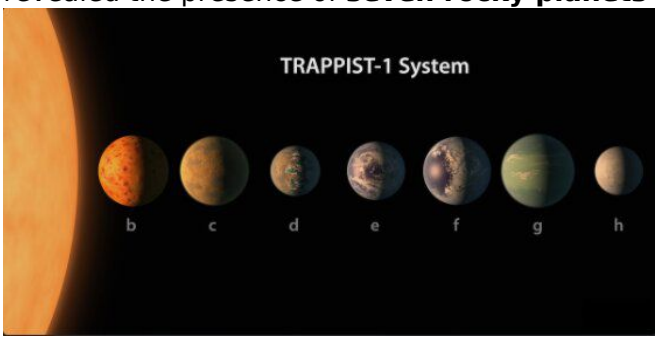
Spitzer Space Telescope

After nearly 16 years of exploring the cosmos in infrared light, **NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope** will be **switched off** permanently **on 30th January, 2020.**

- The Spitzer Space Telescope is the **final mission in NASA's Great Observatories Program** - a family of four space-based observatories, each observing the Universe in a different kind of light.
- The **other missions** in the program include the visible-light **Hubble Space Telescope** (HST), **Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory** (CGRO), and the **Chandra X-Ray Observatory** (CXO).
- The Spitzer Space Telescope was **launched in the year 2003.** It is a space-borne, cryogenically-cooled infrared observatory capable of studying objects ranging from the Solar System to the distant reaches of the Universe.
- It **captures infrared light,** which is often emitted by 'warm' objects that are not quite hot enough to radiate visible light.
- The telescope **revealed a new ring around** the planet **Saturn. In 2017**, the telescope also revealed the presence of **seven rocky planets around the TRAPPIST-1 star.** //



  - **TRAPPIST-1 is a planetary system,** located 12 parsecs away from the Solar system (39 light years), and is 12 times less massive than the Sun and only slightly larger than the planet Jupiter. There are at least **seven planets orbiting the star.**
- **NASA's James Webb Space Telescope,** set to launch in **2021,** will study the universe in many of the **same wave-lengths observed by the Spitzer.**

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