Maharashtra Governor to stake claim today
Mandate for the NCP and Congress to sit in Opposition, says Sharad Pawar

Alok Deshpande
Sharad Vyasa
Mumbai

The end to the impasse over government formation in Maharashtra is in sight with a delegation of senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders scheduled to meet Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday to stake claim.

Senior leader and a member of the BJP core committee, Satish Dev Departmentand, said: "The party is committed to forming a government and will not shy away from accepting responsibility if necessary."
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NGT issues ultimatum to ban certain RO systems

Asks Environment Ministry to issue notification

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has given a “last opportunity” to the Union Environment Ministry to issue notifications pertaining to prohibition on the use of RO (reverse osmosis) systems, which result in wastage of almost 80% of the water.

The NGT was referring to an order passed by it in May this year where it had directed that “whenever RO is to be permitted, condition of recovery of water to the extent of more than 60% is required”.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel warned of action against concerned officials if the order is not complied with by December 31.

“During the hearing, the officials have not shown any valid reason for non-compliance... Delay in compliance of order is causing harm to public health and environment in terms of an expert committee report to which the (environment ministry) is a party,” the Bench observed.

The NGT, in an earlier order, had stated that ROs should recover over 60% of water.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General Science.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV


- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
News

- NGT issues ultimatum to ban certain RO Systems
- Osmosis,
- Reverse Osmosis,
- RO Systems,
- use of RO purifiers lead to wastage of water
- the NGT order

Osmosis

- through semi-permeable membrane from low salt concentration towards higher salt concentration (under natural conditions)

- trees/roots absorb minerals through Osmosis process

Reverse Osmosis

- through semi-permeable membrane from high salt concentration towards low concentration under external pressure.

- Water purification (desalination)
• Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): Indication of purity of water

• As per WHO Study, if TDS levels are
  - below 300 mg/L → Excellent
  - about 900 mg/L → Poor
  - above 1200 mg/L → Unacceptable

• RO purifiers should not be used if TDS of raw water is less than 500 mg/L
  ➔ As it also removes useful minerals

• Extended Producers Responsibility

  ➔ by the manufacturers for the disposal of cartridges and membranes, and directing manufacturers to provide labelling on the purifier specifying that the unit should be used if TDS is more than 500 mg/L
Builders give thumbs up to Cabinet’s booster shot for realty

Funding will help expedite projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Special Window approved by the Union Cabinet to augment funds for stalled real estate projects would speed up the completion of a large number of such housing projects and is a good beginning, though the sector needs much more liquidity, real estate developers and analysts said.

“It is a very good decision. It will benefit many more projects, including stalled projects in Noida and Gurugram, which are stuck in SC/ST proceedings. So, this is a big positive,” said Niranjan Hiranandani, managing director, Hiranandani Group, and national president NAREDCO.

“The fund will help nearly 1,000 stalled housing projects in the country, and it is hoped that the impact of SC/ST NPA will not be a stumbling block to prevent stalled and delayed projects from accessing the fund,” he added.

“More money needed!”

“The real estate sector needs much more money, but a beginning has been made with this decision,” he said. Shriram Properties Ltd. CMD Manish M said, “It is a very big step and can be transformative. It will have a very big positive impact on the sector.”

With this, four or five dozen builders will come back to the market which is good for the sector. This Rs 25,000-crore can be a catalyst to generate 50,000-60,000 crores in the sector.

“It is a positive step. There are many genuine developers who are suffering, yet facing liquidity challenge due to various reasons (such as poor sales and delay in project handing over),” said Anil Mohta, chairman, ELS World & VP, NAREDCO Mahaharashtra.

“Besides revival of the sector, this decision will lead to increase in demand for used and new homes. This will provide impetus to generate more employment,” said Manoj Vagani, vice-chairman, Nurtur Group, VP, NAREDCO Maharashtra.

“Any real estate company will now be able to sort out their problem by accessing SC/ST NPA. This is a very positive move,” said Lt Col V Puri, chairman, Ansalcon Property Consultants.

Mr Puri said, “Also, the special window will get investments from institutions like LIC, SBI and others, which will take the corpus to nearly Rs 25,000 crores.”

Shrikant Bag, MD, Knight Frank India, said, “This step will definitely create greater confidence and credibility and may, in due course, encourage private sector investments to extend their support to the real estate industry.”

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

PAPER-IV


- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilisation of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Investment models.
**News**

- Union cabinet approved creation of Alternative Investment Fund of Rs. 25,000 Crore.
- ‘Special Window’ fund
- To provide priority debt financing for completion of stalled housing projects in Affordable & Middle-Income House sector.
- Sponsor → Government → Up to Rs. 10,000 Crore
- Balance amount by SBI and Life Insurance Corporation
- Will be set as a Category – II AIF debt fund.

**Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)**

- Regulation 2(1)(b) of SEBI (AIF) Regulations, 2012
- Fund established or incorporated in India
- Privately pooled investment vehicle
  → Collects funds from investors, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for benefit of investors.
- Registration in 3 Categories

1. **Category – I AIF** - invests in
   - Start-ups
   - Early stage ventures
   - Social ventures
   - SMEs, etc
   \[ \{ \text{Social or Economically desirable} \} \]
4. Includes venture capital funds, SME funds, social venture funds, infrastructure funds, etc

4. Close ended

2. Category - II AIF → do not fall in category I & III

4. Do not undertake leverage or borrowing other than to meet day-to-day operational requirements.

4. Close ended

- Real estate funds
- Debt funds, etc
- Private equity funds

3. Category - III AIF → employs diverse or complex trading strategies

4. May be open ended or close ended

Advantages of Govt. Initiative

• Growth in real estate industry

4. Positive effect in other sectors

4. Revival of demand for cement, iron & steel

4. Generation of jobs

• Commercial return for investors

• Fund to complete the projects
As the seas come closer

Most people at risk from coastal flooding live in Asia and developing countries such as India and China.

H. Santu, et al.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.
• General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

• Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

PAPER-IV


• Disaster and disaster management.
- Climate change migration
  - change in weather pattern
  - impact on ecosystem and livelihood
    → migration
  - environmental refugees
    - forced to move out of their traditional habitat
    - environmental disruption affecting quality of life
  - a threat multiplier

- Coastal DEM based elevation model
  - 3.6 Crore Indians face flood risk
  - overestimation of elevation by SRTM (Shuttle Radar Topography Mission)
    - error due to tree tops and tall buildings

- Number of Indians affected
  - 88% underestimation
  - 3.6 Crore Indians in 2050
  - 4.4 Crore by 2100
• Difficulty in calculating actual sea level rise (SLR)
  → SLR varies with expansion of warm waters, melting of glaciers and subsidence of land
  → SLR rise → as high as 2m by 2100.

**Impacts of SLR**

• Coastal flooding, saltwater intrusion, destruction of coastal infrastructure, communities and ecosystems

• On entire economy

• People forced to move inland - to nearby towns

• Cross-border movements - in case of small island nations

**Most affected:** India, China, Bangladesh, etc

Within India: Mumbai & Kolkata

**India's future policies/position**

1. Accept the reality of climate change

2. Achieve Paris Climate Agreement goals

3. Focus on protecting coast - natural barriers, levees, flood barriers, etc

4. Stop infrastructure construction along coast plus integrate anticipated SLR effects in to coastal planning
5. Integrate proposals for new migrants in future urban policies

6. Govt. initiatives to increase openness of people living in inland or rural areas
   - Invest in rural economy - reduce poverty and unemployment
   - More resilient and open

7. Accept cross-border climate refugees
   - India & neighbours must collaborate

8. Coordinated efforts in South Asia
   - for all ‘classes’ of migrants
Will not impose President’s Rule in a hurry, says Koshyari

‘It would be ideal if the parties themselves find a solution’

Sharad Vyas

Amid a looming constitutional crisis, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari said on Wednesday he has no intention of imposing President’s Rule in a hurry.

In an exclusive conversation with The Hindu, the Governor said it would not be appropriate if the ongoing political tussle in the State reached a point where he may have to step in with a proclamation.

“The Governor would want to impose President’s Rule under any situation. It would not be nice to do so (now). The ideal situation would be if the parties themselves find a solution (to the stalemate) and come forward to stake claim,” he said during the chat at the Raj Bhavan.

Mr. Koshyari said there had been instances in the past when a seemingly impending deadlock had ended in less than 24 hours. “If they (political parties) want and wish, this [stalemate] could end within 24 hours. I hope and wish the [parties] do so here,” he said, adding that there had been many lessons for him over the past 10 days of political uncertainty.

The former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand said an ideal scenario for Maharashtra would be if the political stalemate ended on its own and the parties came forward with a proposal to stake claim to form the government.

Denying claims that he had been in talks with the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Shiv Sena over formation of the government, the Governor said he was still in a “wait and watch” mode.

There was no question of breaking away from the established protocol to invite anybody other than the single largest party, he clarified.

“I will wait and watch before taking the next step. I have no intention of breaking away from the protocol and conventions,” Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Maharashtra Governor

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies—II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
• Results announced for Maharashtra Assembly elections - 24th Oct 2019 - till Nov 6, no leader or party commands majority to form Government

• Governor of Maharashtra
  ➔ In a hurry, President’s rule will not be imposed
  ➔ In ‘wait and watch mode’ to see whether any leader could claim majority

• Under President’s rule,
  ➔ Legislative and executive powers of the State
    ➔ Central Government
  ➔ State legislature - dissolved or suspended
  ➔ Maximum period for operation - 3 years
  ➔ Under article 356 of Indian constitution
  ➔ With or without the report of Governor
  ➔ Parliament approval - required within two months after proclamation
‘Give report on CIC postings’

SC has asked the govt. to look beyond retired bureaucrats

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the Centre and eight States to present a report card on appointments made to the Information Commissions, the apex bodies constituted under the Right to Information Act to help citizens fight for transparency in governance.

The direction comes nearly eight months after the apex court ordered the government to look beyond the coterie of retired bureaucrats for appointment as Information Commissioners, in a judgment delivered on February 15, 2019.

A Bench led by Justice S.A. Bobde directed the Union of India, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala and Gujarat to file a report on their compliance with the February 15 verdict.

The court listed the case for hearing on December 16.

The petition was filed by activist Anjali Bhargwaj, Commodore (Retd) Lokesh Batra and Amrita Johri. They were represented by senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan, advocates Pranav Sachdeva and Rahul Gupta.

Mr. Bhushan submitted that vacancies had not been filled despite the February judgment.

‘Strange phenomenon’
In its February verdict, the SC had concluded that the Central Information Commission (CIC) and State Information Commissions have been bastions for government employees and their retired counterparts.

It said the Right to Information Act of 2005 itself required people from varied domains to man the Commissions.

The court had found that the "official bias" in favour of bureaucrats and government employees was evident from the beginning of the process for appointments.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

PAPER-V

General Studies- IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
- SC Order - appointment of Information Officers
  Under RTI Act, 2005

- Feb 2019: Supreme Court order:
  ➔ Central and State Govts failed timely appointment of Information Commissioners
  ➔ Commissions (CIC, SIC) - bastions of bureaucrats
  ➔ look beyond the ‘coterie’ of retired bureaucrats

- Section 12 of RTI Act, 2005
  ➔ Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners
  ➔ Persons of eminence in public life
  ➔ knowledge and experience in
    - Law
    - Science and Technology
    - Social service
    - Management
    - Journalism
    - Mass media
    - Administration
    - Governance
- RTI Act: One of the most empowering legislations
  - make govt. accountable
  - make governance more transparent
    - present issues
    - Defeat the purpose of the Act

- Supreme Court ordered Centre and 8 states
  - to present report on appointments made
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Information Commission (CIC)</th>
<th>State Information Commission (SIC)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➔ 1 Chief Information Commissioner,</td>
<td>➔ Same as CIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not more than 10 Information Commissioners</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Appointment</strong></td>
<td><strong>Appointment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>➔ By President, on the recommendation of a</td>
<td>➔ By Governor, on the recommendation of a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select Committee consisting of</td>
<td>Select Committee consisting of</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha,</td>
<td>- Chief Minister, Leader of Opposition in</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Cabinet Minister</td>
<td>legislative Assembly, State Cabinet Minister</td>
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<td><strong>Removal - By President</strong></td>
<td><strong>Removal - By Governor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>➔ after Supreme court inquiry</td>
<td>➔ after Supreme court inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td>- misbehaviour, incapacity</td>
<td>- misbehaviour, incapacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>➔ Other Grounds of removal - adjudged insolvent, office of profit, infirmity of mind or body</td>
<td>➔ Other Grounds of removal -Same as CIC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to Reverse Osmosis (RO) systems.

1. The RO systems are based on Reverse Osmosis process in which under external pressure water moves from low salt concentration region into high salt concentration through semi-permeable membrane.

2. The RO systems are used in the purification of the impure water.

3. The RO purifiers remove only unwanted salts.

4. The Extended Producers Responsibility also applies to RO Systems.

Choose the correct given above statements using the codes given below:
(a) All the statements except 3
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) All the statements except 1
(d) All the statements

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to “Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)”.

1. It is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, both Indian or foreign sources, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors.

2. AIFs which invest in start-ups or social ventures or SMEs or areas which the government or regulators consider as socially or economically desirable are Category-III AIFs.

Which among the above statements is or are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Mains
GS-III
Q1. ‘Recent studies are telling that Asian countries, including India are the most vulnerable to sea level rise due to climate change’. Discuss the impacts of rising sea levels. What can India include in its future policies to mitigate these effects? (250 words, 15 marks)

Practice Questions – Prelims
Answers
07-11-2019
1. Option ‘b’ – 2 and 4 only
2. Option ‘a’ – 1 only