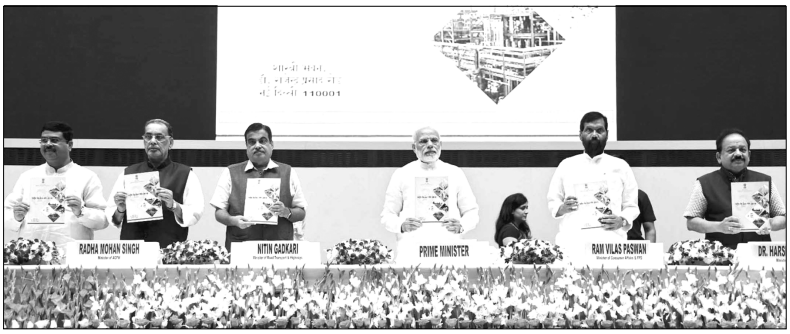

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiling the booklet on 'National Policy on Biofuels 2018', at the inauguration of the "World Biofuel Day 2018" programme, in New Delhi. Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh, the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan and Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan are also seen---PIB

PM targets Rs 12k-cr saving in oil import bill from ethanol use

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday set a target to triple ethanol production in four years to help save Rs 12,000 crore in oil import bill by mixing the sugarcane extract in petrol as well as boost farm income.

Speaking at a function here to mark World Biofuel Day, he said about Rs 10,000 crore is being invested in setting up 12 bio-refineries in the country that will produce fuel from crop stubble and residue as well as urban waste.

"Biofuels can help reduce import dependency on crude oil. They can contribute to a cleaner environment, generate additional income for farmers and create rural jobs," he said. Modi said fuel generated from sugarcane and crop residue not only gives additional income to farmers but also helps the environment by the safe disposal of farm stubble. The world's third largest oil consumer is dependent on imports to meet 81 per cent of its needs and substituting some of the fuel with biofuels will help cut import dependence.

India started blending ethanol, produced as a by-product during the process of making sugar from sugarcane, in petrol during the first NDA regime in 2002. But the programme slowed almost to a grinding halt in the 10-year rule of Congress-led UPA. Modi said the programme to mix ethanol in petrol was revived when the BJP-led NDA came to power again in 2014.

"As a result of the efforts of the Centre, ethanol blending in petrol increased from 38 crore litres in the ethanol supply year 2013-14, to an estimated 141 crore litres in the ethanol supply year 2017-18," he said, adding this saved close to Rs 4,000 crore in oil import bill. The target, he said, is to raise ethanol production for doping in petrol to 450 crore litres in four years that will save Rs 12,000 crore in import bill. India spent nearly USD 88 billion (about Rs 5.9 lakh crore) on import of crude oil in 2017-18.

"Our target is to raise blending of ethanol in petrol to 10 per cent by 2022 and to 20 per cent by 2030," he said. Currently, petrol contains 3.8 per cent of ethanol.

The bio-refineries being set up will generate about 1.5 lakh jobs in the entire value chain, he said. Also, the government approved the National Policy on Biofuels in June this year which seeks to produce fuel that can be doped in petrol and diesel from agriculture and municipal waste as well as crop residue, he said. Fuel is targeted to be produced from crop stubble, which otherwise is burnt every year causing pollution and erosion in soil's nutrient value.

It can also be produced from damaged crops, he said, adding efforts are on to also generate fuel from urban waste as well as bovine excreta. He said bio-CNG generated from cow dung can be used as a fuel in transport vehicles to cut petrol and diesel consumption.

"Biofuels have synergies with various government initiatives, including enhancing farmers' incomes, and Swachh Bharat," he said. Listing measures of the government on using environment-friendly fuel, he said recycled plastic is being used in road construction while electricity generated from solar panels is being extensively promoted. Besides, LED bulbs are replacing conventional lighting in railways and ports, he said.

Skill India launches 'Fark Dikh Raha Hai'

KOLKATA, AUG 10/--/ Skill India mission launched a mass media campaign - 'Fark Dikh Raha Hai'. The initiative aims to increase awareness regarding various initiatives under Skill India, including Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). Since the launch of Skill India mission on 15th July 2015, more than 1 crore people have benefitted annually under the mission and have been able to transform their lives for a better livelihood. Rajesh Agarwal, Joint Secretary & CVO, MSDE said, "Under the able leadership of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 'Skill India' has been making steady progress towards transforming India as the 'human resource capital' of the world. Over the last three years, various skill development initiatives and policy driven accelerators have helped Indian youth to enhance their skills and stay job-relevant keeping in mind the advent of technology and new age skills that the market place needs today."

Manish Kumar, MD & CEO, NSDC said, "NSDC has collaborated with MSDE and multiple stakeholders to ensure that India's youth are empowered with right skills; which could help them earn a better livelihood. The 'Fark Dikh Raha Hai' campaign aims to reinforce the benefits of skill training and it's socio-economic across different segments of our society." (EOIC)

itel's A62 launched

KOLKATA, AUG 10/--/ itel, mobile brand from TRANSSION Holdings, launched its dual rear camera smartphone, itel A62; designed specifically for the Indian consumers to offer a fuller smartphone experience. The latest entrant to itel's growing line-up of 4G smartphones, the A62 offers premium quality with user centric features including face unlock, multi-functional finger print sensor, bike mode and to top it all, it flaunts a dual rear camera at a budget-friendly price of INR 7,499

Goldee Patnaik, Head of Marketing, itel Business Unit said, "With increasing growth in mobile photography amongst youth frater nity, camera on a phone has seen maximum innovations and improvements. With this insight, we have launched our first dual rear camera smartphone – A62, with full screen and multiple value added features."(EOIC)

SITA 2018 Baggage Report published

KOLKATA, AUG 10/--/ Airlines around the world have once again improved the rate of baggage delivery, according to the SITA 2018 Baggage Report published recently. This continues the improvement trend of more than a decade which has seen baggage mishandling drop by 70% since 2007.

Barbara Dalibard, CEO, SITA, said: "Over the last decade, we have seen significant improvements in bag management as airlines have taken advantage of technology. Now with IATA's drive for 100% bag tracking, technology adoption will rise further. End-to-end tracking produces data which reveals where improvements can be made in operational processes. While we won't see a sudden change in 2018, it is a real turning point for the industry as airlines begin to unlock the value of the tracking data for the 4.65 billion bags they carry." (EOIC)

Big Bazaar offers '5 Days Mahabachat'

KOLKATA, AUG 10/--/ Big Bazaar is back with Mahabachat sale that gives customers rock-bottom prices, mega discounts and the biggest savings from August 11—15, 2018. Mahabachat will offer its customers a cashback of up to Rs1,200 in their Future Pay Wallet and Paytm, on purchases worth Rs 3,000!

Sadashiv Nayak, CEO, Big Bazaar says, "Big Bazaar's Mahabachat is our way of showing our commitment in serving the best value and savings to our customers. This year, we have not only come up with greater offers but have also upgraded our preparations significantly so that our customers can enjoy a hitch-free shopping experience. With other formats of the group - Brand Factory, Central, Easyday, Nilgiris, Heritage Fresh and Foodworld also being a part of Mahabachat, we hope to add additional convenience to our customers." (EOIC)

Century Plyboards conducts raid for counterfeit products

KOLKATA, AUG 10/--/ CenturyPly has recently conducted a raid to catch counterfeit plywood products bearing the brand name of the company. CenturyPly along with the Enforcement Directorate and Park Street Police Station conducted this raid.

The raid was piloted at a store at Marquis Street, Kolkata, where over 150 forged plywood and printed material samples were seized. Owner of the shop was taken into custody for selling counterfeit plywood with "Centuryply & Club Prime" brand name. According to company sources, the Enforcement Branch had taken the owner of the shop, Md. into custody. Appropriate legal proceedings, u/s 420, 120B IPC and u/s 63/65 of the Copyright Act, have been initiated against him which will now be contested in court. (EOIC)

Great Eastern announces Cost To Cost Offer

KOLKATA, AUG 10/--/ This Independence Day Great Eastern Retail Pvt Ltd. announced special offers on new home appliances and electronic products from 10th to 19th August, 2018. Bring home the latest and ultra modern gadgets of your choices at their cost price, without having to spend much of your moolah! Great Eastern Retail Pvt Ltd. pioneered their 'Cost to Cost Offer' 21 years ago in the year of 1997 and executes a bi-annual campaign that runs during Independence Day week and Republic Day week with the unbeatable Ultimate Price Challenge since then (Avail products at their cost price). (EOIC)

Digit Insurance raises USD 44 m in IInd funding round

KOLKATA, AUG 10/--/ Digit Insurance has raised USD 44 million in a second round of funding. Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa's Fairfax Holdings has invested second round of capital (USD 45 million) in Digit Infoworks, a parent company for Digit insurance of which a significant part of the investment (USD 44 million) is given to Digit Insurance. The funding is the largest round in the Indian general insurance ecosystem. This investment brings Digit's total funding to USD 94 million.

Kamesh Goyal, Founder & Chairman, Digit Insurance said, "Our investors have shown confidence in our mission of Making Insurance Simple which is heartening. And this round of funding will further help us in doing that."

"Our long-term investment is directed towards bringing in technology that can automate & fasten processes and resolve customer pain points. For example, 100% of our flight delay claims are automated & claims are processed in minutes; 87% of our claim approvals happen in just 24 hours due to innovations like smartphone-enabled self-inspections. We also believe that claims are the sole reason why a customer buys our policies, so for us claims are good." he further added. (EOIC)

Nokia smartphone variants announced in India

KOLKATA, AUG 10/--/ HMD Global, the home of Nokia phones, has continued to rapidly renew its portfolio of Nokia Android smartphones by today announcing Nokia 5.1, Nokia 3.1 and Nokia 2.1 in India. Nokia 5.1, Nokia 3.1 and Nokia 2.1 will be available 12th August onwards across top mobile retailers and online on Paytm Mall and Nokia.com/phones

Ajey Mehta, Vice President and Country Head, India, HMD Global, says: "We are encouraged by the response that we are getting to our products. Our consumers tell us they love their Nokia smartphones on Android.

It is our constant endeavour to enhance the experience to better suit the everyday needs of our fans. Every single detail on a Nokia smartphone has been designed with consumers in mind, which is why we are delighted to introduce these refined smartphones that deliver a dramatic step up on performance, continue to drive the most premium design elements to price points accessible to everyone and deliver the class-leading quality that you expect from us. (EOIC)

CenturyPly units become solar powered

KOLKATA, AUG 10/--/In a bid to resonate its commitment towards innovation and social responsibility, CenturyPly announced the installation of solar panels at the company's manufacturing unit in Chennai. This initiative at CenturyPly's end will save around 15% of the total energy consumption at each plant and will help in reducing up to 5900 tonnes of carbon footprint per year. Keshav Bhajanka, of CenturyPly said, "CenturyPly, is very keen to reduce its carbon footprint and by the means of using solar energy it can be done to a large extent. It is not only a clean and green energy, but also economical in long run. We are currently producing 1 MW electricity through solar energy at Chennai plant and by this FY we will install more capacity and start producing upto 6 MW electricity."(EOIC)

37 PSUs yet to comply with Sebi's public float norm: Govt

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10 /--/ As many as 37 listed PSUs have not complied with markets regulator Sebi's 25 per cent minimum public shareholding norms, Parliament was informed on Friday.

As per the norms, PSUs were mandated to achieve the minimum 25 per cent public shareholding by August 21, 2017, which was later extended by a year. Out of the total 89 listed PSUs, 52 are compliant with the minimum public shareholding requirement of 25 per cent and remaining 37 are yet to comply with the rule, Minister of State for Finance Pon Radhakrishnan said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. In a separate reply, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs P P Chaudhary said that 907 cases have been admitted under corporate insolvency resolution process. In 32 cases, resolution plan has been approved and in 129 cases liquidation proceedings have commenced, he added. The provision of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy code provides for adequate safeguards against fraudulent or malicious initiation of proceedings. (PTI)

June factory output expands 7%

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10 /--/ Industrial output recorded a growth of 7 per cent in June on account of higher output in mining, manufacturing and power generation segments. Factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was revised upwards for May at 3.9 per cent from previous estimate of 3.2 per cent estimated earlier, according to data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Friday. The cumulative growth for the period April-June 2018 stands at 5.2 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year.

BMW G 310 R and BMW G 310 GS launched

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA/DELHI NCR, AUG 10/--/BMW Motorrad India launched the all-new BMW G 310 R and the all-new BMW G 310 GS in India today. The two most-awaited motorcycles of the year are now availablefor test drives and are on sale throughout the BMW Motorrad dealer network.

Dimitris Raptis, Head of Region Asia, China, Pacific, South Africa, BMW Motorrad said, "BMW Motorrad has a legacy of creating motorcycles with a unique appeal, some of which have created a proud history in the world of two-wheelers. Whether it is the performance, quality or handling, BMW Motorrad captures the pulse of true motorcyclists. Bringing the brand's formidable experience and premium aspirations to the sub-500 cc segment, the all-new BMW

G 310 R and the all-new BMW G 310 GS have opened up another important chapter in BMW Motorrad's history and will lay a strong foundation for future growth."

Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "BMW Motorrad has brought the world's finest premium motorcycles to India and created a distinct place for itself among motorcycling enthusiasts within a short span of time. The all-new BMW G 310 R and the all-new BMW G 310 GS will captivate the fast growing sub-500 cc segment and bring new customer groups to the world of BMW Motorrad.

The all-new BMW G 310 R is the perfect urban roadster for those who want to make pure motorcycling a part of everyday lives, whether it's on an empty road or on the way to work. For those looking for an extra streak of adventure and fun, the all-new BMW G 310 GS is the answer. Both the offerings are set to redefine their segment as they are ideal for young people, novices, returning riders and many other motorcyclists."

The ex-showroom prices are as follows:

The all-new BMW G 310 R : Rs 299, 000

The all-new BMW G 310 GS: Rs 349, 000

Weather Report

	MinTemp.	Max Temp.	Weather
Gangtok			
11-Aug	18.0	21.0	Thunderstorm with squall
12-Aug	18.0	21.0	Generally cloudy sky with Heavy rain
13-Aug	18.0	22.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Aug	18.0	23.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Aug	18.0	23.0	Rain or Thundershowers
16-Aug	18.0	23.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Gyalsingh			
11-Aug	18.0	21.0	Generally cloudy sky with a few spells of rain or thundershowers
12-Aug	18.0	21.0	Generally cloudy sky with a few spells of rain or thundershowers
13-Aug	18.0	22.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Aug	18.0	24.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Aug	18.0	26.0	Rain or Thundershowers
16-Aug	18.0	26.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Mangan			
11-Aug	21.0	28.0	Generally cloudy sky with Heavy rain
12-Aug	21.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with Heavy rain
13-Aug	20.0	28.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Aug	20.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Aug	21.0	30.0	Rain or Thundershowers
16-Aug	21.0	30.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Namchi			
11-Aug	19.0	24.0	Generally cloudy sky with a few spells of rain or thundershowers
12-Aug	19.0	24.0	Generally cloudy sky with a few spells of rain or thundershowers
13-Aug	19.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Aug	19.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Aug	20.0	27.0	Rain or Thundershowers
16-Aug	20.0	27.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Tadong			
11-Aug	20.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with Heavy rain
12-Aug	20.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with a few spells of rain or thundershowers
13-Aug	21.0	28.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Aug	21.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Aug	21.0	29.0	Rain or Thundershowers
16-Aug	21.0	29.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Darjeeling			
11-Aug	15.0	19.0	Generally cloudy sky with a few spells of rain or thundershowers
12-Aug	15.0	19.0	Generally cloudy sky with Heavy rain
13-Aug	14.0	20.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
14-Aug	15.0	20.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
15-Aug	15.0	21.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or Thunderstorm
16-Aug	15.0	20.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or Thunderstorm

Source: IMD