

Current Affairs search results for tag: popular

1. India ranked 4th on the Global firepower Index (March 12, 2022)

The Global Firepower report 2022 has ranked India as the 4th most powerful military in the world in 2021. The Global Firepower ranks the countries on its potential war making capabilities across land, air and sea fought by conventional means. It means it does not take into account the country's nuclear capability.

- The most powerful country in the world was the United States followed by Russia, China, India and Japan.
- Iceland was ranked at 142 and was considered as the least military powerful country in the world,
- The report has been released by Global Firepower since 2006.

2. Justice (retd.) AK Sikri to be the head of the Char Dham Panel (March 12, 2022)

The Supreme Court of India has appointed **Justice (retd.) A.K. Sikri** as the chairman of the high-powered committee constituted by it to “**consider the cumulative and independent impact of the Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna on the entire Himalayan valley**” on 11 March 2022..

- Earlier Professor **Ravi Chopra** resigned as the chairman of the Char Dham project accusing the Union Road and Highway Transport ministry of ignoring its recommendations.
- Justice Sikri is also the chairman of the oversight committee appointed by the Supreme Court, to look after the **environmental concerns and other issues** related to the Char Dham project.

Char Dham Project

- The project seeks to connect the pilgrimage centers of **Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri & Gangotri** in Uttarakhand.
- The project is of **889 Km** length which will build two lane roads.
- The total cost of the project is **Rs 11,700 crore**.

Many environmentalists are objecting to the project as it will harm the sensitive ecosystem of the Himalayas.

3. Debashish Panda appointed as the new Chairman of IRDAI (March 12, 2022)

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Debashish Panda as the new chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India .

- He has been appointed for a **term of three years** .
- Debashish Panda earlier retired as the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services , Union Ministry of Finance.
- The post of IRDAI chairman has been vacant since May 5, after **Subhash C Khuntia** stepped down on completion of his term.

IRDAI

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) was set up under the Insurance Development Authority Act 1999 by the Government of India in 1999.

It was set up on the recommendation of **R.N Malhotra Committee on Insurance sector** , set up by the Government of India in 1993.

It is the regulator of the Insurance sector in India .

The Headquarters of the IRDAI : **Hyderabad** .

Appointment Committee of the Union Cabinet

The appointment committee of the Union Cabinet at present consists of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister Amit Shah .

4. BJP poised to form government in 4 states and AAP sweeps Punjab polls (March 11, 2022)

Bharatiya Janata Party is set to form governments in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa while the Aam Aadmi Party(AAP) swept away Punjab.

The general election to constitute a new legislative Assembly in the states of Manipur, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab was held by the Election Commission of India from 14 February 2022 to March 7 ,2022.

- Uttar Pradesh voted in 7 phases from February 10 to March 7 to elect 403 vidhan sabha members of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly
- The 40-member assembly of Goa went to polls in a single phase on February 14.
- The 70 member assembly of Uttarakhand went to polls in a single phase on February 14.
- The 117 member assembly of Punjab went to polls in a single phase on February 20.
- The 60 member assembly of Manipur went to polls in two phases on 28 February and 5 March 2022.

State	Total Seats	Majority seats	Second place	Others
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Punjab	117	Aam Aadmi Party -92 seats	Congress(I)- 18 seats	Shiromani Akali Dal-3 seats
Uttar Pradesh	403	BJP-255 seats	Samajwadi party-111 seats	Congress-2 seats
Uttarakhand	70	BJP-47 seats	Congress-19 seats	Others - 2 seats
Manipur	60	BJP-32 seats	National People's Party -7 seats	Congress-5 seats
Goa	40	BJP-20 seats	Congress-11	AAP-2 seats

In Uttar Pradesh, the alliance partners of BJP were Apna Dal (Sonelal) and NISHAD Party (Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal). The alliance partner Apna Dal won 12 seats and the NISHAD party won 6. The total seats won by BJP and its alliances are 273.

Notable winners of the Poll

- Uttar Pradesh **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** of BJP won from Gorakhpur Urban seat by defeating Samajwadi Party's Subhawati Upendra Dutt Shukla. This was the first time he contested an Assembly poll.
- Samajwadi party leader **Akhilesh Yadav** won the **Karhal seat** by defeating the **Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Satya Pal Singh Baghel**.
- Manipur Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** of BJP defeated Congress's **P Sharatchandra** from **Heingang seat**.
- Goa Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** won the Sanquelim assembly constituency seat as he defeated Congress leader **Dharmesh Saglani**.

Notable losers

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister and BJP leader, Pushkar Singh Dhami** lost the election from **Khatima** to the Congress candidate Bhuwan Chandra Kapri.
- Punjab Chief Minister and Congress Party (I) candidate **Charanjit Singh Channi** contested from two constituencies and lost both. He was defeated by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Labh Singh Ugoke in the **Bahadur assembly seat**. He also lost his traditional **Chamkaur Singh Sahib seat** to his name sake, Chanranjit Singh Channi of Aam Aadmi Party.
- Former **Chief Minister of Punjab, Captain Amrinder Singh** who formed a new party, Punjab Lok Congress lost his **Patiala Urban constituency** to AAP's Ajit Pal Singh Kohli.
- Congress Party Punjab chief, **Navjot Singh Sidhu** lost the **Amritsar East seat** to AAP candidate Jeevanjyot Kaur.
- **Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya** was defeated by Pallavi Patel of Samajwadi Party in **Sirathu** constituency.

Pushkar Singh Dhami and Charanjit Singh Channi have resigned from their post .

Chief Election Commissioner of India : Sushil Chandra .

5. Government removes upper age limit for NEET-UG (March 10, 2022)

In a major decision the government of India has decided to remove the upper age limit for aspirants appearing for **the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) for Undergraduates medical courses.**

- The National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET), formerly the **All India Pre-Medical Test (AIPMT)**, is the qualifying test for **MBBS and BDS** programmes in Indian medical and dental colleges. It is conducted by the **National Testing Agency (NTA).**
- As per the Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997 the upper-age limit for candidates appearing for National Eligibility Entrance Test and seeking admission to MBBS programme shall be 25 years as on the date of examination and 30 years for SC/ST/OBC category and persons entitled for reservation under **the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.**
- **There is no change in the minimum age criteria of 17 years for appearing in the exam.**
- According to the government of India there were 51,348 MBBS seats in India in 2014 and now it is 88,120 seats. Nearly half of these seats are in government medical colleges.
- This move of the government can be seen as a response to the fact that many Indian students go to places like Ukraine for medical study and one of the reasons cited was the low number of medical seats in India, high fees in private medical colleges in India and also NEET. Increasing the age limit will offer more chances to the candidate to clear the medical exam for MBBS.

6. SEBI raises investment limit through UPI to Rs 5 lakhs in debt securities (March 9, 2022)

Securities Exchange Board of India has increased the investment limit for payment through Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for retail investors buying debt securities in the public issue of a company to Rs 5 lakh.

- At present the limit is Rs 2 lakhs.
- The new rule will come into effect from 1 May 2022.

Concept Clearing

Debt Securities.

Company needs funds for its business. It can raise the fund by taking loans (borrowing) from banks. Loans taken from banks will not be called debt securities.

Another option for the company is to approach the market also known as the financial market, to borrow. When it approaches the financial market it issues certain papers to the lenders promising to pay interest for a certain time period and also return back the principal amount after a certain time.

This paper creates debt to the company . These types of paper are also called debentures, bonds etc. As it can be freely bought and sold in the market it is also called as debt securities.

Public Issue

When the company approaches the market and asks money from the public by issuing its shares or debentures etc it is called a public issue.

SEBI chairperson : Madhuri Puri Buch

For SEBI kindly see our 28 February 2022 post also.

7. RBI launches 24x7 helpline DigiSaathi (March 9, 2022)

Reserve Bank of India has launched a 24x7 helpline , '**DigiSaathi**' to address the queries of digital payment users across products.

- DigiSaathi will assist users with their queries on digital payments via website & chatbot facility and through toll-free calls where users can dial or call out the options / products for which the information is required.
- Automated responses on information related to digital payment products and services are available in Hindi and English through multiple options like – (a) toll-free number (1800-891-3333), (b) a short code (14431), (c) website www.digisaathi.info, and chatbots.

Governor of RBI: **Shaktikanta Das**

Headquarter of RBI: **Mumbai.**

8. Reserve Bank of India launches UPI123Pay (March 9, 2022)

To make digital payment more accessible to the people, **the Reserve Bank of India** has launched **UPI123Pay** for people who do not have a smartphone .

- UPI 123 Pay has been designed to make **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** digital payment system more user friendly through feature phones .
- Feature phones are normal phones which do not have internet connection and in India around 40 crore people use feature phones .
- **UPI123Pay includes four distinct options :**

App-based Functionality:

An app would be installed on the feature phone through which several UPI functions, available on smartphones, will also be available on feature phones.

Missed Call:

This will allow feature phone users to access their bank account and perform routine transactions such as receiving, transferring funds, regular purchases, bill payments, etc., by giving a missed call on the number displayed at the merchant outlet. The customer will receive an incoming call to authenticate the transaction by entering UPI PIN (Personal Identification Number).

Interactive Voice Response (IVR):

UPI payment through pre-defined IVR numbers would require users to initiate a secured call from their feature phones to a predetermined number and complete UPI on-boarding formalities to be able to start making financial transactions without internet connection.

Proximity Sound-based Payments:

This uses sound waves to enable contactless, offline, and proximity data communication on any device.

- This is not the first time that UPI facilities are being made available through a feature phone . UPI facility can be used through a **Unstructured Supplementary Service Data(USSD) service**.
- Under this service the user has to dial *99# to receive a set of menus before initiating instructions. It was complicated and difficult to use and the new UPI123Pay is more easy to use .

UPI (Unified Payment Interface)

- UPI was launched by NPCI(National Payment Corporation of India) in 2016 . It provides an instant fund transfer system from one bank account to another through a mobile phone .
- It is operational 24x7 and 365 days.
- The maximum fund transfer limit is Rs 2 lakh per transaction.

Important for Exam

UPI :**Unified Payment Interface**

USSD: **Unstructured Supplementary Service Data**

Governor of RBI: **Shaktikanta Das**

Headquarter of RBI: **Mumbai**.

9. International Women's Day (March 8, 2022)

8 March is celebrated around the world as International Women's Day. It was observed for the first time in 1911.

Theme of 2022 International women's day : **“gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”**.

That is, gender equality is necessary in society for a stable and equal tomorrow.

The colours of Women's Day are purple, green and white. Because purple is a symbol of justice and dignity. On the other hand, green colour symbolises hope and white colour symbolises peace and purity.

10. 4th Jan Aushadi Diwas celebrated (March 7, 2022)

Jan Aushadi Diwas is celebrated in India on 7 March every year .

Every year from **1 to 7 March is celebrated as the Jan Aushadhi Week** to generate awareness about the usage of generic medicines and benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana..

The theme of the Jan Aushadhi week 2022 was **“Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi”**.

What is Jan Aushadhi

Jan Aushadhi or generic drugs (medicine) is a type of medicine on which the patent has expired . The generic medicine has the same chemical composition of the original patented one and provides the same benefit.

What is Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadi Yojana (PMBJY)

The scheme was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers in 2008.

What is its aim

It aims to provide quality generic medicine to the public at affordable prices .