and Plantation activities during the Swachhta Pakhwara.

'HPPSC Applicant' and 'HPPSC Attendance' apps were launched on 22 February 2026 by Capt. Rameshwar Singh Thakur, IPS (Retd.), the Hon'ble Chairman HP Public Service Commission.

On 02 March 2026, HGVR portal (<https://hgvms.hp.gov.in/>) for Home Guard Volunteers Recruitment has gone live. The aspiring applicants can register themselves using One Time Registration option and can apply online for the HP Home Guard Volunteers.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sukhvinder Singh launched the HGVMs (<https://hgvms.hp.gov.in/> - Home Guard Volunteers Management System) portal on 22 March 2026, an initiative designed to streamline the enrolment and management of Home Guard Volunteers across Requisitioners.



## Tech Update

### WebSockets: A Real-Time Communication Technology

#### Introduction

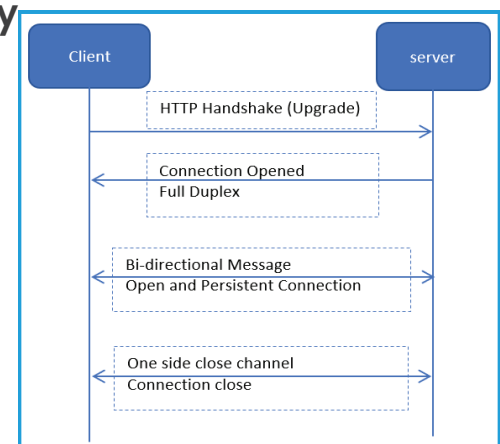
WebSockets is a modern communication protocol that enables real-time, full duplex communication between a client and a server over a single persistent connection. Unlike traditional HTTP communication, which follows a request and response model, WebSockets keep the connection open once it is established. Both the client and server can send messages to each other at any time without needing to create a new connection for every request.

#### Choosing the Right Technology

There are several other real-time communication technologies such as SSE, Long Pooling etc. Among these, WebSockets is more popular as it enables full-duplex communication, allowing both the client and server to send messages at any time over a persistent connection, making them ideal for highly interactive applications.

#### WebSockets Communication

WebSockets solve the limitations of HTTP communication by creating a persistent connection between client and the server. Once the connection is established, both sides can send and receive messages without repeatedly opening new connections. This enables full-duplex communication, where data can flow simultaneously in both directions. As a result, communication becomes faster, latency is reduced, and applications that require real-time data exchange perform more efficiently.



## WebSockets Handshake Process

WebSockets communication starts with handshaking process. The client sends an HTTP request to the server requesting an upgrade to the WebSocket protocol. If the server supports WebSockets, it responds with a 101 Switching Protocol status code. The connection changes from HTTP to WebSocket and remains open for continuous communication. This persistent channel allows to send messages instantly without additional HTTP requests.

## Destination

### Chail: A Peaceful Hill Station in Himachal Pradesh

Chail is a small but beautiful hill station located in District Solan of Himachal Pradesh. Situated at an altitude of about 2,250 meters above sea level, Chail is surrounded by thick pine and deodar forests and is known for its peaceful environment, scenic beauty, and royal history. Located about 45 kilometers away from Shimla, it is a popular getaway for tourists who want to escape the crowds of bigger hill stations.



### Historical Significance

Chail became famous during the British period when Maharaja Bhupinder Singh made it the summer capital of the Patiala State. According to historical accounts, the Maharaja Patiala was banned from entering Shimla by the British authorities due to which, in 1891 he decided to build his own hill retreat at Chail.

### Climate and Natural Beauty

Chail has a pleasant climate throughout the year. Summers are cool and comfortable, while winters can be very cold with occasional snowfall. The hill station is covered with dense forests and offers breath-taking views of the Shivalik mountain ranges, making it an ideal destination for nature lovers.

### Tourist Attractions and Adventure Activities

The major tourist attractions include historical Chail Palace, Chail Cricket Ground, Kali Maa Temple at Kali-Ka-Tibba, Chail Wildlife Sanctuary and Stoned Kumbh Shiv Temple. Visitors can also enjoy adventure activities like trekking, nature walks, and fishing in nearby rivers. The calm environment and scenic landscapes also make it a popular destination for Trekkers, Nature Lovers and Families.

### Best Time to Visit

Chail can be visited any time of the year. March to October offers pleasant weather with lush green landscapes while November to February transforms it into a snow paradise.

### Access



**By Air:** Located at about 63 kilometers away, the nearest airport to Chail is Shimla Airport at Jubbar Hatti. Another major airport nearby is SBS International Airport Chandigarh, located at about 120 kilometers away. From there, visitors can reach Chail by road, either by hiring a taxi or using public transport.



**By Train:** The nearest broad-gauge Railway Station is about 85 kilometers away at Kalka, whereas the nearest narrow-gauge Railway Station is about 25 kilometers away at Kandaghat. Taxis and buses are available to the Chail from all these places.



**By Road:** Chail is well connected by roads to the nearby cities. Buses and taxis are easily available from Shimla, Solan, Kalka, Chandigarh and other nearby places.

## Moments Woven in Memory

Himkosh को एक, विश्वास बनाया है धीरे-धीरे,  
नए फीचर्स और इनोवेशन से सजाया है धीरे-धीरे।

FoxPlus, Unix से शुरू कर,  
MVC, Bootstrap का रंग लगाया है धीरे-धीरे।  
एक single server से Meghraj Cloud पर उड़ान भरकर,  
Himkosh को multi-tenant बनाया है धीरे-धीरे।  
World Bank से जब मिली सराहना,  
Treasury Cloud को highly-available बनाया है धीरे-धीरे।

e-Vitran में Budget Control किया,  
Salary, Pension का नया System दिया,  
OLTIS से Accounting को आसान बनाया,  
Central Schemes को SNA-SPARSH से चलाया,  
हर चुनौती को मेहनत और समर्पण से हराया है धीरे-धीरे।

Dashboards, Digital Signature, Biometric Auth की धार लगाकर,  
PFMS, eKuber, NPCI, Banks आदि के साथ हाथ मिलाकर,  
Himkosh को सशक्त और समझदार बनाया है धीरे-धीरे।

किसी को गिराया न खुद को उछाला कभी,  
सिर ऊँचा कर काम करना सिखाया धीरे-धीरे।  
डांटा भी प्यार से, गाइडेंस दी ध्यान से,  
Group Head का असली मतलब समझाया धीरे-धीरे।

Retirement आ गई सर, पर कोई टेंशन नहीं,  
जब कहीं भी अटकेंगे, आपको ही तंग करेंगे धीरे-धीरे।

**(Courtesy - Shri. Mukesh Kumar, on the retirement of Shri. Vijay Kumar Gupta)**



## From Code to Governance: My 36–Years Journey at NIC

I logged into the National Informatics Centre (NIC) on 26 September 1990, along with seven colleagues, as part of the first batch selected from Himachal Pradesh—unaware that it would become such an integral part of my life. Over the past 36 years, this journey has been more than just a career; it has been a deeply meaningful experience filled with learning, challenges, growth, and lasting relationships.

In the initial phase of my career, there was both excitement and a strong sense of responsibility—to prove ourselves, establish our identity, and contribute meaningfully. The IT environment was still evolving, resources were limited, and every task demanded innovation and dedication.

Long working hours became routine. Continuously learned new technologies, developed solutions under constraints, and gradually transformed challenges into opportunities. What began as a job, soon evolved into a mission—to build a strong bridge between governance and citizens through technology. These initiatives contributed significantly to improving transparency, efficiency, and accessibility of Government services.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to my senior officers for their trust, guidance, and support, and to my colleagues and team members for their cooperation. These achievements are not individual, but the result of collective effort and shared commitment. I wish you all continued success, good health, and happiness.

**Thank you (Courtesy - Shri. Vijay Kumar Gupta)**

## Family Connect

Scientific Officer/Engineer-SB Shri Sandeep Kumar, Shri Anand Kumar and Shri Devwritt Arya, and Scientific/Technical Assistant-A Ms. Priyanka Yadav, Shri Vedant Khachi and Shri Manoj Kumar have started their professional journey at NIC Himachal Pradesh. NIC Himachal Pradesh wishes a bright future to all the newly joined officers.



After rendering the valuable services for over 36 years in NIC Himachal Pradesh, Shri Vijay Kumar Gupta, Scientist-F/Sr. Director (IT) got retired from Government Service on superannuation on 28 February 2026. NIC HP wishes him a happy retired life.



## Quote

**The time is always right to do what is right - Martin Luther King Junior**

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