

NATIONAL COMPANY LAW APPELLATE TRIBUNAL



- It is a quasi-judicial body **constituted under the Companies Act, 2013**.
- It was established to hear appeals against the decisions of the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**.
- **Objectives:** To promote **timely corporate dispute resolution**, ensure transparency, and improve efficiency in insolvency and corporate governance matters.
- **Functions of NCLAT:**
 - It hears appeals against orders of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**.
 - It hears **appeals** against orders of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.
 - It hears appeals related to the **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**.
 - **It giving advisory opinions** when legal issues are referred by the **President of India**
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Composition:** It includes a **Chairperson**, along with **Judicial and Technical Members**, all appointed by the Central Government based on expertise in law, finance, accountancy, and administration.
- **Powers and Procedure:**
 - NCLAT can **regulate its own procedure** and possesses powers equivalent to a civil court under the Civil Procedure Code, 1908.
 - It can summon witnesses, receive affidavits, enforce production of documents, and issue commissions.
 - Orders passed by NCLAT are **enforceable like civil court decrees**.
 - **Appeals against NCLAT orders** can be filed in the **Supreme Court of India**.
 - Civil courts have no jurisdiction over matters within the purview of NCLAT.
 - No court or authority can grant injunctions against any action taken by NCLAT under its legal authority.
- **Timely disposal:** NCLAT is required to dispose of appeals within six months from the date of receipt to ensure swift resolution.

PM KUSUM SCHEME AND BATTERY STORAGE - KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM), launched in 2019, aims to promote solar energy use in agriculture and reduce dependence on diesel and grid electricity.
- It seeks to ensure energy security for farmers while supporting India's renewable energy targets.
- **Objectives and Features**
 - Promote solarisation of agricultural pumps.
 - Provide a reliable and affordable power supply to farmers.
 - Reduce subsidy burden on state electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs).
 - Enable farmers to generate additional income by selling surplus power to the grid.
 - The scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- **Funding Pattern**
 - Central Government: 30% subsidy.
 - State Government: 30% subsidy.
 - Farmer contribution: 40% (with provision for bank loans).
 - This shared funding model ensures affordability and wider participation.

Components of PM-KUSUM

- **Component A**
 - This component focuses on setting up decentralised, grid-connected solar power plants (up to 2 MW capacity).
 - Farmers, cooperatives, and panchayats can install these plants on barren or cultivable land and sell electricity to DISCOMs.
- **Component B**
 - Under this component, standalone solar-powered agricultural pumps are installed in off-grid areas.

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- It helps farmers reduce dependence on diesel pumps and ensures uninterrupted irrigation.
- **Component C**
 - This component involves solarisation of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps.
 - It has two sub-models: Individual Pump Solarisation (IPS) and Feeder-Level Solarisation (FLS).
 - IPS allows farmers to solarise their own pumps, while FLS solarises entire agricultural feeders, improving efficiency at scale.

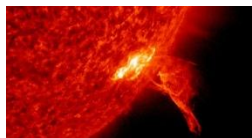
Achievements and Progress

- Target: 34.8 GW solar capacity addition.
- Installed capacity: About 12,164 MW as of February 2026.
- Over 10 lakh standalone solar pumps installed under Component B.
- More than 13 lakh pumps are covered under feeder-level solarisation.
- Increased adoption of clean energy in rural areas.
- Despite progress, implementation has been slower than expected due to financial and operational challenges.

Challenges in Implementation

- Delays in financial closure and loan disbursement.
 - High upfront cost for farmers.
 - Coordination issues between central and state agencies.
 - Grid integration challenges due to variability in solar power generation.
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SOLAR RADIO BURST



- It is defined as an **intense solar radio emission** associated with **solar flares**.
- **Origin:** These are observed in radio wavelengths most frequently during **solar transients, such as coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and flares**.



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- SRBs are direct signatures of **accelerated electrons in the solar atmosphere**.
- These are observed across a wide range of wavelengths, **from millimetres to kilometres**, corresponding to frequencies from the GHz to the kHz range.
 - Observations at short wavelengths correspond to distances close to the solar surface, while those at long wavelengths correspond to the large distances from the Sun.
- **Types:** Considering the morphological characteristics, five main categories of solar radio bursts can be distinguished: **Type I, Type II, Type III, Type IV, and Type V**.
- **Impacts:**
 - These solar transients have a direct impact on the **near-Earth atmosphere**.
 - It can interfere with **Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)** signals by reducing signal-to-noise ratio and causing loss of lock.

E-COMMERCE MORATORIUM



- It is a global **agreement among World Trade Organization members**.
- It **bans customs duties being applied to electronic transmissions** such as digital downloads and streaming.
- It was first adopted in 1998 at the **WTO's Second Ministerial Conference in Geneva** as part of a declaration to encourage early digital trade growth.
- It covers cross-border transmissions such as **software downloads, e-books, music and movie streaming and video games**.
- It was originally intended to be temporary, the tariff moratorium has been renewed roughly every two years at each WTO ministerial conference.
- **India argues that:**
 - It may lead to **significant revenue loss**.
 - It **restricts policy space** in the digital economy.
 - Developing countries lack the technological capacity to benefit equally.



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IONS MARITIME EXERCISE (IMEX)



The Indian Navy hosted Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise (IMEX) TTX 2026 at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Southern Naval Command, Kochi.

- It focused on **non-traditional maritime security threats** and complex operational scenarios.
- It aimed to improve **coordination among participating navies through better information sharing**, streamlined decision-making processes and validation of maritime security frameworks.
- **Participating Countries:** Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Timor-Leste
- **Significance:** It reaffirmed the role of **IONS as a key platform for regional maritime cooperation** and is expected to contribute to strengthening security mechanisms and ensuring stability across the Indian Ocean Region.

What is Indian Ocean Naval Symposium?

- It is a voluntary initiative that seeks to **increase maritime cooperation** among navies of the littoral states of the **Indian Ocean Region**.
- It promotes maritime cooperation, mutual understanding, and collaboration on issues such as maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).
- It was conceived by the **Indian Navy in 2008**.
- The **inaugural edition of IONS was held in Feb 2008 at New Delhi**, with the Indian Navy as the Chair for two years (2008–2010).
- IONS is structured around a **rotating chairmanship**, biennial conclaves of chiefs, and working groups.

LPG VS LNG: WHY WEST ASIA WAR HIT LPG SUPPLY HARDER

- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is mainly a mixture of **propane and butane**, produced as a byproduct of crude oil refining and natural gas processing. It may also contain small amounts of other hydrocarbons.
- In contrast, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is primarily **methane**, derived from natural gas.
- **Liquefaction Process and Storage**
 - LPG becomes liquid under moderate pressure or low temperatures, making it relatively easy to store and transport.
 - LNG, however, requires **extreme cooling** below -160°C and must be stored in specialised cryogenic tanks, making its handling more complex and energy-intensive.
- **Volume and Transportation Advantage**
 - Both fuels are liquefied to reduce volume for transport.
 - LPG reduces to about **1/260th** of its gaseous volume, while LNG shrinks further to about **1/600th**, enabling efficient long-distance transportation, especially where pipelines are not feasible.
- **Usage and Applications**
 - **LPG** is widely used for cooking, heating, and some industrial applications, and also as a vehicle fuel in certain regions.
 - **LNG** itself has limited direct use but is mainly transported and then converted back into natural gas, which is used for cooking, transport (CNG), and industries such as fertilisers, power generation, refineries, and petrochemicals.

Delivery and Distribution Systems

- LNG is transported via specialised cryogenic ships to regasification terminals, where it is converted back into natural gas and supplied through pipelines as **PNG (piped natural gas)** or CNG for vehicles.

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- In contrast, LPG is bottled in cylinders and delivered mainly by road, making it accessible even in remote areas without pipeline infrastructure.
- **Storage and Accessibility**
 - LPG is easier to store, requiring only pressurised cylinders, which makes it highly portable and suitable for rural and remote regions.
 - PNG, however, depends entirely on pipeline connectivity and cannot be easily stored unless converted into LNG again.
 - As a result, LPG is preferred in areas without pipelines, while PNG is promoted in urban regions.
- **Convenience for Consumers**
 - PNG offers greater convenience once infrastructure is in place, providing continuous, metered supply without the need for refills or bookings.
 - LPG, on the other hand, requires periodic cylinder replacement and manual handling.
- **Safety Considerations**
 - PNG is considered safer because natural gas is lighter than air, allowing it to disperse quickly in case of leaks.
 - LPG is heavier than air, tends to accumulate, and poses a higher risk of fire or explosion during leakage.
 - While LPG offers portability and wider reach, PNG provides greater **convenience, safety, and efficiency** in areas with established pipeline infrastructure.

Crisis Impact and Supply Prioritisation

- Amid disruptions caused by the Strait of Hormuz crisis, the government has acknowledged significant stress on LPG supplies, though household consumption remains protected.
- While 100% supply is ensured for PNG households and CNG transport, supplies to industrial and commercial users have been curtailed to about 80%.

IAS RESIGNATION RULES

- Under the **All India Services (Conduct) Rules**, serving IAS officers are strictly prohibited from associating with political parties or participating in political activities.
- They are required to maintain political neutrality and uphold constitutional values at all times.
- **2014 Amendment and Political Neutrality**
 - The **Conduct Rules** were amended in November 2014, adding new clauses to reinforce the conduct expected of senior civil servants.
 - Most notably, **Rule 3(1)** mandates that every government employee must, at all times, maintain political neutrality and remain committed to upholding the supremacy of the Constitution and democratic values.

Resignation Process for IAS Officers

- The resignation of officers from the All India Services—IAS, IPS, and Indian Forest Service—is governed by **Rules 5(1) and 5(1)(A)** of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958.
- **Procedure Based on Posting**
 - An officer serving in a state cadre must submit their resignation to the Chief Secretary of the state.
 - If the officer is on central deputation, the resignation is submitted to the concerned ministry or department secretary, which then forwards it to the respective state cadre with its recommendations.
 - In the case of AGMUT cadre officers, the process is routed through the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Key Conditions and Implications**
 - As per Rule 5, officers who resign are **not entitled** to retirement benefits.
 - Additionally, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) guidelines require that the resignation must be clear and unconditional for it to be considered valid.

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What Happens After an IAS Officer Submits Resignation?

- After resignation is submitted, the state verifies if the officer has any pending dues, vigilance cases, or inquiries—resignations are usually rejected if such issues exist.
- The state then forwards its recommendation and details to the Union government.
- The final decision is taken by the competent authority:
 - for IAS officers, the DoPT Minister (Prime Minister);
 - for IPS, the Home Minister; and
 - for Indian Forest Service officers, the Environment Minister.

Can the Government Delay IAS Resignations?

- There is no fixed time limit for accepting an IAS officer's resignation.
 - However, a DoPT circular states that it is generally not in the government's interest to retain an unwilling officer, so resignations should normally be accepted.
 - **Conditions Where Resignation May Be Delayed or Rejected?**
 - Resignations can be withheld in certain situations.
 - If an officer is under suspension or facing disciplinary proceedings, the government must assess whether accepting the resignation serves public interest.
 - In such cases, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) may also be consulted.
 - **Other Grounds for Rejection**
 - The government also examines whether the officer has:
 - Pending dues or obligations, or
 - Executed service bonds (for training, scholarships, or fellowships).
 - For example, Arvind Kejriwal faced penalties after resigning from the IRS due to a bond violation linked to a government-funded fellowship.
 - If the officer holds an **important position**, the government may delay acceptance until suitable replacement arrangements are made, ensuring administrative continuity.
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