



Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme

For Prelims: Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme, MUDRA.

For Mains: Significance of SVEP in Rural Development, SHGs, Government Policies and Interventions..

Why in News?

Recently, the National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the [Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme \(SVEP\)](#).

What is the Significance of the Partnership?

- **Rural entrepreneurs will be able to access banking systems for receiving financial support** for starting their enterprises, including support from [MUDRA](#) bank.
- Integrated ICT techniques and tools will also be provided for training and capacity building along with enterprise advisory services **to augment the entrepreneurship ecosystem in India's villages.**
- The beneficiaries of the project **are from the [Self-Help Group \(SHG\)](#) ecosystem of DAY-NRLM** and the scheme **not only supports existing enterprises but new enterprises as well.**
- The partnership will **enable the rural community** by helping them set up their trades and provide complete support till they are stabilised.
- This pragmatic intervention will provide knowledge, advisory and financial support to the public and **will help create village-level community cadre.**

What are the Key Points Related to SVEP?

- **About:**
 - SVEP is a sub-scheme of the [Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission \(DAY-NRLM\)](#), Ministry of Rural Development and has been implemented since 2016.
- **Aim:**
 - Support the rural poor to come out of poverty.
 - Providing self-employment opportunities with financial assistance and training in business management and soft skills.
 - Create local community cadres for promotion of enterprises.
- **Features:**
 - It **addresses three major pillars of rural start-ups** namely finances, incubation and skill ecosystems.
 - It **promotes both individual and group enterprises**, majorly in manufacturing, trading and service sectors.
 - It **invests on building the capacities of the entrepreneurs** to run the businesses profitably based on the local demand and ecosystem.
 - Investments are also made on the **use of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** to create standard E-learning modules for minimizing the transmission

loss in technical aspects like a business plan and profit and loss account preparations.

- **Activities:** Activities under SVEP are strategically designed to promote rural enterprises with a few key areas.
 - One of the key areas is **to develop a pool of Community Resource Persons-Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EP)** who are local and support entrepreneurs setting-up rural enterprises.
 - Another key area is **to promote the Block Resource Center (BRC)** in SVEP blocks, to monitor and manage the community resource persons, appraise SVEP loan applications and act as the repository of enterprise-related information in the concerned block.
 - BRCs **play the role to support a sustainable revenue model** to operate effectively and independently.
 - **SVEP established local markets/rural haat** which motivated entrepreneurs to take up demand-based production, advertise their enterprise and increase earning opportunities.
 - A typical rural haat is mostly indigenous, flexible and multi-layered structure which accommodates the economic activities of various nature.
 - Local market/haat/bazaar serves as an important economic platform where a range of products is traded.
- **Achievements:**
 - A **mid-term review of SVEP which was conducted in September 2019 by Quality Council of India** shows about 82% of the sampled entrepreneurs across the blocks reported being from SC, ST and OBC categories which signifies social inclusion - one of the pillars of NRLM.
 - 75% of the enterprises were owned and managed by women and average monthly revenue of enterprises was Rs.39,000 - Rs.47,800 in case of manufacturing, Rs. 41,700 in case of services and Rs.36,000 in case of trading.
 - The study also shows that about 57% of the total household income of the entrepreneurs is through SVEP enterprises.

PYQ

How does the National Rural Livelihood Mission seek to improve livelihood options of rural poor? (2012)

1. By setting up a large number of new manufacturing industries and agribusiness centres in rural areas
2. By strengthening 'self-help groups' and providing skill development
3. By supplying seeds, fertilizers, diesel pump-sets and micro-irrigation equipment free of cost to farmers

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Source: PIB

Supercomputer PARAM Ganga: NSM

For Prelims: Param Pravega, Supercomputer, National Supercomputing Mission, National Knowledge Network (NKN).

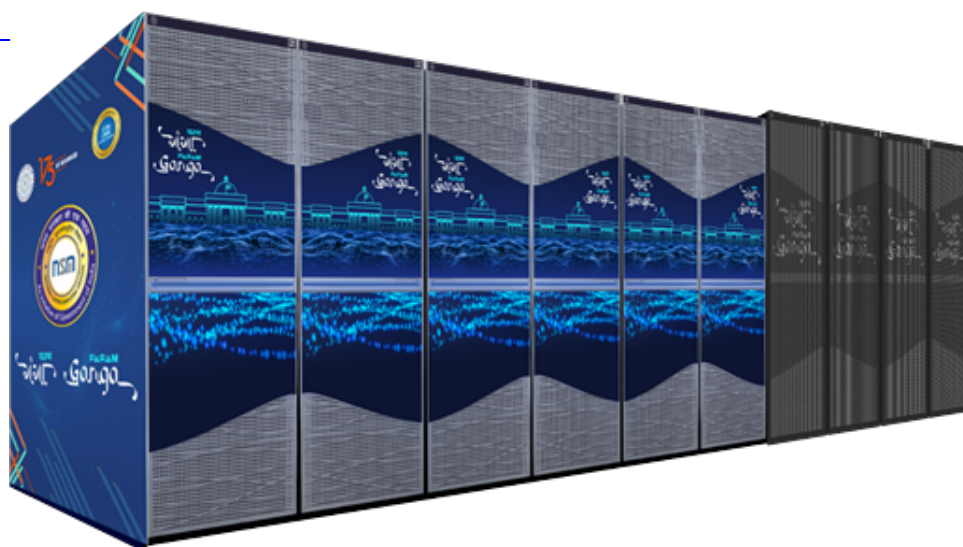
For Mains: National Supercomputing Mission, IT and Computers, Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology.

Why in News?

The [National Supercomputing Mission \(NSM\)](#) has deployed **PARAM Ganga-a High-Performance Computational (HPC) facility at IIT Roorkee**, with a supercomputing capacity of **1.66 Petaflops**.

- Earlier, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru installed the [supercomputer 'Param Pravega'](#).

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What are the Key Points?

- It has been established by the [Centre for Development of Advanced Computing \(C-DAC\)](#) under the approach of **NSM**.
- The basic idea behind building a Petascale Supercomputer with manufactured in India components is **to lead the path towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat and accelerate the problem-solving capacity** in multidisciplinary domains simultaneously.
 - It will aid researchers to solve complex problems of national importance and global significance.
- It will serve as an essential computer environment for the modern-day research along with their theoretical and experimental work.
- The focus is **to provide computational power to the user community of IIT Roorkee and neighbouring academic institutions**.

What is a Supercomputer?

- A supercomputer is a computer **that performs at or near the currently highest operational rate** for computers.
- Generally, PETAFLOP is a measure of a Supercomputer's processing speed and can be expressed as a thousand trillion floating point operations per second.
 - FLOPS (floating point operations per second) are typically used to measure the performance of a computer's processor.
 - Using floating-point encoding, extremely long numbers can be handled relatively easily.

- Supercomputers are **primarily designed to be used in enterprises and organizations** that require massive computing power.
 - For example: weather forecasting, scientific research, intelligence gathering and analysis, data mining etc.
- Globally, **China has the maximum number of supercomputers** and maintains the top position in the world, followed by the US, Japan, France, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland and the United Kingdom.
- India's **first supercomputer was PARAM 8000**.
- **PARAM Shivay, the first supercomputer assembled indigenously**, was installed in IIT (BHU), followed by **PARAM Shakti, PARAM Brahma, PARAM Yukti, PARAM Sanganak** at IIT-Kharagpur, IISER, Pune, JNCASR, Bengaluru and IIT Kanpur respectively.
- In 2020, **PARAM Siddhi**, the High-Performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer, achieved global ranking of 62nd in Top 500 most powerful supercomputer systems in the world.

What is the National Supercomputing Mission?

- In 2015, the National Supercomputing Mission was launched **to enhance the research capacities and capabilities in the country** by connecting them to form a Supercomputing grid, with **National Knowledge Network (NKN)** as the backbone.
 - The NKN project is aimed **at establishing a strong and robust Indian network which will be capable of providing secure** and reliable connectivity.
- The Mission **plans to build and deploy 24 facilities with cumulative compute power of more than 64 Petaflops**.
 - Till now C-DAC has deployed 11 systems at IISc, IITs, IISER Pune, JNCASR, NABI-Mohali and C-DAC under NSM Phase-1 and Phase-2 with a cumulative compute power of more than 20 Petaflops.
- It supports the government's vision of **'Digital India' and 'Make in India' initiatives**.
- The Mission is being jointly steered by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
 - It is implemented by the Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, and the IISc, Bengaluru.
- The mission was planned in three phases:
 - **Phase I** looking at assembling supercomputers,
 - **Phase II** looking at manufacturing certain components within the country.
 - **Phase III** where a supercomputer is designed by India.
- **An indigenously developed server platform called 'Rudra'** is being tried out in a pilot system, **with an interconnect for inter node communication called Trinetra** also having been developed.

[Source: PIB](#)

Indians to Trade in Select US Stocks

For Prelims: NSE International Exchange (NSE IFSC), International Financial Services Authority (IFSCA), National Stock Exchange, GIFT City, Liberalized Remittance Scheme, Reserve Bank of India.

For Mains: National Stock Exchange and its benefits, Mobilization of Resources, Important Institutions, Capital Market.

Why in News?

Recently, investors in India have been **allowed to trade in select US stocks** through the **NSE International Exchange (NSE IFSC)**.

- Currently, **Indian investors buy US stocks through designated online brokers** who have permission from Indian and US regulators to offer such services.

What does this Mean?

- This means **domestic investors can purchase US stocks** like Amazon, Alphabet, Tesla, etc.
 - A stock (also known as equity) is a security that represents the ownership of a fraction of a corporation.
- However, the offering will be **in the form of unsponsored depository receipts**.
 - For example, **one share of Tesla will be equivalent to 100 NSE IFSC receipts**.
- The [International Financial Services Authority \(IFSCA\)](#) has already given the approval for the plan.

PYQ

In the context of Indian news in recent times, what is MCX-SX? (2009)

- (a) A kind of supercomputer
- (b) Title of Moon Impact Probe
- (c) Stock exchange
- (d) Nuclear-powered submarine

Ans: (c)

What is this Exchange?

- NSE IFSC (NSE International Exchange) incorporated on **29th November 2016**, is a **fully-owned subsidiary of [National Stock Exchange of India Limited \(NSE\)](#)**.
- Stock exchanges operating in the [Gujarat International Finance Tech City \(GIFT\) city](#) are permitted to offer trading in securities in any currency other than the Indian rupee.
- Accordingly, **NSE IFSC** which launched trading on **5th June 2017**, offers USD denominated trading in various products.
- **NSE IFSC offers** trading in various products including index derivatives, stock derivatives, currency derivatives, commodity derivatives and debt securities.

PYQ

Consider the following statements: (2010)

In India, taxes on transactions in Stock Exchanges and Futures Markets are

1. levied by the Union
2. collected by the States

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (a)

What is an NSE IFSC Receipt?

- It is a negotiable financial instrument in the nature of an unsponsored '**depository receipt**', which means it is a derivative product and investors can directly trade in the stocks without having to do so through registered online brokers.
- Just like shares are purchased domestically, **shares can be bought in the US** and issue receipts against them, which will be known as **NSE IFSC Receipts**.

What is the Advantage?

- The business model offered by NSE IFSC will **not only provide an additional investment opportunity** to the Indian investors but also **make the entire process of investment easy and keep it at a low cost**.
- When compared to the **underlying shares traded in US marketplaces**, investors will be able to **trade in fractional quantity value**.
- Investors will be **able to hold the depository receipts in their own GIFT City demat accounts** and will be eligible for corporate action benefits on the underlying stock.
 - A Demat Account or Dematerialised Account provides the facility of holding shares and securities in an electronic format.
 - **Corporate actions** are benefits given by a company to its investors. These may be either monetary benefits like dividend, interest or non-monetary benefits like bonus, rights, etc.

Who can invest?

- **Person resident outside India, [Non-resident Indians](#) and Individual resident in India** who is eligible under **FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act)** to invest funds offshore, to the extent allowed in the **[Liberalized Remittance Scheme of Reserve Bank of India](#)**.
 - The main objective for which FEMA was introduced in India was to **facilitate external trade and payments**
 - Under the LRS framework, the **RBI permits the resident individuals** to remit up to **USD2,50,000 per financial year** for any permitted current or capital account transaction.
- However, **US and Canadian residents are not allowed** to invest through this instrument.

What are the Potential Risks for an Investor?

- Investing in NSE IFSC Receipts carries risks. Some of the significant risks are as follows:
 - General price and volatility risk, Risk of illiquidity, Underlying Share risk, Risk of Cancellation and Termination of the NSE IFSC Receipt, Tax risks, Other risks such as **[force majeure](#)**, changes in law, settlement, trading, etc.

PYQ

With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. Retail investors through demat account can invest in 'Treasury Bills' and 'Government of India Debt Bonds' in primary market.
2. The 'Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching' is a government securities trading platform of the Reserve Bank of India.
3. The 'Central Depository Services Ltd.' is jointly promoted by the Reserve Bank of India and the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only

- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Ans: (b)

[Source: IE](#)

Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav

Why in News?

Recently, the government launched a nation-wide campaign called **Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav** on the eve of the [International Women's Day \(8th March\)](#).

- The aim of the campaign is **to bring back four lakh out-of-school adolescent girls in the 11-14 years age group** into the education system.

What are the Key Points of the Campaign?

- **Aim:** The project **aims to work on a complete system for out-of-school girls** by building on existing schemes and programmes such as [Schemes for Adolescent Girls \(SAG\)](#), [BetiBachaoBetiPadhao \(BBBP\)](#), and [National Education Policy \(NEP\)](#).
- **Implementing Agency:** The campaign is being steered by the **Ministry of Women And Child Development** in partnership with the **Ministry of Education**.
- **Implementation:** The campaign focuses on **convergence and coordination** between ministries, departments and states.
 - The campaign **will be implemented as part of the BBBP project**, with the primary beneficiaries being over 4,00,000 out-of-school adolescent girls.
 - **Over 400 districts across all states will be funded under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme** for grassroots level outreach and awareness generation to sensitise communities and families to enrol adolescent girls in schools.
 - Further, **funding from [Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan](#), and [Anganwadi workers \(AWWs\)](#)** will be further incentivised for counseling and referring out of school adolescent girls.
- **Data to be Collected:** It strives to collect data on out-of-school girls, **based on their visits to anganwadi centres for nutrition, nutrition education and skilling**.
- **Significance:** Bringing out-of-school girls back to the education system has been the target since the [Right to Education Act](#) was enacted (2009).
- **Need:** The need has arisen because the Scheme For Adolescent Girls (SAG), which initially took care of out-of-school girls, was getting less traction.

[Source: TOI](#)

Swatantra Sainik Samman Yojana

Why in News?

The Centre has approved the continuation of the **Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)**, under which freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given pension and other financial benefits, till 2025-26.

What are the Key Points?

▪ Background:

- The Government of India introduced the 'Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners Pension Scheme' in 1969 to honor the freedom fighters who had been incarcerated in the Cellular Jail at Port Blair.
- In 1972, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Independence, **a regular scheme for grant of freedom fighters' pension was introduced.**
- Since 1980, a liberalized scheme, namely the '**Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980**' has been implemented.
- From the financial year 2017-18 onwards, the nomenclature of the Scheme has been changed as '**Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana**'.
- The amount of pension has been revised from time to time and Dearness Relief is also given since 2016.

▪ About the Scheme:

- The scheme provides for **a monthly Samman Pension to freedom fighters**, as a token of respect for their contribution in the national freedom struggle.
- On their demise, **pension is provided to their eligible dependents viz. spouses and thereafter, unmarried and unemployed daughters** and dependent parents, as per prescribed eligibility norms and procedure.
- It is implemented by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (Freedom Fighters Division).**
- There are 23,566 beneficiaries across the country covered under this scheme.

Source: PIB

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