



System for Pension Administration Raksha

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Defense has urged the stakeholders of System for Pension Administration Raksha (SPARSH) to make it **more user friendly**.

- **One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme** also provides the payment of the same pension to military officers for the same rank for the same length of service, irrespective of the date of retirement.

What is SPARSH?

- **About:**
 - It is an **integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement** of defence pension.
 - This web-based system **processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts** of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.
 - A Pensioner Portal is available for pensioners to view their pension related information, access services and register complaints, if any.
- **Objectives:**
 - SPARSH envisages **the establishment of Service Centres to provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners** who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal.
 - SPARSH has been designed **keeping defence pensioners at the centre, who will be given a completely transparent view of their pension account**, through an online portal.
 - It aims address the **current challenges in the pension sanctioning and disbursement process** such as
 - Decentralised solution existing in silos
 - Manual intervention in processing
 - Lack of Centralised information for addressing pensioner queries etc.
- **Benefits:**
 - It provides the **option to the pensioner to use enabled services for quicker processing of his requests** and signing of declarations, making his experience a truly paperless and hassle free one.
 - It captures and maintains a complete history of events and entitlements of the pensioner - **right from the date of commencement of pension to the date of cessation of pension due to the last eligible beneficiary.**

Source: PIB