

### WHAT IS MATSYA-6000?

India is now set to launch 'Samudrayaan' - involving its first manned submersible called 'Matsya-6000', which will descend 6,000 metres into the Bay of Bengal with a three-man crew.



#### About Matsya-6000:

- It is a manned submersible vehicle developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- It was developed under the Samudrayaan mission to facilitate humans in the deep ocean in exploring mineral resources.
- It would make India only one among six countries (US, Russia, Japan, France, and China) to have piloted a crewed under-sea expedition beyond 5,000 metres.

#### Objectives:

- It will look at chemosynthetic biodiversity in hydrothermal vents and low-temperature methane seeps in the ocean.
- It will also promote tourism and ocean literacy.

#### Features:

- It is designed with the capability of operating in the deep sea for 12 hours, while in case of emergency, it can also operate up to 96 hours with all the necessary measures for human safety.
- Made of 80mm-thick titanium alloy, it will be able to withstand a pressure 600 times greater than that at sea level.
- It relies only on gravity, water, and lithium-ion batteries for power.
- It will also feature the ultra-short baseline acoustic positioning system (USBL). This will allow the mothership carrying the transponder to send information and the submersible to respond, which will then let the mothership know where the submersible is.

- This is a **flotation device that will rise to the top of the ocean** — thus helping to find the submersible even in case it cannot resurface.

### **Key Facts about Samudrayaan Mission:**

- It is **India's first manned mission to explore the deep ocean.**
- It is **designed to study the deep ocean resources and conduct biodiversity assessments as well.**
- The mission **will not disturb the ecosystem as the submersible is used solely for exploration purposes.**
- The project is **part of the larger Deep Ocean Mission, which supports the Central Government's Blue Economy policy.**
- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is the nodal ministry to implement this multi-institutional ambitious mission.**

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### **WHAT IS KISAN RIN PORTAL?**

**The Finance Minister and Agriculture Minister will inaugurate the 'Kisan Rin Portal' on September 19.**



#### **About Kisan Rin Portal:**

- The portal **helps farmers avail of subsidised loans under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC).**
- It was **developed in collaboration with multiple government departments.**
- It offers a **comprehensive view of farmer data, loan disbursement specifics, interest subvention claims, and scheme utilisation progress.**
- It **fosters seamless integration with banks** for more focused and efficient agriculture credit.

### **Key Facts about the Kisan Credit Card (KCC):**

- The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) **scheme was introduced in 1998 to issue KCC to farmers on the basis of their holdings** for uniform adoption by the banks so that farmers may use them to



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readily purchase agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc and draw cash for their production needs.

- It was developed by NABARD (the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development),
- The scheme was further extended for the investment credit requirement of farmers, allied and non-farm activities, in the year 2004.
- The scheme was further revisited in 2012 with a view to simplify the scheme and facilitate the issue of Electronic Kisan Credit Cards.

**Applicability:** It is to be implemented by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives.

**Objective:** Aims at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with a flexible and simplified procedure to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs as indicated below:

- To meet the short-term credit requirements for the cultivation of crops;
- Post-harvest expenses;
- Produce marketing loan;
- Consumption requirements of farmer household;
- Working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture;
- Investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities.

**Eligibility:**

- Farmers - individual/joint borrowers who are owner cultivators;
- Tenant farmers, oral lessees & share croppers;
- Self Help Groups (SHGs) or Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) of farmers, including tenant farmers, share croppers etc.;
- Banks will not seek security on loans up to Rs. 1.60 lakh.
- The validity of KCC is for 5 years.

## WHAT IS THE SERIOUS FRAUD INVESTIGATION OFFICE SFIO?



The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) recently arrested a chartered accountant in Hyderabad in connection with his role during the demonetisation period.

### About the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO):

- It is a corporate fraud investigating agency set up by the Government of India.
- It is a multi-disciplinary organisation under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- It consists of experts in the fields of accountancy, forensic auditing, law, information technology, investigation, company law, capital market and taxation.
- **Objective:** For detecting and prosecuting or recommending for prosecution white-collar crimes and frauds.

**History:** It was set up in 2003 on the basis of recommendations of the Naresh Chandra Committee on corporate governance in the backdrop of stock market scams, the failure of non-financial banking companies and the phenomena of vanishing companies and plantation companies.

- **Investigation into the affairs of a company is assigned to SFIO**, where the Government is of the opinion that it is necessary to investigate the affairs of a company-
  - **On receipt of a report of the Registrar or inspector under section 208 of the Companies Act, 2013**
  - **On intimation of a special resolution passed by a company** that its affairs are required to be investigated
  - **In the public interest or on request from any department of the Central Government or a State Government**

### Organisational Structure:

- SFIO is headed by a Director as Head of Department in the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

- The Director is **assisted by Additional Directors, Joint Directors, Deputy Directors, Senior Assistant Directors, Assistant Directors Prosecutors, and other secretarial staff.**

**Headquarters:** The headquarters of SFIO is in New Delhi, with five Regional Offices in Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata.

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## BIMA SUGAM PLATFORM

Recently, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a steering committee, which will act as the apex decision-making body for the creation of its ambitious Bima Sugam platform.



### **About the Bima Sugam platform:**

- It will enable individuals to buy **life, health, motor or property insurance policies** online.
  - The platform will enable **easy access under a single roof** for insurance companies, agents, brokers, banks and even aggregators.
  - The platform will act as a **centralised database** which will assist consumers with all insurance-related
  - It will also pave the way for a speedy acceptance of new or sandbox products.
  - Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas (CAM) has been appointed **as the legal counsel** for the project.
  - The responsibilities of CAM will include incorporation of **Section 8 not-for-profit company**, which will be the **company owning the Bima Sugam platform.**
  - The platform will support all **personal and commercial/business insurance requirements** and support in identifying and comparing optimal products to meet user requirements within stipulated timelines.
  - The entire spectrum of insurance offerings through the platform **will include life insurance and all its variants** — term plans, savings (Par and Non-Par), annuities, pension plans, etc.
  - The platform will have to demonstrate an end-to-end digital onboarding journey for all insurance products without any manual interventions.
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## DRAFT TELECOMMUNICATION BILL, 2022

### Why in News?

- Due to objections from multiple Ministries of the Union government, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has decided to drop certain provisions from the **Draft Telecommunication Bill, 2022**.

### Draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022:

- At present, the Indian Telecommunications sector is governed by three separate Acts of Parliament –
  - **Indian Telegraph Act 1885,**
  - **Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act 1933,**
  - **Telegraph Wires, (Unlawful Protection) Act 1950**
- The draft **Telecommunications Bill, 2022** aims to consolidate these three separate Acts.

### News Summary:

- Due to objections from multiple Ministries of the Union government, the DoT has decided to drop certain provisions from the Draft Telecommunication Bill, 2022.
- These provisions are related to insolvency of telecom operators and defaults in payment of license fee.
- The **Ministries had said DoT cannot make laws on subjects which do not fall solely in its domain and have revenue implications for the government.**

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## WHAT IS 'OPERATION SAJAG'?

The Indian Coast Guard recently conducted 'Operation Sajag,' a Coastal Security Drill along the Western Coast.



### About Operation Sajag:

- It is a coastal security drill conducted by the Indian Coast Guard along the west coast.
- It involved all stakeholders of the Indian coastal security construct.

- A total of 118 ships, including those from Customs, Marine Police, Ports, and the Indian Navy, participated in the drill.
- The drill facilitates revalidation of the coastal security mechanism and brings awareness among the fishermen at sea.
- During the drill, extensive checking and verification of documents and crew passes of all fishing boats, barges and craft at sea was undertaken.
- Biometric card readers have also been issued to security agencies.
- Besides monitoring of dhows, island security and community interaction programmes have been institutionalised under the coastal security construct.

### Key Facts about the Indian Coast Guard:

- It is an armed force that protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law, with jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India, including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone.

**History:** it was formally established in 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 as an independent armed force of India.

- **Parent ministry:** It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- **Administration:** The organisation is headed by the Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG).
- **HQ:** New Delhi

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## [WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL: HISTORY AND POLITICS BEHIND A LAW STUCK FOR 27 YEARS](#)

### Why in News?

- As per the media sources, the Union Cabinet cleared the women's reservation Bill, which seeks to provide a 33% quota to women in Parliament and state legislatures.
- The Bill, stuck for 27 years, is likely to be tabled in the ongoing special session of the Parliament in the coming days.

## Need for the Women Reservation in the Legislatures:

- The move comes when the number of **women candidates contesting Lok Sabha elections has slowly and steadily increased** from just 45 in the 2nd Lok Sabha elections of 1957 to 726 in 2019.
- **Women's turnout has also been steadily increasing.**
  - 62% of the male voters and 46.6% of the women electors turned out to vote in 1962.
  - **Women had left men behind**, at 67.2% voting compared to 67%, by the time of the 2019 polls.
- Correspondingly, the number of women candidates in the Parliament has also risen. **However, their share in the Lok Sabha ranks remains low.**
  - In the 1st Lok Sabha, there were **22** women MPs (4.41% of the total 489).
  - The figure of **78** elected in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections is the highest ever, but it is still only **14.36% of the total**.
  - That makes it less than half of the 33% seats envisioned to be kept aside for women by the Women's Reservation Bill.

## Pros and Cons of the Women's Reservation Bill:

- **Pros:**
  - Affirmative action will lead to the **empowerment** of women. **For example**, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (includes provision of reservation at panchayat level for women) led to gender sensitive decisions, increased responsiveness, etc.
  - **Decriminalisation of politics**, as there will be fewer criminal charges against women legislators.
- **Cons:**
  - Distracts attention away from major electoral reforms such as intra-party democracy, etc.
  - Limits voters' choice.
  - Rotation of reserved constituencies may limit an MP's incentive to work.

## News Summary Regarding the Women's Reservation Bill:





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- Since the government announced the special session just over a month after the Monsoon Session concluded, without identifying its agenda, the buzz over the Women's Bill has been intense.
  - The Bill will be brought in the ongoing session **but there are many ifs and buts**, so the implementation is unlikely before the next (2029) Lok Sabha election.
  - Most probably, it will take place only after the delimitation (which is expected to be held in 2026) but the process will begin soon.
  - While most parties (in the INDIA bloc) are in favour of women's reservation, some (SP and RJD) want "**quota within the quota**", or caste and community-based quotas within the 33% quota.
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