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24 February 2024

National & 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 century 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**



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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



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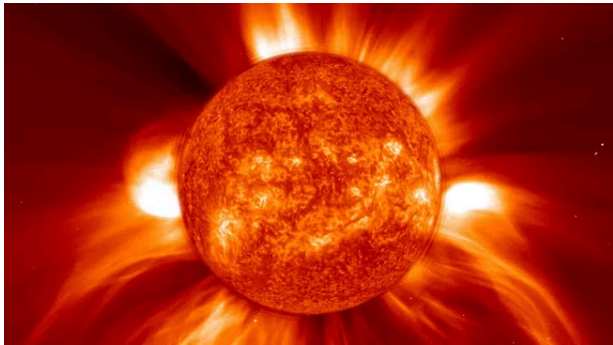


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Rajasthan.

- 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 MTPA 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



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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.**

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