

Finance and Economy

InstantPay launches neo-banking services for SMEs

- **InstantPay reiterated its focus on the SME industry with its launch of the first-of-its-kind Neo-banking services.**
- **This new age branchless banking solution will allow SMEs the advantage of managing all their payments, collections and reconciliation on a single and seamless interface.**
- With its 100% digital and mobile platform **InstantPay** is trying to reinvent the practices of a traditional bank, while at the same time ensuring that they are more cost-effective, automated and convenient, in line with the requirements of today's SMEs.
- The existing **InstantPay** platform will offer a full-fledged business banking current account with an underlying bank.

Crif Highmark ties up with CreditVidya

- **Credit bureau Crif Highmark and data analytics firm CreditVidya have tied up to help lenders provide credit to borrowers** who have been underserved or are new to credit and do not have a credit history
- The partnership between CRIF High Mark and CreditVidya envisages value added reports even if a customer has taken a loan or a credit card in the past.

Irdai panel suggests host of steps for speedy settlement of insurance claims

- A panel set up by insurance regulator Irdai has suggested modifications in the norms for surveyors and loss assessors in order to attract youngsters and promote expeditious settlement of claims.
- Surveyors and loss assessors in insurance is a specialised field of work which is instrumental in the judicious settlement of claims.
- They are expected to survey and assess the damage/loss and submit report about it.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) had set up a Working Group (WG) to examine and deliberate upon the existing framework for surveyors and loss assessors and make its recommendations in the context of evolving challenges and opportunities in the area.

India and states

Government launches pulse polio program 2019

- In order to sustain polio eradication drive from the country, **government on Saturday launched Pulse Polio programme for 2019.**
- **President of India Ram Nath Kovind, launched the program by administering polio drops to children less than five years old, at the Rahstrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.**
- **More than 17 crore children of less than five years across the country will be given polio drops as part of the drive.**
- Health minister said that the government is making all efforts to protect children from more and more diseases and emphasized that all vaccines under the programme must reach every last child of the country.

- The government claimed that strengthening of immunization programme has contributed significantly to the decline of Infant Mortality Rate from 39 in 2014 to 32 per 1000 live births in 2017.
- The polio eradication programme in India aims to protect children from the crippling disease by conducting two nationwide mass polio vaccination campaigns and two to three sub-national campaigns each year.

India's first LGBTQ clinic and HIV treatment centre inaugurated in Mumbai

- Around 20 years after the **Humsafar Trust** started a support group for gay men, male sex workers and transgenders, creating awareness about the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), **the group inaugurated the country's first HIV treatment centre and holistic clinic for the for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community.**
- Based out of the trust's office in Mumbai, the centre will give free counselling and provide Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART).
- ART is the use of HIV medicines to treat the infection, and is recommended for everyone who is infected with virus and delays the progression of the disease.
- The centre will be open for all, said Ashok Row Kavi, founder chairperson of the Humsafar Trust.

Idukki's Marayoor Jaggery gets GI tag

- **The Marayoor Jaggery**, the traditional and handmade product from Idukki district of Kerala, on March 8, 2019 **received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Central Government.**
- The Marayoor jaggery finally managed to get the GI Tag after two years of continuous efforts by the Agricultural Department of the state.
- **The GI tag will provide more windows of opportunity to the traditional sugarcane farmers in Marayoor.**

Government reduces price of 390 Anti-Cancer Non-Scheduled Medicines upto 87 percent

- **The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** on March 8, 2019 **announced the reduction in prices of 390 Anti-Cancer Non-Scheduled Medicines up to 87 percent.**
- The revised prices of these anti-cancer drugs would come into effect from March 8, 2019 itself.
- The authority directed the manufacturers and hospitals to convey revised prices of the medicines based on the Trade Margin (TM) formula.
- These 390 anti-cancer drugs brands, which make up about 91 percent of the 426 brands reported by manufacturers, showed downward price movement.

Appointments

Jagdish Mukhi Appointed New Governor Of Mizoram

- **Jagdish Mukhi was on Saturday sworn-in as the Governor of Mizoram** at a function held at the Raj Bhavan in Aizawl. He was administered the oath of office by Gauhati High Court judge Justice Nelson Sailo.
- Jagdish Mukhi is also the Governor of Assam. He has been appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind to take additional charge of Mizoram.
- Mukhi succeeded Kummanam Rajasekharan as the governor of Mizoram as the latter resigned on Thursday and his resignation was accepted by President Kovind.

Param Bir Singh appointed Director General of Maharashtra anti-corruption body

- **Senior Indian Police Service officer Param Bir Singh was on Saturday appointed Director General of the Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau.**
- A state government release issued on Saturday informed that Mr Singh, a 1988 batch IPS officer, will replace Sanjay Barve who was, on February 28, appointed to the coveted post of Mumbai Police Commissioner.
- Incidentally, Mr Singh was also in the running to become the metropolis' top cop.

Mohammad Shtayyeh named as Palestinian PM

- **Mohammad Shtayyeh has been named as Palestinian Prime Minister by President of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas.** A member of the West Bank's dominant Fatah party is a long time ally of Abbas.
- The announcement comes six weeks after Rami al-Hamdallah tendered his resignation from the post and of his unity government to President Mahmoud Abbas, underscoring the failure of Hamas and Fatah to implement a power-sharing deal.