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27 April 2024

National and International News

National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID)

Why in news?

- The Union Government is expected to roll out a new test, which is designed by the **National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID)**.
- The purpose of the test is to diagnose **Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs)**.
- The test is intended for use in adults in India.

About NIEPID:

- NIEPID, formerly known as the **National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped**, was established in **1984**.
- It is an **autonomous body** under the administrative control of the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- **NIEPID is the apex body** for training, research, and surveys in the **field of intellectual disability in India**.
- The institute is **headquartered in Secunderabad, Telangana**, and has **regional centres in Kolkata, Navi Mumbai, and Noida**.
- It empowers persons with intellectual disabilities to access **state-of-the-art rehabilitation interventions, educational, therapeutic, vocational, employment, leisure and social activities, sports, cultural programmes and full participation**.



Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



Why in news?

- The Defence Secretary led the Indian delegation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Asthana, Kazakhstan.
- The SCO Defence Ministers agreed to develop the idea of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', which is rooted in the ancient Indian philosophy of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam'.

About SCO:

- The SCO was founded in June 2001 in Shanghai by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- India and Pakistan joined in 2017, expanding the organization's membership.
- The main objectives of the SCO include
 - Strengthening mutual trust and neighborliness among member countries,
 - Promoting effective cooperation in political, trade, economic, research, cultural, and other fields,
 - Making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security, and stability in the region.

Asian Under-20 Athletics Championships

Why in news?

- Harshit Kumar won the men's hammer throw gold at the 21st Asian under-20 athletics championships in Dubai.
 - He threw a distance of 66.70m.
- His teammate Prateek took the bronze with a throw of 65.97m.
- Laxita Vinod Sandilea won a silver medal in the women's 800m event.
- The Indian 4x400m mixed relay team, comprising P. Abiram, Kanista Teena, Navpreet Singh and Sandramol Sabu, claimed a silver medal with a time of 3:24.86.
- China won the gold in the 4x400m mixed relay race.



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Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status

Why in news?

- The Centre has extended Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status to the gem and jewellery sector.
- This information was provided by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), the apex body of the sector.

Key points:

- It is part of a broader framework for ease of doing business and has simplified export operations across various sectors.
- The programme has resulted in significant time and cost savings for exporters.
- The AEO is a programme under the World Customs Organisation (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate global trade.
- The aim of the programme is to enhance international supply chain security and facilitate movement of legitimate goods.

Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3)



Why in news:

- NASA has successfully launched its spacecraft.
- It is the Advanced Composite Solar Sail System.

Key points:

- ACS3 is a NASA technology demonstration mission launched in 2024.
- It is designed to characterize solar sail structures technologies for future small spacecraft to engage in deep space missions requiring long-duration, low-thrust propulsion.

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