



## Accelerate Vigyan Scheme: SERB

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### Why in News

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Recently, **the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, has launched a scheme called **Accelerate Vigyan (AV)** to strengthen **scientific research** mechanisms in the country.

### Key Points

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- **Objective:** To give more thrust on encouraging **high-end scientific research** and **preparing scientific manpower**, which can lead to careers in research and knowledge-based economy.
- **Vision:** To expand the research base, with **three broad goals** i.e. **consolidation/aggregation of all scientific programs, initiating high-end orientation workshops, and creating opportunities for research internships.**

- **Components:**
  - **ABHYAAS Programme:** Under it, AV is inviting applications for the winter season (December 2020-January 2021).
    - It is an attempt to **boost research and development** in the country by **enabling and grooming potential PG/PhD students** by means of developing their research skills in selected areas across different disciplines or fields.
    - It has two components: High-End Workshops i.e. **KARYASHALA** and Research Internships i.e. **VRITIKA**.
    - This is especially important for those researchers who have limited opportunities, access to facilities and infrastructure.
  - **SAMMOHAN:** It has been sub-divided into SAYONJIKA and SANGOSHTI.
    - **SAYONJIKA** is an **open-ended program** to catalogue the capacity building activities in **science and technology** supported by all government funding agencies in the country.
    - **SANGOSHTI** is a pre-existing program of SERB for the organisation of workshops.
- **Execution:** An **Inter-Ministerial Overseeing Committee (IMOC)** involving all the scientific ministries/departments has been constituted for the purpose of supporting SERB in implementing the AV scheme.
- **Significance:**
  - **Capacity Building:** The database of skilled manpower developed across different disciplines through all the sub-components of the AV would help in capacity building.
  - **Social Responsibility:** The scheme also seeks to garner the social responsibility of the scientific community in the country.

## Science and Engineering Research Board

- It is a **statutory body** under the **Department of Science and Technology**, Ministry of Science and Technology established by an Act of the Parliament of India in 2009.
- It is chaired by the **Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Science and Technology** and has other senior government officials and eminent scientists as members.
- It was set up for **promoting basic research in science and engineering** and to provide **financial assistance** to scientists, academic institutions, Research and Development laboratories, industrial concerns and other agencies for such research.

## Way Forward

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- The AV will work on mission mode, particularly with respect to its component dealing with consolidation/aggregation of all major **scientific events** in the country.
- It will also **initiate mechanisms of mentoring, training and hands-on workshops** on a national scale.
- In a nutshell, the AV platform is expected to be a game changer for developing career paths and providing support to **skilled manpower** in the country.

**Source: PIB**