

March - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Gabrielle was a Severe Tropical Cyclone.
 - It devastated the North Island of New Zealand and affected parts of Vanuatu and Australia.
- ❖ The 4th edition of joint military exercise, “EX DHARMA GUARDIAN”, between India and Japan held at Camp Imazu in Shiga province, Japan.

NATIONAL

Exercise Shinyuu Maitri

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with the Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) conducted at Japan.
- ❖ The exercise is being organised on the side-lines of the Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian.
- ❖ The exercise gives an opportunity for the respective subject matter experts to interact and study each other’s operational philosophies and best practices.



INTERNATIONAL

Cobra Warrior exercise

- ❖ The Cobra Warrior Exercise is to be held at Waddington Air Force Base, England.
- ❖ It is a multilateral Air exercise in which Air Forces from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, the United States of America and Singapore would be participating.

- ❖ India is also participating in the exercise with Mirage 2000 fighters, C-17 Globemaster III and an IL-78 mid-air refueller aircraft.



India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2023

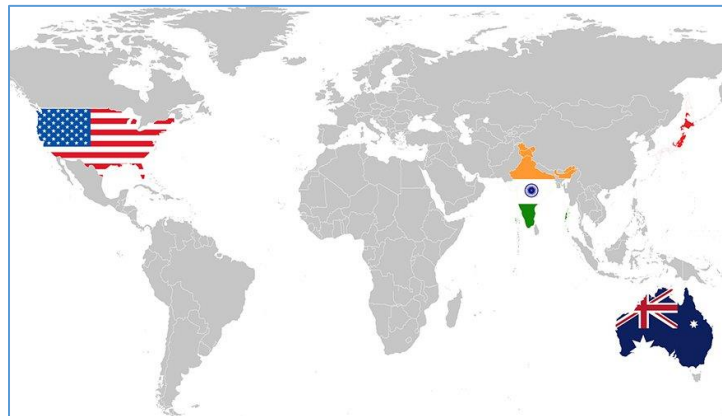


- ❖ The 3rd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India was held on a virtual platform.
- ❖ India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2023 approved during the meeting.

- ❖ This plan includes initiatives for capacity building and knowledge sharing in areas such as AI in Cybersecurity, IoT and AI in Next Generation Smart Cities, and the role of ICTs in implementing digital health and security.
- ❖ The theme of the meeting was “Synergy towards a Sustainable Digital Future”.
- ❖ The main objective of the meeting was to enhance the strength between India and ASEAN in the field of IT.

Quad Cyber Challenge

- ❖ The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad launched a public campaign 'Quad Cyber Challenge' to improve cyber security across their nations.
- ❖ The Quad has invited Internet users across the Indo-Pacific and beyond to become part of the challenge and practice "safe and responsible cyber habits.
- ❖ It is the continuous efforts of Quad nations to bolster cyber security awareness and action and to foster a more secure and resilient cyber ecosystem to benefit economies and users.
- ❖ The action in India is being coordinated by the office of the National Cyber Coordinator with the National Security Council Secretariat.
- ❖ The Quad is comprising India, United States, Japan and Australia.



9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9)

- ❖ India hosted 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable in association with the International Energy Forum (IEF) in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Theme for this event was “Mapping new pathways for energy security, inclusive growth and energy transitions.”
- ❖ India has met its commitment of 40% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030 November 2021.

- ❖ The International Energy Forum (IEF) is the world's largest energy organization with 71 member countries.
- ❖ The members accounting for 90 per cent of the global energy market.



Fifth International MPA Congress

- ❖ Recently, the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) was held in Canada.
- ❖ It aims to discuss the solutions to address the Funding Gap of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- ❖ IMPAC5 aims to provide a forum for sharing knowledge, successes and best practices in an open and respectful environment for the exchanging of ideas among a diversity of views.
- ❖ Three marine protected areas (MPAs) won prestigious Blue Park Awards in the event.



Ban on gas, diesel car sales

- ❖ The European Parliament has approved the law to ban the sale of new gas and diesel cars in the EU, starting in 2035.

- ❖ But the manufacturers can still make the cars and sell them in other countries
- ❖ The new legislation sets the path towards zero CO2 emissions for new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in 2035.
- ❖ The Commission will present by 2025 a methodology to assess and report data on CO2 emissions throughout the full life-cycle of cars and vans sold on the EU market.
- ❖ This regulation encourages the production of zero- and low-emission vehicles.



ENVIRONMENT

Jerdon's narrow-mouthed frog

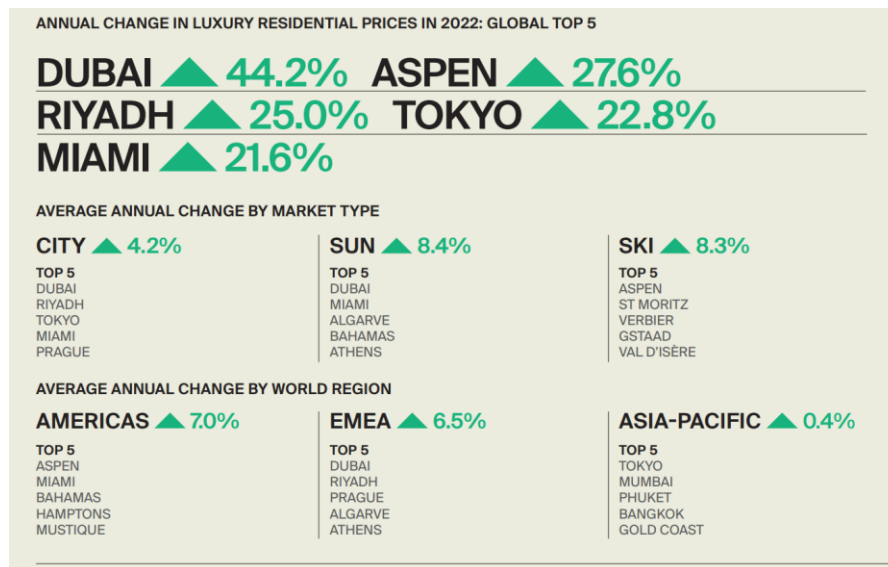


- ❖ *Uperodon montanus*, a frog endemic to the higher altitudes of Western Ghats, was rediscovered after 89 years Recently.

- ❖ It was studied last in 1934 by a British scientist.
- ❖ It is also known as Jerdon's narrow-mouthed frog, Jerdon's ramanella, mountain dot frog, mountain globular frog, or Malabar Hill frog.
- ❖ This frog is considered a montane species and is restricted to higher altitude ranges of 800-1,700 metres.
- ❖ They are distributed from near Wayanad south across the Palghat and the Shencottah gaps to the Agasthyamalai hills.
- ❖ It is classified as 'Near Threatened' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Price Growth in Luxury Housing



- ❖ Property consultant Knight Frank virtually released 'The Wealth Report 2023'.
- ❖ Mumbai's rank has improved to 37th from 92nd in a global list of movement in prices of luxury homes.
- ❖ Mumbai's prime property market has seen a 6.4 percent price increase globally.
- ❖ In Bengaluru, prime property prices rose 3 percent and ranked 62nd.
- ❖ Delhi increased by 1.2 percent, moving it up to 77th from 93rd in 2021.
- ❖ This report tracks the movement in luxury house prices across the world increased by 5.2 percent YoY (year-on-year) in 2022.
- ❖ As per the report, the prime residential prices in Dubai rose 44.2 percent in 2022 and ranked first.

- ❖ Colorado's Aspen ranks 2nd with 27.6 percent growth in prices, followed by Riyadh Riyadh (25 percent).

MISCELLANEOUS

Hallmark Unique Identification



- ❖ From April 1, the sale of gold jewellery will not be allowed without a Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) number.
- ❖ It is a unique identifier for each gold item.
- ❖ It is aimed at ensuring the purity of Hallmarked jewellery and check any malpractice.
- ❖ Hallmark is a mark on gold jewellery which is affixed by an entity recognised by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to assure its fineness and purity.
- ❖ Earlier, the HUID used to be of four digits.
- ❖ As of now both HUIDs (4- and 6-digit) are used in the market
- ❖ After March 31 only 6-digit alphanumeric code will be allowed.
- ❖ The jewellery is stamped with the unique number manually at the Assaying & Hallmarking centre.

