



C.A Dated On 09-04-2019

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Dowry Rulings:

Why in News?

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that a woman, who fled the of cruelty of her marital home, can file a case of dowry harassment under Section 498 IPC against her husband and in-laws at the place where she is currently sheltered.

Details:

- In a judgment further expanding the jurisdiction of courts to provide relief to victims of dowry harassment, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi relaxed the rigours of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
- Section 177 of the Code mandates that criminal cases can be filed and tried only in courts within whose jurisdiction the crime occurred.
- The judgment comes on a reference made by the Supreme Court in January 2014 on the question "whether a case of cruelty on account of dowry harassment punishable under Section 498A of the IPC can be registered, investigated and punished in a jurisdiction different from the one from which the aggrieved spouse has been forced out on account of such harassment."

Background:

- The appeal was by Rupali Devi whose efforts to file a dowry harassment from her parents' place of residence, where she had fled to, was dismissed by the Allahabad High Court.
- The High Court had taken the view that cruelty punishable under Section 498A of the IPC was not a "continuing offence", nor can it be investigated or punished in a jurisdiction outside the one in which the matrimonial house of the victim is situated.
- With this judgment, the apex court has established that cruelty under Section 498A is a continuing offence, considering the facts and circumstances of each case.



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Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna (PMUY)

The hidden truth of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna (PMUY), being touted in the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) election campaigning as one of the big successes of the incumbent government, is that most rural households with LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections still use *chulhas* with firewood or dung cakes, to the detriment of rural health.

Financial reasons

- A new study from the Research Institute for Compassionate Economics (r.i.c.e) shows that 85% of Ujjwala beneficiaries in rural Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan still use solid fuels for cooking, due to financial reasons as well as gender inequalities.
- The resultant indoor air pollution can lead to infant deaths and harm child development, as well as contribute to heart and lung disease among adults, especially the women, cooking on these *chulhas*.
- The survey, conducted in late 2018, covered a random sample of 1,550 households in 11 districts of the four States, which collectively have two-fifths of the country's rural population.
- The trend is more acute among those who received an LPG connection from the government; almost 53% exclusively used the chulha, while 32% used both.
- Gender inequalities also play a role.
- Surveyors found that almost 70% of households do not spend anything on solid fuels, meaning that the relative cost of an LPG cylinder refill, even if subsidised, is far higher.
- Women are more likely to make dung cakes, and while men are more likely to cut wood, women are often the ones collecting and carrying it.

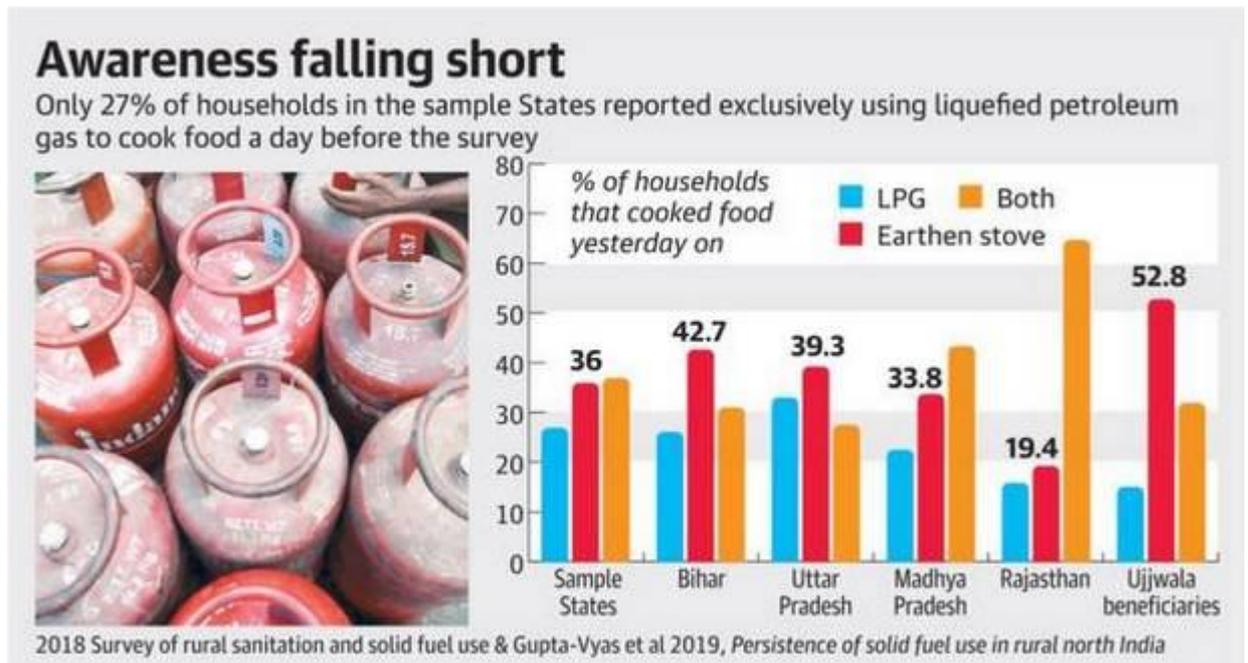
About the Yojana:

- The Ujjwala Yojna, launched in 2016, subsidises LPG connections for rural households by providing a free gas cylinder, regulator and pipe.



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- Central [government](#) data shows that more than six crore households have received a connection through the scheme.
- The r.i.c.e study shows that in the four States surveyed, there has indeed been a substantial increase in LPG ownership due to the scheme, with 76% of households now owning an LPG connection.
- However, more than 98% of these households also own a *chulha*.



VVPAT

Why in News?

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi increased the number of EVM-VVPATs subjected to physical verification in order to "ensure the greatest degree of accuracy, satisfaction in election process."



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Details:

- The Supreme Court on Monday increased voter verified paper audit trial (VVPAT) verification to five random Electronic [Voting](#) Machines (EVMs) in each Assembly segment/constituency.
- In case of general elections, VVPAT slips of five EVMs in each Assembly segment of a Parliamentary Constituency would be subject to physical counting.
- In State Assembly elections, the VVPAT verification would extend to five random EVMs in each Assembly constituency.
- The [Supreme Court](#) order would be implemented in the Lok Sabha polls, scheduled to commence from April 11.

Background:

- Earlier, under the ECI guideline 16.6, only the VVPAT slips from one EVM in every Assembly segment/constituency was subjected to physical verification.
- Now, with five such EVMs under physical scrutiny, the apex court said the election would see "fool-proof."
- The Supreme Court's decision is a far shot from what 21 Opposition parties wanted.

What is VVPAT?:



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Q WHAT IS VVPAT?

A. Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) helps voters to physically confirm the choice they have made. It consists of:

- A printer that gives a record of voters' selection
- A display unit that shows any error

Q HOW IT WORKS?

A. The printed VVPAT slip is displayed for 7 seconds before it is automatically cut and delivered to a sealed ballot compartment

Q WHAT THE VVPAT SLIP CONTAINS?

A.

- A candidate serial number
- Name of the candidate
- Corresponding symbol.

VVPAT paper roll is designed for printing **1,500** ballot slips for each election

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC):

Why in News?

President Donald Trump on Monday announced the United States is designating Iran's elite military force, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), a terrorist organisation.

The new measure would criminalise contact with the Guards and "enable our prosecutors to bring charges to those that bring material support to the IRGC."

About IRGC:

- The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was formed after the 1979 Islamic revolution with a mission to defend the clerical regime.



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- The **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** is a branch of [Iran's Armed Forces](#) founded after [1979 Revolution](#) on 22 April 1979 by order of [Ayatollah Khomeini](#).
- Whereas [the regular military \(or Artesh\)](#) defends [Iran's](#) borders and maintains internal order, according to the Iranian constitution, the Revolutionary Guard (*pasdaran*) is intended to protect the country's [Islamic Republic system](#).
- The Revolutionary Guards state that their role in protecting the Islamic system is preventing foreign interference as well as coups by the military or "deviant movements"

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Groundwater on Mars:

Why in News?

Mars may still have an active groundwater system deep below the surface, and could be feeding surface streams in some areas on the Red Planet, a study has found.

Last year, researchers detected the presence of a deep-water lake on Mars under its south polar ice caps.

Details:

- Researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) in the US determined that groundwater likely exists in a broader geographical area than just the poles of Mars.
- They found that there is an active system, as deep as 750 metres, from which groundwater comes to the surface through cracks in the specific craters they analysed.
- Researchers studied the characteristics of Mars Recurrent Slope Linea, which are akin to dried, short streams of water that appear on some crater walls on Mars.
- Scientists previously thought these features were affiliated with surface water flow or close subsurface water flow, said Essam Heggy, member of



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the Mars Express Sounding radar experiment MARSIS probing Mars subsurface.

- The scientists concluded that fractures within some of Mars' craters, enabled water springs to rise up to the surface as a result of pressure deep below.

The study, published in the journal Nature Geoscience, suggests that groundwater might be deeper than previously thought in areas where such streams are observed on Mars.