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Why in News

The **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** has selected **21 scientists** for the **Swarna Jayanti fellowship**.

Key Points

- The Swarna Jayanti Fellowships scheme was **instituted by the Government of India to commemorate India's fiftieth year of Independence.**
- It provides **special assistance and support to a selected number of young scientists** with a proven track record to enable them to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology.
- The award consists of a **Fellowship of Rs. 25000 per month** in addition to the salary drawn from the parent Institute along with a **Research Grant of Rs. 5 lakh per annum** by Department of Science and Technology (DST) for a **period of 5 years.**
 - In addition to fellowship, grants for equipment, computational facilities, consumables, contingencies, national and international travel, and other special requirements, if any, is covered based on merit.
 - The **fellowships are scientist specific and not institution-specific,** very selective, and have close academic monitoring.
- Scientists selected for the award are allowed to pursue unfettered research with a freedom and flexibility in terms of expenditure as approved in the research plan. The project should contain innovative research ideas and it should have a potential of making impact on R&D in the discipline.
- The project submitted by the selected Fellows are considered for funding by the <u>Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB)</u> as per SERB norms. SERB is a **statutory body under the Department of Science and**

Technology, established by an Act of the Parliament of India in 2009.

Source: PIB