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10 May 2024

West Bengal News

Autism centres at every dist

Context:

- The state health department has **established a 'district autism centre' in every district of Bengal** to enhance **early screening and diagnosis of autistic children, facilitating better treatment accessibility and ensuring receipt of state government benefits.**

Key points:

- District autism centres are located in district hospitals in districts without medical colleges and medical colleges in districts with medical colleges and hospitals.
- Previously, **autism centres were only available in Kolkata and other cities**, causing inconvenience and financial strain for families needing treatment.
- The establishment of **these centres enables autistic children in districts to access treatment locally at state government hospitals, reducing the need for expensive private healthcare services.**
- Patients now receive an autism spectrum disorder certificate, making them eligible for various benefits from both the Centre and State governments.
- Services provided at district autism centres include assessment, speech therapy, behavioral therapy, and special education to reintegrate children into mainstream life.
- The Bengal government offers **Rs 1000 per month as a pension to autistic children, and the Centre issues UID cards** that provide hospital facilities and train concessions.
- Awareness programs educate parents and communities about early signs of autism, encouraging prompt treatment-seeking behavior.
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), commonly known as autism, is a lifelong condition affecting communication and social interaction skills.**

Empowering Women Globally initiative

Context:

- Sister Nivedita University (SNU) has partnered with Bradley University, USA, as part of the Empowering Women Globally initiative, focusing on gender equity in entrepreneurship.



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Key points:

- The initiative also involves the University of Calcutta and Alsisar Impact, aiming to provide female entrepreneurs with essential tools, knowledge, skills, and resources to thrive in the global marketplace.
- **This partnership is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5- Gender Equality.**
- **The programme, now in its eighth year, has empowered over 1200 women entrepreneurs.**

YUVIKA 2024

Context:

- Arpita Saha, a 16-year-old student from Patiram Vivekananda Girls' High School in Patiram, South Dinajpur, has been chosen by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for their young scientist programme.**

About:

- Indian Space Research Organisation is organising a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "**YUva Vigyani KAryakram**", **YUVIKA**, to impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger students in emerging trends in space science and technology amongst the youngsters, who are the future building blocks of our nation.
- ISRO has chalked out this programme to "Catch them young". The programme is also expected to encourage more students to pursue in **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based research /career.**

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