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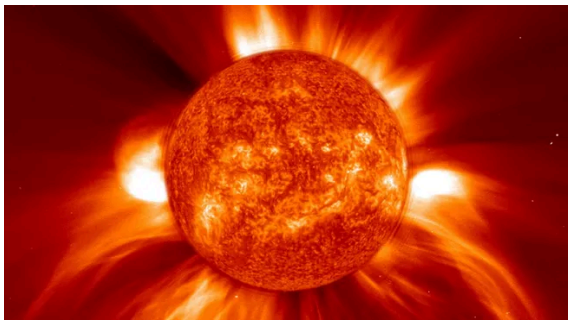
National and International News

Sant Guru Ravidas 	**Context:** Prime Minister Modi spoke at the **647th Birth Anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas in Varanasi,** where he unveiled a new statue of Sant Ravidas and inaugurated various development projects. About: **Guru Ravidasji, also known as Ravidas, Rohidas, and Ruhidas**, was a **North Indian mystic poet-saint of the Bhakti movement during the 15th to 16th centur**y CE. He is venerated in the regions of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana. Here are some key points about Guru Ravidas Ji: ● He was born in **1377 CE, in a small village called Seer Govardhanpur in Uttar Pradesh**. ● Despite being born in a poor family, Guru Ravidas dedicated his life to preaching about human rights and equality. ● He was a **saint, poet, philosopher, and his teachings are celebrated.** ● His devotional songs and verses made a lasting impact upon the Bhakti movement. ● **Some of his poems are a part of Guru Granth Sahib Ji.** ● Mystic poet and an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna, **Meera Bai also acknowledged Guru Ravidas as her spiritual mentor.** ● His birthday is celebrated as **Ravidas Jayanti.**
India's First Gati Shakti Research Chair	**Context:** ● The **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal,** participated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between MoPSW and the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM)** Shillong to establish India's first **'Gati Shakti Research Chair' on February 23, 2024.** **Key points:** ● The Chair will lead high-quality academic research on **multimodal logistics with a focus on the North-East.**

	• **Aim:** to strengthen links between multimodal logistics research and capacity-building activities with key stakeholders such as the logistics industry, government bodies, and local authorities, supporting the **PM Gati Shakti Masterplan for East and North-East Region's logistical capacity.** **Other Initiatives:** • **Arth Ganga and Mahabahu Brahmaputra** are ambitious projects initiated by the Indian government to foster **holistic socio-economic development along the River Ganga and River Brahmaputra**. • The Arth Ganga project aims to revamp the **inland waterways,** contributing to the all-round development of Northeast India. • **Mahabahu Brahmaputra** is another significant initiative with similar objectives, focusing on the Brahmaputra river. • These projects are part of a broader strategy to optimize regional logistical capabilities, aligning with the **National Logistic Mission.** • They are instrumental in fostering socio-economic development along these key river networks.
First Solar Project of NTPC 	**Context:** • NTPC Renewable Energy Limited's inaugural solar project in **Chhattargarh, Rajasthan,** has commenced commercial operations, boasting a capacity of 70 MW as of February 21, 2024. • This development brings the total installed capacity of the **NTPC Group to 73,958 MW.** **Key points:** • Currently, **NTPC-REL is actively pursuing 17 projects,** collectively exceeding **6,000 MW** in capacity. • Consequently, the NTPC Group's total **operational renewable energy capacity has reached 3,448 MW.** • The Chhattargarh Solar project is slated to reach its full capacity of **150 MW by March 2024,** a project secured under SECI-Tranche:III, benefiting the state of **Rajasthan.** • The solar plant is projected to produce **370 million units of energy annually,** catering to 60,000

	households. • It is expected to **reduce CO2 emissions by 3 lakhs tons per year** and conserve 1,000 MMTPA of water, equivalent to the needs of over 5,000 households annually.
Coronal mass ejections 	**Context:** ISRO announced that the **Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)** payload aboard Aditya-L1 has successfully identified the impact of **coronal mass ejections (CMEs).** **PAPA:** • PAPA, equipped with advanced sensors, is specifically designed for in-situ measurements of solar wind electrons and ions in the low energy range. • **It comprises two sensors: the Solar Wind Electron Energy Probe (SWEEP) and the Solar Wind Ion Composition Analyser (SWICAR)**, capable of measuring electrons and ions in specified energy ranges and mass spectrums. • These sensors are also adept at determining the direction of solar wind particle arrival. • Operational since **December 12, 2023, PAPA** continues to make continuous observations, demonstrating its effectiveness in monitoring space weather conditions and analyzing solar phenomena. **Coronal mass ejections** • Coronal mass ejections (CMEs) are **large expulsions of plasma and magnetic fields from the sun's atmosphere — the corona.** • Solar flares are bursts of **electromagnetic radiation that travel at the speed of light, reaching Earth in just over 8 minutes .** • CMEs travel at a more leisurely pace, relatively speaking. • CMEs can reach Earth and collide with **Earth's magnetosphere, where they can cause geomagnetic storms, aurorae, and in rare cases damage to electrical power grids**. • The largest recorded geomagnetic perturbation, presumably from a CME, was the solar storm of 1859, also known as the Carrington Event.
Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara	**Context:** • Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda

recently visited the **Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara at Medaram in Telangana, the country's largest tribal festival.**

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has allocated Rs. 2.30 Crores for the Medaram Jatara 2024 to promote tribal culture and heritage.

About:

- Considering the footfall of the festival and its auspicious significance, the Jatara was declared a **State Festival in 1996.**
- Tribal festival is the second-largest fair of India, after the **Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the Koya tribe for four days.**
- **Sammakka Saralamma Jatara, also known as Medaram Jatara,** is a festival celebrated in the state of Telangana, India, to honor the Hindu Tribal goddesses.
- The festival commemorates the **fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma,** with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- The rituals related to the Goddesses are **entirely conducted by the Koya Tribe priests, in accordance with Koya customs and traditions**.
- The Jatara begins at Medaram in Tadvai Mandal in Mulugu district.
- It is held every two years and lasts for four days.
- People offer **Bellam (jaggery), locally called as Bangaram.**
- Now, a large number of non-Koya people visit Medaram, and the **Koya people comprise only 2% of the total worshippers.**