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## Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS)** has allowed Defence veterans with lifestyle diseases on long treatment to purchase the required medicines for the month of April at once to contain the spread of **COVID-19**.

### Key Points

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- ECHS is a flagship Scheme of the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, **Ministry of Defence**. It was launched with effect from April 2003.
- **Aim:** To provide quality **healthcare for Ex-servicemen (Army, Navy and Air Force) pensioners and their dependents**.  
Under the scheme **allopathic and AYUSH** medicare is provided through a network of ECHS Polyclinics, AYUSH hospitals spread across the country.
- **Services Provided:** ECHS Polyclinics are designed to provide '**OutPatient Care**' which includes consultation, essential investigation and provision of medicines.  
Specialized consultations, investigations and 'In Patient Care' (Hospitalization) is provided through spare capacity available in Service hospitals/Government Hospitals/civil hospitals empanelled with ECHS.
- **Funding:** The Scheme is financed by the Government of India.
- **Headquarter:** The **Central Organisation ECHS** is located at **Delhi** in the Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army).

**Source: TH**