

January - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ ONGC, Indian Oil Corp, Power Grid, NTPC and SAIL emerged as the top five Profit-Making Public-Sector Enterprises in 2021-22.
- ❖ Prabhu Chandra Mishra has been awarded Atal Samman Award for his excellence in field of science & research.
- ❖ The Union Jal Shakti Ministry is organizing a national level conference on water on the theme of 'Water Vision@2047' in Bhopal.
- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 'Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium' in Rourkela ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023.
- ❖ The first G-20 meeting will be held in Puducherry on January 31.
- ❖ Parliamentarian and author, Shashi Tharoor's latest book 'Ambedkar: A Life' was recently launched at the Kitaab Kolkata event.

NATIONAL

Decennial census



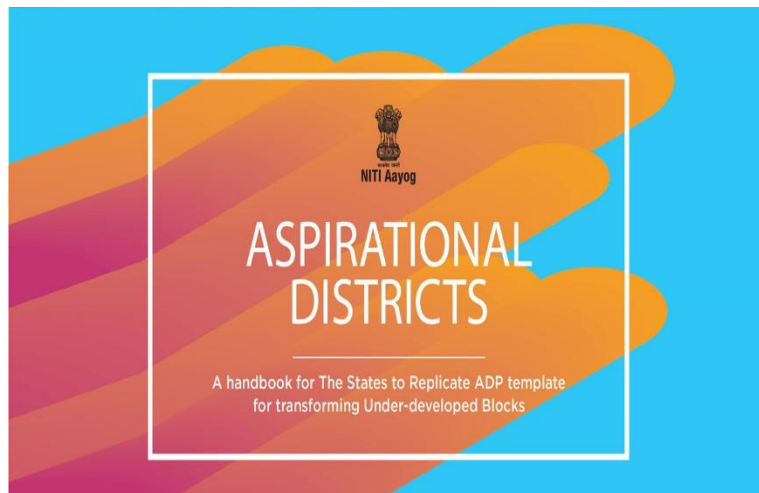
2021

- ❖ The decennial census exercise has been postponed till September.
- ❖ The Government informed the States that the date of freezing of administrative boundaries has been extended till June 30.
- ❖ As per norms, census can be conducted only three months after freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas and police stations.
- ❖ The last census was held in 2011.



- ❖ The first phase of Census 2021 - the House listing and Housing Census along with updating the National Population Register (NPR) were scheduled to be held from April-September 2020.
- ❖ But they were postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The upcoming census is to be held for the first time both in digital mode and through paper schedules (questionnaire/forms).

Aspirational Blocks Programme



- ❖ The Centre is set to launch the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).
- ❖ It is a new initiative on the lines of the Aspirational District Programme.
- ❖ It is aimed at improving performance of districts lagging on various development parameters.
- ❖ Under the ABP, 500 blocks across states have been identified.
- ❖ These 500 blocks have been identified on the basis of the recommendations of a four-member committee constituted by the government last year.

Largest Single Unit of UN Women Peacekeepers

- ❖ India will deploy a platoon of women peacekeepers to UN Mission in Sudan.
- ❖ This will be India's largest single unit of women Peacekeepers in a UN Mission.
- ❖ India deployed the first-ever all-women contingent in Liberia in 2007.
- ❖ The U.N. Peacekeeping mission is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- ❖ It aims to assist host countries to transition from situations of conflict to peace.

- ❖ India is the second largest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions deployed across 12 missions after Bangladesh.



iFANS-2023

- ❖ 'International Conference on Food and Nutritional Security-2023 (iFANS-2023)' was inaugurated at Mohali.
- ❖ iFANS-2023 conference envisages bringing together international experts and young researchers in the areas of agriculture, food, and nutrition biotechnology, and genome editing.



National Genome Editing and Training Centre (NGETC)

- ❖ NGETC is a one-roof state-of-the-art facility.
- ❖ It will serve as a national platform to cater to the regional needs to adapt different genome editing methods, including CRISPR-Cas mediated genome modification.

- ❖ Genome editing could be a promising technology that Indian research could adapt to offer the desired tailor-made traits in crops.
- ❖ National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute has shown ability and can expand the genome editing tools to vast arrays of crops, including Banana, Rice, Wheat, Tomato, Maize and Millets.



India's longest rail track with automatic signaling system



- ❖ The Indian Railways has rolled out the 'Automatic Block Signalling' on a mission mode.
- ❖ The ABS is a cost-effective solution.
- ❖ Indian Railways' Ghaziabad-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay section has become the nation's longest fully Automatic Block Signalling section.
- ❖ The 762 km long route has been fully automated.

- ❖ ABS helps to control the movement of the trains by the automatic stop signals.

INTERNATIONAL

Lithium and copper mine in Argentina



- ❖ India has identified two lithium mines and one copper mine in Argentina for a possible acquisition or long-term lease.
- ❖ KABIL, a joint venture formed through the participation of National Aluminium Company (Nalco), Hindustan Copper (HCL) and MECL.
- ❖ It aims to ensure consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals in the domestic market.
- ❖ Argentina is currently the 4th largest producer of Lithium across the globe.
- ❖ Together with Chile and Bolivia, the north-west of the country forms the so-called "Lithium Triangle".
- ❖ Australia is the top lithium producer globally.

- ❖ Lithium is found in cedemine rock formation and in brine form, which is called salar in Latin America.
- ❖ The other alternative is its liquid form.

STATES

World's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum

- ❖ Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the Palm leaf Manuscript Museum with modern audio-visual technology.
- ❖ The Museum, promoted as “World’s First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum” was set up by the Archives Department in association with the Kerala Museum of History and Heritage.
- ❖ The museum is a repository of curious nuggets of administrative, socio-cultural and economic facets of the Travancore kingdom which lasted for 650 years till the end of the 19th century.
- ❖ It had been the Central Vernacular Records Office since 1887 before becoming a museum.



Purple Fest 2023

- ❖ India’s first-of-its-kind inclusive festival – ‘Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity’ was inaugurated in Goa.
- ❖ The three-day festival aims to showcase “how we can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone”.

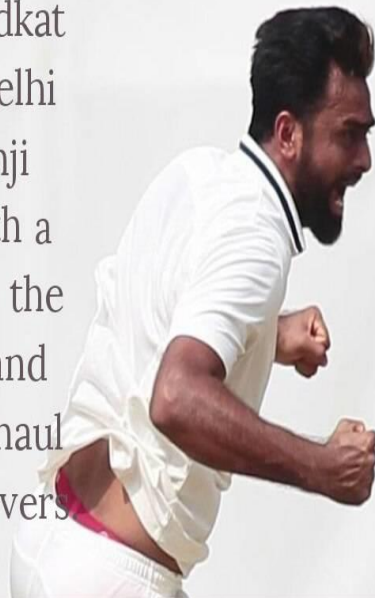
- ❖ The Purple Fest will be hosted by the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities in association with the Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa.



SPORTS

Hat-trick in Ranji Trophy

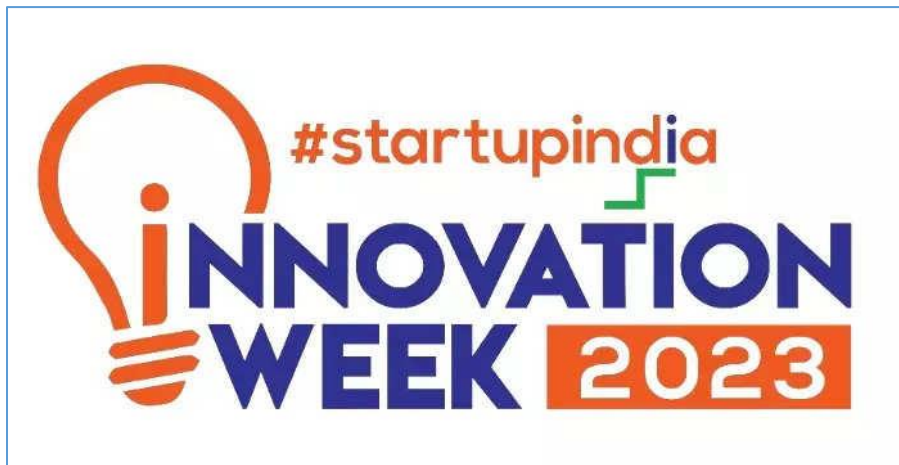
Jaydev Unadkat
destroys Delhi
in the Ranji
Trophy with a
hat-trick in the
first over and
a 5-wicket haul
in just two overs



- ❖ Saurashtra captain Jaydev Unadkat's grabbed a hat-trick in the opening over of the match in their Ranji Trophy.
- ❖ He made a history by becoming the first bowler in the history of the 88-year-old domestic tournament to take a hat-trick in the first over of the championship.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Startup India Innovation Week - January 10 to 16



- ❖ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organizing Startup India Innovation Week.
- ❖ It will include Knowledge Sharing Sessions for entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs, and other enablers, involving relevant stakeholders from the start-up ecosystem such as Government officials, incubators, corporates and investors.
- ❖ National Start-up Day will be observed on 16th January 2023.

