

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 12, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On December 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - paid tribute to Tamil poet Subramania Bharathi on his 141st birth anniversary
- ✓ Earlier in the day, external affairs minister S Jaishankar paid a visit to the poet's family in Kashi.
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, governor R N Ravi and chief minister M K Stalin paid rich tribute to the poet.



- ✓ During the day, CM Stalin inaugurated the renovated house 'Bharathi Illam' of Subramania Bharathi in Varanasi and unveiled his statue at the poet's residence through video conferencing from Chennai.
- ✓ The State government entered into an agreement with the owner of the house in Varanasi, in which Bharathiyar lived from the age of 15 to 19, and a part of the 'Bharathi Illam' was renovated to turn the house into a memorial.

- ✓ The announcement to renovate the 'Bharathi Illam' and to construct a bust-sized statue was announced by the Chief Minister in the state Assembly, September 10, 2021.
- ✓ Bharathi's birth anniversary was celebrated at Raj Bhavan too and observed as the Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas (Indian Languages Day), in which Governor Ravi presided over.
- ✓ Born in Ettayapuram in Tuticorin district on December 11, 1882, Bharathi's songs, poems and writings inspired the freedom struggle.

NATIONAL

- **On December 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - unveiled 11 infrastructure projects worth Rs. 75,000 crore in Maharashtra**



- ✓ PM Modi dedicated to the nation 'Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Chandrapur' to the nation and inaugurated 'Centre for Research, Management and Control of Hemoglobinopathies' in Chandrapur.
 - ✓ The research institute in Chandrapur will work towards curbing the prevalence of Sickle Cell disease in the tribal population of the Vidarbha region.
- ✓ Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister flagged off Vande Bharat Express from Nagpur to Bilaspur, dedicated 'Nagpur Metro Phase I' to the nation, and laid the foundation stone of 'Nagpur Metro phase- II'.
 - ✓ Through the Vande Bharat Express, the travel time from Nagpur to Bilaspur will be reduced to 5 ½ hours from 7-8 hours
 - ✓ The new train flagged off is the country's sixth Vande Bharat Express
 - ✓ The PM also laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Nagpur Railway Station and Ajni Railway Station to be undertaken at a cost of about Rs. 590 crore and Rs. 360 crore respectively

- ✓ Further, the PM inaugurated a maintenance depot of rail engine of 12,000 horsepower in Ajni and Koli-Narked route in Nagpur-Itarsi
- ✓ PM Modi also inaugurated Phase - I of Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg, a 520-Km-long expressway.
 - ✓ The project when completed is estimated to cost Rs 55,000 crore.
 - ✓ The 701 Km expressway will be one of India's longest expressways, passing through Nagpur, Shirdi and 10 districts in Maharashtra connecting the prominent urban regions of Amravati, Aurangabad and Nashik.
 - ✓ It will also connect to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, and tourist locations, like Ajanta Ellora Caves, Verul, Lonar, etc.
 - ✓ The newly constructed expressway is the second expressway in the state of Maharashtra after the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.
 - ✓ Through the new expressway, the journey time between Mumbai and Nagpur would be cut in half from 16 to 8 hours.
- ✓ PM Modi also unveiled the AIIMS Nagpur, which is being developed at a cost of more than Rs 1,575 crore.
 - ✓ The foundation stone of the hospital was laid by the Prime Minister in July 2017.
 - ✓ The AIIMS is being established under the Central government scheme — Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.
 - ✓ The super-specialty hospital has state-of-the-art facilities, with OPD, IPD, diagnostic services, operation theatres and 38 departments covering all major specialty and super-speciality subjects of Medical Science.
 - ✓ It provides modern healthcare facilities to the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and caters to the surrounding tribal areas of Gadchiroli, Gondia and Melghat
- ✓ The foundation stone of National Institute of One Health (NIO), Nagpur was laid by the PM Modi during the day.
 - ✓ The institution will be established at a cost of over Rs 110 crore.
- ✓ The foundation stone for a project to clean the river Nag at Nagpur was also laid by the Prime Minister
 - ✓ The project under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) will be operationalised at a cost of more than Rs. 1,925 crore.
- ✓ Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Dr. Bharati Pawar and Raosaheb Danwe Patil, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis were present on this occasion.
- **On December 11, PM Modi - inaugurated the first phase of Goa's second international airport at Mopa.**
 - ✓ The Manohar International Airport, built at a cost of Rs.2,870 crore will begin operations starting January 5.
 - ✓ The GMR-built Greenfield airport has been named after former Goa chief minister and ex-defence minister late Manohar Parrikar



- ✓ Its foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister in November 2016.
- ✓ For the first time in the country, two airports have been established in a single city
 - ✓ This will be the second airport in Goa, the first one being located at Dabolim, operated as a civil enclave in Indian Navy's air station INS Hansa
- ✓ PM Modi also delivered address at the Valedictory function of 9th World Ayurveda Congress in Panaji, Goa.
- ✓ During the function, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 3 National AYUSH Institutes - All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa, National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad and National Institute of Homeopathy (NIH), Delhi, in Panaji, Goa
- ✓ State Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai, Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of state for Ports, Shipping and waterways Shripad Naik, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant are present at the event
- **On December 9, CPI(M)'s Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya - introduced the National Judicial Commission Bill 2022 in the Rajya Sabha**



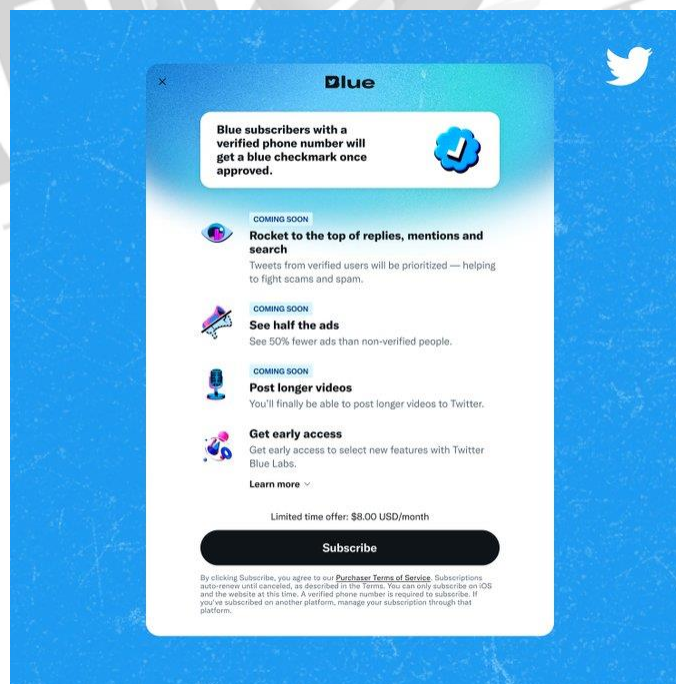
- ✓ Bhattacharyya moved the private member bill to regulate the appointment of judges through the National Judicial Commission
- ✓ The National Judicial Commission Bill, 2022 was introduced after the majority of voice votes were in its favour.
- ✓ The bill aims to regulate the procedure to be followed by the National Judicial Commission for recommending people for appointment as the Chief Justice of

India and other judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices and other judges of High Courts.

- ✓ The bill, if approved, will also regulate their transfers and to lay down judicial standards and provide for accountability of judges
- ✓ Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) member Chadha opposed the bill, saying the concept of NJAC has come under consideration of the Supreme Court three times in 1993, 1998 and 2016, but being dismissed each time by the apex court
- ✓ The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) is an independent commission that was proposed to replace the existing collegium system for the appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- ✓ It was proposed for the recruitment, appointment and transfer of judicial officers, legal officers and legal employees under the Central and State Governments.
- ✓ The creation of the NJAC was proposed by the Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014
- ✓ The NJAC was not created till date, after these bills were challenged at the Supreme Court for their constitutional validity.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Elon Musk headed Twitter - is all set to relaunch its premium 'Twitter Blue' subscription service on December 12**



- ✓ The subscription service will give users access to premium features including blue tick, the ability to post 1080p videos, edit tweets and a lot more
- ✓ Besides these options, Twitter Blue will introduce reader mode, golden official check for business accounts and grey checkmark for government and multilateral accounts, which will allow distinguishing between accounts

- ✓ A checkmark on an account was previously free but reserved for organisations and public figures in an attempt to avoid impersonation.
 - ✓ This is the third iteration of the Twitter Blue subscription service, which is a lot different with new features than the first version, which was launched back in June 2021.
 - ✓ To use Twitter Blue, users on Android will be required to pay \$8, while iOS users will need to pay \$11 to use the service.
 - ✓ Although Twitter Blue users will be able to change their handle name, profile picture, and photo, the blue badge will be disabled until they re-verify their account.
 - ✓ Elon Musk completed the acquisition of Twitter, formed in 2006 with headquarters in San Francisco, California, for \$44 billion in late October
- **South Africa and Kenya - have partnered together for a new initiative - the Just Transition Initiative - to put an end to plastic pollution in a fair and inclusive manner.**
- ✓ The new initiative was announced recently after the first Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) that concluded in Uruguay on December 2
 - ✓ The initiative seeks to phase out plastic and at the same time seeks to create decent work opportunities for waste-pickers and other workers in the plastic value chain.
 - ✓ A plan for a 'just transition' will guarantee better and decent work, social protection, training opportunities and greater job security for workers at all stages of the plastic value chain

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) – has successfully conducted a joint hypersonic vehicle trial along with the Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS).**
- ✓ The Indian space agency has been developing hypersonic missiles in collaboration with Russia
 - ✓ Scientists are also working on a project for the development of an indigenous, dual-capable hypersonic cruise missile under the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) program
 - ✓ The Indian indigenous missiles will have the ability to fire nuclear weapons along with conventional weapons.
 - ✓ A hypersonic vehicle can be an airplane, missile, or spacecraft that has the ability to travel five times faster than the speed of sound, or greater than Mach 5
 - ✓ China, India, Russia, and the United States are the only countries that have hypersonic weapons

- ✓ Further, ISRO has also completed the first blow down test of the newly-installed Trisonic Wind Tunnel at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
- ✓ The Trisonic Wind Tunnel is a system used to support aerodynamic design of rockets and re-entry spacecrafts by evaluating forces, moments, load distribution, and maintaining pressures and acoustic levels on a scaled model
- ✓ The tunnel can be used for testing various space vehicles in three flight regimes - below the speed of sound, at the speed of sound, and above the speed of sound and hence the name "trisonic wind tunnel"
- ✓ The tunnel can simulate flight conditions from 0.2 times the speed of sound (68 m/s) to 4 times the speed of sound (1360 m/s)

