



**August 01**

## **NATIONAL**

### **India Designated Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1)**

- ❖ United States has designated India as Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) country.
- ❖ This will allow India to buy highly advanced and cutting-edge sensitive technologies from America.
- ❖ This coveted status brings India in par with US's closest allies and partners such as NATO.
- ❖ Currently, there are 36 countries on the STA-1 list. India is the only South Asian country to be on the list. Other Asian countries designated as STA-1 are Japan and South Korea.
- ❖ STA-1 designation authorizes export, re-export, and transfer (in-country) of specified items on Commerce Control List to destinations posing a low risk of unauthorized or impermissible uses.
- ❖ STA-1 treatment will expand the scope of technology exports subject to Export Administration Regulations (EAR) that can be made to India without individual licenses.


### **Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018**

- ❖ Lok Sabha has passed Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018 by voice vote to replace Ordinance promulgated by President in May 2018.
- ❖ It amends Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 which sets up Central Council of Homoeopathy and regulates homeopathic education and practice.
- ❖ The Bill amends 1973 Act to provide for supersession of Central Council with effect from May 18, 2018.
- ❖ The Council will be reconstituted within 1 year from date of its supersession.
- ❖ In the interim period, the Board of Governors constituted by central government will exercise powers of Central Council.
- ❖ Board of Governors will consist of up to 7 members including persons of eminence in the field of homeopathy education, eminent administrators, appointed by Union Government.

- ❖ The Central Government will select one of these members as Chairperson of Board.

### **Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018**

- ❖ Lok Sabha has passed Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018 to provide death penalty to those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years.



<b>Rape of a girl under 12 years:</b> 20 years in jail or life imprisonment or death	<b>Rape of women:</b> Minimum punishment raised from imprisonment of 7 years to 10 years, extendable to life
<b>Gang-rape of a girl under 12 years:</b> Imprisonment for life or death	▪ Dedicated manpower for investigation of rape cases
<b>Rape of a girl under 16 years:</b> Minimum punishment increased from 10 to 20 years, extendable to imprisonment for life	▪ Probe and trial each to be completed in two months
<b>Gang-rape of a girl under 16 years:</b> Imprisonment for life	▪ No anticipatory bail for accused in rape or gang-rape of a girl under 16 years

- ❖ The Bill replaces an ordinance promulgated by President in April 2018 and amends Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Indian Evidence Act.
- ❖ It provides for,
  - Stringent punishment of jail term of minimum 20 years or life imprisonment or death for rape of girl less than 12 years
  - Punishment with imprisonment for rest of life or death sentence in case of gang rape of girl below 12 years.
  - No provision for anticipatory bail for a person accused of rape or gang rape of girls under 16 years
  - Speedy investigation and trial, which must be completed in two months.
  - Proposes 6 months' time limit for disposal of appeals in rape cases.



### **Strategic Partnership guidelines**

- ❖ Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has approved implementation of Strategic Partnership guidelines.
- ❖ It is considered a major step towards boosting private sector participation in domestic defense manufacturing.
- ❖ The Strategic Partnership model lay emphasis on incentivization of transfer of niche technology and higher indigenous content.
- ❖ The SP model has four segments
  - submarines,
  - single engine fighter aircraft,
  - helicopters and
  - armored carriers/main battle tankswhich will be specifically opened up for the private sector.
- ❖ All procurements under the SP model would be executed by specially constituted Empowered Project Committees to “provide focused attention and ensure timely execution.”

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Hindu to win the National Assembly seat**

- ❖ Mahesh Kumar Malani of Pakistan People’s Party became the first Hindu to win the National Assembly seat from Tharparkar in southern Sindh province.
- ❖ Malani defeated his nearest rival Arab Zakaullah of the Grand Democratic Alliance in the NA-222 constituency.



- ❖ Malani was a member of parliament from 2003-08 on a reserved seat, nominated by the PPP.
- ❖ In 2013 general elections, Malani was elected as Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) in Sindh.

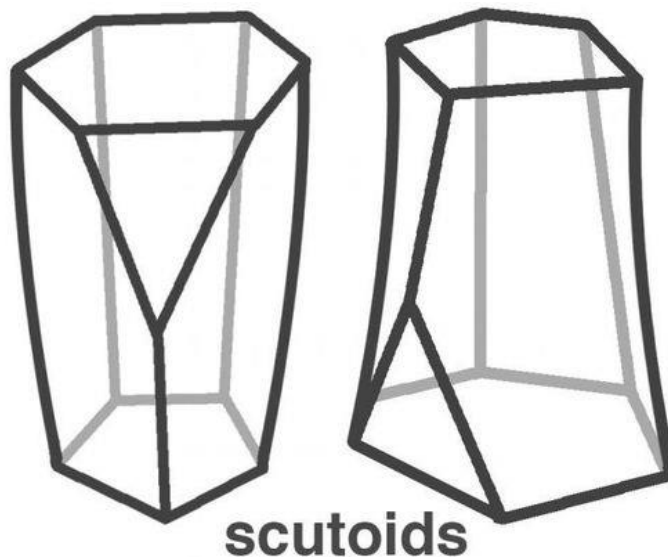
### **Pakistan General Elections**

- ❖ Cricket star Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party won 116 of 269 seats in the National Assembly
- ❖ Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party emerged as the winner of Pakistan's historic third consecutive election of a civilian government.
- ❖ But It didn't win an outright majority and must form a coalition.
- ❖ At the provincial level,
  - The Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N) remained the largest party in Punjab,
  - The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP),
  - Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in Sindh and
  - Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) in Balochistan.
- ❖ A party or group can only form the government if it manages to clinch 172 seats in total.
- ❖ Shahbaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League won 64 seats.
- ❖ Third place in the National Assembly went to the left-of-center Pakistan People's party with 39 seats.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### New shape discovered – Scutoid

- ❖ Scientists have identified a new shape called scutoid while studying epithelial cells.
- ❖ Epithelial tissue is one of four kinds of tissue that forms a human body which acts as a safety shield of the body that makes up cell walls lining our blood vessels and organs.
- ❖ The scutoid shape has five sides on one end and six on the other and a triangular surface on one of its longer edges.
- ❖ It is completely new to geometry and resembles beetle's scutellum (shield-like structure) from a top-down view.



- ❖ As tissues and organs develop, epithelial cells squish together, twisting and turning into highly efficient and complex 3-D structures of scutoid shape.
- ❖ This complex shape help block microbes from entering our skin or organs. It also makes the packing stable and “energetically efficient.”



## SPORTS

### IAAF Diamond League

- ❖ Kenya's Beatrice Chepkoech smashed the world record in the women's 3,000 meters steeplechase with a time of 8 minutes 44.32 seconds at the Monaco Diamond League meeting.
- ❖ She broke the previous record mark of 8 minutes 52.78 set by Bahrain's Ruth Jebet in 2016.

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