

Casio strikes city counterfeit market

KOLKATA, DEC 7—In a bid to curb the supply of fake calculators in the market, Casio carried out raids in Kolkata with the assistance of the city police recently. The raid was conducted at the shops, starting a new initiative by the brand to fight the market of counterfeit Casio products in Kolkata. Police seized large quantities of counterfeit calculators during the raid. The First Information Reports have been registered at Hare Street Police Station in Kolkata against the retailers selling counterfeit calculators. Umesh Kumar Gupta, Legal Head of Casio India said, "The philosophy behind Casio is that of 'Creativity and Contribution'. In keeping with that we have taken up counterfeits to protect our brand image and product value. Our authorized dealers and distributors in Kolkata have long called for better regulation to tackle piracy and counterfeit products in the city. We are thankful to Kolkata Police for their swift action in tracking down those involved in supplying of counterfeit calculators." (EOIC)

Google launches Files Go!

KOLKATA, DEC 7—Google announced the launch of Files Go app that takes a mobile-first approach to freeing up space, finding files faster and easily sharing them with others, even when offline. Files Go will be globally available on Google Play Store for all phones running Android 5.0 (Lollipop) and higher. Talking about the app, Caesar Sengupta, Vice President, Next Billion Users, Google, in a blogpost said, "The billions of smartphones run out of space. While phones with 16GB or 32GB of storage are becoming more popular, many phones around the world have much less storage, often only 4GB. Users often struggle to keep on top of the storage space on their phones and are constantly having to choose between what to keep or delete. We've been testing Files Go for a month, and the average user is saving 1GB of space and has shared many files with others without using data." (EOIC)

Colgate with IDA launches 14th OHM

KOLKATA, DEC 7—Vijay Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited in partnership with the Indian Dental Association (IDA), announced the 14th edition of the Oral Health Month (OHM). Currently in its 14th year, OHM is a national oral health campaign that has so far benefited more than 33 million Indians by providing free dental check-ups and consultation. OHM 2017, which commenced in November 2017, will go on till January 31, 2018 and will include dental check-ups. Speaking about the Oral Health Month 2017, Issam Bachaalani, Managing Director, Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited said, "Oral Health Month is one of our oldest flagship programs through which we aim to improve the oral health of people. Along with able IDA dentists, Colgate's Oral Health Month has provided free dental check-ups and dental advice to millions of Indians. For the 2017 edition, we have also included the Pocket Dentist initiative to step up the OHM program, and to help us with our larger vision to keep India Smiling." Last year Oral Health Month conducted 6



Minister of State (I/C) for Power and New and Renewable Energy Raj Kumar Singh addressing a press conference, in New Delhi. Secretary, Ministry of Power Ajay Kumar Bhatta is also seen—PIB

Power distribution losses below 15% can ensure 24x7 supply: Minister

NEW DELHI, DEC 7—Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh on Thursday urged his states counterparts to bring electricity distribution losses below 15 per cent to ensure 24x7 power for all by 2019. Singh also asked them to roll out the Saubhagya scheme in their states to provide power connections to 4 crore families by December, 2018. "We have reduced the distribution (aggregate technical and commercial) losses. It is necessary to

achieve 24x7 power for all by 2019," Singh said. He said this while inaugurating the conference of Ministers for Power and New & Renewable Energy of States & Union Territories here. He further said: "We are going to add 4 crore more subscribers under the Saubhagya scheme. Thus, with increase in supplies, leakages would further increase. We cannot continue to set off these losses using taxpayers' money." The minister said there are 16 to 17 states, which are incurring distribution losses more than 15 per cent. On the Saubhagya scheme, he said: "We are going to do it by December 2018. We have to do it. We have provided over Rs 90,000 crore from 9th Five Year Plan onwards to strengthen the system in states. We are providing funds under various schemes. At present, all states have not submitted their proposals under the scheme. The proposal would have to come from states to seek funds. The

BM Birla Heart Research Centre receives state nod for heart transplant

KOLKATA, DEC 7—BM Birla Heart Research Centre has received the license for 'heart transplant' from the Government of West Bengal. The hospital presently has the nod from the state health department to conduct heart transplant surgery. This is the second hospital in the state to have received license for conducting heart transplantation. The matter was under process for quite some time now and after couple of months of endeavour, the initiative has finally taken off. An expert team of doctors were involved behind the successful implementation of the plan. Post a round of infrastructural inspection and scrutiny of the transplant team by a group of experts from health department, BM Birla Heart Research Centre has finally received the approval early this month. Commenting on the occasion, Uttam Bose, Group CEO, CK Birla Hospitals said, "BM Birla Heart Research Centre, a super speciality cardiac care unit of CK Birla Hospitals has always been committed to provide advanced cardiac care to people from all sections of the society. We are now geared up and happy to receive heart transplant licence from the West Bengal Government. This is the need of the hour and we will take the cause of transplant forward with our eminent and expert team of doctors."

Honda opens all new Gold Wing 2018 bookings

KOLKATA/GURUGRAM, DEC 7—Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. today announced commencement of bookings for the all-new Honda's 2018 Gold Wing. Pushing the limits of technological innovations for more than 4 decades now, Gold Wing is Honda's flagship touring icon. While staying true to its unmatched legacy of refinement, technology and luxury, Honda's 2018 Gold Wing is an all-new motorcycle from the wheels up. Honda's 2018 Gold Wing gets radical improvements in every category—engineering, handling, technology, comfort and performance. It's lighter, more powerful, more nimble and more engaging. The all-new Gold Wing features new technologies including a newly developed horizontally-opposed 6-cylinder engine, 7-speed DCT and Honda's original double wishbone front suspension. Yadvinder Singh Gulera, Senior Vice President - Sales and Marketing, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. said, "The 2018 Gold Wing was first showcased at the Tokyo Motor Show in November '17 and delighting our customers in India. Honda is today starting the bookings for this legend. The new generation Gold Wing gets a 7-speed DCT, revolutionary suspension setup, Apple CarPlay, HSTC and a brand new engine, making it a true rider's motorcycle. The best ever Gold Wing with all these new features is a complete generation leap and yet comes with an unmatched price."

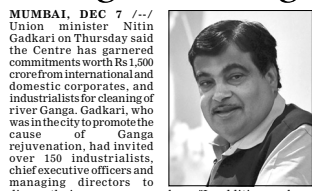
Mallya returns to UK court for day three of extradition trial

LONDON, DEC 7—Vijay Mallya on Thursday returned to a UK court here for the third day of his extradition trial, which will determine whether the embattled liquor tycoon can be forced to return to India to face charges of fraud and money laundering allegedly amounting to around Rs 9,000 crores. The 61-year-old has claimed, via his legal team, that the case brought against him is "politically motivated" and that it was being used as an opportunity to make "political capital" by the ruling BJP as well as Congress and Shiv Sena. "CBI has a long and inglorious history of being politically motivated in cases with a direct correlation between the allegations of corruption and election years," his barrister Clare Montgomery had told Westminster Magistrate's Court on Tuesday. The CBI team in London for the case, led by Special Director Rakesh Asthana, was present in court during this claim. Laying out her counter-arguments before Judge Emma Arbuthnot, Montgomery had also called into question the "admissibility" of some of the evidence submitted by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on behalf of the Indian government. She claimed that much of the material was questionable and there were at least a dozen documents submitted which read like an identical "template". The judge has asked both sides to submit a document laying out the factors for and against the admissibility of the evidence submitted by the Indian authorities by the end of this week. While the defence claims there is

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"zero" evidence to support a credible case of fraud against Mallya, the CPS has opened the trial on Monday with a detailed chronology of events to show "by virtue of evidence a prima facie case" against the boss of the now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines. The prosecution's case rests on "three chapters of dishonesty" by Mallya misrepresentations to various banks to acquire loans, the misuse of the loans and his conduct after the banks recalled the loans. Instead of acting as an honest person and doing what he could to meet his obligations, he sets about erecting lines of defence," CPS barrister Mark Summers told the judge. The charge of money laundering, for which Mallya had been re-arrested in October, is being focussed on less at this stage with fraud being central to the CPS case.(PTI)

Corporates, industrialists commit of Rs 1,500cr for Ganga cleaning: Gadkari



MUMBAI, DEC 7—Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the Centre has garnered commitments worth Rs 1,500 crore from international and domestic corporates, and industrialists for cleaning of River Ganga, Gadkari, who was in the city to promote the cause of Ganga rejuvenation, had invited 150 industrialists and chief executive officers and managing directors to discuss the issue. "I was in London last week to kick off a roadshow to promote the (Ganga rejuvenation) project. We have got commitments worth Rs 1,000 crore from various institutions and the UK-based business community" for the development and Ganga rejuvenation told reporters

visit major cities, including Chennai, Bengaluru and Kolkata, subsequently, he said. The Centre estimates the cost of the entire project to run up to Rs 200 crore, he said. So far, around 97 projects have been announced, of which about 55 have been initiated, Gadkari said. About 15 of these are under the public-private partnership model under which operations will be maintained by the private sector, he said. "We will float tenders for the remaining projects, and plan to get them all underway by March 2018," he said. On the development of over 4,500 villages and towns along the Ganga, Gadkari said the government is working on a integrated development project of these villages. (PTI)

FRDI Bill depositor friendly, provides more protection: FinMin

NEW DELHI, DEC 7—The FRDI Bill, under consideration of a joint parliamentary committee, is depositor friendly and provides more protection to them compared to existing provisions, the finance ministry said on Thursday. The statement comes in the wake of certain misgivings that appeared in the media about 'bail-in' provisions of the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 (FRDI Bill). The provisions in the FRDI Bill do not modify current provisions for depositors adversely at all, the ministry held, maintaining that these rather provide additional protections in a more prudent manner. "The FRDI Bill is far more depositor friendly" than many other jurisdictions, which provide for statutory bail-in, where consent of creditors or depositors is not required for bail-in," it added. The FRDI Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 10 (pp) 10, 2017, is under consideration of the joint committee of Parliament. The panel is consulting all the stakeholders on the provisions of the legislation. "The FRDI Bill does not propose in any way to limit the scope of powers for the government to extend financing and resolution support to banks, including public sector banks. The government's implicit guarantee for public sector banks remains unaffected," it said. The government further said Indian banks have adequate capital and are also under prudent regulation and supervision

to ensure safety and soundness as well as systemic stability. The existing laws ensure integrity, security and safety of the banking system. In India, it said all possible steps and policy measures are taken to prevent failure of banks and protection of interests of depositors through issuance of directions/prompt corrective action measures, capital adequacy and prudential norms. "The FRDI Bill will 'strengthen' the system by adding a comprehensive resolution regime which will help ensure that, in the rare event of failure of a financial service provider, there is a system of quick, orderly and efficient resolution in favour of depositors," the statement said.

Online petition against the Bill gets thousands of signups

NEW DELHI: An online petition against the bail-in provision in the FRDI Bill has got thousands of signatures even as the finance ministry said that the proposal, under consideration of a joint parliamentary committee, is depositor friendly and provides more protection. An online petition on Change.org against the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill, 2017, has gone viral on social media, seeking public support against what it terms as an attempt to "allow a government entity to use depositors' money to save a bank on the verge of bankruptcy". The petition was started by a Mumbai-based individual, Shilpa Shree, with a single signature and has got over 40,000 signups within 24 hours, supporting her appeal to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to not let this bill pass with the 'bail-in' provision. "Our hard earned money that we have saved for our children and for our future will be used to bail-in the banks," the petitioner said. "This bill gives power to a

government entity to use depositors money to save a bank on the verge of bankruptcy. This government entity can declare the bank doesn't owe you any money though you have deposited your money with it," the petition said. Meanwhile, the finance ministry today said that the FRDI Bill is depositor friendly and provides more protection to them compared to existing provisions. "The FRDI Bill is far more depositor friendly than many other jurisdictions, which provide for statutory bail-in, where consent of creditors or depositors is not required for bail-in," it said. The FRDI Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11, 2017, is under consideration of the joint committee of Parliament. The panel is consulting all the stakeholders on the provisions of the legislation. "The FRDI Bill does not propose in any way to limit the scope of powers for the government to extend financing and resolution support to banks, including public sector banks. (PTI)

Solar Energy Corp's tender for ISTS-linked wind power capacity

NEW DELHI, DEC 7—State-run Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has floated tender for setting up 2 GW inter-state transmission system (ISTS) connected wind power capacities across the country. Under this auction, the eligible bid capacity will be a minimum of 50 MW and maximum, 400 MW. The discounts of non-windy states which require wind power to fulfill their non-solar RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation) under respective RPO regulations will be eligible to buy wind power under this scheme. The duration of the PPAs and PSAs will be 25 years from the date of commercial operation of the projects. No separate Central Financial assistance is envisaged for implementation of the scheme. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled on December 14, 2017. The last date for bid submission is January 16, 2018. The government has already auctioned 2 GW wind capacities so far in the first and second rounds this year.

AirAsia celebrates intl inaugural flight to city

KOLKATA, DEC 7—AirAsia celebrated an international inaugural flight into Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata from Johor Bahru, Malaysia. The newly launched international flight landed at 2359 hours yesterday at Kolkata, and was received by the AirAsia Allstars, Mr. Pauzakham, DC, Customs, Mr. Partharathay, Terminal Manager, AAI and two representatives from GSP and the Bureau of Immigration. The flight then took off from Kolkata at 2330 hours for Johor Bahru. The five times weekly direct flights from Kolkata to fifth new route launched by the airline flies to Singapore, Malaysia hub this year. The airline had also recently launched a flight from Kolkata to Bali via Kuala Lumpur.

These new routes further solidify AirAsia's commitment to offering increased connectivity to guests from India. Apart from these two new routes, the AirAsia group has direct flights from Kolkata to Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. Spencer Lee, Head of Commercial, AirAsia Berhad said, "AirAsia is pleased to connect to the city of Johor Bahru to further boost foreign tourist arrivals into both countries - this is also in line with our long term plan to improving direct connectivity". AirAsia is currently operating 161 weekly flights one way into Johor Bahru's Senai International Airport. In addition to Kolkata, the airline also flies from Johor Bahru to Bangkok, Guangzhou, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, and Surabaya as well as Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Johor Bahru to Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Terengganu, Penang, Langkawi, Kuching, Miri, Tawau, Sibau, and Kota Kinabalu.

