

NEWS ALERT



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Don't Mistake Revival As End Of Crisis: IMF

The signs of revival in the global economy should not be confused with the financial crisis being over and the countries should be ready with policies to sustain the recovery, multilateral lending agency IMF has said. IMF Chief Economist Olivier Blanchard also asked countries around the world to coordinate policies to achieve a global rebalancing and sustain the recovery.

Olivier's remarks assume importance in the event of G-20 nations agreeing not to withdraw stimulus packages prematurely and coordinate actions among themselves in this regard.

IMF in its outlook for the global economy has said that global activity is now on the rise again. However, the world economic growth is expected to be in the negative zone of 1.1 per cent in 2009, according to IMF. This is after, the Fund revised up its outlook on world economic growth by 0.3 percentage points for the current calendar year.



Bounced Cheque: No Case If Borrower Hasn't Issued It

While accepting a cheque from someone who owes you money, make sure that he himself — or his authorized representative — has signed it.

Otherwise, in case the cheque bounces, you won't be able to file criminal case against the actual borrower, as per a judgment of the Bombay High Court.

India Inc Junks Snacking, Brings In Health Experts

Walk into PepsiCo India's five-storeyed, sprawling headquarters at Gurgaon in the National Capital Region and you will see baskets of fresh fruit in the corridors and near the elevator that you can pick up and munch on as you come back from the rest room or walk into the office. But you won't get Frito-Lay, the food and beverage maker's own snacks brand, so easily.

Pepsi provides free seasonal fruit to its employees across its nine offices around the country to keep them away from junk food, as part of efforts to check obesity and other lifestyle diseases among its staff, just like most of India Inc.

With health problems such as obesity, depression, fatigue, sleeping disorders and hypertension starting to affect the productivity of employees, a large number of Indian companies is introducing detailed healthcare and wellness programmes to the daily chores of staffers.

A recent survey by HR consulting firm Mercer found that two in every five companies surveyed in India added wellness programmes in 2009 to increase employee engagement and improve health-related behaviour. With lifestyle health concerns affecting employee efficiency and causing absenteeism, companies such as Pepsi, Genpact, HP, LG and TCS have gone beyond having a gym and a doctor on the premises, to provide more defined healthcare solutions that include free Doppler tests, regular check-ups and online or face-to-face consultations with fitness experts and dietitians.

