

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 21/22-11-2020

15th G20 SUMMIT



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has termed the COVID-19 pandemic as an important turning point in history of humanity and the biggest challenge the world is facing since the World War II.

About:

He was speaking at the 15th G20 Summit convened by Saudi Arabia in a virtual format.

- Modi called for a new Global Index for the Post-Corona World that comprises four key elements. These are –
 - creation of a vast Talent Pool,
 - ensuring that Technology reaches all segments of the society,
 - Transparency in systems of governance, and
 - dealing with Mother Earth with a spirit of Trusteeship.

Noting that 'Work from Anywhere' is a new normal in the post-COVID world, the Prime Minister also suggested creation of a G20 Virtual Secretariat as a follow up and documentation repository.

- The G20 Leaders' Summit would culminate in the adoption of the Leaders' Declaration and with Saudi Arabia passing on the Presidency to Italy.

RORIDOMYCES PHYLLOSTACHYDIS



A mushroom documentation project in the forests of Northeast India has led to a new discovery: a bioluminescent — or light emitting — variety of mushroom.

About:

The new species — named *Roridomyces phyllostachydis* — was first sighted on a wet August night near a stream in Meghalaya's Mawlynnong in

East Khasi Hills district and later at Krang Shuri in West Jaintia Hills district.

- It is now one among the 97 known species of bioluminescent fungi in the world.
- **Significance:**
 - The new species was important because it was the first mushroom in the *Roridomyces* genus to be found in India.
 - it was the only member in its genus to have light emitting from its stipe or stalk.

Bioluminescent fungi?

Bioluminescence is the property of a living organism to produce and emit light.

Animals, plants, fungi and bacteria show bioluminescence. Bioluminescent organisms are usually found in the ocean environments, but they are also found on terrestrial environments.

The colour of the light emitted by the organism depends on their chemical properties. In the case of fungi, the luminescence comes from the enzyme, luciferase.



IN-MDL CUP, NATIONAL YACHTING CHAMPIONSHIP



The Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Mumbai is organising the commencement of sailing activities in Mumbai harbour with the Maiden IN-MDL Cup, National Yachting Championship.

At the behest of the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh, as Patron of the Indian Naval Sailing Association, the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has stepped up to sponsor an annual IN-MDL Cup to promote sailing in the country.

The maiden IN-MDL Cup 2020 is being conducted under the aegis of the Yachting Association of India (YAI) for all Senior Olympic classes as the YAI Senior National 2020. The regatta will be a ranking event and will be conducted from 22- 27 Nov 20 near the Sunk Rock lighthouse. The IN-MDL Cup will see participation from 12 sailing clubs from across India.

FISHERIES SECTOR AWARD

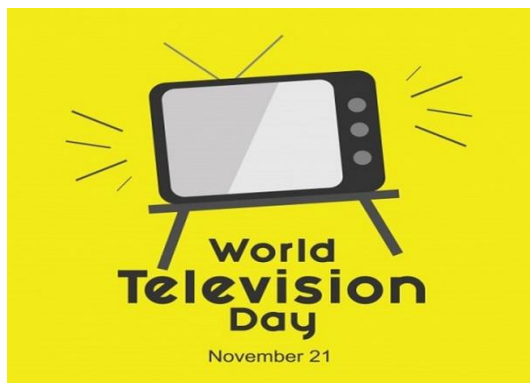


On the occasion of World Fisheries Day, Department of Fisheries awarded best performing States in Fisheries Sector for the first time to promote healthy competition among States.

For the first time in Fisheries Sector, the Government of India awarded best performing States for 2019-20 namely, Odisha (amongst Marine states), Uttar Pradesh (amongst Inland states) and Assam (amongst Hilly and NE states).

- The Govt. also awarded best Districts for 2019-20 namely Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh as best Marine District; Kalahandi, Odisha as best Inland District; Nagaon, Assam as Best Hilly and NE District.

WORLD TELEVISION DAY



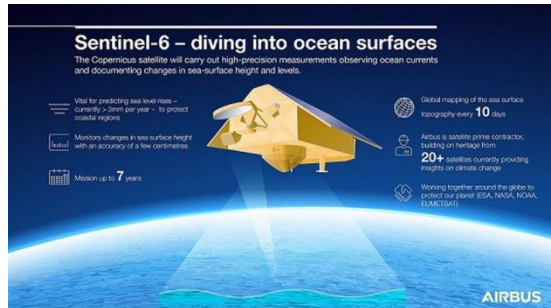
World Television Day was observed on November 21, 2020.

About:

In December 1996 the United Nations proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was held in 1996.

- The United Nations adopted a resolution in recognition of the increasing impact of the audio visual media on the decision-making and its potential role in sharpening the focus on other major issues.
- Television was thus acknowledged as a major tool in informing, channelling and influencing public opinion and represents communication and globalization in the contemporary world.

SENTINEL-6 SATELLITE



The Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite, designed to monitor oceans, was launched from the Vandenberg Air Force base in California aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on November 21.

About:

- This is a part of the next mission dedicated to measuring changes in the global sea level. Other satellites that have been launched since 1992 to track changes in the oceans on a global scale include the TOPEX/Poseidon, Jason-1 and OSTN/Jason-2, among others.
- The Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite has been named after Dr. Michael Freilich, who was the Director of NASA's Earth Science Division from 2006-2019 and passed away in August this year.

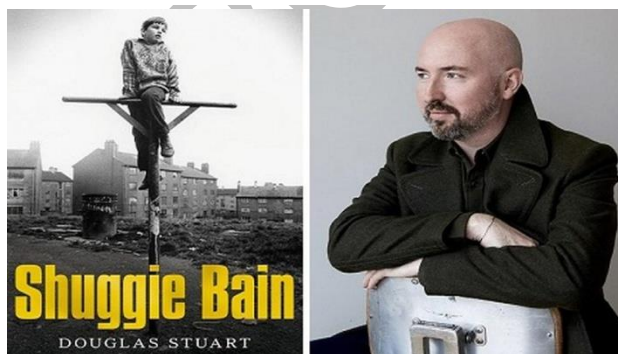
What is the mission?

The mission, called the Jason Continuity of Service (Jason-CS) mission, is designed to measure the height of the ocean, which is a key component in understanding how the Earth's climate is changing.

The spacecraft consists of two satellites, one of them launched on Saturday, and the other, called Sentinel-6B, to be launched in 2025.

It has been developed jointly by the European Space Agency (ESA), NASA, European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (Eumetsat), the USA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the EU.

BOOKER PRIZE



Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the 2020 Booker Prize for fiction with his debut novel *Shuggie Bain*, which described a boy growing up in Glasgow in the 1980s with a mother battling addiction.

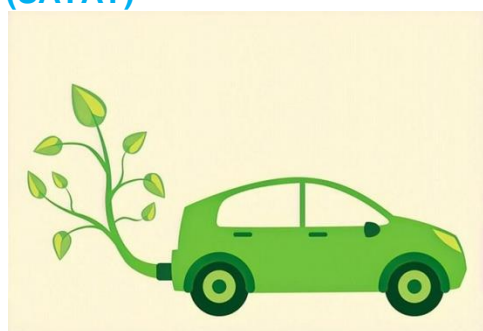
About:

Name: The Booker Prize for Fiction, formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and the Man Booker Prize, is a literary prize.

- **Background:** The Booker Prize was established in 1969.
- **Objective:** to promote the finest in **fiction** by rewarding the **best novel of the year** written in English.

- **Eligibility:**
 - The Booker Prize awards any novel originally written in English and published in the UK and Ireland in the year of the prize, **regardless of the nationality of their author.**
 - The novel must be an original work in English (not a translation)
 - It must be published by a registered UK or Irish imprint; **self-published novels are not eligible.**
- **Prize Money:** The winner receives £50,000 as well as the £2,500 awarded to each of the shortlisted authors. In this case, thanks to the award being shared, the prize money would be split between the two winners.
- **Organizations involved:**
 - **Man Group:** Man Group is an active investment management firm founded in 1783. It has sponsored the Man Booker Prize since 2002
 - **The Booker Prize Foundation:** It is a registered charity established in 2002. Since then it has been responsible for the award of the Man Booker Prize for Fiction, and for the Man Booker International Prize since its inauguration in 2005.

SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE TOWARDS AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION (SATAT)



India will see an investment of Rs 2 lakh crore in setting up 5,000 plants that will produce gas from bio and crop wastes by 2023-24, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said.

About:

To boost the availability of affordable and clean transport fuel, an agreement was signed for setting up 900 compressed bio-gas or CBG plants by companies such as Adani Gas and Torrent Gas.

- Under the **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative**, the government is looking at setting up of 5,000 CBG plants by 2023-24 with a production target of 15 million tonnes, an official statement said.
- SATAT provides for generating gas from municipal waste as well as forest and agri waste. Animal husbandry and marine wastes are also included.
- A total of 5000 CBG plants with an approximate investment of Rs 2 lakh crores are envisaged.
- The gas produced at CBG plants can be used as fuel to power automobiles. The policy provides for guaranteed offtake of the gas produced at the CBG plants by the state-owned firms.