

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition

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YUVIKA PROGRAMME



- YUva VIgyani KAryakram (YUVIKA) is a learning and awareness creating programme of the ISRO.
- It imparts **basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science, and Space Applications** to younger students with a preference to rural areas.
- The programme is aimed at creating **awareness about the emerging trends in science and technology** amongst the youngsters, who are the future building blocks of our nation.
- It is also expected to encourage more students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based research /career.

Eligibility:

- Those who have **finished class 8** and are **currently studying in class 9** can apply for the programme.
- Three students **from each state/Union Territory** will participate in this programme every year, covering CBSE, ICSE, and state-board syllabus.
- The selection is based on **8th Standard academic performance** and extracurricular activities.
- Students belonging to the **rural area have been given special weightage** in the selection criteria.
- In case there is a tie between the selected candidates, the **younger candidates will be given priority.**
- This programme involves:
 - It is a **two-week residential programme** offered by ISRO.
 - It will include invited talks, experience sharing by eminent scientists, facility and lab visits, exclusive sessions for discussions with experts and practical and feedback sessions.

ANTARIKSH VENTURE CAPITAL FUND



- It is a close ended fund registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as a Category II **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)**.
- **Key Investor: Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)**, Department of Space, Government of India.
- The Fund is sponsored by **SIDBI Venture Capital Limited**.
- **The Fund's investment objective:** To provide **much-needed capital** to **companies in the space sector** at various stages of development as well as support the scaling of operations and the commercialization of new technologies, empowering the companies to contribute to India's broader space ambitions.
- It is looking to invest exclusively in Indian companies operating in the **Space sector with Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 4 and above**.

Key Facts about Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre

- It is a **single-window, independent, nodal agency** that functions as an autonomous agency in the Department of Space (DOS).
- It is formed following the Space sector reforms to enable and facilitate the participation of private players.
- **Functions:**
 - It is responsible to promote, enable, authorize and supervise various space activities of **non-governmental entities (NGEs)** including **building launch vehicles & satellites** and providing space-based services; sharing space infrastructure and premises under the control of DOS/ISRO; and establishing of new space infrastructure and facilities.
 - The agency acts as an **interface between ISRO and NGEs** and assesses how to utilize India's space resources better and increase space-based activities.

E20 FUEL



The Central government has implemented a new fuel mandate for petrol pumps to supply E20 fuel with a minimum octane rating of 95 RON.

- It is a blend of **20 per cent ethanol** and **80 per cent petrol**.
- Ethanol is a biofuel derived from crops such as sugarcane, maize, and grains.
- **Advantages:** It offers a **higher-octane rating** and **potentially cleaner combustion**, making it a more advanced alternative.
- While regular petrol in India typically has an octane rating of around 91 to 92 RON, E20 fuel comes with a **minimum rating of 95 RON**.
- This higher octane helps in **smoother combustion**.

What is Ethanol?

- Ethanol, also **known as ethyl alcohol**, is a type of alcohol that is commonly used in various applications.
- **Properties:** It is a **clear, colourless liquid** with a characteristic odour and taste.
- Ethanol has the **chemical formula C₂H₅OH** and is composed of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms.
- Pure ethanol is **nontoxic and biodegradable**, and if spilled, they break down into harmless substances.
- However, fuel ethanol contains denaturants to make fuel ethanol undrinkable.

How is ethanol sourced?

- Ethanol can be produced **from various sources**, but it is often derived from renewable resources such as crops like corn, sugarcane, barley, and wheat.
- It can also be produced from **cellulosic materials like agricultural residues and wood**.

REBATE OF STATE AND CENTRAL TAXES AND LEVIES (ROSCTL) SCHEME



- It is **operational since 2019**.
- It aims to reimburse all embedded State and Central Taxes/Levies for exports of **manufactured goods and garments**.
- It has been established as a successor for the old “**Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) Scheme**.”
 - The difference between RoSL & RoSCTL Scheme is that under the RoSL Scheme, there was **no benefit on the central tax and Levies**. But in the RoSCTL scheme, the exporter will get rebate of both State and Central tax and Levies.
- **Objective:** To compensate for the **State and Central Taxes and Levies** in addition to the Duty Drawback Scheme on export of apparel/ garments and Made-ups by way of rebate.

Features of RoSCTL Scheme:

- The rebate under the Scheme shall be in the **form of duty credit scrips**.
- The **scrips shall be issued electronically** on the Customs system.
- The duty credit scrips shall be **used for payment of Basic Customs Duty** on import of goods. These scrips shall be freely transferable.
- The duty credit available in an e-scrip shall be **transferred at a time for the entire amount in the said e-scrip** to another person and transfer of the duty credit in part shall not be permitted.
- **Validity of e-scrip:** The period of validity of the e-scrip, of one year from its creation, shall not change on account of transfer of the e-scrip.
- **Eligibility:** All exporters of **garments/Apparel and made-ups manufactured in India** are eligible to take benefit under this scheme, except entities/ IECs under the Denied Entity List of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- **Implementing agency:** It is implemented by the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**.

INDIA'S PUSH FOR PIPED NATURAL GAS - REDUCING LPG DEPENDENCE

- The Union Govt is actively promoting piped natural gas as an alternative to LPG, driven by concerns over import dependence and global disruptions.
- India currently has **around 33 crore LPG connections**. Officials estimate that domestic natural gas production could potentially support up to 30 crore connections if households transition to PNG.
- One of the key reasons behind this push is India's heavy reliance on LPG imports.
 - **Nearly three-fifths of LPG demand is met through imports, with about 90% routed through the Strait of Hormuz**, which has been affected by geopolitical tensions.
- India uses multiple forms of gaseous fuels for domestic and industrial purposes.
 - **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)** is a mixture of propane and butane obtained during oil refining and natural gas processing.
 - **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** is natural gas cooled to extremely low temperatures to convert it into liquid form for transport.
 - **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** is natural gas supplied directly to households through pipelines.
 - **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)** is natural gas compressed for use as a vehicular fuel.
- Each of these fuels differs in storage, transport, and usage. LPG is cylinder-based, while PNG is pipeline-based, making it more continuous and convenient.

Transport and Distribution Mechanisms

- The logistics of fuel distribution differ significantly across fuel types.
 - LPG is transported in cylinders after being liquefied and pressurised, and delivered physically to households.
 - LNG is transported through specialised carriers at extremely low temperatures and later regasified.

- PNG is delivered through underground pipelines directly to consumers.
- Pipeline-based delivery reduces handling and storage risks while ensuring an uninterrupted supply.

Why LPG Became Dominant in India?

- India adopted LPG as the primary cooking fuel due to logistical convenience.
- Cylinder-based delivery is easier to implement compared to building an extensive pipeline network.
- This made LPG suitable for rapid expansion, especially under schemes like **PM Ujjwala Yojana**.

Advantages of PNG

- **Energy Security.** Reduces dependence on LPG imports and vulnerable supply routes.
- **Convenience.** Provides an uninterrupted supply without cylinder replacement.
- **Cost Efficiency.** Lower logistics and handling costs in the long run.
- **Environmental Benefits.** Natural gas burns cleaner than LPG and reduces emissions.
- These advantages align with India's broader goals of energy transition and sustainability.

Challenges in PNG Expansion

- High initial investment in pipeline infrastructure.
- Difficulties in land acquisition and approvals.
- Uneven geographical coverage.
- Limited awareness and technical readiness among industrial users.
- Additionally, India's LNG system operates on a "just-in-time" model with limited storage, making it vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Way Forward

- India must adopt a balanced approach for gas-based energy transition.
 - Expand pipeline infrastructure to underserved regions.
 - Increase domestic natural gas production.
 - Strengthen LNG import and storage capacity.
 - Improve regulatory coordination for faster approvals.

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC) - BEYOND UNIFORMITY TO JUSTICE

- The debate on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has resurfaced, this time catalysed by judicial observations rather than executive action, despite **Article 44** placing it within the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
- A recent petition before the Supreme Court sought to strike down the Muslim Shariat (Application) Act, 1937, prompting important reflections on personal laws, gender justice, and constitutional equality.

Challenges in Implementing UCC:

- **One-size-fits-all approach:** Uniformity may ignore community-specific safeguards, especially for women.
- **Risk of regressive outcomes:** Removal of beneficial provisions (e.g., limits on testamentary powers) could harm vulnerable groups.
- **Federal and legal complexities:** Personal laws intersect with Religious freedoms (Article 25), Equality (Article 14), and legislative competence (Centre vs States).
- **Social sensitivities:** Perception of UCC as targeting specific communities may hinder consensus.

Way Forward:

- **Gradual, piecemeal reform:** Instead of a blanket UCC, pursue incremental harmonisation of laws.
- **Focus on substantive justice:** Prioritise gender justice over mere uniformity. Ensure reforms do not dilute existing protections.
- **Adopt Best Practices across laws:** Incorporate progressive elements from all personal laws. For example, testamentary restrictions (from MPL), and gender-equal succession (from Hindu law).
- **Address structural gaps:** Reform land laws to ensure equal rights for women. Remove arbitrary distinctions (e.g., married vs unmarried daughters).

- **Build social consensus:** Engage stakeholders, religious bodies, and civil society to ensure inclusive reform.

Conclusion:

- The UCC debate must move beyond ideological binaries of uniformity versus diversity.
- A truly effective civil code should be **just, inclusive, and gender-sensitive**, rather than merely uniform.
- India's legal evolution has historically involved **cross-pollination** of ideas across traditions—a process that should guide future reforms.
- The goal must not be legal homogeneity, but substantive equality and dignity for all citizens.

A TEXTBOOK, CRITICISM, THE COURT AND CONTEMPT

- There was a recent controversy surrounding a Class VIII textbook published by the NCERT about a chapter '**Corruption in Judiciary**'.
- And the intervention of the Supreme Court of India has revived debate over the limits of criticism of the judiciary and the **scope of contempt powers**.
- The decision to withdraw the book and appoint a review committee underscores the delicate balance between protecting judicial authority and safeguarding **free speech, academic freedom**, and democratic values.

Understanding Contempt of Court

- The power of contempt is a key mechanism to uphold the integrity of the judiciary. It consists of civil contempt and criminal contempt.
- **Civil contempt** addresses disobedience of court orders, while **criminal contempt** involves acts that obstruct justice, prejudice proceedings, or scandalise the court by undermining public confidence.
- The concept of scandalising the court is complex. It is not intended to protect individual judges from criticism or personal offence, but to prevent the spread of false narratives that damage the institution.

Drawing the Line: Responsible Criticism vs. Contempt

- A clear boundary exists between acceptable criticism and actionable contempt. Criticism must be **fact-based**, **non-reckless**, and free from **ill intent**.
- Deliberate attempts to denigrate the institution or spread misinformation may justify legal intervention.
- This distinction is crucial because the judiciary exercises judicial review, a power that ensures accountability, transparency, and good governance.
- Public support for this role depends on trust in the institution. Weakening that trust risks undermining democratic checks and balances.

Challenges Within the Judiciary

- Internal challenges, particularly **judicial corruption**, pose a significant threat to public confidence. Even isolated instances can damage the institution's reputation.
- Existing mechanisms such as impeachment, transfer, and in-house inquiry often prove inadequate or slow.
- Strengthening accountability mechanisms is necessary to address misconduct effectively.
- This would reinforce trust, support honest judges, and enhance the overall administration of justice. A transparent and robust system is essential for sustaining credibility.

Conclusion

- The tension between protecting judicial authority and preserving freedom of expression is inherent in a democracy.
- The judiciary's strength lies not in the frequent use of contempt powers but in its ability to command respect through **integrity**, **fairness**, and **constitutional values**.
- A balanced approach that embraces **constructive criticism** while guarding against harmful attacks can strengthen both the judiciary and democratic discourse.
- By promoting accountability, respecting free speech, and maintaining public trust, the judiciary can continue to serve as a guardian of rights and the **rule of law**.