# Swatantrata 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 25$^{th}$ 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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