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BANKING / FINANCIAL / ECONOMICAL NEWS

Currency in circulation rises Rs 3.23 lakh crore in first nine months of FY21

The Currency in Circulation (CiC) grew by around 13 per cent in the first nine months of the current fiscal as people preferred holding on to cash as a precautionary measure amid the uncertainty caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CiC grew by Rs 3,23,003 crore, or 13.2 per cent, to Rs 27,70,315 crore as on January 1, 2021 from Rs 24,47,312 crore as on March 31, 2020, according to recent data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hindi Day

World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on January 10. World Hindi Day commemorates the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur on January 10, 1975. It was first celebrated in 2006 by former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

11-17 January: Road Safety Week

Road Safety Week is observed from January 11th to January 17th every year. It aims at making the roads and streets in India safer. The theme is “safe yourself to save your family”.

SPORTS

Australia, India retain top-two spots in WTC standings after draw in 3rd Test

Australia and India on Monday held on to their top two positions in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings following the engrossing draw in the third Test here. The Indian batting unit displayed tremendous grit as it hung on for a memorable draw against Australia in the third Test to leave the series levelled at 1-1 with one game to go at Brisbane.

APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS

Airtel appoints Pradipt Kapoor as CIO

Bharti Airtel NSE 2.32 % on Sunday announced the appointment of Pradipt Kapoor as its Chief Information Officer (CIO). Kapoor takes over from Harmeen Mehta, the company said in a statement.

SCHEMES AND POLICIES

Free bus service for women and elderly person

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal has flagged off 25 pink buses for free service to women and senior citizens under the 'Bhraman Sarathi' scheme in Guwahati. Assam Bhraman Sarathi Scheme, which was launched by the Finance Minister of Assam Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma in March 2020.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Five year old Presha Khemani sets world record

5-year-old Presha Khemani from Pune has set a world record by naming 150 countries along with their capitals and identifying the flags in just 4 minutes and 17 seconds. She won the 'Youngest Kid to Identify Flags and Country Names' title for her incredible feat in the World Records India Book. She was declared the record holder and awarded a gold medal on October 17, 2020.



NATIONAL

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Budget 2021 to be completely paperless - a first since Independence

The Union Budget papers will not be printed for the first time since Independence, due to Covid 19 pandemic, said sources aware of the development. Every year, the Union Budget is printed in the finance ministry's in house press, involving nearly 100 employees who have to stay together for nearly a fortnight till the time the papers are printed, sealed and delivered on the day of the Budget.

India: 2nd largest manufacturer of PPE kits

Union Minister for Textile and Women and Child Development Smriti Irani has informed that India has become the second-largest manufacturer of PPE kits and suits in the world in record

three months' time during the coronavirus induced lockdown in March 2020. She was speaking after inaugurating – Surat International Textile Expo -SITEX at Surat.

INTERNATIONAL

In BRI push, China issues paper on international cooperation

China on Sunday published a white paper on its international development cooperation model to push its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which has slowed down following the outbreak of Covid and pushback by various countries facing huge debts due to the mega connectivity project. Comprising eight chapters, the white paper states China's views on international development cooperation, the actions it has taken, and its plans for the future.

Japan passport most powerful in 2021, Pakistan continues to be in worst category

Even as the world continues to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan tops the list of being the most powerful passport in the world for the year 2021, according to the latest report by the Henley Passport Index. Pakistan (rank 107) and Nepal (rank 104) continue to be in the 'worst passports to hold' category as reported by CNN with Pakistan having a visa-free score of 32 countries and Nepal having a score of 38 destinations.

DEFENCE

Govt creates special unit in Income Tax dept for probe into undisclosed foreign assets

A special unit has been created by the government in the countrywide investigation wings of the Income Tax department for focussed probe in cases of undisclosed assets held by Indians abroad and possession of black money in foreign shores, officials said. The Foreign Asset Investigation Units (FAIUs) have been recently created in all the 14 investigation directorates of the tax department located in various parts of the country that are primarily tasked to undertake raids and seizures.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New state of matter 'liquid Glass'

University of Konstanz's researchers have discovered a new state of matter, liquid glass. Scientists have used a technology called confocal microscopy to discover this matter. Researchers recorded temporal development of the 3D positions and orientations for nearly 6,000 ellipsoidal particles using confocal laser scanning microscopy.

OBITUARIES

Turlapati Kutumba Rao passes away

Veteran journalist Turlapati Kutumba Rao passed away in January 2021. Turlapati was the first Telugu journalist to be nominated for the prestigious Padma Shri award. He was awarded the Padma Shri in the year 2002.

MISCELLANEOUS

WADA launches ADEL platform

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) launched its Anti-Doping Education and Learning platform (ADEL). It is a new and improved version of the current Anti-Doping e-Learning platform (ADeL) that was launched in January 2018.

IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES

CiC = Currency in Circulation

WTC = World Test Championship

CIO = Chief Information Officer

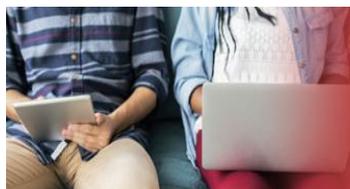
BRI = Belt and Road Initiative

FAIUs = Foreign Asset Investigation Units

WADA = World Anti-Doping Agency

ADEL = Anti-Doping Education and Learning platform

ADeL = Anti-Doping e-Learning platform

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