**Maharashtra Governor to stake claim today**

Mandate for the NCP and Congress to sit in Opposition, says Sharad Pawar

ALOK DESHPRANAH, 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 Vinod Tawde and a delegation of Congress leaders are also expected to meet the governor.

**Power point**

A look at the party position in the Maharashtra Assembly after the recent election

SHARADA JADHAV, PTI

**NGT issues ultimatum to ban certain RO systems**

**₹25,000-cr. fund to help housing sector**

**Builders give thumbs up to Cabinet’s booster shot for realty**

**As the seas come closer (OPED)**

**Will not impose President’s Rule in a hurry, says Koshyari**

**‘Give report on CIC postings’**

**Practice cum Revision - MCQs**

@end of the video
NGT issues ultimatum to ban certain RO systems

Asks Environment Ministry to issue notification

STAFF REPORTER

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 “wherever 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 Bench said that in case of non-compliance of orders the concerned officials will not be entitled to draw salaries from January 2020.

Further provision must be laid down for recovery of water up to 75% and use of such RO reject water for purposes such as utensil washing, flushing, gardening, cleaning of vehicles and mopping,” the Bench had held, based on a report furnished by an NGT-appointed committee.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- General Science.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- 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)

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

- trees/roots absorb minerals through Osmosis process
- 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 1800 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

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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


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

PAPER-IV

General Studies-IV: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

• Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization 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 → Upto 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 or Economically desirable
e   - social ventures
   - SMEs, etc

2. Category - II AIF → do not fall in category I & III
   - do not undertake leverage or borrowing other than to meet day-to-day operational requirements.

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

3. Category - III AIF → employs diverse or complex trading strategies
   - may be open ended or close ended

**Advantages of Govt. Initiative**

- Growth in real estate industry
- positive effect in other sectors
- revival of demand for cement, iron & steel
- generation of jobs
- Commercial return for investors
- Fund to complete the projects
As the seas come closer

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


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.

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- 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

CoastalDEM 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Impacts of SLR</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Difficulty in calculating actual sea level rise (SLR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SLR varies with expansion of warm waters, melting of glaciers and subsidence of land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SLR rise ( \rightarrow ) as high as 8 m by 2100.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>India’s future policies/position</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Accept the reality of climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Achieve Paris Climate Agreement goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Focus on protecting coast - natural barriers, levees, flood barriers, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Stop infrastructure construction along coast plus integrate anticipated SLR effects into coastal planning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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.

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 govt. 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 Bhadark, Commendore (Retd) Lokesh Baru and Anurita 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 'an 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.

15

- 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Chief Information Commissioner, not more than 10 Information Commissioners</td>
<td>Same as CIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appointment</strong></td>
<td><strong>Appointment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By President, on the recommendation of a Select Committee consisting of: Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Union Cabinet Minister</td>
<td>By Governor, on the recommendation of a Select Committee consisting of: Chief Minister, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly, State Cabinet Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Removal – By President</strong></td>
<td><strong>Removal – By Governor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after Supreme court inquiry</td>
<td>after Supreme court inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- misbehaviour, incapacity</td>
<td>- misbehaviour, incapacity</td>
</tr>
<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)