



07 Aug 2024

**National and International News**

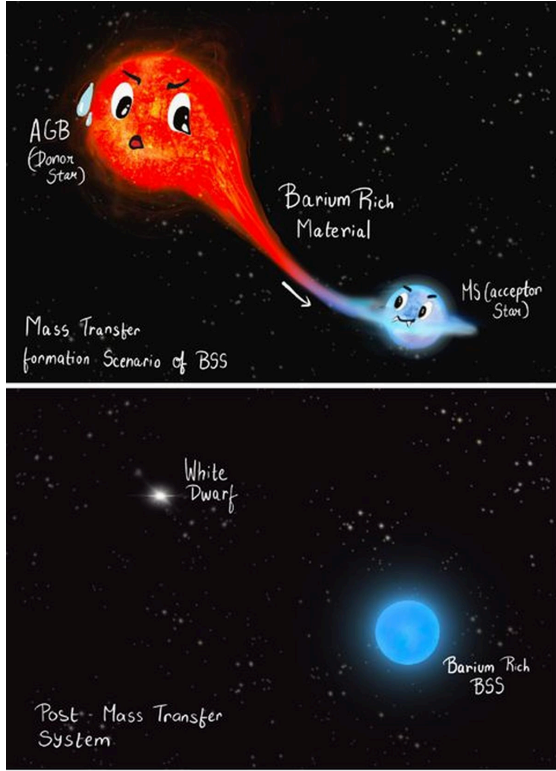
<p><b>Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A recent report by the <b>Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)</b> emphasizes that <b>investing in nutrition within the agri-food sector can reduce gender inequalities, 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>
<p><b>Methylococcus 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, Methylococcus oryzae, from rice fields and wetlands</b>, primarily in Western India.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Methylococcus 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> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agricultural Benefit:</b> Promotes rice plant growth by inducing early flowering and increasing grain yield.</li> </ul>
VIRAASAT	<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:</b> <b>Swadeshi Movement</b> - Launched on <b>7th August 1905</b>, encouraged indigenous industries and handloom weavers.</li> <li>• <b>Inception:</b> <b>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> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<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 <b>found a 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>○ <b>Easily identified</b> 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></li> </ul>



- 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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