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CURRENT AFFAIRS



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Floor Test: Governor



Floor Test: Governor – Today Current Affairs

- Recently, in the ongoing political crisis in Maharashtra, the decision to conduct floor test of the Governor is once again in the news.

Today Current Affairs

What are the constitutional provisions of the Governor related to the floor test?

- Article 174 – empowers the Governor to summon, dissolve and prorogue the State Legislative Assembly.
- Article 174 (2) (b) of the Constitution empowers the Governor to dissolve the Legislative Assembly on the aid and advice of the Cabinet, although the Governor can exercise his discretion when such a Chief Minister, whose majority is in doubt It is possible.
- According to Article 175(2), the Governor can summon the session of the House and call for a floor test to prove whether the government has sufficient number of MLAs or not. **The Hindu Analysis**

- However, the Governor can exercise the above power only according to Article 163 of the Constitution, according to which the Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.
- When the House is in session, the Speaker can call for a floor test. But when the Legislative Assembly is not in session, under Article 163, the Governor can use his residuary powers to allow the floor test to be called.

Discretionary Power of Governor : The Hindu Analysis

- Article 163(1) essentially limits any discretionary power of the Governor to only those cases where the Constitution clearly specifies that the Governor should act at his discretion and exercise it independently.
- The Governor can exercise his discretionary power under Article 174 when the Chief Minister has lost the support of the House and his support is debatable.
- Usually the chief minister is suspected when he has lost the majority, the opposition and the governor will call for a floor test.
- Courts have also made it clear on several occasions that when the ruling party's majority is in question, a floor test should be conducted at the earliest opportunity available.

View of the Supreme Court on the power of the Governor to call a floor test : The Hindu Analysis

- In 2016 in *Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker (Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly case)*, the Supreme Court held that the power to summon the House is not vested in the Governor alone and should be exercised with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and not that at your discretion.
- The Court highlighted the fact that the Governor is not an elected authority, he is only a nominee of the President, and such a nominee cannot have overriding authority over the House of the State Legislature or the representatives of the people constituting the Houses. **The Hindu Analysis**
- Allowing the Governor to govern the State Legislature or the State Executive does not harmonize with the strong democratic principles enshrined in the provisions of the Constitution. Particularly because the constitution is founded on the principle of ministerial responsibility.

- In the year 2020, in Shivraj Singh Chouhan & Ors. Vs. Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly & Ors, the Supreme Court upheld the Speaker's powers to call for floor test if there is a prima facie view that the government has lost its majority. Retained the powers of the speaker.
- In the year 2020, the Supreme Court upheld the power of the Speaker to call for floor test if it is prima facie held that the government has lost its majority in Shivraj Singh Chouhan & Ors. Vs Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly & Ors. **The Hindu Analysis**
- "The Governor is not deprived of the power to order a floor test where, on the basis of the information available with the Governor, it becomes clear whether the Government enjoys the confidence of the House, the issue shall be assessed on the basis of the floor test. But should be done.

Floor Test : The Hindu Analysis

- It is a term used for the test of majority. If there is doubt against the Chief Minister (CM) of a state, he can be asked to prove his majority in the House.
- In the case of a coalition government, the Chief Minister can be asked to take a trust vote and get a majority.
- In the absence of a clear majority, when more than one person is claiming to form the government, the governor can call a special session to see who has the majority to form the government.
- Some MLAs may be absent or may choose not to vote. In such a situation the numbers are considered on the basis of only those MLAs who were present to vote.

YOJNA IAS

Swadeep Kumar

NIPUN



NIPUN – Today Current Affairs

- Recently an innovative project called 'NIPUN' for skill training of construction workers i.e. National Initiative for Promotion of Skills of Construction Workers was launched.
- Creating the labor force of the future for the skillful construction industry which will spur innovation and large-scale growth in the country.
- The construction sector is on track to become the largest employer by 2022, and will require over 45 million qualified workers over the next ten years.

Today Current Affairs

Skilled Project:

- The basic objective of the project is to train over 1 lakh construction workers through new skilling and upskilling programmes.
- Project Nipun is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- This project is being operated under the flagship program of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- The transformative impact of the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) has reduced the vulnerability of urban poor households by providing skills and employment opportunities to urban residents, especially the youth.

Implementing Agency:

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) : The Hindu Analysis

- NSDC is the nodal and implementing agency under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

- NSDC will be responsible for overall execution of training, monitoring and candidate tracking.

Skilled Project Implementation : The Hindu Analysis

- Project implementation is divided into **three parts:**

Training through Recognition of Prior Training (RPL) at construction sites : The Hindu Analysis

- Onsite skill training will be provided to around 80,000 construction workers through industry associations under RPL certification, branded with MoHUA.

Training through New Skills (SSC) by Plumbing and Infrastructure Sector Skill Council : The Hindu Analysis

- About 14,000 candidates will gain new skills through the Plumbing and Infrastructure Sector Skill Council (SSC) in trades that have potential for placement.

International placement through industries/builders/contractors : The Hindu Analysis

- The courses are in line with the National Skill Qualification Framework.
- It will be provided only at recognized and affiliated training centres.
- It is also envisaged that NSDC will house around 12,000 people in foreign countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE and other Gulf countries.

Benefits associated with the skillful project:

Access to New Opportunities : The Hindu Analysis

- Skilled project will enable construction workers to find better job opportunities, increase their wages and even get overseas placements.

Entrepreneurial spirit : The Hindu Analysis

- It is encouraged and supported by providing access to self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities to urban workers.
- This initiative will enable construction workers to be more efficient.

Skill Advancement : The Hindu Analysis

- Construction workers can adopt advanced skills keeping in view the future trends in the construction industry by upgrading their capabilities and diversifying their skills.
- The ministry also faced technology challenges, which led to the implementation of six light house projects in record time, using technology and local materials to build sustainable green buildings.

Growth of Economy : The Hindu Analysis

- The construction industry is an important contributor to the country's GDP, so this scheme will catalyze the growth of GDP.

Social Security : The Hindu Analysis

- It will provide trainees with digital skills like 'Skill Insurance', three years accidental insurance with coverage of Rs 2 lakh, cashless transactions and EPF and BOCW facilities.

Swadeep Kumar

India's EV ambition rides on three wheels

India's EV ambition rides on three wheels - Today Current Affairs

Sales of three wheel Electric Vehicles (EVs) fare well than the sales of two wheel and four wheel EVs

Today Current Affairs

What is the FAME 2 Scheme?

- Phase-II of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric (FAME) Vehicles scheme was approved in 2019 with an outlay of Rs10000 crore.
- This renewed push for EVs is significant considering phase-I launched in 2015 with an outlay of Rs 895 crore.
- It aims to support 10 lakh e-two-wheelers, 5 lakh e-three-wheelers, 55,000 e-four-wheeler passenger cars and 7,000 e-buses.

How successful is the FAME 2 scheme? The Hindu Analysis

- **Response from companies** -As a part of FAME-II, the government has also made a push for indigenous manufacturing.
- As a result Legacy auto manufacturers such as Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Hero Electric, and TVS have unveiled their EV offerings.
- New EV players like Ola and Bounce have also emerged on the scene.
- **Adoption of EVs** - 3 years into FAME-II the adoption lags far behind the target due to various factors including the pandemic. As a result FAME-II got a two-year extension in June 2021.

- Three wheeler EVs are dominating the EV market while two wheelers and four wheeler EVs have received only considerable coverage. **The Hindu Analysis**
- The sales of two wheeler EVs comes at a distant second with over 30% of registrations and passenger four wheeler EVs stands at a meagre 2.5% of the total sales of EVs.
- Three wheelers EV sales have crossed over 4 lakh vehicles of the 5-lakh target since 2019.
- The numbers are expected to be higher given the prevalence of unregistered vehicles in India.
- At the current rate, e-three-wheelers are expected to breach the 5-lakh target by 2023.

Which states fare well in e-three-wheeler sales? The Hindu Analysis

- Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal account for close to 80% of all e-three-wheeler registrations, with U.P. accounting for close to 40% of all registrations.
- Of these five States, Assam, Delhi, U.P., and West Bengal have formalised EV policies while Bihar has a draft policy with a final policy due to be introduced later in 2022.
- These five States are characterised by high population density and shortage of affordable public transport.

What are the incentives provided for promoting e-vehicles? The Hindu Analysis

All five States provide road tax exemption of 100% and on registration fees.

- Assam, Delhi and West Bengal have linked incentives to the battery size (in kWh) with additional benefits on interest rate on loans and scrappage incentives in some cases.
- U.P. has offered 100% interest-free loans to State government employees for purchasing EVs in the State and 30% subsidy on the road price of EVs to families with a single girl child. It has also exempted SGST on all such vehicles.
- UP has outlined incentives to promote EV manufacturing in the State.
- Bihar's draft EV policy too has been drafted along similar lines, focusing on both adoption and manufacturing.

How well local manufactures fare up against legacy brands? The Hindu Analysis

- With financial assistance from FAME-II, local manufacturers have built a truly Indian EV with its unique design catering to Indian commuter needs.
- Costing between Rs1 lakh and Rs1.5 lakh, these vehicles are produced by scores of local workshops and small enterprises and have come to dominate the e-three-wheeler market.
- Legacy automakers with their own e-three-wheeler offerings have been struggling to compete with these local producers.

What are the issues to be addressed? The Hindu Analysis

- **Low rate of adoption** - e-two-wheeler and e-four-wheeler have problems both on the demand and supply side.
- Consumers are justifiably apprehensive in adopting such vehicles given the host of issues which come with it.
- The recent incidents of fires in e-scooters have added to the apprehension.
- Reliable manufacturers with proven track records are also hard to come by.
- **Adequate passenger safety** - Local manufacturing enterprises often lack motivation to invest in design developments focusing on safety.
- Fragmented manufacturing industries with non-uniform standards have made legacy automakers struggle to compete with local manufacturers.
- Future policies must therefore incorporate appropriate design and passenger safety standards.

Swadeep Kumar