Pasiphae project

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In news- Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE), an international collaborative **sky surveying project** helps to study the polarisation in the light coming from millions of stars.

More about PASIPHAE-

- The project name is inspired from **Pasiphae, the daughter of Greek Sun God Helios**.
- The survey will use **two high-tech optical polarimeters to observe the northern and southern skies,** simultaneously.
- It will focus on **capturing starlight polarisation of very faint stars** over large areas of the sky.
- Such data can help remove the galactic polarised foreground light.
- By combining these data, astronomers will perform a maiden magnetic field tomography mapping of the interstellar medium using a novel **polarimeter instrument known as WALOP (Wide Area Linear Optical Polarimeter).**
- WALOP will be mounted on two small optical telescopes – **1.3-metre Skinakas Observatory, Crete,** and **1-metre telescope of the South African Astronomical Observatory located in Sutherland.**
- Scientists from the **University of Crete, Greece, Caltech, USA, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), India, the South African Astronomical Observatory and the University of Oslo, Norway**, are involved in this project, steered by the Institute of Astrophysics, Greece.
- The **Infosys Foundation,** India, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Greece and USA's National Science Foundation have each provided a grant of $1 million, combined with contributions from the European Research Council and the

National Research Foundation in South Africa.