

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 11, 2022

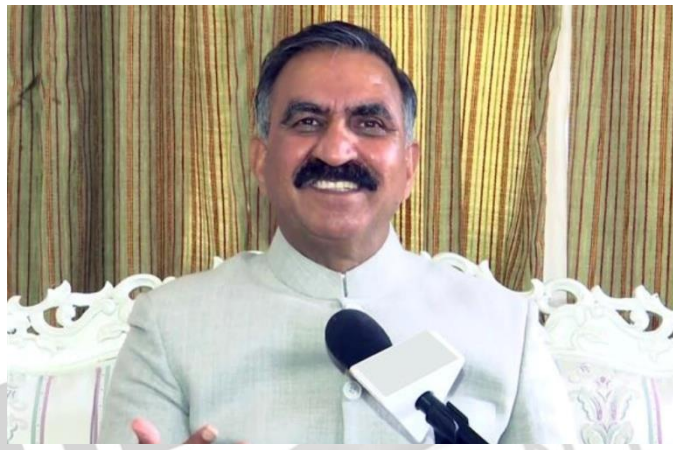
STATES

- **Bhupendra Patel - will continue as the Gujarat Chief Minister for the second straight term**



- ✓ He was elected as the leader of the legislative party at a meeting of the BJP MLAs in Gandhinagar on December 10.
- ✓ Senior BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, BS Yediyurappa and Arjun Munda were present for the meeting as the party's central observers.
- ✓ During the day, Patel met governor Acharya Devvrat and staked claim to form the government
- ✓ Patel, 60, had resigned as the chief minister along with his entire cabinet on December 9 to pave the way for formation of a new government in the state
- ✓ Patel won a second straight term from the Ghatlodia Assembly seat in Ahmedabad district by 1.92 lakh votes in this year's election, which was the highest ever winning margin in the state.
- ✓ A low-profile leader and the first from the Kadva Patidar sub-group to become CM, Patel, a former chairman of Ahmedabad Urban Development Corporation, had replaced Vijay Rupani in September 2021
- ✓ Patel will take oath as the 18th chief minister of Gujarat at a function at the Helipad ground near the new secretariat in Gandhinagar on December 12.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with the chief ministers of other BJP-ruled states would attend the swearing-in function
 - ✓ The BJP won the seventh straight term in Gujarat in the two-phase election held on December 1 and 5.
 - ✓ The BJP registered a historic victory in Gujarat by clinching 156 seats in the 182-member House, much higher than its tally of 99 seats in 2017.
 - ✓ The previous record for the most number of seats won by any party in the state was 149 seats won by Congress under Madhavsingh Solanki in 1985
- **Former Congress's Himachal Pradesh unit chief Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu - will be sworn in as the 15th chief minister of the hill state on December 11**



- ✓ The 58-year-old Congress leader is a four-time MLA and chairman of the Congress' state election campaign committee.
- ✓ He was elected as the new Himachal CM after the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) chose him as its leader on December 10
- ✓ The leader of the opposition in the outgoing Assembly Mukesh Agnihotri was chosen as the deputy chief minister
- ✓ Sukhu is the fourth-time MLA for Nadaun in Hamirpur district, while Agnihotri was elected from Haorli in Una district for the fifth time and had been a minister in the past.
- ✓ The swearing in ceremony will be attended by senior leaders including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi.
- ✓ A lawyer by profession, Sukhu belongs from Nadaun of Hamirpur district in the hill state.
- ✓ Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu was the former general secretary and President of the Himachal Pradesh unit of the Congress-affiliated National Students' Union of India (NSUI).
- ✓ He secured a major victory for the first time when he won the assembly election in 2003 from Nadaun in Hamirpur district and then retained the seat in 2007 but was then defeated in 2012 and won again in 2017 and 2022.
- ✓ Sukhu remained the Congress's Himachal Pradesh unit president for a record six years from 2013 to 2019

- ✓ This is the second time that Hamirpur district has got a chief minister after BJP's Prem Kumar Dhumal.
- ✓ The Congress wrested power from the BJP in the hill state winning 40 of the 68 assembly seats.
- ✓ The polling was held on November 12 and the results were declared on December 8.

NATIONAL

- **On December 10, Union minister of railways Ashwini Vaishnaw - announced a new train 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express' between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu**



- ✓ The announcement was made by the Minister to commemorate the ongoing month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam.
- ✓ The rail minister also interacted with the delegates from Tamil Nadu who were invited to witness the Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi.
- ✓ Kashi Tamil Sangamam is a month-long programme organized by the Ministry of Education, as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav
- **The Centre - has accorded 'in-principal' approval for the setting up of 21 greenfield airports across the country**
- ✓ This was announced by Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation Gen VK Singh (Retd) in a written reply to Lok Sabha on December 8
- ✓ These airports include Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Hassan and Shivamogga in Karnataka, Dabra (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram and Oravakal (Kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala and Donyi Polo, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh.

- ✓ Out of these, 9 Greenfield airports - Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar and Donyi Polo, Itanagar have been operationalized.
 - ✓ The development of a Greenfield airport is governed under the Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008
 - ✓ As per the Policy, a State Government or an Airport Developer willing to establish an airport is required to send a proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) for 2-stage approval - 'Site-Clearance' followed by 'In-Principle' approval.
 - ✓ The responsibility of the implementation of airport projects including funding of the projects rests with the concerned airport developer including the respective State Government, in case the State Government is the project proponent.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) – has recently signed an MoU with incubator and accelerator Social Alpha to launch “SpaceTech Innovation Network” (SpIN)**



- ✓ SpIN is India's first dedicated platform for innovation curation and venture development for the space entrepreneurial ecosystem
- ✓ It is one-of-its-kind public-private collaboration for start-ups and SMEs in the space industry
- ✓ SpIN will primarily focus on facilitating space tech entrepreneurs in three distinct innovation categories - Geospatial Technologies and Downstream Applications; Enabling Technologies for Space& Mobility; and Aerospace Materials, Sensors, and Avionics.
- ✓ As per the MoU, SpIN has launched its first innovation challenge for early-stage start-ups for developing solutions in several areas
 - ✓ The chosen areas include maritime and land transportation, urbanisation, mapping and surveying, disaster management, food security, sustainable agriculture, environmental monitoring, and natural resources management among others
- ✓ The selected start-ups and innovators will be able to access both Social Alpha's and ISRO's infrastructure and resources as per the prevailing guidelines

- **The government - has approved the Print and Digital Media Association (PADMA) as a self-regulatory body for publishers of news and current affairs across the country**
- ✓ The association — with 47 digital news publishers on board — will look at redressing grievances related to digital media news content on their platforms.
- ✓ The body will be headed by former HC Judge Mool Chand Garg and have part-time member of Prasar Bharati, Ashok Kumar Tandon and journalist, Manoj Kumar Mishra as members
- ✓ With this, the Ministry has approved nine self-regulatory bodies since May 2021 under rule 12 of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

- **The Supreme Court – has recently exempted Maharashtra’s Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS) from the mandatory creation of 1 km eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around it.**
- ✓ On June 3, the SC had directed all protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuaries across India to have mandatory eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) of a minimum of 1 km starting from their demarcated boundaries.
- ✓ The TWS was exempted by the apex court due to practical difficulties and ground realities in setting up the ESZ around it
- ✓ The court delivered the verdict taking into account the earlier order exempting the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary in Mumbai.
- ✓ Tungareshwar wildlife sanctuary or Tungareshwar National Park is situated in Maharashtra’s Palghar district.
- ✓ It is located at the northern periphery of Mumbai, spreading across 85 sq km area and forms a corridor between the Borivali National Park and Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ The TWS has three different types of forests – dry deciduous, moist deciduous and semi evergreen.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - has abstained from voting in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on a resolution that exempts humanitarian aid efforts from sanctions**
- ✓ India was the sole abstention while all other 14 members of the 15-member council voted in favour of the resolution
- ✓ The draft resolution to exempt humanitarian aid efforts from sanctions, presented by the US and Ireland, was adopted by the Council, currently presided over by India
- ✓ The resolution decided that processing or payment of funds, other financial assets, economic resources, and provision of goods and services necessary to ensure the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance are permitted and are not a violation of the asset freezes imposed by the Council or its Sanctions Committee.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati - chaired the inaugural edition of the Silchar–Sylhet festival held at Silchar in Assam’s Barak valley**



- ✓ The inaugural function was graced by two chief guests – G.Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DoNER, and Dr. AK Abdul Momen, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh
 - ✓ The Sylhet-Silchar Festival aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship and cultural ties between the two neighbouring countries, India and Bangladesh.
 - ✓ The two-day festival held recently on December 2 and 3 was jointly organized by the India Foundation under the Union Ministry of Culture and Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies.
 - ✓ The festival mainly focussed on the topic of Trade and Commerce but also included areas like culture, food, language & literature, and the shared interest in rivers and the climate
 - ✓ About 100 delegates of businessmen, politicians, and scholars from Bangladesh participated in the festival
 - ✓ This event commemorated the 75th anniversary of India’s independence and 50th anniversary of Bangladesh’s liberation from Pakistan.
- **The 5th edition of the European Union-India Competition Week - was recently held from December 5 to 7 in New Delhi**



- ✓ It was inaugurated by the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) acting chairperson Sangeeta Verma
- ✓ The Competition Week is held every year for capacity building of CCI officers, since 2018.
 - ✓ In this regard, CCI and Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission had signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2013
- ✓ The technical cooperation programmes held during the week focused on best practices in competition policy and enforcement.
- ✓ The event covered wide range of topics like antitrust cases in the digital economy, digital market regulations, and the investigation of certain agreements.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Artificial intelligence (AI) research company OpenAI – has recently released ChatGPT, the AI chatbot, for testing**
- ✓ Built by OpenAI, a San Francisco-based AI company, ChatGPT, which stands for “generative pre-trained transformer”, is considered as the best AI chatbot ever opened to the general public
- ✓ ChatGPT is a prototype dialogue-based AI chatbot capable of understanding natural language and responding in natural language.
- ✓ Trained by AI and machine learning, It is designed to provide information and answer questions through a conversational interface
- ✓ It is the first time such a powerful tool has been made available to the general public through a free, easy-to-use web interface.
- ✓ ChatGPT is a chat system based on the GPT-3 Artificial Intelligence language model, developed by the OpenAI company.
 - ✓ It is a model with more than 175 million parameters and trained with large amounts of text to perform language-related tasks, from translation to text generation.
- ✓ The conversations with the AI-based chatbot can be made through its official website, which is <https://chat.openai.com>.
- ✓ However, the chatbot is only capable of providing generalized answers, unlike Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa that are more focused on giving specific answers to user queries.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **Bharti Airtel and Meta Platforms Inc. – to collaborate to bring world's longest sub-sea cable infrastructure to India**
- ✓ Airtel will partner with Facebook parent company, Meta and Saudi Telecom to extend 2Africa Pearls, the subsea cable set up by Meta, to Mumbai, India

- ✓ 2Africa is the world's longest subsea cable system that connects Africa, Europe and Asia and is expected to provide faster internet connectivity to almost 3 billion people globally.



- ✓ Last year, Meta Platforms Inc announced a new segment of 2Africa Pearls in collaboration with regional partners.
- ✓ The extended 2Africa Pearls branch will include landing locations in Oman, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Pakistan, India, and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ The landing of 2Africa will improve the connectivity of fixed-line broadband internet in India.
- ✓ When it was launched in 2020, the 37,000-km subsea cable connected 23 countries.
- ✓ At present, Bharti Airtel owns three cable landing stations — two in Chennai and one in Mumbai
- ✓ The collaboration will also see Airtel integrate Meta's WhatsApp within its Communications Platform as a Service (CPaaS) platform.
- ✓ CPaaS is a cloud-based platform that allows organisations to add real-time communications capabilities, such as voice, video and messaging, to business applications
- ✓ In January, Meta, Airtel signed a similar multi-year agreement with Google to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem.
- ✓ Under the partnership, Google said it would invest up to \$1 billion, as part of its 'Google for India' digitisation fund over the course of the next five years.

SPORTS

- **Morocco – created history to become the first African and Arab country to reach the World Cup semifinals**
- ✓ On December 10, Morocco secured a 1-0 victory over Portugal in the quarter finals at Al Thumama Stadium in Qatar
- ✓ Striker Yousef en-Nesyri scored the only goal of the game to end Five-time Ballon d Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo's dream of winning the elusive biggest prize in soccer

- ✓ Cameroon (1990), Senegal (2002), and Ghana (2010) are the only other African teams which have managed to reach the quarter-finals of the previous World Cups



- ✓ Morocco topped their group ahead of World No. 2 Belgium and Croatia and then beat World No. 7 Spain and World No. 9 Portugal in the knockout stage.
 - ✓ The Atlas Lions are yet to concede a goal scored by an opposition player, as the only goal it has allowed was an own-goal
 - ✓ Morocco will now take on France in the semi finals of the FIFA World Cup 2022 on December 15
 - ✓ Meanwhile, in another quarter final, Argentina defeated Netherlands 4-3 in a penalty shootout after the match ended tied 2-2 at Lusail stadium
 - ✓ With this, Argentina have won the most penalty shootouts in World Cup history (5 from 6)
 - ✓ They are in the semi finals for the 4th time after reaching the final on all 3 earlier occasions (1986, 1990 and 2014)
 - ✓ Argentina will face Croatia in the other semi final to be played on December 14
 - ✓ It is only the second time Argentina has reached the last four since 1990.
 - ✓ During the game, Spanish refer Antonio Lahoz flashed 14 yellow and a red card, the most in a World Cup game ever.
- **On December 10, India's left-hand opening batsman Ishan Kishan - made history by becoming the fourth Indian batsman to register a double century in One-Day Internationals.**



- ✓ He accomplished the feat, smashing 210 off 131 balls, in the third ODI between India and Bangladesh played at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram.
- ✓ In ODI cricket, only Rohit Sharma (thrice), Virender Sehwag, and Sachin Tendulkar have scored double centuries for India
- ✓ Chris Gayle, Martin Guptill and Fakhar Zaman are the other international batsmen who have scored an ODI double-century as well.
- ✓ Former Australia women cricketer Belinda Clark is the first ever batter - male or female - to have scored a double-ton in the ODI format.
- ✓ Kishan got the quickest double-century in ODI history, surpassing Chris Gayle's record for the West Indies.
 - ✓ He reached the 200-run mark off just 126 balls, while Gayle had scored his double ton off 138 balls.
- ✓ Kishan has become the youngest batter at the age of 24 years to score a double century in One-Day Internationals.
 - ✓ The previous youngest was Rohit Sharma, who was 26 years old when he scored his maiden double ton against Australia in 2013.
- ✓ In the process, Kishan has also registered the highest ODI score in Bangladesh.
 - ✓ The previous highest was registered by former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson, who had scored an unbeaten 185 in 2011.
 - ✓ Among Indian batters, he broke the record of former India opener Virender Sehwag, who had smashed 175 runs in the opening game of the Cricket World Cup in 2011.
- ✓ Kishan has also registered the most sixes (10) by an Indian in ODI innings in Bangladesh.
 - ✓ He broke the record of former India captain Sourav Ganguly, who had recorded seven sixes

RANKINGS

- **For the fifth time in a row, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman - was featured in the recently released Forbes' annual list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women**



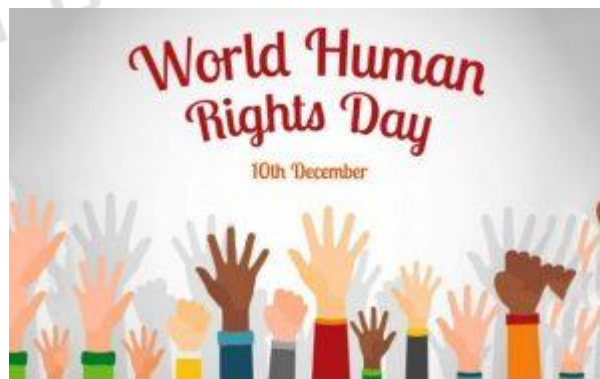
- ✓ Sitharaman is at number 36 on the list highlighting "innovators and instigators who are leading on the world stage to redefine traditional power structures".
 - ✓ Last year, she was in the 37th spot, 41st in 2020 and 34th in 2019.
 - ✓ Sitharaman was appointed as India's first female Finance Minister in May 2019.
 - ✓ Before her career in politics, she held roles at the UK-based Agricultural Engineers Association and the BBC World Service.
 - ✓ The other Indians to feature on the list are HCLTech Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra (rank - 53), Securities And Exchange Board Of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch (rank - 54), and Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal (rank - 67).
 - ✓ Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar made it to the prestigious list last year also at 52nd, 72nd and 88th spots respectively
 - ✓ This year Mazumdar-Shaw is ranked 72, while Nayar is at 89th spot, according to the list released recently by Forbes
 - ✓ This year's list was topped by European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen "for her leadership during the Ukraine war, as well as her handling of the Covid-19 pandemic".
 - ✓ European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde stood at second position on the list, while US Vice President Kamala Harris ranked third on the list.
 - ✓ At rank 100, Iran's Jina "Mahsa" Amini has posthumously made it to the influential list.
 - ✓ Her death in September sparked an unprecedented women-led revolution for their rights in the Islamic nation.
 - ✓ The list includes 39 CEOs; 10 heads of state; and 11 billionaires worth a combined wealth of \$115 billion.
- **The Indian passport – is ranked at 69th place out of 193 nations in the latest global passport Index released by Arton Capital, a Montreal-based citizenship advisory firm**



- ✓ According to the index, Indians can travel visa-free to 24 nations but need a visa-on-arrival for 48 others and a visa for 126 countries.
- ✓ The UAE has got the first position in the rating of passports for 2022
 - ✓ With a UAE passport, travellers can enter 180 countries hassle-free — 121 countries visa free with a visa on arrival facility for 59 countries – while they only require visa for 89 countries.
- ✓ Further, 10 European countries – Germany, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, France, Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland – and South Korea stood in the second position.
 - ✓ They have the visa power to travel to 126 countries and need a visa on arrival for 47.
- ✓ The United States ranked third along with Denmark, Belgium, Portugal, Norway, Poland, Ireland and New Zealand, with ability to travel to 116 countries visa free
- ✓ India shares its rank with The Gambia, Ghana, Uzbekistan and Tanzania
- ✓ Japan is easily accessible from 171 countries and is ranked 24 on Arton's index.
 - ✓ This year's list by Henley & Partners ranked Japan's travel document as the best in the world.
- ✓ Pakistan was ranked 94th, while Afghanistan was last with only 38 countries in its visa free list
- ✓ The Passport Index 2022, published by Arton Capital, ranks the world's strongest and weakest passports.
- ✓ The passport rankings indicate how many countries can be visited without a visa.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Human Rights Day – December 10



- ✓ Human Rights Day is observed every year with the aim of making people aware of their rights
- ✓ Human rights are those fundamental natural rights from which human beings cannot be deprived or oppressed on the basis of race, caste, nationality, religion, gender etc.
- ✓ It is celebrated to honour the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948.

- ✓ This was the first-ever global document on human rights that outlines all human beings' fundamental rights that need to be protected universally.
- ✓ This year marks the 74th anniversary of the adoption of the UDHR and the 72nd Human Rights Day.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All.
- ✓ In India, the Human Rights Act came into force on 28 September 1993, after which the government constituted the National Human Rights Commission on October 12, 1993

