

Phonup expands its first territory in city

KOLKATA, JULY 12/--/ Phonup a joint venture between Francorp & Phonup Italy announced its expansion in West Bengal with Salasar Comtrade Private Limited, Area Franchisee for Kolkata, with their first outlet in Kolkata on July 11, 2018 at 71 Bentinck Street. The store will be a "One-Stop-Destination" for all mobile phone solutions. Customers can avail new and certified pre-owned smart phones from leading brands such as Apple, Samsung, Lenovo, Xiaomi, OnePlus, Motorola, Oppo, Vivo, etc, under one roof at Phonup.

"We are very happy to extend Phonup now in Kolkata. India is a huge landing ground of unorganized market of 70 million refurbished smart phones with a year-on-year 35 per cent growth for mobile users. Mobile subscriptions are anticipated to hit 1.4 billion by 2021. Rapidly it's growing in West Bengal, and



Phonup is offering 12 Months Warranty, Accessories and Special Packages to check health of your phones. Phonup is also offering handsets exchange and finance facility to its customers from Phonup stores. The statistics show the wireless tele density in India has reached 90%. The number of Smartphone users in India is projected to reach 340 million and could reach almost 468 million by 2021. We continue to provide pre-owned smart phones and mobile express repair services to our customers here in Kolkata," said Sanjeev Arora, COO, Phonup India.

Phonup is based on the idea of providing people with world class repairing of Smartphone's at affordable prices. Founded on the principles of trust and transparency it offers wide range of services to the phone owners such as extended warranty, a comprehensive health check-up among others. It also offers the widest range of phones to users to buy from. It is expanding in India via the franchisee model. Gerardo Taglianetti, Founder of Phonup, Italy, Photo-Ashok Sarkar

New moto e5 family

KOLKATA, JULY 12/--/ With the advent of high speed internet, smartphone users are consuming more videos than ever before; thus making smartphones a primary medium of entertainment for an Indian consumer. The biggest pain point for users has been a small screen and a weak battery that prevents them from enjoying entertainment on the go. Thus, we bring you all new moto e5 family; the answer to consumers' entertainment needs, offering perfect combination of BIG battery and BIG screen.

The devices come with the biggest and the brightest displays ever shipped in the e series. With a battery as big as 5000mAh, users can enjoy seamless entertainment for hours without worrying about running out of battery. (EOIC)

Vodafone Red plans with the lowest bill guarantee

KOLKATA/SILIGURI, JULY 12/--/ Vodafone India introduced the smartest postpaid plans in India with the Lowest Bill Guarantee. Complimentary mobile insurance, unlimited international roaming benefits, un-matched entertainment content offerings and much more.

Speaking about the new Vodafone RED propositions, Aneesh Khosla, Associate Director-Consumer Business, Vodafone India, said, Vodafone India is excited to introduce the latest Vodafone RED Postpaid plans for our consumers, catering to their entertainment, travel and smartphone related needs. Differentiated offerings like complimentary mobile insurance, lowest bill guarantee reflect Vodafone's customer first philosophy of keeping the customer at the centre of every proposition."

With the new RED plans, Vodafone introduces an industry first feature called Bill Guarantee with optimization technology. This feature automatically keeps the consumer on the lowest possible bill on their chosen plan by billing them on the best suited plan within the RED postpaid portfolio basis their monthly usage. Thus ensuring that RED postpaid consumers never get bill shocks. (EOIC)

SBI Card launches 'ELA'

KOLKATA, JULY 12/--/SBI Card, one of the country's leading credit card issuers, today announced the launch of 'ELA' (Electronic Live Assistant), a virtual assistant for customer support. Driven by Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning algorithms, ELA will revolutionise the way customers interact with the company.

ELA is equipped to engage in intelligent conversation on a wide range of queries. For instance, customers can explore products and services, learn how to generate an account statement or make bill payments, block their cards, and check on reward point redemption process among other things. Through machine learning algorithm, the chatbot will continuously learn from customer interactions and become smarter thereby providing appropriate solution to each customer. Transactional features will also be enabled on the chatbot in future so that customers can get responses to account specific queries and carry out transactions.

Panasonic expands home appliances segment

KOLKATA, JULY 12/--/ Panasonic India announced a significant expansion of its line-up of Intelligent Home appliances range comprising of refrigerator, washing machine and microwave. The intelligent range is equipped with core technologies and features such as ECONAVI Inverter technology that detects unconscious waste of energy using different sensors and optimises operations according to environmental conditions. The new range offers four models of refrigerator, 17 models of washing machine and a new Inverter microwave model.

The latest offerings are a perfect blend of technology, utility and aesthetics, and curated to suit the modern day needs for the

company. ELA is equipped to engage in intelligent conversation on a wide range of queries. For instance, customers can explore products and services, learn how to generate an account statement or make bill payments, block their cards, and check on reward point redemption process among other things. Through machine learning algorithm, the chatbot will continuously learn from customer interactions and become smarter thereby providing appropriate solution to each customer. Transactional features will also be enabled on the chatbot in future so that customers can get responses to account specific queries and carry out transactions.

Hardayal Prasad, MD & CEO, SBI Card said, "ELA, is a big step forward in Making Life Simple for our customers, in line with our core value proposition. We are excited to leverage the potential of Artificial Intelligence in driving the next level of digital transformation and enhancing customer experience. With the introduction of ELA, our customers now have access to a powerful interactive channel for prompt query resolution, without the need to navigate through multiple pages of traditional digital channels. We have consistently adapted the latest, new age technologies to offer customers a superior experience. We will continue to make technology investments especially in the exciting AI and robotics arena. Going forward, we plan to extend this AI platform to address employee queries and streamline the HR function as well." (EOIC)

With this new launch, Panasonic is looking at 40% growth in the home appliances category in FY 2018-19. Developed to maximise energy savings and reduce water consumption, refrigerator with ECONAVI is designed to cool 50% faster while reducing electricity consumption-Inverter saves upto 49% and ECONAVI technology upto 10% of energy.

Speaking at the launch, Gaurav Minocha, Head-Home Appliances, Panasonic India, said, "Panasonic has always been a frontrunner when it comes to innovation and technology. Our new advanced range of home appliances is a testament to our commitment of introducing intelligent appliances and home solutions. With new additions to our Home Appliances range we plan to capture double digit market share in the Home Appliances category in coming years."

Photo-Arijit Ganguly

Ticket checking drives by SER

Rs 12.73 cr realised from free trippers

KOLKATA, JULY 12/--/ South Eastern Railway has conducted massive ticket checking drives in the first quarter i.e April-June of the current financial year (2018-19) through its entire network of four Divisions i.e Kharagpur, Adra, Chakradharpur and Ranchi.

During the drives, Rs. 11.51 crore was realised towards fare and penalty from 2,26,157 cases detected travelling without tickets or with improper tickets. During the checks, an amount of Rs. 1.21 crore was collected from 1,92,112 un-booked luggage cases.

South Eastern Railway during first quarter of current financial year (2018-19), altogether realised Rs. 12.73 crores against Rs. 9.39 crores collected during the corresponding period of 2017-18 thus registering a growth of 35.5%. Collection of this huge amount was possible due to vigorous special checks conducted by the Commercial Department of South Eastern Railway in assistance with Railway Protection Force. (EOIC)

Central presents Red Haute Saturday

KOLKATA, JULY 12/--/ Central, the fashion destination of Future Group, presents Red Haute Saturday this 14th July this Saturday, one can shop at your nearest Central and get Central pay for it. With Red Haute Saturday's unique proposition 'You Shop, We Pay', fashionistas can now shop to their fullest.

With Central's Red Haute Saturday, everything at Central will be at flat 50% on Saturday. (EOIC)

Growth in SER's freight earnings

KOLKATA, JULY 12/--/ During the first three months i.e. April-June of current financial year (2018-19), South Eastern Railway has earned Rs. 3121.58 crore from originating freight traffic which is Rs. 235.83 crore more than the corresponding period of last year i.e. 2017-18 thus registering a growth of 8.16%.

This growth in freight earnings has been possible due to increase in freight loading during the above period. Coal loading during April-June of the current financial year has been 8.10 million tonnes which is a growth of 61.35% in the corresponding period of last year surpassing the Railway Board's target by 5.88%. The other major components of freight loading were 18.71 million tonnes of Iron Ore, 3.75 million tonnes of Pig-Iron & Finished Steel, 2.94 million tonnes of Cement, 1.20 million tonnes of Merchandised Goods etc. South Eastern Railway's total freight loading during April-June of the current financial year has been 36.49 million tonnes as against 35.85 million tonnes loaded during the corresponding period of last year recording a growth of 1.50%. (EOIC)

Central Coalfields' production

RANCHI, JULY 12/--/ The Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) has registered a record 11.4 million tonnes of coal production recording a growth of 13 per cent till July 11 in the first quarter of 2018-19 financial year. "It has registered a growth of 13 per cent till July 11," CCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director Gopal Singh said at a press conference here. The coal dispatch also witnessed double digit growth of 11 per cent with a dispatch of 17.7 million tonnes of coal in quarter one, he said in a press release.

Govt raises threshold limit for filing appeals in tax cases

NEW DELHI, JULY 12/--/ With about Rs 5 lakh crore stuck in litigations, the Union government has decided to hike the threshold monetary limit for tax department to file appeals in tribunals and courts to bring down litigation by 41 per cent, Finance Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Goyal said the tax department can file appeals in ITAT/CESTAT only if the tax amount involved is Rs 20 lakh or more, up from Rs 10 lakh at present.

Appeals would be filed in High Courts if the tax amount involved in litigation is Rs 50 lakh, up from Rs 20 lakh at present. For appeals in Supreme Court, the threshold limit has been hiked to Rs 1 crore, from Rs 25 lakh at present. He said the move is to



create trust in the tax administration and give relief to honest, small and mid-sized taxpayers. The move will result in 41 per cent reduction in overall tax cases, he told

reporters here. The higher limit would mean that 34 per cent of the tax cases filed in Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) will be withdrawn while 46 per cent of the cases in High Courts would be withdrawn. Similarly, 54 per cent of cases in the Supreme Court will be withdrawn.

Besides giving relief to taxpayers, the move is also based on premise that the cost of litigation is sometimes more than the recovery sought, he said. Goyal said only cases where substantial point of law is involved will be appealed against.

Tea industry to promote beverage among school children

KOLKATA, JULY 12/--/ After targeting the college and university students, the tea industry is now aiming to promote tea drinking habit among school children in some cities of the country.

Indian Tea Association (ITA), the apex body of tea planters of the country, has already roped in two advertising agencies for working out the campaign modalities in the various schools.

ITA sources said that per capita consumption of the beverage in the country is only 786 gm per annum. "This has to be increased for which promotion of tea drinking among the school children was contemplated."

'Amount locked up in tax litigation to reduce by Rs 5,600cr'

NEW DELHI: The amount locked up in tax litigation will come down by Rs 5,600 crore as the government has decided to hike the threshold monetary limit to file appeals in tribunals and courts, Goyal said on Thursday. As of March, 2017, tax disputes worth Rs 7.6 lakh crore were stuck in various stages of litigation in tribunals, High Courts and the Supreme Court, he said.

In order to reduce litigation, the government hiked the threshold limit for filing appeals in tribunals to Rs 20 lakh, while the same for High Courts and the Supreme Court was Rs 20 lakh and Rs 25 lakh, respectively. Earlier, the threshold for filing appeals by the Tax department in ITAT/CESTAT was Rs 10 lakh, while the same in High Courts and the Supreme Court was Rs 20 lakh and Rs 25 lakh, respectively. With this, tax litigation in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) will get reduced by 41 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively.

BoB inks MoU with KBFG

To create In-Ko Finance Corridor, Digital Payment Ecosystem

KOLKATA, JULY 12/--/Bank of Baroda signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with KB Financial Group Inc. (KBFG), Korea, for comprehensive business cooperation between the two organisations to establish In-Ko financing corridor and development of innovative digital payment eco-system.

The MoU was signed during India-Korea Business Forum on 9th July 2018 by P S Jayakumar, MD&CEO, Bank of Baroda and Yoon Jong-kyu, Chairman, KB Financial Group in the presence of Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Govt of India. Mr Jayakumar said, "Through this engagement, Bank of Baroda and KB Financial Group will work together on creating a new digital payments ecosystem in India and creating In-Ko corridor for providing reciprocal financial services to Corporate and Retail Clients of Bank of Baroda and KB Financial Group. We are committed to work jointly with KB Financial Group by leveraging the potential synergies generated between Bank of Baroda's diverse domestic network and KB's business relations with Korean Conglomerates." (EOIC)

Retail inflation at five-mth high of 5% in June

NEW DELHI, JULY 12/--/ Retail inflation rose to 5 per cent in June, a five-month high, despite easing food prices, the government data showed on Thursday.

The retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 4.87 per cent in May. It was 4.46 per cent in June 2017. The earlier high was in January this year at 5.07 per cent. As per the data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the inflation in the food basket was 2.91 per cent, compared to 3.1 per cent in May.

The inflation in fuel and light category, however, went up to 7.14 per cent as against 5.8 per cent in May. The government has mandated the Reserve Bank to keep inflation at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The RBI Governor headed Monetary Policy Committee will be meeting later this month to review interest rate regime.

Weather Report

	MinTemp.	MaxTemp.	Weather
Gangtok			
13-Jul, 2018	19.0	24.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Jul, 2018	18.0	24.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Jul, 2018	18.0	24.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
16-Jul, 2018	18.0	23.0	Rain or thundershowers would occur towards afternoon or evening
17-Jul, 2018	19.0	22.0	Rain or Thundershowers
18-Jul, 2018	19.0	22.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Gyalshing			
13-Jul, 2018	18.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with a few spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Jul, 2018	17.0	27.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Jul, 2018	17.0	26.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
16-Jul, 2018	18.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
17-Jul, 2018	18.0	25.0	Rain or Thundershowers
18-Jul, 2018	18.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Mangan			
13-Jul, 2018	21.0	31.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Jul, 2018	20.0	31.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Jul, 2018	20.0	30.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
16-Jul, 2018	20.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
17-Jul, 2018	21.0	28.0	Rain or Thundershowers
18-Jul, 2018	21.0	28.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Namchi			
13-Jul, 2018	20.0	29.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Jul, 2018	19.0	29.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of development of thunder lightning
15-Jul, 2018	18.0	28.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of development of thunder lightning
16-Jul, 2018	20.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
17-Jul, 2018	20.0	26.0	Rain or Thundershowers
18-Jul, 2018	20.0	26.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Tadong			
13-Jul, 2018	21.0	31.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Jul, 2018	20.0	31.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Jul, 2018	20.0	30.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
16-Jul, 2018	20.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
17-Jul, 2018	21.0	28.0	Rain or Thundershowers
18-Jul, 2018	21.0	28.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Darjeeling			
13-Jul, 2018	14.0	20.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Jul, 2018	15.0	19.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Jul, 2018	15.0	20.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
16-Jul, 2018	15.0	20.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
17-Jul, 2018	15.0	20.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or Thunderstorm
18-Jul, 2018	15.0	19.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or Thunderstorm

Source: IMD