



HC Grants Pension to 1965 War Widow After 58 Years

Why in News?

In a landmark decision, the **Punjab and Haryana High Court** has granted [pension](#) benefits to Anguri Devi, an 87-year-old widow of a soldier who died in the [Indo-Pak war 1965](#).

- This ruling marks the end of a **58-year** struggle for justice and financial support.

Key Points

- Anguri Devi's husband, Nater Pal Singh, served in the **Rajput Regiment** and was killed in a mine blast on the western front during the **1965 war**.
 - She received a special family pension from the Army after her husband's death.
- In 1972, the **government introduced the "Liberalised Family Pension" policy** with retrospective effect for operations from 1947 onwards, granting higher pensions.
 - The policy included financial effect and arrears starting 1st February, 1972.
- Despite her husband dying in 1965, the authorities did not apply the policy to Anguri Devi.
- A new policy was introduced on 31st **January, 2001**, with financial effect from **1st January, 1996**.
- The policy included the "**Liberalised Family Pension**" but applied only to **deaths/disabilities** after 1st **January, 1996**.
- The Supreme Court later struck down the **cut-off date of 1996**.
 - However, Anguri Devi's claim was initially **denied due to cut-off dates** that excluded her case.
- Despite a **Supreme Court ruling** that struck down these cut-off dates, her claim remained unresolved.
- After years of legal battles, the [Armed Forces Tribunal \(AFT\)](#) provided partial relief, limiting her arrears to three years before her filing date.
 - However, the Punjab and Haryana High Court overturned this decision, ruling that **she is entitled to arrears from the effective date of the 2001 policy**.

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