

(This document comprises news clips from various media in which Balmer Lawrie is mentioned, news related to GOI and PSEs, and news from the verticals that we do business in. This will be uploaded on intranet and website every Monday.)

Business resumption hits record high, regains mojo after 2-week fatigue: Nomura

After a slowdown in the previous two weeks, business activities have resumed in August, said Nomura. The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI), which tracks high frequency data, rose to a record high of 99.4 for the week ended 8 August from 94.0 in the previous week, nearing the pre-pandemic level of 100, and surpassing the pre-second wave peak of 99.3 in mid-February. "Nomura India Business Resumption Index regains its mojo after fatigue in the past two weeks," Sonal Varma and Aurodeep Nandi, economists, Nomura said in a note. Having plateaued briefly, mobility picked up sharply, with Google workplace, retail & recreation and Apple driving index rising 7.4 percentage points (pp), 5.3pp and 6.7pp, respectively. Power demand also rose 5.3% week-on-week after contracting for three consecutive weeks, while labour participation rate rose to 41.5% from 39.8%, with unemployment rate to 8.1%. Fresh covid case additions remained flat at 40,000 per day, and at close to 5 million doses per day, the vaccination pace is higher than the daily rate of 3.9 million in June.

Mint - 10.08.2021

<https://www.livemint.com/economy/business-resumption-hits-record-high-regains-mojo-after-2-week-fatigue-nomura-11628499619039.html>

Government will do 'everything' to revive growth, says finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman

The government is committed to doing everything that is required to revive the economy, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday as she assured industry about the Centre's commitment to reforms and urged India Inc to come out in a big way and show its risk taking abilities. Addressing the annual session of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Sitharaman also said the government and the RBI will both push growth and take all necessary steps

Economic impact of 2nd Covid wave likely to be muted; visible signs of eco rejuvenation: FinMin

The finance ministry on Tuesday said the economic impact of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to be muted and there are visible signs of economic rejuvenation. The latest Monthly Economic Review, released by the finance ministry, said the "robust recovery in tax collections cushions the fiscal towards meeting the budgeted support to the economy". It also said the recent sero-prevalence results signify that India can reduce the likelihood of severe illness due to COVID-19 if the country sustains the momentum of the vaccination programme. "Having antibodies reduces the probability of acquiring serious illnesses, as is borne by studies. So, any subsequent waves are expected to be mild in terms of severity of disease," the ministry said in the report. However, it is imperative that COVID-appropriate behaviour and due protocol is followed. At this juncture, it said, the economy and society are at a crucial inflection point where sustenance of economic recovery, vaccination progress and COVID-19 appropriate behavioural strategies are needed in close synergy with each other.

News 18 - 11.08.2021

<https://www.news18.com/news/business/economic-impact-of-2nd-covid-wave-likely-to-be-muted-visible-signs-of-eco-rejuvenation-finmin-4069349.html>

Exports hit record \$35.4 billion in July

India exported a record \$35.4 billion worth of goods in July, riding the rapid economic recovery in key western markets, revised data from the commerce ministry showed on Friday. Merchandise imports also shot up to \$46.4 billion, the second-highest in history, expanding India's trade deficit to \$11 billion. Exports were led by robust growth in petroleum products, gems and jewellery, chemicals, engineering goods, electronic goods and readymade garments, while imports were led by crude oil, chemicals, precious stones, iron and steel,

to keep inflation contained. "Government's commitment to recovery is shown in so many different ways and we are going to continue doing that because recovery and its sustainability is something which the PM is very keenly invested in," said Sitharaman. "I am not looking at growth versus inflation. We shall attend to inflation and keep it contained, take all the necessary steps but never forget the fact that growth is that will make all the difference to the economy's revival, growth will eventually remove poverty and bring in a level-playing field for all Indian citizens," FM said, adding that both the Centre and RBI are working as partners to address issues linked to the economy.

The Economic Times - 13.08.2021

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/government-will-do-everything-to-revive-growth-says-finance-minister-nirmala-sitharaman/85291083>

Exports up 50.45% in first week of August

Led by engineering goods, gems and jewellery, and petroleum products, India's exports rose 50.45% to \$7.41 billion during August 1-7. Imports in the week rose 70% to \$10.45 billion, leaving a trade deficit of \$3 billion, tentative data released on Tuesday by the commerce and industry ministry showed. The top export destinations were the US, UAE and Saudi Arabia while the highest rise in imports was seen from the UAE, China and Nigeria. Outbound shipments of engineering goods increased 63.2% and petroleum products grew 145.3%. Gems and jewellery exports witnessed a growth of 121% whereas iron ore, oil meals, oil seeds saw the steepest decline in exports. In the first four months of FY22, merchandise exports were \$130.56 billion, which is 32.64% of the \$400 billion target set by the government for this fiscal and up 73.8% over the corresponding period last year. Imports of oil in the first week of August rose 141% to \$1.8 billion while those of electronic goods were up 31% to \$308 million. However, gold imports declined 12.48% to \$100 million. Non-petroleum, non-gems and jewellery imports — an indicator of domestic demand — grew 53.3%.

The Economic Times - 11.08.2021

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2021%2F08%2F11&entity=Ar01105&sk=519FFF23&mode=text>

India's industrial production grows 13.6% in June on low base effect

electronic goods and gold. Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA Ltd, said the current account will record a surplus of \$2-3 billion in Q1FY22, before reverting to a deficit of \$3-5 billion in the ongoing second quarter. "This will be followed by much larger deficits in Q3 and Q4FY22, as the recovery in domestic demand gains strength. We continue to expect a modest current account deficit of \$20-25 billion or 0.7% of GDP in FY22," she added. Tentative data released earlier this week showed Indian shipments started off well in August, garnering \$7.4 billion in the first week of the month.

Mint - 14.08.2021

<https://www.livemint.com/economy/exports-at-record-high-of-35-4-bn-in-july-11628860074474.html>

July retail inflation eases to 3-month low of 5.59%; June IIP at 13.6%

India's retail inflation eased to a three-month low in July, back within the Reserve Bank's tolerance level (2 per cent-6 per cent) after staying above the upper band for two straight months, government data released on Thursday showed. The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation cooled to 5.59 per cent in the last month from 6.26 per cent in June. Food inflation fell substantially to 3.96 per cent in July from 5.15 per cent in June. The RBI in latest monetary policy review has kept the rates and stance unchanged and pledged to remain accommodative in the near future, while raising its inflation forecast to 5.7 per cent during 2021-22. RBI projected 5.9 per cent in the second quarter, 5.3 per cent in third, and 5.8 per cent in the fourth quarter of the fiscal, with risks broadly balanced. CPI inflation for Q1FY23 is projected at 5.1 per cent. Meanwhile, Industrial output for the month of June rose 13.6 per cent, in a sign that the low base effect of the last year is waning. Factory output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had contracted 16.6 per cent in the same month of last year and rose by 29.3 per cent in May.

Business Standard - 12.08.2021

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/retail-inflation-cools-to-3-month-low-of-5-59-in-july-june-iip-at-13-6-121081201362_1.html

PM Narendra Modi announces Rs 100-lakh-crore 'Gatishakti' initiative for infrastructure growth

India's industrial production grew 13.6 per cent in June from the year-ago period due to the low-base effect, data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed. The impact of a low-base declined in June as compared to the last two months. In April and May, growth was 134.6 per cent and 28.6 per cent, respectively, thereby portraying an exaggerated picture of industrial activity. Factory output, measured by Index of Industrial Production (IIP), has been growing sharply since March due to a favourable base effect as industrial activity came to a virtual halt a year ago following the nationwide lockdown. In June 2020, IIP contracted 16.6 per cent. On a sequential basis, IIP grew 5.7 per cent from May, in line with the opening up of the economy, with states gradually easing restrictions after region-wise lockdown during the second wave in April-May. However, it still remained below April's level, indicating that the pace of recovery is slow.

Business Standard - 12.08.2021

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-industrial-production-grows-13-6-in-june-on-low-base-effect-121081202018_1.html

PM announces Hydrogen Mission, self-reliance in energy by 2047

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday formally announced the launch of a National Hydrogen Mission to accelerate plans to generate the carbon-free fuel from renewables as he set a target of 2047 for India to achieve self-reliance in energy. Delivering his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, he said India can achieve self-reliance in energy through a mix of a gas-based economy, doping sugarcane extracted ethanol in petrol and electric mobility. India, he said, spends over Rs 12 lakh crore on energy imports every year. While India is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs, overseas supplies make up for roughly half of the local requirement for natural gas. "For India to progress, for Atmanirbhar Bharat, energy independence is necessary," he said. "India has to take a pledge that it will be energy independent by the year we celebrate 100th year of Independence." The roadmap for that is to increase usage of natural gas in the economy, setting up a network for supply of CNG and piped natural gas across the country, blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol and electric mobility, he said.

The Economic Times - 16.08.2021

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/pm-announces-hydrogen-mission-self-reliance-in-energy-by-2047/85347991>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the government will launch a Rs 100-lakh-crore plan for an integrated infrastructure growth that will help reduce logistics costs and make the economy competitive. "We will launch a masterplan for Gati Shakti, a big programme ... This scheme of more than Rs 100 lakh crore will result in new employment opportunities for lakhs of youth," Modi said from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort. He said "Gati Shakti will be a national infrastructure master plan, which will lay the foundation of holistic infrastructure and will lead to an integrated and holistic pathway to our economy". "Right now, there is no coordination between our means of transport. Gati Shakti will break the silos and will remove all these obstacles. This will reduce the travel time for the common man and the productivity of our industry will also increase," Modi said.

The Telegraph - 16.08.2021

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/prime-minister-narendra-modi-announces-rs-100-lakh-crore-gatishakti-initiative-for-infrastructure-growth/cid/1826687>

Rigorous work underway to achieve privatisation targets: FM Sitharaman

Exuding confidence that the targets for the proposed strategic sales would be achieved, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday that the government is undertaking all the "necessary rigorous" work to complete the planned privatisation processes by the end of this financial year. Speaking at the CII annual conclave, Sitharaman said: "Our commitment to disinvestment and privatisation is firmly ingrained in policy. There is no discretion and there is a calendar." The government has set a target to complete the privatisation of Air India and BPCL, among other state-run companies and banks, in FY22. Calling upon the industry to invest more in the country, the minister further said that it is time that the Indian industry comes out and shows its risk-taking abilities and takes decisions to expand. She also said the core sectors' growth of about 8.9 per cent was largely because of public capital expenditure.

The Economic Times - 13.08.2021

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/rigorous-work-underway-to-achieve-privatisation-targets-fm-sitharaman/85291143>

New PSE policy a 1991 moment: DIPAM Secy Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Terming the new Public Sector Enterprise policy as the '1991 moment' for the public sector, the department of investment and public asset management (DIPAM) secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the change in ownership control will bring real operational efficiency in state-owned units. The government is finalising ₹6 lakh crore worth of infrastructure assets for monetisation, he said, adding that expression of interest (EoI) for Container Corporation of India will be issued soon after the railways finalises the land leasing policy and strategic disinvestment of Bharat Petroleum NSE 1.51 % Corporation, Air India, Shipping Corporation of India NSE -1.23 %, BEML and Neelachal Ispat Nigam is expected to be completed within FY22. The PSE policy underscores the same approach of not letting the government be in business, he said, adding that it was a matter of time before it exited from most public sectors.

The Economic Times - 12.08.2021

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/new-pse-policy-a-1991-moment-dipam-secy/articleshow/85253070.cms>

Rs 6 trillion asset monetisation plan in the offing, says DIPAM secretary

The government is working on a Rs 6-trillion monetisation plan that will include a range of assets, disinvestment secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Wednesday, more than double the target announced by the prime minister earlier this year. In February, Prime minister Narendra Modi had announced the government was looking to garner Rs 2.5 trillion through sale of around 100 assets of central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) across sectors. The enhanced Rs 6-trillion monetisation target is likely to include more assets of government departments as well as assets of state governments. "The national monetisation plan will have a range of assets from Power Grid pipeline to national highways," the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) secretary said at the annual session of industry body CII. The Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) of Power Grid was successfully conducted, after which a lot of regulatory systems have been put in place. This entailed streamlining a host of regulations and procedures. The second InvIT by GAIL is expected soon, he said.

Business Standard - 11.08.2021

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rs-6-trillion-asset-monetisation-plan-in-the-offing-says-dipam-secretary-121081100676_1.html

Net profit of CPSEs down 20% to Rs 1.38 lakh cr in FY'20

Net profit of CPSEs dropped 20 per cent to Rs 1.38 lakh crore in 2019-20 as against Rs 1.74 lakh crore in the previous year, primarily led by a fall in profits in the petroleum sector, according to a report of the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE). Net loss of loss-incurring CPSEs stood at Rs 44,817 crore in 2019-20 (84 CPSEs) as against Rs 31,620 crore in financial year 2018-19 (69 CPSEs), showing an increase of 41.7 per cent, the 60th annual Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20 said. Overall net profit of operating CPSEs during 2019-20 stood at Rs 93,295 crore as against Rs 1,42,666 crore in the previous year, down 34.6 per cent. 'A major proportion of the fall in profits is attributable to the Petroleum (Refinery & Marketing) cognate group, where it reduced from Rs 32,142 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 3,230 crore in 2019-20,' it said.

Business World - 12.08.2021

<http://www.businessworld.in/article/Net-Profit-Of-CPSEs-Down-20-To-Rs-1-38-Lakh-Cr-In-FY-20/12-08-2021-400405/>

India's fuel demand rose 7.9 pct y/y in July

India's fuel demand rose 7.9 percent in July compared with the same month last year. Consumption of fuel, a proxy for oil demand, totalled 16.83 million tonnes, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed. Sales of gasoline, or petrol, were 16.4 percent higher from a year earlier at 2.63 million tonnes. Cooking gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sales increased 4.6 percent to 2.37 million tonnes, while naphtha sales fell 5.3 percent to 1.21 million tonnes. Sales of bitumen, used for making roads, were 3.8 percent up, while fuel oil use edged lower 5.1 percent in July.

The Economic Times - 10.08.2021

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/indias-fuel-demand-rose-7-9-pct-y/y-in-july/85198433>

PM Modi pitches for greater LPG connectivity under Ujjwala Yojana 2.0

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the second leg of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY 2.0) on Tuesday, by handing over Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG or cooking gas) connections at Mahoba Uttar Pradesh through video conferencing. Modi also interacted with beneficiaries of the Ujjwala scheme during the event. "The second leg of the Ujjwala program will give greater prominence to self-certifications. This will help those who move out of their native places, in search for jobs, to get these deposit free LPG connections," Modi said. Focusing his speech on poll bound Uttar Pradesh (UP), he said, "People from all over UP and other states including Bundelkhand, migrated from village to city or to other states for work. There they face the problem of address proof. Now these workers from other places need not run from pillar to post for address proof. The Government has full faith in the honesty of the migrant workers. All one has to do is give a self-declaration of the address for getting a gas connection."

Business Standard - 11.08.2021

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/pm-modi-pitches-for-greater-lpg-connectivity-under-ujjwala-yojana-2-0-121081001516_1.html

OPEC sticks to oil demand view despite virus, sees more US shale coming

OPEC on Thursday stuck to its prediction of a strong recovery in world oil demand in 2021 and further growth next year, despite concerns about the spread of the Delta coronavirus variant that has weighed on prices. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in a monthly report also raised its forecast of supply from rivals, including U.S. shale producers, next year, a potential headwind for the efforts of the group and allies to balance the market. "The global economy continues to recover," OPEC said in the report. "However, numerous challenges remain that could easily dampen this momentum. In particular, COVID-19-related developments will need close monitoring." OPEC's view that demand will shrug off the latest pandemic-related setback contrasts with that of the International Energy Agency, which trimmed its outlook on Thursday. The U.S. government's forecaster also kept its 2021 growth forecast steady, but trimmed that for 2022. Oil demand will rise by 5.95 million barrels per day (bpd) this year, or 6.6%, unchanged from last month's forecast, OPEC said in the report. In

Spread of COVID-19 Delta variant knocks oil demand outlook – IEA

Rising demand for oil abruptly reversed course in July and is set to proceed more slowly for the rest of the year due to the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant, the International Energy Agency said on Thursday. "Growth for the second half of 2021 has been downgraded more sharply, as new COVID-19 restrictions imposed in several major oil consuming countries, particularly in Asia, look set to reduce mobility and oil use," the Paris-based IEA said. "We now estimate that demand fell in July as the rapid spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant undermined deliveries in China, Indonesia and other parts of Asia," it said in its monthly oil report. The IEA put the demand slump last month at 120,000 barrels per day (bpd) and predicted growth would be half a million bpd lower in the second half of the year compared to its estimate last month, noting some changes were due to revisions in data. An output deal reached by the OPEC+ alliance - consisting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and others such as Russia - last month would restore market balance in the near term, the IEA added.

The Economic Times - 13.08.2021

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/spread-of-covid-19-delta-variant-knocks-oil-demand-outlook-iaa/85268162>

Oil prices slip as IEA warns of slowdown in global demand recovery

Oil prices declined on Thursday after the International Energy Agency (IEA) said the spread of the Delta variant of the coronavirus would slow the recovery of global oil demand. Brent crude futures were down 15 cents, or 0.21%, at \$71.29 a barrel by 1356 GMT, after earlier rising to a session-high of \$71.90. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were down 22 cents, or 0.32%, to \$69.03. The international energy watchdog said in its monthly report that rising demand for oil reversed course in July and was set to proceed more slowly for the rest of the year after the latest wave of COVID-19 infections prompted countries to bring in restrictions again. "Growth for the second half of 2021 has been downgraded more sharply, as new COVID-19 restrictions imposed in several major oil consuming countries, particularly in Asia, look set to reduce mobility and oil use," the Paris-based IEA said. "We now estimate that demand fell in July as the rapid spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant undermined deliveries in China, Indonesia and other parts of Asia."

2022, fuel use will expand by 3.28 million bpd, OPEC said, also unchanged.

The Economic Times - 13.08.2021

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/opec-sticks-to-oil-demand-view-despite-virus-sees-more-us-shale-coming-121081201384_1.html

India, Russia discuss expanding cooperation in energy sector

India and Russia on Friday discussed expanding cooperation in the energy sector as New Delhi looks at newer sources of oil and natural gas to diversify its import basket. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri held a video interaction with Russian Energy Minister Nikolay Shulginov on furthering energy cooperation between the two nations, the Indian minister tweeted. India's cumulative investment in oil and gas projects in Russia exceeds USD 15 billion. It is the single largest destination of Indian overseas investment in the oil and gas sector. Russian oil giant Rosneft and its partner in 2017 bought Essar Oil, renamed Nayara Energy, for USD 12.9 billion. "Had an engaging video interaction with HE Mr Nikolay Shulginov, Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation @MinenergoGov. Discussed ways to further expand bilateral energy cooperation, a key pillar of bilateral Special & Privileged Strategic partnership," Puri tweeted. Russia, he said, is the largest investor in India's energy sector and India has made significant investments in the Russian oil and gas sector.

The Economic Times - 14.08.2021

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/india-russia-discuss-expanding-cooperation-in-energy-sector/85318860>

No decision on stake sale in Petronet, IGL yet: BPCL

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) on Friday said no decision has yet been taken to sell its stake in Petronet LNG and Indraprastha Gas to help the company's owner avoid making an open offer for the two gas companies. V R K Gupta, Chief Financial Officer, BPCL, said market regulator SEBI has not yet responded to an application made for exempting the new owner of BPCL from making an open offer to shareholders of Petronet and IGL. BPCL holds 12.5 per cent of the shareholding in India's largest liquefied natural gas importer, Petronet, and a 22.5 per cent stake in city gas retailer, Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL). It is a promoter of both the listed companies and holds board positions. As per the legal position evaluated by the Department of Investment and

Business Standard - 13.08.2021

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/oil-prices-slip-as-iea-warns-of-slowdown-in-demand-recovery-121081201693_1.html

RIL, Reliance-BP mobility get fuel retailing licence: Centre

The government has granted auto fuel retailing licence to seven new entities including Reliance Industries Ltd and a joint venture of Reliance and BP, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli said on Monday. The licences were given under a new liberalised rule that allows any entity with a minimum net worth of Rs 250 crore to apply for authorisation to retail petrol and diesel. Under the November 2019 policy, "marketing authorisation" has been granted to Reliance Industries Ltd, IMC Ltd, Onsite Energy Pvt Ltd, Assam Gas Company, M K Agrotech, RBML Solutions India Ltd and Manas Agro Industries and Infrastructure, Teli said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. RIL already had a fuel retailing licence, under which it had set up over 1,400 petrol pumps in the country. But this licence was transferred to its subsidiary Reliance BP Mobility (RBML). And so, billionaire Mukesh Ambani's firm applied and got another licence. A separate joint venture of the firm with BP, called RBML Solutions India Ltd too has got a licence. It isn't clear if RIL and RBML Solutions will set up separate, competing petrol pumps.

Business Today - 11.08.2021

<https://www.businesstoday.in/industry/energy/story/ril-reliance-bp-mobility-get-fuel-retailing-licence-centre-303743-2021-08-10>

IOC launches app-based doorstep diesel delivery services along with Humsafar India, Okara Fuelogics

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), in collaboration with app-based doorstep diesel delivery services provider Humsafar India and Okara Fuelogics, has started providing such services in Mumbai and adjoining areas, a statement said on Monday. IOC has joined hands with Humsafar, which had earlier announced its partnership with transport and logistics firm Okara to offer these services in Maharashtra, it stated. Together, the two companies aim to launch doorstep diesel delivery services in various cities, including Pune, Nagpur, Thane, Nashik, Aurangabad, Navi Mumbai, Solapur, and many other cities of the state. "The main aim of launching this

Public Asset Management (DIPAM) - the department running the process for the sale of the government's entire 52.98 per cent stake in BPCL - the acquirer of BPCL will have to make open offers to the minority shareholders of Petronet and IGL for the acquisition of 26 per cent stake.

The Economic Times - 13.08.2021

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/no-decision-on-stake-sale-in-petronet-igl-yet-bpcl/85297692>

BPCL launches door-to-door delivery of diesel

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched door-to-door delivery of 'High Speed Diesel' to meet the growing demand. Celebrating the 'spirit of nationalism', the company on the eve of Independence Day also dedicated 15 mobile bowsers and 9 jerry can facilities in different corners of the Eastern Region. The initiative of door-to-door delivery through mobile dispensers has resulted in commissioning of 1588 FuelKarts and 129 FuelEnts within a span of about two years across the industry. "With just in time delivery, complete assurance of quality and quantity, safe and secure product handling and a host of other benefits, FuelKart helps enhance operational efficiency for our customers consistent with the overall philosophy of furthering the cause of ease of doing business," said P S Ravi, Executive Director Retail In-charge, BPCL. "I'm delighted that on the auspicious occasion of the nation's 75th Independence Day, 15 FuelKarts and 9 BPCL fuel stations with jerry can fuel delivery are being dedicated to our customers across the states in eastern region," he added. BPCL has already launched 63 mobile dispensers in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and the North-East states.

The Sarkaritel.com - 14.08.2021

<https://www.sarkaritel.com/bpcl-launches-door-to-door-delivery-of-diesel/>

Flight tickets to get costlier as govt raises caps on domestic airfares

According to the notification, the minimum and maximum fares for the shortest flights—Class A—have been increased to ₹2,900 and ₹8,800 from ₹2,600 and ₹7,800, respectively. Fares on the longest sector—Class G—have been increased to ₹9,800 and ₹27,200 from ₹8,700 and ₹24,200,

service in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, JNPT, Panvel and Bhiwandi is to ease the lives of the end-consumers without the hassles of diesel procurement," said Rajesh Singh, chief general manager (Maharashtra office) of Indian Oil Corporation, at the launch of the service. He added that this government-approved doorstep diesel delivery system is the new-age concept of effective distribution of diesel. "It allows fuel start-ups to maintain quality and create the availability of fuel for the consumers."

The Economic Times - 10.08.2021

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/ioc-launches-app-based-doorstep-diesel-delivery-services-along-with-humsafar-india-okara-fuelogics/85198446>

Domestic flyers in July touch 50 lakh mark, up 61% from June 2021

With the deadly Covid second wave subsiding, India saw 50.1 lakh people fly within the country this July — up 61% from 31.1 lakh from the previous month. January, February and March, 2021, saw aviation stage a smart recovery with over 77 lakh domestic passengers in each of those months. Then as the devastating second wave intensified, the numbers fell to 57.2 lakh in April with the ebb coming in deadly May at 21.1 lakh. Since then as the situation gradually improved, the numbers started looking up. First rising to 31.1 lakh in June and then to touching the 5 million mark last month. In July, 2021, DGCA data shows IndiGo dominated domestic skies with 58.6% market share. After it, only Air India had domestic market share in double digits at 13.4%. All other airlines were in single digits with major players at — SpiceJet (9.1%), Vistara (8.1%) and GoAir (6.8%). AirAsia India (AAIPL) has shrunk and accounted for only 3.3% market share. In contrast, AirAsia India's domestic market share at 7.3% in pre-Covid February 2020. The Tata Group has bid for Air India through AAIPL.

The Times of India - 14.08.2021

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/domestic-flyers-in-july-touch-50-lakh-mark-up-61-from-june-2021/articleshow/85307022.cms>

Gajendra Singh joins oil regulator PNGRB

Former director for marketing in gas utility GAIL India Ltd Gajendra Singh has been appointed as a member of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), which is downstream oil regulator. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed

respectively. The government classifies flights between cities by their duration: from under 40 minutes as Class A, going up to 180-210 minutes as Class G. "The minimum and maximum fare chargeable shall continue to be rolled over for the 30 days cycle," the ministry said. The decision to increase the capacity cap and fare caps comes at a time when domestic air traffic is recording significant recovery following a decline in the number of active covid cases, alongside promotions rolled out by airlines and easing of curbs by various states. The average number of daily fliers rose to 227,000 in the week ended 7 August from 165,000 the week before, broking firm ICICI Securities said. The average number of departures rose to 1,937 from 1,730 during the same period, while fliers per departure rose to 117 from 90.

Mint - 14.08.2021

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/government-raises-cap-on-domestic-air-fare-capacity-11628848866097.html>

Singh and GAIL Director (Finance) Anjani Kumar Tiwari as members in the PNGRB, according to an official order issued on August 7. Singh has accepted the appointment and joined PNGRB on Monday. Sources said Tiwari hasn't joined as he is yet to be relieved from GAIL, where he is serving as Director (Finance). His term at GAIL is till November-end. According to the order, they have been appointed to the post for five years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earlier. Singh, who has 35 years of exposure in the gas sector, retired from GAIL in June last year, and will have a tenure of almost four years.

The Economic Times - 11.08.2021

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/gajendra-singh-joins-oil-regulator-pngrb/8520777>