STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

What is Specialized Investment Fund (SIF) Distributor Exam?

Indian Economy

25 Dec 2016

What is Specialized Investment Fund (SIF) Distributor Exam?

The SIF distributor exam is a certification requirement for mutual fund distributors who want to sell Specialized Investment Funds (SIFs)—a new SEBI-approved product category positioned between mutual funds and PMS (Portfolio Management Services).

BECOME IAS
AI-Powered UPSC Preparation by ZINKPOT

Who conducts the exam?

The exam is conducted by NISM (National Institute of Securities Markets), Recognised by SEBI, in consultation with AMFI.

Why this exam is required?

- SIFs involve more complex strategies and higher risk than regular mutual funds
- SEBI wants only qualified and knowledgeable distributors to sell these products
- Ensures investor protection and suitability

Syllabus (current structure)

The exam largely overlaps with NISM Series XIII (Derivatives) and includes:

- Equity derivatives
- Interest rate derivatives
- Currency derivatives
- Risk management & pricing concepts
- Regulatory framework

This is why the exam is considered tough and technical.

Why it is in the news?

Only ~1,000 distributors have cleared it, compared to ~1.8 lakh regular MF distributors

SEBI & AMFI are considering:

- Simplifying the syllabus
- Removing irrelevant sections (like currency derivatives)
- Introducing tiered exams based on product complexity

Who needs to pass it?

Existing AMFI-registered mutual fund distributors

IFAs who want to distribute SIF products

AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India)

AMFI is the industry body of mutual funds in India, set up to promote, regulate, and develop the mutual fund industry in coordination with SEBI.

BECOME IAS
AI-Powered UPSC Preparation by ZINKPOT