



07 August 2024

## National and International News

**Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)****Why in the news?**

- A recent report by the **Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)** emphasizes that **investing in nutrition within the agri-food sector can reduce gender inequalities, boost productivity, and enhance business resilience.**

**About GAIN:**

- **Foundation Launch:** Swiss-based foundation launched at the United Nations in **2002**.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Offices:** Located in countries with high levels of malnutrition.
- **Mission:** Makes healthier food choices more affordable, available, and desirable.
- **Purpose:** Improve nutrition outcomes by **enhancing the consumption of nutritious and safe food for all**, especially the vulnerable.
- **Maternal and Infant Health:** Supports breastfeeding and specialized products for infants over six months and young children.
- **Agricultural Value Chains:** Partners with local businesses to improve food quality along agricultural value chains.



## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

## Methylococcus oryzae

## Why in the news?

- Researchers have **isolated and described India's first indigenous methanotroph cultures, Methylococcus oryzae, from rice fields and wetlands**, primarily in Western India.

## About Methylococcus oryzae:

- **Natural Habitat:** Abundant in wetlands and rice fields.
- **Shape and Name:** Oval and elongated shape, resembling a cucumber, hence called '**methane-eating cucumbers**'.
- **Methanotroph:** Important component in **methane consumption**.
- **Temperature Sensitivity:** Strictly mesophilic, cannot grow above 37°C, unlike most other methanotrophs.
- **Agricultural Benefit:** Promotes rice plant growth by inducing early flowering and increasing grain yield.

## VIRAASAT

## Why in the news?

- A fortnight-long exhibition, "**VIRAASAT**," dedicated to **celebrating the 10th National Handloom Day**, recently began at Handloom Haat in Janpath.

## About VIRAASAT:

- **Organizer:** **National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC)** under the **Ministry of Textiles**.
- **Purpose:** Continuation of celebrations around National Handloom Day.
- **Focus:**
  - Glorious tradition of Handloom and Handicrafts.
  - **Provides market connections to handloom weavers and artisans.**

## About National Handloom Day:

- **Historical Context: Swadeshi Movement** - Launched on **7th August 1905**, encouraged indigenous industries and handloom weavers.

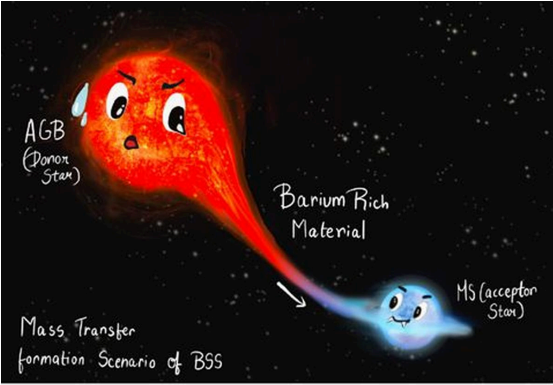
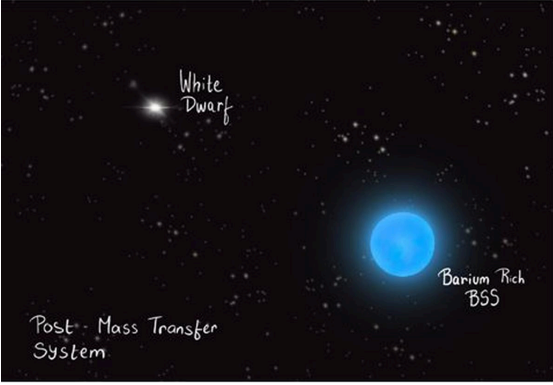


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inception: First National Handloom Day</b> held on <b>7th August 2015</b> in <b>Chennai</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Annual Commemoration:</b> The Government of India commemorates <b>7th August every year</b> as National Handloom Day since 2015.</li> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> Recognize the efforts and skills of the weaver community <b>engaged in the handloom sector</b>.</li> </ul>
Dark Patterns	<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 <b>manipulate users into taking unintended actions</b>.</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> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
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<p><b>Vampire Stars</b></p>  	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Researchers have made a <b>groundbreaking discovery in the star cluster M67</b>, located in the <b>constellation Cancer</b>.</li> <li>● They found a <b>vampire star that rejuvenates by sucking up material from a companion star</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Vampire Stars:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Blue Straggler Stars (BSS):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Easily identified in star clusters.</li> <li>○ <b>Appear younger than neighboring stars</b>, defying simple stellar evolution models.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Mystery and Theories:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Their youthful appearance has puzzled astronomers.</li> <li>○ <b>Theories suggest they might consume material from companion stars.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Symbiotic Binaries (Vampire Stars):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Typically found in pairs.</li> <li>○ The <b>smaller star (sucking star) consumes material from the larger star (victim)</b>.</li> <li>○ As the <b>sucking star</b> consumes more material, it eventually <b>becomes larger than its victim and turns into a blue star (blue straggler)</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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