



07 August 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A recent report by the <b>Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)</b> emphasizes that <b>investing in nutrition within the agri-food sector can reduce gender inequalities, boost productivity, and enhance business resilience.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About GAIN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Foundation Launch:</b> Swiss-based foundation launched at the United Nations in <b>2002.</b></li> <li>• <b>Headquarters:</b> Geneva, Switzerland.</li> <li>• <b>Offices:</b> Located in countries with high levels of malnutrition.</li> <li>• <b>Mission:</b> Makes healthier food choices more affordable, available, and desirable.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Improve nutrition outcomes by <b>enhancing the consumption of nutritious and safe food for all,</b> especially the vulnerable.</li> <li>• <b>Maternal and Infant Health:</b> Supports breastfeeding and specialized products for infants over six months and young children.</li> <li>• <b>Agricultural Value Chains:</b> Partners with local businesses to improve food quality along agricultural value chains.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Methylocucumis oryzae</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researchers have <b>isolated and described India's first indigenous methanotroph cultures, Methylocucumis oryzae, from rice fields and wetlands</b>, primarily in Western India.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Methylocucumis oryzae:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Natural Habitat:</b> Abundant in wetlands and rice fields.</li> <li>• <b>Shape and Name:</b> Oval and elongated shape, resembling a cucumber, hence called '<b>methane-eating cucumbers</b>'.</li> <li>• <b>Methanotroph:</b> Important component in <b>methane consumption</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Temperature Sensitivity:</b> Strictly mesophilic, cannot grow above 37°C, unlike most other methanotrophs.</li> <li>• <b>Agricultural Benefit:</b> Promotes rice plant growth by inducing early flowering and increasing grain yield.</li> </ul>
<p><b>VIRAASAT</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fortnight-long exhibition, "<b>VIRAASAT</b>," dedicated to <b>celebrating the 10th National Handloom Day</b>, recently began at Handloom Haat in Janpath.</li> </ul> <p><b>About VIRAASAT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> <b>National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC)</b> under the <b>Ministry of Textiles</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Continuation of celebrations around National Handloom Day.</li> <li>• <b>Focus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Glorious tradition of Handloom and Handicrafts.</li> <li>○ <b>Provides market connections to handloom weavers and artisans.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About National Handloom Day:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Historical Context: Swadeshi Movement</b> - Launched on <b>7th August 1905</b>, encouraged indigenous industries and handloom weavers.</li> <li>• <b>Inception: First National Handloom Day</b> held on <b>7th August 2015</b> in <b>Chennai</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Annual Commemoration:</b> The Government of India commemorates <b>7th August every year</b> as National Handloom Day since 2015.</li> </ul>



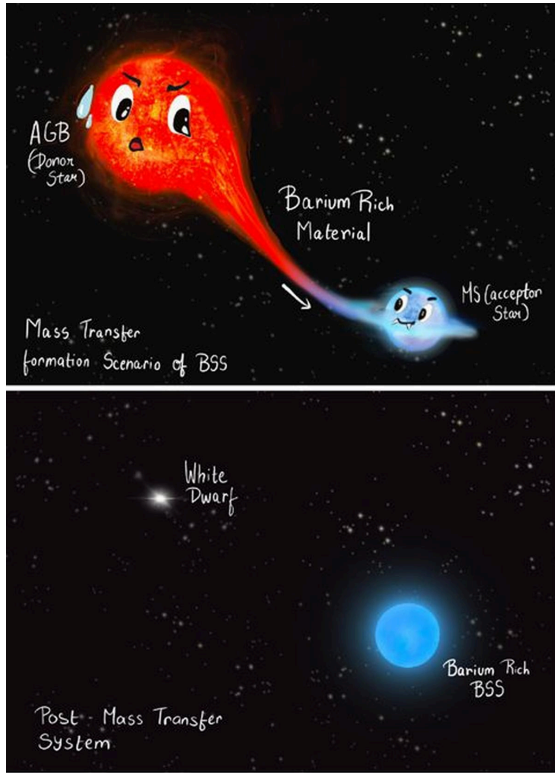
# Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> Recognize the efforts and skills of the weaver community engaged in the handloom sector.</li> </ul>
<p>Dark Patterns</p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recent research reveals that <b>mobile apps frequently employ deceptive design tactics</b>, known as <b>dark patterns</b>, to manipulate users into taking unintended actions.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Dark Patterns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dark patterns are <b>deceptive and manipulative user interface (UI) design</b> techniques.</li> <li>● <b>Employed by websites, apps, and other digital platforms to trick or manipulate users.</b></li> <li>● Aim to <b>influence user behavior in a way that benefits the implementing company.</b></li> <li>● <b>Origin:</b> Term coined in 2010 by <b>Harry Brignull</b>, a user experience specialist.</li> <li>● <b>Types of Dark Patterns:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Friend spam</li> <li>○ Forced continuity</li> <li>○ Disguised ads</li> <li>○ Confirm shaming</li> <li>○ Bait and switch</li> <li>○ Hidden costs</li> <li>○ Roach motel</li> <li>○ Privacy zuckering</li> <li>○ Misdirection</li> <li>○ Price comparison prevention</li> <li>○ Trick questions</li> <li>○ Sneak into basket</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Example:</b> Using fear, shame, ridicule, or guilt to nudge the user to act in a certain way.</li> <li>● <b>Regulations:</b> In November 2023, the <b>Department of Consumer Affairs</b>, Government of India, released <b>guidelines for 13 dark patterns.</b></li> <li>● Guidelines state that <b>using any of these dark patterns amounts to a misleading advertisement</b>, an unfair trade practice, or a violation of consumer rights.</li> </ul>



# Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

## Vampire Stars



## Why in the news?

- Researchers have made a **groundbreaking discovery in the star cluster M67**, located in the **constellation Cancer**.
- They found a **vampire star that rejuvenates by sucking up material from a companion star**.

## About Vampire Stars:

- **Blue Straggler Stars (BSS):**
  - **Easily identified** in star clusters.
  - **Appear younger than neighboring stars**, defying simple stellar evolution models.
- **Mystery and Theories:**
  - Their youthful appearance has puzzled astronomers.
  - **Theories suggest they might consume material from companion stars.**
- **Symbiotic Binaries (Vampire Stars):**
  - Typically found in pairs.
  - The **smaller star (sucking star) consumes material from the larger star (victim)**.
  - As the **sucking star** consumes more material, it eventually **becomes larger than its victim and turns into a blue star (blue straggler)**.

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