Continuation of service

KOLKATA, JULY 9/--/To clear the extra rush of passengers and ensure smooth transit for pilgrims during the ensuing Shravani Mela, Railways has decided to continue the service of train number 03407/03408 Bhagalpur-Katihar-Bhagalpur Unreserved Special up to 28.08.2026. The special train will continue to operate with its existing timings & stoppages to handle the increased passenger volume effectively.

Under the extended service, train number 03407 Bhagalpur-Katihar Unreserved Special will depart from Bhagalpur daily at 07:00 hrs and reach Katihar Junction at 13:00 hrs on the same day. In the return direction, train number 03408 Katihar - Bhagalpur Unreserved Special will depart from Katihar Junction daily at 14:10 hrs and arrive at Bhagalpur at 20:20 hrs on the same day.

The train will continue to provide crucial connectivity for daily commuters and Kanwariya pilgrims traveling to and from holy sites such as Sultanganj. En route, the special service will maintain its scheduled halts at Akbarnagar, Sultanganj, Kalyanpur Road, Bariarpur, Ratanpur, Munger over Eastern Railway jurisdiction in both directions. (EOIC)

BharathCloud unveils Badal, its first-ever brand Mascot

KOLKATA, JULY 19/--/BharathCloud, India's AI cloud service provider, today unveiled Badal, its first-ever brand mascot, marking a significant milestone in the company's growth journey and reinforcing its commitment to making cloud and AI technologies more approachable, relatable, and accessible for businesses and users across India.

"Cloud technology, including infrastructure, should never feel intimidating. With Badal, we are bringing a human face to BharathCloud and making conversations around cloud and AI more engaging, inclusive, and accessible. As India builds its digital future, we believe technology must remain approachable, secure, and deeply rooted in local needs and aspirations," said Rahul Takkallapally, Co-Founder, BharathCloud.

Badal will also be representing the brand as an ambassador for all customer onboarding activities, digital campaigns, educational activities, industry-related events, and community programs. With engaging storytelling and expanded impact, Badal will support businesses and users in navigating their cloud journeys under the banner of 'Cloud Journey Simplified'

"Beyond being just a mascot, the introduction of Badal is an attempt by BharathCloud to build a deeper emotional connection with our customers and reinforce our identity as India's sovereign AI-cloud service provider. It has become increasingly important in the current scenario where most of the companies operate in a highly competitive landscape dominated by global hyperscalers," said Padma Reddy Sama, co-founder and chief technology officer, BharathCloud. (EOIC)

Instamart data shows India is redefining indulgence this World Chocolate Day

KOLKATA JULY 9/--/India's relationship with chocolate is getting sweeter and a lot more adventurous. What was once reserved for celebrations and gifting is now finding its way into everyday grocery baskets. Ahead of World Chocolate Day (July 7), Instamart's order analysis reveals that Milk chocolate continues to be India's favourite, followed by chocolate-coated wafer bars. Fruit & nut, caramel and hazelnut complete the country's most-loved flavours, proving that while consumers are eager to experiment, nostalgia still anchors India's chocolate basket.

Sugar-free chocolate orders grew 85%, while dark chocolate demand rose nearly 50% year-on-year. Protein chocolates also emerged as one of the fastest-growing segments.

Valentine's Day chocolate orders surged 74%, peaking at 745 chocolates ordered every minute at 11:25 AM on February 14. Whether it's a post-lunch pick-me-up, a late-night movie companion, or an impulse addition to a grocery run, chocolate has firmly become part of everyday life. Alongside expected companions like popcorn, ice cream and soft drinks, shoppers are also pairing chocolates with products as varied as instant noodles, bananas, protein shakes and other daily essentials. All insights are derived from an analysis of Instamart orders placed between July 2025 and June 2026 across 130+ Indian cities. All metrics are indexed or relative; no absolute order volumes are disclosed. (EOIC)

Kolkata housing demand remains resilient in H1 2026

Office market sees rental growth: Knight Frank India

KOLKATA, JULY 9/--/Knight Frank India, in its latest report, India Real Estate: Residential and Office (January-June 2026) H1 2026, observed that Kolkata's residential market remained resilient during the first half of 2026 despite a measured pace of new launches. Housing sales increased by 3% YoY to 8,368 units, while residential launches moderated by 5% YoY to 7,316 units as developers maintained a disciplined approach towards fresh supply.

The report also highlighted that Kolkata's office market witnessed a moderation in leasing activity after recording its strongest annual performance in a decade in 2025. Office transactions stood at 0.8 mnsqft in H1 2026, registering a 26% YoY decline owing to the absence of large transactions witnessed in the previous year and a cautious approach by occupiers towards expansion. Despite lower leasing volumes, demand remained healthy across key business districts, vacancy declined to 27.5%.

Joydeep Paul, Senior Director- Occupier Strategy & Solutions, Knight Frank India, said, "Following the exceptional leasing activity witnessed in 2025, Kolkata's office market experienced a healthy phase of consolidation during the first half of 2026. While overall transaction volumes moderated due to the absence of large-sized deals, occupier demand remained resilient across the city's key business districts. The continued preference for Grade A office assets, declining vacancy levels and strong rental appreciation across Salt Lake City and Rajarhat New Town demonstrate the improving fundamentals of Kolkata's commercial real estate market." (EOIC)

Regulation of trains

KOLKATA, JULY 9/--/Due to Electrical Maintenance work between Bainchi & Mogra stations over Howrah Division, 120 minutes (from 02:40 hrs. to 04:40 hrs.) Traffic & Power Block has been planned on 12.07.2026 & 14.07.2026. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under:

Cancellation of trains on 11.07.2026 & 13.07.2026: From Barddhaman: 37812, 37786, From Howrah: 37811, From Bandel: 37781.

Moreover, 13186 Sealdah-Jaynagar Gangasagar Express will be controlled for 20 minutes on 11.07.2026 & 12.07.2026. It also noted that, 13154 will be the last train before block and 13186 will be the first train after block. (EOIC)

Motorola unveils moto g77 POWER

ASANSOL, JULY 9/--/ Motorola has launched the moto g77 POWER, positioning it as the segment's leading camera smartphone with a 50MP Sony LYTIA 600 sensor, a 6.72-inch FHD+ 120Hz display, and a 7,000mAh battery that the company claims can deliver up to three days of usage on a single charge. Priced at an effective Rs 23,999 for the 8GB+128GB variant, the smartphone will go on sale from July 13 through Flipkart, Motorola.in and leading retail outlets across India.

Motorola India Managing Director T.M. Narasimhan said the company designed the moto g77 POWER to meet growing consumer demand for advanced smartphone photography while combining long battery life, immersive entertainment and enhanced durability in an affordable premium package.

The launch is expected to strengthen Motorola's presence in the competitive mid-premium smartphone segment in Asansol, where demand for feature-rich 5G devices continues to rise among students, professionals and content creators. With its emphasis on camera performance, long battery life and AI-powered features at a sub-Rs 25,000 price point, the moto g77 POWER is likely to compete strongly with offerings from rival brands in the city's expanding retail and online smartphone market. (EOIC)

Continuation of Special Train

KOLKATA, JULY 9/--/To clear the anticipated rush of passengers, Railway has decided to continue the service of Mau-Kolkata-Mau special with existing path and stoppages.

05096 Mau-Kolkata special will leave Mau at 13:20 hrs on every Wednesday between 22.07.2026 & 23.09.2026 (10 trips) to reach Kolkata at 08:50 hrs on the next day and 05095 Kolkata-Mau special will leave Kolkata at 13:20 hrs on every Thursday between 23.07.2026 & 24.09.2026 (10 trips) to reach Mau at 08:40 hrs on the next day. The train will stop at Naihati, Bandel, Barddhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur and Jasidih stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction in both the directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned accommodations. (EOIC)

BOXA organizes free eye check-up camp during St Xavier's School Diamond Jubilee Year

BOKARO, JULY 9/--/As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of St. Xavier's School, Bokaro, the Bokaro Old Xaverians Association (BOXA) organized a Free Eye Check-up Camp for the students of the Social Service School.

BOXA President Krishan Chand said that the objective of this service project is to help economically disadvantaged students by improving their vision, thereby making learning easier and contributing to their brighter future. During the camp, all students underwent comprehensive eye examinations by specialists. Students

diagnosed with vision-related problems will be provided free spectacles, enabling them to study more effectively.

BOXA members Nishi Sehgal, Rajesh Poddar, Ravindra Maand, BhavneetBindra, Nitesh Mishra, and Rohit Talwar fondly recalled their student days when they actively participated in service activities at the same school through the Social Service League. Present on the occasion were Sister Jency of the Social Service School, Vice Principal Mr Deepak, Debashish Gupta and Father Manoj.

Principal Father Arun Minj, said, "Service initiatives like this during our Diamond Jubilee year truly reflect the institution's core mission of combining education with service and human compassion. BOXA's effort to promote the health and well-being of these students is highly commendable. I am confident that this initiative will bring new light and hope into the lives of many children."

BOXA Secretary Sajan Kapoor said that the Diamond Jubilee of St. Xavier's School is not merely an occasion for celebration but also a commitment to extending meaningful service to the underprivileged sections of society. He added that this eye check-up camp is an important step towards bringing better educational opportunities, improved vision, and renewed confidence to many deserving students. (EOIC)

India Inc gets global boost: 3.25% Soft loans now available for High-Impact Projects

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, JULY 9/--/SarkariKaam's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) vertical has launched a soft loan program with a minimum ticket size of Rs 100 crore, offered at a fixed annual interest rate of 3.25%. The initiative aims to fund businesses across key sectors, including pharmaceuticals, solar power, education, and food processing, without requiring any equity dilution. Since

its pilot phase, the platform has raised over Rs 10,000 crore for more than 170 companies across 31 industries, including manufacturing, hospitality, mining, and metals.

The operation is backed by a 50-member team of professionals specializing in project finance, legal compliance, and international investment. Utilizing a tech-driven, single-window interface, the platform streamlines documentation to fast-track approvals and ensure timely fund disbursements.

"At a time when conventional credit can carry hefty rates or demand ownership dilution, our soft-loan model offers a timely alternative," a SarkariKaam spokesperson said. "By preserving promoter control while offering low-cost capital, we help bridge Indian ambition with global investment."

The funding process begins with in-house financial structuring and investor matchmaking, followed by assistance in securing central and state-level regulatory approvals through established partnerships. SarkariKaam also helps businesses prepare investor-ready project documentation and pitch decks. Post-disbursement, clients receive compliance monitoring and regular performance reviews to ensure strategic alignment and effective execution.

Looking ahead, SarkariKaam intends to deepen its focus on high-growth sectors such as electric vehicles, advanced manufacturing, and digital infrastructure. Collaborations with multilateral development agencies are also in the pipeline to facilitate larger ticket sizes and diversify funding sources.

For mid-to-large enterprises planning greenfield projects or significant capacity upgrades, SarkariKaam's FDI vertical offers a structured and globally connected funding pathway. With a verified track record and an investor network spanning 15 countries, the company is positioning itself as a significant enabler of India's next phase of industrial and infrastructure growth.

Choice International & NHIS establish strategic partnership

KOLKATA, JULY 9/--/ Choice International Limited (Choice), diversified financial services group, today announced a strategic partnership with NH Investment & Securities Co, Ltd (NHIS), a South Korean financial institution and subsidiary of NH Financial Group, through an investment of Rs 9000 million in Choice Equity Broking Private Limited (CEBPL), the Broking & Wealth Management arm of Choice.

Supported by this strategic partnership, CEBPL aims to achieve 5x growth across its broking and distribution businesses over the next three years while strengthening its digital capabilities, institutional franchise and customer proposition. By combining Choice's market access and growth momentum with NHIS's global expertise, technology capabilities and innovation ecosystem, the partnership is expected to create long-term value and position Choice to capitalize on the significant opportunities emerging in India's rapidly expanding investment landscape.

Arun Poddar, CEO & Executive Director, Choice International Limited, said, "This investment marks a significant milestone in our growth journey and reflects the confidence of a leading global financial institution in our vision, business model and long-term potential. Together, we aim to drive innovation, enhance customer experience, expand access to quality financial products and contribute meaningfully to India's financial inclusion agenda."

Shin Jae Wook, President & CEO of NH Investment & Securities, said, " Through our partnership with Choice Group, we will combine the strengths of both organizations to deliver differentiated financial services and build sustainable long-term growth engines for our global business." (EOIC)

Millennials now represent 55% of India's C-Suite: LinkedIn

KOLKATA, JULY 9/--/India's path to the C-Suite is becoming broader and less linear as AI changes how businesses make decisions. Latest platform data from LinkedIn, the professional network, finds that Millennials now represent 55% of India's C-Suite.

LinkedIn platform data shows that single industry experience among India's C-Suite leaders has dropped from around 80% to 58%, pointing to a leadership market where exposure across companies, functions and business contexts matters more. New LinkedIn research finds that AI is adding urgency to this shift, with 84% of Indian C-Suite leaders saying it is creating new roles in their organisation, a sentiment felt most strongly by CMOs (94%).

KumareshPattabiraman, India Country Manager and VP LSS Product, LinkedIn, said, "India's C Suite is entering a more demanding phase of leadership. AI is shortening the shelf life of old playbooks, which means leaders need to navigate this change, make faster decisions and measure success without a clear roadmap staying open to new evidence. The strongest leaders will be those who can use AI as a sharper input to judgment, bring technology, talent and business teams into the conversation earlier, and spot capability gaps before they become business gaps. The real advantage will come from leaders who keep learning as fast as the market is changing." (EOIC)

West Bengal Bharatiya Krishak Samaj appoints State President

KOLKATA, JULY 9/--/BharatiyaKrishakSamaj has appointed Mahacharya Sourabh J Sarkar as State President-West Bengal of BharatiyaKrishakSamaj. The appointment letter was formally handed over in New Delhi on June 30, 2026 by Krishan Bir Chaudhary, National President of BharatiyaKrishakSamaj, in the presence of BKS representatives of other states.

BKS representatives congratulated MahacharyaSarkar and expressed confidence that under his leadership, the West Bengal unit will become stronger and more effective in serving cultivators, sharecroppers, farm workers, and rural entrepreneurs across the state.

As part of its next organisational steps, BKS West Bengal plans to hold a ceremonial programme in Kolkata, establish state, divisional, and district-level units, and invite leaders from other states under the guidance of Krishan Bir Chaudhary. The state unit is also gearing up to deploy artificial intelligence as a practical support tool for farmers, including local-language advisory, training at scale, market intelligence, and structured farmer feedback systems.

"BharatiyaKrishakSamaj stands for the Indian farmer's right to dignity, fair policy, self-reliance, and practical knowledge that improves income without weakening soil, seed, or community life," the organisation said. (EOIC)

Invesco Mutual Fund launches Summit Equity Long-Short Fund

NFO closes July 16

KOLKATA, JULY 9/--/Invesco Mutual Fund announced its entry into Specialized Investment Fund (SIF) category under the brand name Summit SIF. Marking entry into SIF, it further announced launch of its first SIF investment strategy, the Summit Equity Long-Short Fund.

This investment strategy will combine two distinct strategies to deliver an edge to the portfolio: A directional long strategy driven by a bottom-up stock selection process anchored in Invesco Asset Management (India)'s categorization framework; A Tactical short position via derivatives aimed at capturing downside opportunities in stocks expected to underperform.

Saurabh Nanavati, MD & CEO, Invesco Asset Management (India) Pvt. Ltd. said, "The SIF category gives experienced investors access to a level of portfolio flexibility that was previously the preserve of institutional capital. Summit SIF is our commitment to bringing specialized investment thinking to India's next generation of wealth builders."

Hiten Jain, Fund Manager, Invesco Mutual Fund further said, "Summit Equity Long-Short Fund is designed to capture both long and short opportunities enabling it to effectively capitalize on market volatility and evolving opportunities."

The New Fund Offer (NFO) is open for subscription and will close on July 16, 2026. (EOIC)

Raymond's launches 10th Garment Exchange Program

MUMBAI, JULY 9/--/Raymond Lifestyle has launched the landmark 10th edition of its annual Garment Exchange Program. This initiative invites people to experience the comfort of wearing customised clothes while donating pre-loved clothes to Goonj-a renowned NGO which utilises clothes as a resource for rural development, disaster relief.

Satyaki Ghosh, Director and CEO of Raymond Lifestyle Limited, remarked: "Reaching the 10th-year milestone of 'Look Good Feel Good' is a proud moment that reflects the strong brand ethos. At Raymond, our relationship with our consumers has always been interwoven with threads of trust and timeless elegance and the intent to give back through circularity in fashion. As we continue our journey with Goonj, we stay committed to elevating the dignity of labour in our own ecosystem."

Goonj Founder, Anshu Gupta said, "The long-standing partnership between Goonj and Raymond has evolved into a meaningful coming together of people, purpose and possibilities. Year after year, this campaign has shown that when citizens are offered a meaningful platform to contribute, they respond with ownership and commitment. Twenty-seven years ago, we recognised that despite being one of humanity's three basic needs, cloth remained one of the most neglected. Since then, Goonj has worked to change the lens, language and narrative around not only clothing but about material poverty." (EOIC)

Komaki introduces metal-body Electric Scooters

KOLKATA, JULY 9/--/Komaki, electric vehicle brand, has announced the launch of its new MG Pro V and MG Pro+ electric scooters, bringing premium engineering to the mass market. Priced at INR 73,999 and INR 79,999 respectively, the new models stand out by offering an all-metal body, a feature rarely available in the electric two-wheeler segment at this price point.

The MG Pro V delivers a range of 90-100 km on a single charge, while the MG Pro+ extends the range to 150+ km, making both models suitable for daily commuting as well as longer city rides. Powered by a BLDC hub motor and advanced LiPo4 battery technology, the scooters are engineered to deliver reliable performance with low maintenance requirements.

Gunjan Malhotra, Co-founder, Komaki Electric Vehicles, said, "With the MG Pro V and MG Pro+, we wanted to offer customers features that have traditionally been associated with more expensive vehicles. These include a strong metal body and safe, long-lasting LiFePO4 batteries with a longer lifespan than those found in many electric two-wheelers and ICE vehicles currently available in the market. This combination inspires confidence among customers. It also reflects our commitment to making premium build quality, dependable performance, and modern technology accessible to a much wider audience." (EOIC)