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GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 1

ISLAMABAD HOLDS REGIONAL TALKS AS STRIKES INCREASE

# ‘Waiting’: Iran warns US against ground ops, more Marines arrive

US sending us messages about talks, secretly planning assault by troops: Qalibaf

Ariba Shahid & Alexander Cornwell  
Islamabad, Tel Aviv, March 29

IRAN SAID it was ready to respond to any US ground attack, accusing Washington of preparing a land assault while seeking talks, as regional powers met in Pakistan Sunday to try to bring the two sides together.

Iran’s parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf accused the US of sending messages about possible negotiations while at the same time planning to send in troops, adding that Tehran was ready to respond if US soldiers were deployed.

“As long as the Americans seek Iran’s surrender, our response is that we will never accept humiliation,” he said in a message to the nation.

(Iranian forces “are waiting for the arrival of American troops on the ground to set them on fire and punish their

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At the funeral of three Lebanese journalists who were killed in Israeli strikes, in Beirut on Sunday. AP

STRATEGIC ASSETS MORE VULNERABLE

## War lessons for military: Rethinking air defence, countering drones to targets

Amrita Nayak Dutta  
New Delhi, March 29

DRAWING LESSONS from the ongoing war in West Asia, the Indian military brass have begun discussions focused on the need for procurement of anti-drone systems and their large-scale integration with existing legacy air defence weapon systems to create an ef-

**E. DRONES AND WARFARE**  
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fective umbrella against small enemy drones. The Indian Express has learnt.

Acquisition of high-quality swarm drones and robotic capability to disrupt enemy logis-

tics and supply chains while targeting the adversary’s manufacturing capacity are among the first lessons drawn from the month-old war.

Senior military officers said India will also have to undertake passive measures such as dispersion, concealment, camouflage, force preservation, underground infrastructure, and

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



### The War DAY 30

• Top diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey were in Islamabad for talks with Pakistani leader to find an end to the West Asia conflict

• Tehran threatened to target Israeli and US educational facilities unless US condemns bombing of Iranian varsities

• Gulf nations continued to be targeted. UAE, Saudi and Kuwait said they responded to missile and drone attacks

MORE REPORTS, PAGE 12



‘Can’t imagine Netanyahu bucking Trump if Trump lays the law. He may turn and twist but he will listen’

VIVEK KATJU  
VETERAN INDIAN DIPLOMAT  
PAGE 15

# GS 3: INDIAN ECONOMY

## INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 11

THE CURRENT SCHEME, LAUNCHED IN 2019, EXPIRES THIS MONTH

# Centre may add battery storage under revamped PM-KUSUM 2.0

### Centre extended timeline for financial closure & completion of projects under PM-KUSUM scheme on Saturday

**Pratyush Deep**  
New Delhi, March 29

THE CENTRE is considering incorporating a new provision for battery energy storage in the revamped Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhhiyaan (PM KUSUM) scheme, as it works on formulating a new version of the flagship programme, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Launched in 2019, the current PM-KUSUM scheme is set to expire this month, prompting discussions within the government on rolling out an updated version, likely to be called PM-KUSUM 2.0.

While the current scheme focuses on solarisation of agricultural pumps, it does not include battery storage. The addition is actively under consideration in order to address the growing challenge of mismatch between agricultural power demand and solar generation patterns.

As per a senior official, the battery energy storage system has become a necessary addition, primarily due to the diver-

gence between load demand and solar generation.

Agricultural demand rises in the morning, remaining steady throughout the day, and declines after sunset. In contrast, solar generation gradually increases during the day, peaks around noon, and tapers off thereafter. This misalignment has posed operational challenges for power distribution and grid management.

The proposed battery storage component is expected to bridge this gap by storing surplus solar power generated during peak hours and supplying it when demand persists but generation falls. Discussions on the design of the scheme are ongoing, with differing views between the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on the extent of storage to be provided. The Ministry of Power has suggested provisioning for up to four hours of battery storage, while MNRE has proposed a two-hour capacity, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Queries sent to the Ministry

### • SOLAR SUPPLY MISMATCH

THE CURRENT scheme focuses on solarisation of agri pumps and does not include battery storage

BATTERY STORAGE is under consideration to address the challenge of mismatch between agri power demand and solar generation patterns

THE PROPOSED battery storage component will store surplus solar power generated during peak hours, and supply it when demand persists but generation falls



THE MINISTRY of Power has suggested provisioning for up to four hours of battery storage, while MNRE has proposed a two-hour capacity

of Power remained unanswered at the time of filing this report.

In its response, MNRE confirmed that talks on PM-KUSUM 2.0 are underway, including consultations with the Ministry of Finance. "Relevant details will be communicated once discussions reach a certain level of conclusion," it said.

The Centre has consistently positioned PM-KUSUM as a key pillar of its clean energy transition. The scheme, aimed at promoting solarisation in the agriculture sector, comprises three components: setting up of decentralised solar power plants (Component A), installing stan-

dalone solar pumps in off-grid areas (Component B), and solarising grid-connected agricultural pumps (Component C).

Under Component C, the Centre supports both individual pump solarisation (IPS) and feeder-level solarisation (FLS). While IPS enables farmers with grid-connected agricultural pumps to solarise their individual units, FLS allows states to solarise entire agricultural feeders instead of individual pumps. Together, these components target the addition of 34.8 GW of solar capacity. However, progress has been slower than anticipated. As of February this year, a total

of 12,164 MW capacity has been installed under the scheme.

As per the data provided by MNRE in the parliament, 8394 MW of capacity has been installed under Component A. Under Component B, over 10 lakh standalone agricultural pumps have been installed. Under Component C, over 12,787 pumps have been solarised through IPS, while feeder-level solarisation has covered over 13 lakh pumps, with a total installed capacity of 6,636.9 MW.

On Saturday, the Centre also extended the timeline for financial closure and completion of projects under the scheme. The decision follows multiple requests from stakeholders who reported delays in loan extension by banks and financial institutions due to the current timeline of the scheme, which is expiring on March 31.

"The matter for extension of current scheme was taken with Department of Expenditure (DoE). The DoE has provided the guidance to subsume the existing timeline within the new scheme PM KUSUM 2.0. Thus, the states are requested to coordinate with banks to facilitate loans, and expedite financial closure of the projects as the current scheme is to be subsumed under PM KUSUM 2.0," MNRE's office memorandum said.

# GS 3: INDIAN ECONOMY

## INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 11

### Missed toll payment: What NHAI will charge under new rules

**Dheeraj Mishra**  
New Delhi, March 29

INITIS push for a more efficient and user-friendly toll collection system for National Highways, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has created a new framework to resolve unpaid user fees.

The move is part of its efforts to build a Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system with no boom barriers, allowing vehicles to pass through the toll gates even at high speeds without stopping. The toll is collected when high-performance Radio Frequency Identification readers and Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras read the FASTag and Vehicle Registration Number.

The new guidelines concern cases where commuters pass toll gates without paying the

user fee, often due to faulty FASTags or a low balance in the vehicle's FASTag.

Under the new National Highway Fee rules, commuters will have to pay double the applicable toll amount if they fail to make the payment in the first instance. However, if it is paid within 72 hours, only the original user fee will apply. The ministry said this will strengthen digital enforcement of toll collection in MLFF systems and ensure efficient realisation of user fees on NHs.

Here is all you need to know about penalties and challenging such notices.

#### Unpaid user fee for NHs

The rules came into effect on March 17. According to the MoRTH notification, unpaid user fee is the toll applicable to a vehicle whose passage has



Faulty FASTags and insufficient balance can lead to non-payment of the user fee. EXPRESS PHOTO

been recorded by the Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) infrastructure, but the fee has not been paid.

In such a case, an electronic notice (e-notice) will be issued with the vehicle details, date and location of occurrence and amount of unpaid user fee pay-

able to the vehicle owner.

The e-notices will be sent through SMS, email, mobile-based applications, or other electronic means as specified by the government.

It will also be made available on a designated online portal. The 72 hours will be

counted from the time of issuance of the e-notice.

They also pave the way for integrating the National Electronic Toll Collection system with the National Vehicle Registry (VAHAN) for enforcement measures and the realisation of unpaid user fees.

#### Challenging e-notice

They mention a grievance redressal mechanism, where a vehicle owner/driver dissatisfied with the e-notice can challenge it. They have to submit a representation through the designated portal within 72 hours of the notice being issued. After that, the tolling agency will examine the application and dispose of the case within five days.

The rules state if the challenge is not disposed of within five days, the claim for the un-

paid user fee shall lapse.

#### Unpaid user fee despite notice

If the user does not pay the unpaid user fee within 15 days of the e-notice or challenge it, then the amount recoverable from the vehicle will be posted on VAHAN. Appropriate restrictions will also be imposed on vehicle-related services until the dues are cleared.

#### Barrier-less tolling

The MoRTH has awarded the tender for 15 toll plazas to implement barrier-less tolling, aimed to reduce congestion at fee plazas, cut travel time, and improve fuel efficiency as well as toll revenue collection. Officials said the Choryasi fee plaza in Gujarat will be the first barrier-free toll plaza in India. FULL REPORT ON [WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 12

PAKISTAN HOSTS TALKS WITH TURKEY, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA TO BROKER END TO WEST ASIA WAR

# Israel will expand its security strip in south Lebanon, says Netanyahu

**Israeli pesticide plant struck by Iranian missile, fire breaks out**

Reuters  
Jerusalem, Islamabad, March 29

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he had instructed the military to further expand the existing security buffer zone in southern Lebanon, vowing to fundamentally change the security situation there.

"I have just instructed to further expand the existing security buffer zone. We are determined to fundamentally change the situation in the north," Netanyahu said in a video statement from the Northern Command.

He said the decision aimed to strengthen Israel's security posture along the northern frontier.

Israeli pesticides maker ADAMA said its Makhteshim plant in southern Israel had been hit either by an Iranian missile or debris from an intercepted missile on Sunday, but no injuries were reported. ADAMA, part of Chinese-owned Syngenta Group, said the extent of any damage to the plant was not immediately known.

Israel's fire and rescue service said a fire broke out in an industrial area in southern Israel that houses several chemical



(From L-R) Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan walk down to their meeting venue in Islamabad on Sunday. AP

manufacturing and industrial plants following an Iranian missile attack, likely debris from a missile that was intercepted.

Meanwhile, Pakistan hosted talks with Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia on Sunday as part of its efforts to broker an end to the Iran war, with initial discussions focused on proposals to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to shipping, sources said.

Foreign ministers from the three regional powers landed in Islamabad for the talks as Iran warned the US against launching a ground attack and global oil prices surged amid continued fighting between Iran, the US and Israel.

The countries meeting in Pakistan have floated proposals to Washington tied to maritime

traffic and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, sources told Reuters, as part of wider efforts to stabilise shipping.

Pakistan, which like Turkey borders Iran, has leveraged its close ties to both Tehran and Washington to emerge as a key diplomatic channel in the conflict, while Ankara and Cairo have also played a role.

A source from Pakistan said proposals, including from Egypt, had been forwarded to the White House by the countries before Sunday's meeting and that they included Suez Canal-style fee structures.

Two other Pakistani sources said Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia could form a consortium to manage oil flows through the waterway.

## 10 Kuwaiti troops injured in Iranian missile attack

Kuwait: Ten Kuwaiti military personnel were injured in an Iranian missile attack on a military camp in the Gulf country, the Kuwaiti army said on Sunday, without giving a location.

During a media briefing, the Ministry's Spokesman Colonel Saud Al-Atwan said that some of these missiles and drones targeted a Kuwaiti armed forces base, leaving 10 personnel injured and causing material damage to the site.

REUTERS

## Israel bars Latin Patriarch from entering Church of the Holy Sepulchre

**World leaders condemn move**

Reuters  
Tel Aviv, March 29

ISRAELI POLICE prevented the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem from marking Palm Sunday at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre "for the first time in centuries," the Patriarchate said, with police citing security concerns linked to the Iran war.

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa and Friar Francesco Ielpo were stopped by police while walking to the church, built on the site where Christians believe Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem said.

"As a result, and for the first time in centuries, the Heads of the Church were prevented from celebrating the Palm Sunday Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre," it said in a statement.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement: "There was no malicious intent whatsoever, only concern for his (Pizzaballa's) safety and that of his party."

He said preparations were in place to allow church leaders to worship at the church in the coming days.

Israeli police said all holy sites in Jerusalem's Old City – including those sacred to Christians, Muslims and Jews – had been closed to worshippers since the start of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, particularly locations without bomb shelters.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week in the Christian calendar, leading to Easter. The Old City would typically be busy, with Roman Catholics passing through the massive wooden doors of the Holy Sepulchre.

Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni criticised the police action and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said on social media that he would summon Israel's ambassador over the incident.

France's President Emmanuel Macron condemned the Israeli police's decision, which he said "adds to the worrying increase in violations of the status of the Holy Places in Jerusalem."

US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee said deriding the Patriarch's entry to the church on Palm Sunday was "difficult to understand or justify."

The Vatican did not respond to a request for comment. On Sunday, Pope Leo said that God rejects the prayers of leaders who start wars and have "hands full of blood", in unusually forceful remarks as the Iran war entered its second month.

# GS 3: INDIAN ECONOMY

## INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 13

• WAR IN WEST ASIA

# For India, LPG supply a bigger worry than LNG

India depends on imports to meet around 60% of its LPG needs, and 90% of those imports came through the Strait of Hormuz chokepoint



SUKALP SHARMA

**THE EFFECTIVE** halt in vessel movements through the Strait of Hormuz due to the West Asia war has severely affected India's energy supplies, particularly liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

India's crude oil supplies have also been hit, but its import dependence is greater for LPG and LNG. LPG is of particular concern. India depends on imports to meet around 60% of the fuel's needs, and 90% of those imports came through the critical maritime chokepoint of the Strait. This means that around 54% of India's LPG supplies are effectively disrupted, forcing the government to heavily cut supplies to commercial and industrial consumers to ensure uninterrupted supplies to crores of households that use the fuel for cooking.

Somestress is also visible in the natural gas segment, where supplies to commercial and industrial consumers has been reduced to some extent to ensure supplies to priority segments like households using piped natural gas (PNG) and vehicles running on compressed natural gas (CNG).

India depends on LNG imports to meet half of its natural gas requirement, and 55-60% of it comes from West Asia through the Strait of Hormuz. This means that the Strait's effective closure has cut off roughly 30% of India's natural gas supplies. Relative to LPG, the situation is much better, which is evident from the fact that the government has been urging LPG consumers to shift to PNG wherever feasible.

While both LPG and LNG are hydrocarbon gases turned into the liquid state, they differ in their chemistry, production processes, transportation, and delivery.

### The chemistry and physics of LPG and LNG

LPG is a gaseous fuel mix primarily comprising propane and butane that is a byproduct of crude oil refining and natural gas processing. It may also contain some propylene

### • USAGE TO IMPACT: HOW LPG DIFFERS FROM LNG

The Strait of Hormuz closure has hit a large chunk of India's energy supply — crude oil, and, to greater degrees, LPG and LNG. Here's what they are used for and how they differ.

#### MEANING

#### LNG, OR LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

LNG is primarily a natural gas — mainly methane. It is cooled to below -160 degrees Celsius and cryogenically turned into a liquid for storage or ease of transportation.

#### LPG, OR LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS

LPG, primarily comprises propane and butane. LPG is a byproduct of the crude oil refining process. Under relatively low temperatures or moderate pressure, LPG becomes a liquid, allowing it to be bottled in cylinders.

LNG is regasified into natural gas and is called:

- PNG, or piped natural gas, when supplied to households
- CNG, or compressed natural gas, when used to power vehicles

#### USE

LPG: Cooking, heating and limited industrial applications

LNG: Regasified into natural gas, it is used in transportation, industrial applications such as power generation and machinery operations, cooking

India is the world's 6th biggest LPG producer and the 3rd biggest LPG consumer

#### TOP LPG PRODUCERS (IN THOUSAND TONNES)

COUNTRY	2023
1. US	104,732
2. China	51,658
3. Saudi Arabia	25,538
4. Russia	17,344
5. Canada	16,556
6. India	12,777

#### TOP LPG CONSUMERS (IN THOUSAND TONNES)

COUNTRY	2023
1. China	81,647
2. US	47,993
3. India	31,317
4. Saudi Arabia	17,560
5. Russia	13,627

SOURCE: STATISTICAL REVIEW OF GLOBAL LPG

#### The dependency is greater for LPG...

- 33 million tonnes India's annual consumption
- 13 million tonnes is the share of domestic production in annual consumption
- 60% India's import dependency
- 90% of these imports came via the now-closed Strait of Hormuz
- 54% the effective hit to total supplies

#### ...than for LNG

- 71 billion cubic metres India's annual consumption
- 35.6 billion cubic metres is the share of domestic production in annual consumption
- 50% India's import dependency
- 60% of these imports came via the now-closed Strait of Hormuz, mainly from Qatar and the UAE
- 30% the effective hit to total supplies

butylene, and isobutylene or isobutene.

Under relatively low temperatures or moderate pressure, the gas mix becomes a liquid. It is mostly used for cooking and heating, with some industrial applications as well; it is also used as an automobile fuel in some parts of the world. LPG's volume is around 1/260th of its gaseous volume.

LNG is primarily natural gas — mainly methane — cooled to below -160 degrees Celsius and cryogenically turned into a liquid. Now, LNG itself doesn't have too many direct uses, except for an upcoming fuel to power heavy vehicles, ships, and trains. The key purpose of liquefaction of natural gas into LNG is to transport it over long distances across seas, where supplying natural gas through pipelines is not feasible.

Unlike LPG, LNG must be stored in

### LPG usage is greater

India has a huge LPG consumer base with 33.3 crore domestic connections

Households with PNG connections are far fewer, at about 1.5 crore

cryogenic tanks and requires trained handling to prevent vapourisation or boil-off. In its liquid state, LNG occupies roughly 1/600th the volume of natural gas in gaseous form, making it viable for transport and storage over long distances. The problem, though, is that this has to be done cryogenically, and is energy intensive.

Essentially, LNG is natural gas that is liquefied for easier storage and transportation, and is mostly converted back to natural gas before being used. Natural gas itself has a number of applications — cooking fuel, transportation fuel, and industrial fuel or feedstock in sectors like refineries, fertilisers, power plants, and petrochemicals.

### Delivery, storage, safety

LNG is transported in specialised cryo-

genic ships and lands at LNG regasification terminals, where it is converted back into natural gas and then transported further, mostly using pipeline networks. The natural gas is sent to the end user usually through pipelines — sold as PNG to households and industries, and as CNG or automobile fuel sold through dispensing stations.

LPG, on the other hand, is bottled into cylinders and transported mainly by road to the end consumer. As it doesn't really depend on pipeline connectivity, LPG becomes highly portable and can be made available in any region, even remote and rural areas that may not have any pipeline connectivity. It is also much easier to store, as it just needs pressurised cylinders.

By contrast, every household that wants to use PNG must have pipeline connectivity at doorstep, and natural gas itself cannot be really stored, unless it is liquefied. This is why LPG is now increasingly being seen as a fuel for rural and remote areas, while PNG is being encouraged in urban areas.

Although PNG requires pipeline infrastructure, once it is established, the fuel scores higher than LPG in terms of convenience for users. The pipeline provides uninterrupted supply and there is no need to store or keep track of the gas stock as in the case of LPG, where cylinders need to be booked and exchanged at regular intervals. PNG supplies are constant and metered, like power supply, and there is no need to make bookings.

PNG is also considered safer than LPG. This is because natural gas is lighter than air, which allows it to disperse quickly in case of a leak. LPG is heavier than air. It sinks and accumulates in the air in case of leak, which makes it much more prone to fires and explosions in such instances.

### Govt's PNG push

The government, over these weeks, has been pushing for the use of PNG. It has mandated that cooking gas LPG supply to households will be discontinued if consumers fail to switch to PNG where such connectivity is available.

Meanwhile, priority sectors continue to receive protected natural gas supplies, including 100% supply to the household PNG and CNG for transport segments, while supplies to industrial and commercial consumers are being regulated at around 80%.

# GS 2: INDIAN POLITY

## INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 13

• POLICY

### Gopinathan's stalled resignation from IAS: What service rules say

Shyamal Yadav  
New Delhi, March 29

KANNAN GOPINATHAN, a 2012-batch IAS officer who resigned from the service in 2019 over the "denial of freedom of expression" to the people of Kashmir, has accused the Union government of stonewalling his resignation for more than six years. This delay, he said on Wednesday, has prevented him from contesting the forthcoming Kerala Assembly elections as a Congress candidate. Government sources say that the final recommendation on Gopinathan's resignation is yet to be sent to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Sources also say there is no precedent for such a delay in acceptance of resignation.

**What are the rules on IAS officers and political activity?**

Gopinathan quit the IAS in August 2019 to protest the restrictions imposed in Jammu & Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370. He joined the Congress in October last year and was reportedly being considered as a candidate for the Puthakkad Assembly seat. But the conduct rules bar serving government servants from being associated with any political outfit, and from taking part in any political activity.

An amendment on November 27, 2014, added a few clauses to The All India Services (Conduct) Rules. Rule 3(1) reads: "Every government employee shall at all times maintain political neutrality and commit himself to and uphold the supremacy of the Constitution and democratic values."

Gopinathan's status as a government officer is in limbo. The latest available Civil List of IAS officers retains his name. On Wednesday, he posted on X that the situation is "pure harassment".



Kannan Gopinathan joined the Congress in October 2025. x

**What is the resignation process for IAS officers?**

Resignations from any of the three All-India Services — the IAS, the Indian Police Service and the Indian Forest Service — are governed by Rules 5(1) and 5(1A) of the All India Services (Deaths, Retirements, Benefits) Rules, 1956. Other central services have similar rules.

- An officer serving in a cadre (state) must submit their resignation to the Chief Secretary of the state.

- Officers on central deputation from a cadre are required to submit their resignation to the secretary of the ministry or department concerned. The ministry or department then forwards the resignation to the state cadre concerned, along with its comments or recommendations. Cases of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territories) officers are routed through the Ministry of Home Affairs. Gopinathan was from the AGMUT cadre.

**Can the resignation be rejected?**

After the resignation is submitted, the state checks if the officer faces any pending dues, cases or inquiries (such as corruption). In such a case, the resignation is normally rejected. The state then provides details on outstanding dues and vigilance status, along with its recommendation, to the Union government. It forwards the resignation to the Union government. In the case of IAS officers, the authority that can consider the resignation is the Minister of the DoPT — in other words, the Prime Minister, who is the Cabinet Minister for the DoPT.

**Can the government sit on IAS resignations?**

There is no time limit for the government to accept a resignation by an IAS officer. However, a DoPT circular issued on February 15, 1966, says it is not in the interest of the government to retain an officer who is unwilling to serve. The general rule, therefore, is that the resignation of an officer should be accepted — except in certain circumstances as mentioned above.

**How many IAS officers have resigned in the past?**

A total of 31 IAS officers have resigned from the service since 2010, shows RTI data received by *The Indian Express* this month from the DoPT. While 11 IAS resigned between 2010 and 2014 (UPA), 20 quit between 2015 and May 2025 (NDA). In 2019, AGMUT cadre officer, Kashish Mittal, had resigned after being transferred from Delhi to Arunachal Pradesh. Mittal was relieved in 2019 itself. In 2018, O P Chowdhary from the Chhattisgarh cadre resigned. He later joined the BJP and now serves as Minister of Finance in the state. Others include Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who quit in 2011 from the Odisha cadre to start his own business and later joined the BJP.