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## **BANKING / FINANCIAL / ECONOMICAL NEWS**

### **SBI collected Rs 300 crore from zero-balance accounts for certain services in 5 years, reveals study**

Several banks, including State Bank of India (SBI), have been imposing excessive charges on certain services provided to poor persons having zero-balance or Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDA), a study by the IIT-Bombay has revealed. The study observed that the SBI's decision to levy a charge of Rs 17.70 for every debit transaction beyond four by the BSBDA account holders cannot be considered as "reasonable." It highlighted that the imposition of service charges resulted in undue collections to the tune of over Rs 300 crore from among nearly 12 crore Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) holders of SBI during the period 2015-20.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Homoeopathy Day: 10 April**

World Homoeopathy Day is celebrated on April 10 every year. It is observed to mark the importance of homoeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine. The date is the birth anniversary of Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, who was a German physician and the founder of homoeopathy. The theme of the day in India for 2021 is "Homoeopathy- Roadmap for Integrative Medicine".

## **SPORTS**

### **Nethra Kumanan creates history**

Nethra Kumanan has become the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics after she was assured of a top-place finish in the laser radial event of the Asian Qualifiers in Oman. She has a 21-point advantage over her nearest rival Ramya Saravanan – in the Laser Radial Class event. In sailing, the athlete who has the least points wins the competition.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS**

### **Sanjeev Kumar takes over as AAI chairman**

Sanjeev Kumar, a Maharashtra-cadre IAS officer of the 1993 batch, took over as the chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) on 7 Apr'21. Prior to this, Kumar was working as the State Commissioner (GST) in the Maharashtra govt. He replaces Anuj Agarwal, who was the interim chairman of the AAI for about three months.

### **Mahamadou: New PM of Niger**

Niger President Mohamed Bazoum has appointed Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou to head his new cabinet as the country's new Prime Minister. Mahamadou previously served as a Minister in charge of the finance and mining portfolios. He was the Chief of staff to former President Mahamadou Issoufou between 2015 and 2021.

## SCHEMES AND POLICIES

### Centre sanctions over Rs 250 Cr to NE states

A total amount of over Rs 250 crore was sanctioned by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for augmenting healthcare facilities in the eight northeastern states for effective management of COVID-19. This amount was in the nature of untied funds, which were to be utilized on any activity relating to the pandemic and not covered under the existing central packages

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Indian Army officer breaks two records

Indian Army's Lt Col. Bharat Pannu has earned 2 Guinness World Records for his fastest solo cycling feats from Oct 2020. The first record was created when he cycled from Leh to Manali (472 km), in just 35 hrs and 25 mins. He created a second record when he cycled the 5,942-km-long 'Golden Quadrilateral' route, which connects Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, in 14 days, 23 hrs and 52 mins.



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## NATIONAL

### India, Maldives condemn all forms of terrorism

India and Maldives have condemned all forms of terrorism including cross-border terrorism. Both the countries have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism. The first India-Maldives Counter Terrorism Dialogue was held on 8 April 2021 in New Delhi. Both

sides underlined the need to take action to ensure that no territory is used for terrorist attacks on others.

### **Delhi government launches 'Lab on Wheels'**

With an aim to provide quality education to government school students, the Delhi govt has launched a 'Lab on Wheels'. The initiative, in collaboration with the Delhi Technological University (DTU), will impart education to children living in rural and backward areas.

### **Odisha launches 14 days mask abhiyan**

Odisha has launched a 14 days mask Abhiyan to counter the spread of covid 19 infections. In order to ensure that the 14 days mask Abhiyan gives results, the state government enhanced the fines for the violators from 1000rs to 2000rs for violations for the first and second time.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Global coronavirus caseload tops 135.8 million**

The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 135.8 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 2.93 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University. In its latest update on Monday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 135,855,351 and 2,934,981, respectively. The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 31,196,121 and 562,064, respectively, according to the CSSE.

### **China fines Alibaba Group \$2.8 billion**

China has imposed a fine of 18.2 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) on Alibaba Group after an anti-monopoly probe. The penalty is equivalent to 4% of Alibaba's domestic sales in 2019. Alibaba will also be required to implement comprehensive rectifications including strengthening internal controls, upholding fair competition, protecting businesses on its platform and consumers' rights.

## **DEFENCE**

### **Gen Naravane attends 'Army Chiefs' Conclave' in Bangladesh**

Indian Army chief Gen MM Naravane on Sunday attended the Army Chiefs' Conclave held on the sidelines of a multinational military exercise. Gen Naravane, who is on a five-day official tour, delivered a keynote address on "Changing Nature of Global Conflicts: Role of UN Peacekeepers", the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) tweeted. During the event, the Army chief also interacted with the senior officers of the participating nations and military observers from the other nations.

### **Pentagon defends its Navy ship asserting navigational rights inside India's EEZ without permission**

The Pentagon has said that its Navy ship conducting navigational rights within India's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) without the permission of New Delhi was consistent with international

law. India has lodged a strong protest against such a move by the US regarding the passage of US Navy ship John Paul Jones through its EEZ.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NO MAJOR UPDATES

## OBITUARIES

### Prince Philip passes away

Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth, passed away in April 2021. He was a leading figure in the British royal family for almost seven decades. The Duke of Edinburgh, as he was officially known, had been by his wife's side throughout her 69-year reign, the longest in British history. A Greek prince, he married Elizabeth in the year 1947.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Area under summer crops up by 16.4% from last year

Sowing of summer crops is in full swing despite an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases, with the area expanding by 16.4% from last year to 6.78 million hectares. Summer crops are planted during March-May, the intervening period between rabi and kharif season which starts with monsoon in June.

### Kerala High Court's adoption guidelines

The Kerala High Court on 10 April 2021 held that a child born to a couple in a live-in relationship will be treated as a child born to a married couple for the purpose of the Juvenile Justice Act and Adoption Guidelines. Therefore for surrendering a child for adoption, live-in couples to be treated as married couples.

## IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES

BSBDA = Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts

AAI = Airports Authority of India

DoNER = Development of North Eastern Region

DTU = Delhi Technological University

CSSE = Center for Systems Science and Engineering

EEZ = Exclusive Economic Zone



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