

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

04th April 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **RBI appoints Neeraj Nigam as executive director**

- The Reserve Bank of India has appointed Neeraj Nigam as executive director (ED) who will look after four departments, including consumer education and protection.
- Before being promoted to ED, he was heading the Bhopal regional office of the RBI as director.
- During his long career, he served in Regulation and Supervision, human resource management, premises, currency management, bank accounts, and other areas in the Reserve Bank.

❖ **Israel's former envoy to India Ron Malka appointed as Haifa Port Chairman**

- Adani Group has appointed the former envoy of Israel to India, Ron Malka as the Executive Chairman of the Haifa Port Company.
- He served as the ambassador of Israel to India from 2018-2021.
- It is the second-largest port in Israel in terms of shipping containers.
- The Adani Group officially took over this port in January 2023.
- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone and Israel's Gadot Group won the tender in July 2022 to privatize the Port of Haifa for USD 1.18 billion.

❖ **OPEC members announce cut in oil production**

- OPEC members including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait and Algeria have announced voluntary oil production cuts exceeding one million barrels per day from May 2023 until the end of the year.
- Reason: It is a precautionary measure aimed at supporting the stability of the oil market.

➤ OPEC slashed its collective output by two million barrels per day last year.

➤ OPEC is a group of 23 oil- producing countries.

❖ **India's forex reserves rise \$5.98 billion to \$578.78 billion**

➤ According to the Reserve Bank of India data, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$5.98 billion to \$578.78 billion on March 24,2023.

➤ Data for the previous week showed that India's foreign exchange reserves rose to \$572.8 billion, the highest level since early February 2023.

➤ India's foreign currency assests (FCA) also increased from \$4.38 billion to \$509.72 billion.

➤ India's gold reserves rose by \$1.37 billion to \$45.48 billion.

❖ **Former Indian Cricketer, Salim Durani passes away**

➤ Former India all-rounder Salim Durani passed away at the age of 88 in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

➤ He played 29 Tests for India from 1960 to 1973, scoring 1202 runs at an average of 25.04, with one century (104 against West Indies in 1962) and seven fifties.

➤ He was a left-arm spinner and claimed 75 wickets at 35.42 apiece.

➤ In first-class cricket, he played for Saurashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

➤ He was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1934 and was raised in Jamnagar.

❖ **Anjali Sharma conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, wearing Luanchari**

➤ Anjali Sharma of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh has conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, wearing Luanchari.

➤ She is working to promote Gaddi culture on the peaks of the mountains.

➤ Luanchari is a traditional dress of Himachal Pradesh.

➤ Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 meters) is the tallest mountain in Africa and the world's largest free standing mountain.

➤ It has three main volcanic peaks namely Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira.

❖ **PM Modi was invited to France for Bastille Day parade**

- France has invited PM Narendra Modi to visit Paris as a guest at the annual Bastille Day parade, which will be held in July 2023.
- The PM of India and French President Emmanuel Macron are expected to discuss several major agreements including those on the Indo-Pacific region, nuclear power, and defence, as the two countries mark the 25th year of their strategic partnership.
- Earlier, Manmohan Singh was invited as a guest to the Bastille Day parade in 2009.

❖ **Bhutan King arrives in India for a two-day visit**

- Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck arrived in India for a two day visit and was received by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi.
- Both countries will discuss hydro-power cooperation, economic and trade partnership, space cooperation, scholarships, youth-centric and STEM-based initiatives, and establishing digital infrastructure matters.
- The defence and security ties between the two countries have seen significant growth in the last few years.

❖ **Axis Bank launches business management solution for merchants**

- Axis Bank and VISA jointly launched a mobile application, 'Digital Dukaan' to empower merchants to accept payments through various digital modes.
- It is designed to address business requirements such as accepting digital payments, inventory management and building.
- This Android Smart POS application has an in-built camera with an LED flashlight to enable scanning of product barcodes and allow a tap-and-pay option for transactions up to Rs.5000.

❖ **Bahrain launches Golden License to attract large-scale investment projects**

- Bahrain's government has launched a new initiative called 'Golden License' to incentivize investments and the creation of jobs.

➤ It is designed to provide streamlined services and benefits to local and foreign businesses with large-scale investment projects in Bahrain.

➤ Eligibility for the License: Companies with significant strategic projects and investments exceeding US \$50 million or those creating more than 500 jobs in Bahrain.

❖ **Christina Koch becomes the first women to go round the moon**

➤ The American Space Agency, NASA has selected the first women astronaut, Christina Koch for its Artemis II mission.

➤ It will involve a fly-by of the moon and a 10 day journey back to Earth.

➤ It is part of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to land the first woman and the next man on the moon by 2024.

➤ Other crew members are: Victor Glover (First Black Astronaut) and Reid Wiseman of NASA, and Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

❖ **Public sector banks transfer Rs.35,012 crore unclaimed deposits to RBI**

➤ The Public sector banks (PSBs) have transferred unclaimed deposits of Rs.35,012 crore as of February 2023 to the RBI.

➤ These deposits have not been operated for 10 years or more.

➤ SBI tops the list with an unclaimed amount of Rs.8,086 crore, while PNB has Rs.5,340 crore and Canara Bank has Rs.4,558 crore.

➤ These unclaimed deposits belong to 10.24 crore accounts transferred to RBI.

➤ MoS for Finance Bhagwat Karad shared this information in Lok Sabha.

❖ **International Day of Mine Awareness and Action 2023 – 4th April**

➤ It is observed every year on April 4th to raise awareness against explosive mines and gather assistance towards their eradication.

➤ Theme 2023: Mine Action Cannot Wait

➤ The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) leads the mine action community, which plays an important role in achieving the goals of mine action.

➤ On 8th December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4th April is to be observed as Mine Awareness and Action day.

❖ **Gregoria Tunjung won 2023 Spain Masters women's title**

➤ Gregoria Ariska Tunjung from Indonesia has clinched the Women's title in the 2023 Spain Masters, held in Madrid, Spain from 28 March – 2 April 2023.

➤ She defeated Indian Badminton player, P V Sindhu

➤ While Japanese badminton player, Kenta Nishimoto won the Men's title.

❖ **Other winners:**

* Men's doubles: He Jiting and Zhou Haodong (China)

* Women's doubles: Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning (China)

* Mixed doubles: Mathias Christiansen and Alexandra Boje (Denmark)

❖ **Max Verstappen wins F1 Australian Grand Prix**

➤ Red Bull's driver, Max Verstappen, won his first Australian Grand Prix 2023, held at Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit, Australia.

➤ While Seven - time World Champion, L. Hamilton (Mercedes driver) finished second followed by F. Alonso (Aston Martin) and L. Stroll (Aston Martin).

➤ The Australian Grand Prix is a motor race held annually in Australia since 1928.

➤ The next F1 Azerbaijan GP will be held in Baku City Circuit, Azerbaijan on April 30, 2023.