

(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 e-mailed on every Monday.)

Balmer Lawrie in News

THE TIMES OF INDIA, KOLKATA
FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

CORPORATE BUZZ

International Yoga Day 2016

At Balmer Lawrie



At Balmer Lawrie, essay, quiz and poster competitions around the theme of yoga were organised for the employees pan India.

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

NOTICE BOARD



International Yoga Day (Balmer Lawrie)

Balmer Lawrie observed the 2nd International Day of Yoga on 21st June across all its units and establishments. Besides yoga sessions, numerous programmes like essay, quiz and poster competitions around the theme of yoga were organized for the employees. A one hour special Yoga Workshop was conducted at the Corporate Office at Kolkata for promoting yoga and its benefits. All employees enthusiastically participated in the various programmes organized pan India."

THE ECONOMIC TIMES | KOLKATA | THURSDAY | 23 JUNE 2016

DIGEST

International Yoga Day '16

At Balmer Lawrie

Besides yoga sessions, essay, quiz and poster competitions on yoga were organised for the employees pan India.

India maintaining high growth amid tough global economy: FM

India continues to maintain a high growth rate even in times of difficult global conditions and is sticking with its agenda of reforms push and infrastructure creation, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said. Addressing the annual general meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on

Private spending and rural demand need a push for 7.6 per cent growth: World Bank to India

India needs to activate "stalled engines" including private investment and rural demand to sustain 7.6% growth rate in the coming years, the World Bank said on Monday. The global lender recently lowered India's growth forecast for this fiscal to 7.6% from its earlier

Saturday, Mr. Jaitley said the bank has come up "amid huge expectations" and India is preparing basket of projects worth USD 2–3 billion for AIIB funding. "The new Bank has come up amid huge expectations in a difficult time for the global economy. The overall recovery of the global economy remains very modest and global growth rate projections have been revised downwards even though the Asia–Pacific region remains the growth engine for the world," Mr. Jaitley said, according to a Finance Ministry statement issued on Sunday. "Notwithstanding the global headwinds, however, India continues to maintain a high growth rate at 7.6 per cent in 2015–16 compared to 7.2 per cent in the previous year."

The Hindu - 26.06.2016

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/India-maintaining-high-growth-amid-tough-global-economy-fm/article8775717.ece>

India well-placed to counter Brexit volatility: Arun Jaitley

The Indian economy has strong fundamentals and is well placed to counter volatility arising from Britain's exit from the European Union, finance minister Arun Jaitley said. In a statement issued within minutes of the results of the UK referendum on EU membership were final, Jaitley said that India has healthy forex reserves and is well prepared to deal with the short and medium term consequences of Brexit. "Our immediate and medium-term firewalls are solid too in the form of a healthy reserve position," he said adding that the government, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other regulators are well prepared and working closely together to deal with any short term volatility. Jaitley added that the Indian economy stands in a good stead with "strong macro-economic fundamentals, comfortable external position, a rock-solid commitment to fiscal discipline, and declining inflation."

Mint - 24.06.2016

<http://www.livemint.com/Money/SFv9QHlvOZpNtR3G665bJN/India-wellplaced-to-counter-Brexit-volatility-Arun-Jaitley.html>

New ETF for PSUs

The finance ministry will soon launch a new exchange traded fund (ETF) for PSUs as the previous fund did not gain much popularity and has been sold off by Goldman Sachs, its first manager, as part of its mutual fund business. The ETF will not only hold blue-chip PSU stocks but also the government's stake in leading private sector companies such as Axis Bank, ITC and Larsen & Toubro through the Specified

estimate of 7.8% and to 7.7% from 7.9% for 2018-19. "To remain on this growth path and sustain growth at 7.6% into FY17, the challenge for the Indian economy is to activate the stalled engines — agricultural growth and rural demand, trade and private investment, while ensuring that demand from urban households and public investments do not run out of fuel," the World Bank said in its 'India Development Update' report. It said that the most significant near- and medium-term risks stem from the banking sector and its ability to finance private investment, which continues to face several impediments in the form of excess global capacity, and regulatory and policy challenges, in addition to corporate debt overhang.

The Economic Times - 21.06.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/private-spending-and-rural-demand-need-a-push-for-7-6-per-cent-growth-world-bank-to-india/articleshow/52833992.cms>

NITI's PSU stake dilution proposal finds no backing

NITI Aayog's proposal to cut the Centre's holding in public sector companies where it holds around 60% is not finding support within the government with sources pointing to several gaps in the plan. To begin with, the move will make it virtually impossible to appoint a chairman and managing director given that with less than a majority stake, a company would cease to be a public sector player. Currently heads of state-run companies are decided by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) but if NITI Aayog's proposal is accepted, that will not be possible. "We don't have an alternate mechanism and there will be confusion," said a source. Discussions are on to find a middle ground to help kick off the drive. As reported by TOI on June 13, NITI Aayog, which has been tasked with preparing a road map for disinvestment, feels that the government cut its stake in some PSUs where it currently holds a little over 51%.

The Times of India - 24.06.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/NITIs-PSU-stake-dilution-proposal-finds-no-backing/articleshow/52892775.cms>

Centre to auction surplus PSU lands

The Central government is giving finishing touches to a policy for creating a land bank of surplus land available with public sector units (PSU) which can be auctioned. "The committee for deciding the guidelines for identification and disposal of surplus land with PSUs has finalised its recommendations. The report should be ready in a fortnight or so," said Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das. He said the policy

Undertaking of UTI (SUUTI). The department of investment and public asset management (Dipam) has invited bids from advisers to help create and launch the planned fund. "The government proposes to create and launch a new ETF, in addition to the existing CPSE ETF, comprising stocks of the listed central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) and the government's stake in other corporate entities," a tender notice issued by the finance ministry said. Officials said the fund would help the government to divest stakes in various PSUs.

The Telegraph - 22.06.2016

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160622/jsp/business/story_92508.jsp#.V2y8NtJ97IV

7th Pay Commission, monsoon tail-lift for economy likely, but what's the catch?

Indian economy is progressing, but at a tepid pace, with antipodal high-frequency data. The 2003 and 2009 recoveries, in contrast, were swift, broadbased and persistent. A good monsoon and Pay Commission should modestly tail-lift near-term activity, but unlike consensus, our exuberance on their lasting impact is tempered. Besides, we anticipate terms-of-trade benefits to recede hereon. Hence, domestic policy support—fiscal/monetary—is essential to turn it into a full-blown recovery. The global milieu remains iffy. History shows that Fed tightening is USD bullish in divergent business cycles (US versus EMs). The goldilocks equilibrium—dovish Fed and stable US recovery, is essential for sustained healing of EMs; but will it sustain? US yield curve and financial conditions along with China's CNY are some of the early signposts to guide us.

The Financial Express - 27.06.2016

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/markets/indian-markets/economy-domestic-policy-support-critical-for-turnaround/297548/>

Fuel consumption grows 6.7% in May, import dependence goes up to 81.9%

India's fuel consumption grew 6.7% in May over that a year ago, reflecting greater use of cars and increased air traffic in an expanding economy, while crude oil production fell 3.3%, increasing import dependence to 81.9% from 81.3%. In May, India consumed 9.4% more diesel and 16.7% more petrol than it did a year ago, the latest data released by the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell shows. Aviation turbine fuel consumption grew 20% as lower prices and holiday travels boosted air traffic. Except for kerosene and naphtha, the consumption of all other petroleum products went up during the month. Domestic output of oil and gas, however,

would cover all state-run firms. The Ministry of Urban Development has set up a portal, which would act as a repository of all information on government and PSU lands. "All PSUs will give information on the land available with them," Das told Business Line. The committee's recommendations provide criteria for deciding the surplus land and how it should be disposed of. "It will spell out whether the land should be given directly to government ministries or agencies. If these don't require the land, then it will be disposed of through auctioning," he said.

The Hindu Business Line - 26.06.2016

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/centre-to-auction-surplus-psu-lands/article8775979.ece>

Govt sets terms for premature PPF withdrawal

The Finance Ministry today said subscribers of the Public Provident Fund (PPF) can prematurely close the deposit scheme after completing five years for reasons such as higher education or expenditure towards medical treatment. "A subscriber shall be allowed premature closure of his account or account of a minor of whom he is the guardian on ground that amount is required for treatment of serious ailments or life-threatening diseases of the account holder, spouse or dependent children on production of supporting documents from competent medical authority," the Finance Ministry said in a notification. The notification further said the allowance will be applicable to the requirement of higher education of the account holder or the minor account holder on production of documents and fee bills in confirmation of admission in a recognised institution in India or abroad.

The Economic Times - 21.06.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/invest/govt-sets-terms-for-premature-ppf-withdrawal/articleshow/52846222.cms>

NE to be hub of petroleum products: Pradhan

Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday said his ministry is trying to make Assam a hub of petroleum products for Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar as well for South East Asia. Unveiling the ministry's plan to invest Rs 1,30,000 crore in the sector by 2030, Pradhan said: "Out of this amount, Rs 80,000 crore will be invested in Assam." The ministry has already prepared a roadmap for investing Rs 6,000 crore in the State in the current financial year, he added. "The State is getting Rs 4,500 crore as revenue from the petroleum sector, we want to raise it in the range of Rs 8,000-Rs 10,000 crore in the next couple of years," he added. Assam

did not pick up. In May, local crude oil production declined 3.3% to 3.1 million metric tonnes from a year ago. Natural gas production fell 6.9% to 2,656 million metric standard cubic meters.

The Economic Times - 22.03.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/fuel-consumption-grows-6-7-in-may-import-dependence-goes-up-to-81-9/articleshow/52849875.cms>

Oil prices dive as Britain votes to leave EU

Oil prices slumped by more than 6 percent on Friday after Britain voted to leave the European Union in a landmark referendum, causing huge market uncertainty and fracturing European efforts to forge greater unity. Financial markets have been racked for months by worries about what Brexit, or a British exit from the European Union, would mean for Europe's stability, but were clearly not factoring in the risk of a leave vote. The dollar fell below 100 yen for the first time since November 2013, while the pound dropped by the most in living memory. Brent crude LCOc1 was down \$2.70 at \$48.21 a barrel at around 0600 GMT. U.S. crude CLc1 was down \$2.65 at \$47.46 a barrel. Earlier, both futures were down by more than \$3 or more than 6 percent, the biggest intraday declines for both since April 18, when a meeting of large oil producers failed to agree on an output freeze.

Business Today - 24.06.2016

<http://www.businesstoday.in/sectors/energy/oil-prices-dive-as-britain-votes-to-leave-eu/story/234191.html>

PMO might take a call on steel freight, import price

After pushing for tariff measures to protect the domestic steel industry, the ministry of steel has sought intervention of Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in getting a level playing field for iron ore movement through the railways - it wants the railway rate for iron ore to be same as coal. This step has been taken even as it plans to leave the decision on extension of the minimum import price (MIP) regime to the PMO and the ministry of finance. MIP has a sunset clause of August 2016. In January 2016, the government had imposed a minimum import price for six months on 173 products to protect domestic firms from cheaper imports. If required, the government may extend it beyond six months. Since August last year, the steel ministry has asked the railway ministry various times to charge similar haulage rates for

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and state Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary accompanied Pradhan at the press conference. "Our plan is to make Assam and Northeast a hub of petroleum products so that it can cater to the requirements of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar," Pradhan said.

The Sentinel - 24.06.2016

<http://www.sentinelassam.com/mainnews/story.php?sec=1&subsec=0&id=271927&dtP=2016-06-25&ppr=1#.V3Bhe9J97IV>

Domestic steel industry may see gradual recovery: Care Ratings

Lower input costs and improvement in domestic realisations due to reduction in imports may lead to gradual recovery in the domestic steel industry, Care Ratings has said in a report. The domestic steel industry has been struggling for the last couple of years owing to a combination of factors like rising imports particularly from China, a subdued domestic demand, excess domestic capacity and decline in realisations due to availability of cheaper imported steel. However, there have been some positive developments in recent times with government intervention in the form of imposition of minimum import price (MIP) in February 2016 for six months and levy of 20 per cent safeguard duty in September 2015, which has been further extended till March 2018, the report said. These measures have arrested the rise in imports to a great extent, thereby leading to improvement in realisations for the domestic players.

Business Standard - 22.06.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/domestic-steel-industry-may-see-gradual-recovery-care-ratings-116062201222_1.html

Air travel sees spike in passengers following low ticket prices

Domestic air travel witnessed an increase of around 22 per cent in number of passengers this May as compared to the same period last year as the airlines kept the ticket prices low. According to the May passenger traffic data, released by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) today, 11 Indian carriers together carried 85.69 lakh passengers as against 71.27 lakh in May 2015, registering a growth of 21.63 per cent. Budget carrier IndiGo ferried the highest number of 33.37 lakh passengers during this period, followed by private full service carrier Jet Airways with 13.94 lakh and national carrier Air India flying 13.34 lakh passengers, respectively. The number of passengers flown by SpiceJet and GoAir stood at 10.98 lakh and 7.91 lakh, respectively, according to the data. The passenger load factor in the month of May

iron ore and coal. It said the iron ore rate was almost 14% more than that for coal. According to the railways' website, a company needs to pay Rs 213 to transport a tonne of coal 125 km (kilometre) and Rs 241 for a tonne of iron ore.

Business Standard - 27.06.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/pmo-might-take-a-call-on-steel-freight-import-price-116062700027_1.html

FDI reforms in aviation: Experts hail 'liberal' move

Aviation experts today welcomed the government's move to allow 100 per cent foreign direct investment, saying the decision would help carriers bring in much-needed cash, expand aircraft fleet and adopt best practices. Under the new FDI norms, foreign investors, barring overseas airlines, can now have up to 100 per cent stake in local carriers, while the equity holding was has remained restricted at 49 per cent. A more liberal FDI regime in the sector is expected to settle the much talked about issue of ownership and control at the airlines, in which foreign players have substantial stake, global consultancy KPMG India's Partner and Head for Aerospace and Defence Amber Dubey said. "Though equity holding of foreign airlines is still limited to 49 per cent, a foreign airline can join hands with its sovereign fund or private investors and set up a 100 per cent foreign owned airline in India," he said. He expressed hope that the government would do away with the 49 per cent restriction on ownership by a foreign airline in due course.

The Economic Times - 21.06.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/fdi-reforms-in-aviation-experts-hail-liberal-move/articleshow/52840912.cms>

Capping would not be the answer to deal airfares rise: Ashok Gajapathi Raju

Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju said, to deal with steep rise in airfares, capping would not be the answer as it would also push the floor prices at an The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) event. On capping airfares, "We did analysis which showed that 1.7% of the tickets sold were of high cost. So, the last minute high price of ticket is matter of concern. But we should not land up in a situation that pushes price of over 90% of passengers for benefit of 1.7%, said Mr Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati, Union Minister, Ministry of Civil Aviation. Mr Rajiv Nayan Choubey, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation said, the civil

has slightly increased compared to previous month primarily due to the onset of tourist season, with almost all carriers clocking between 80-93 per cent seat factor during April.

The Indian Express - 21.06.2016

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/aviation/air-travel-passengers-low-ticket-prices-may-2864903/>

Airlines providing regional connectivity to have simple rules for entry and exit: Aviation ministry

The civil aviation ministry has decided to come up with easy entry and easy exit rules for airlines providing regional connectivity, as it wants to ensure maximum industry participation in a programme that seeks to take flying to the masses. "We do not want a situation where tough exit rules discourage airlines or companies from launching airlines to provide regional connectivity. We will provide an easy entry and easy exit option to operators," aviation secretary RN Choubey told ET. In the easy exit option, any airline that starts operations on regional routes will be allowed to shut shop and leave if it feels that the operations will not be profitable after a stipulated period of time. The duration will be decided at the time when the route is awarded to a particular airline. These rules are likely to be part of the policy on regional connectivity that will be released within 10 days. Consultancy firm Deloitte is preparing the report for the government. Currently, no such exit rules exist for any other category of airlines.

The Economic Times - 22.06.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/airlines-providing-regional-connectivity-to-have-simple-rules-for-entry-and-exit-aviation-ministry/articleshow/52860037.cms>

Changes in airport tariff mechanism a booster: ICRA

The standardisation of tariff mechanism is expected to improve cash accruals for existing greenfield airports besides attracting investments for the future projects under the PPP mode, ratings firm ICRA said today. To ensure uniformity and level-playing field across various operators, the government, in its newly-announced civil aviation policy, said the future tariffs at all airports will be calculated on a hybrid till basis, unless otherwise specified for any project being bid out in future. There are broadly three approaches in regulatory till methodology (to calculate charges at airports) - single till, dual till and hybrid till. "ICRA sees

aviation policy is just the beginning. We wish to stay ahead of the growth curve and if we fall behind the growth curve, for example as it happened in case of urban development in the country, there will be aviation chaos in skies, airports....All that we must do in order to ensure that we stay ahead of the growth curve.

Business Standard - 24.06.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/capping-would-not-be-the-answer-to-deal-airfares-rise-ashok-gajapathi-raju-116062400594_1.html

Foreign tourist arrivals to be doubled in 5 years

A Spice Route Circuit will be conceived as the next major international tourism product of Kerala and corrective measures will be taken to check the fall of tourist arrivals and double foreign tourist arrivals within the next five years. In his address to the Assembly on the opening day of the first session on Friday, Governor P. Sathasivam said a pilgrim tourism policy connecting pilgrim and cultural centres will be formulated by the government. An annual calendar of major festivals will be prepared and a handicrafts festival will be organised as part of linking the industry with the tourism sector. The principles of Responsible Tourism (RT) that ensures benefits to the local community will be broad-based to all the destinations in the State. An RT Classification for tourism units will be introduced, the Governor said. Asserting that the government would accord priority to employment creation in the tourism sector, he said a new scheme would be rolled out to create job-oriented skills for youths, especially from the rural areas.

The Hindu - 25.06.2016

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/foreign-tourist-arrivals-to-be-doubled-in-5-years/article8771571.ece>

Bahrain slashes visa fees by 80% for tourists

Known to draw hordes of employment seekers, the Gulf states now want Indians to explore their diverse landscape as they look to boost their tourism earnings. The region is betting big on Indians as they have emerged one of the biggest and highest spending globetrotters. At present, Dubai is the most sought-after destination in the Gulf region with 1.6 million Indians having visited the emirate in 2015. To catch up with Dubai, other nations such as Bahrain are upping their play in the tourism sector by investing billions of dollars in infrastructure and are introducing tourist-friendly measures. As a first step, Bahrain has slashed visa fees by a huge 80%. Now, Indians will have to shell out only Bahraini Dinar 5 (Rs

the standardisation of tariff mechanism, in particular the 'till factor' for all airports in the government's new aviation policy, as a move that would improve cash accruals for existing greenfield airports and attract future investments for developing airports under the PPP model," the ratings firm said in a report.

The Economic Times - 24.06.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/changes-in-airport-tariff-mechanism-a-boost-icra/articleshow/52908446.cms>

Indians plan their summer holidays 2-3 months in advance: report

Summer holiday season is almost over. Many are on their way back from much needed breaks, and some might be planning last minutes getaways. Travel services' company, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd, has released its 2016 Indian Summer Travel Report Card. The study shows how Indians travelled this summer. "More Indians are travelling thanks to the burgeoning economy which has improved spending powers, coupled with declining airfares. Despite a depreciating rupee, the Indian travel sentiment remained upbeat with a focus on early planning and maximising savings," said Rajeev D. Kale, president and country head-leisure travel, meetings incentive conferences and events, Thomas Cook (India). It was found that more than 39% Indian travellers of those who booked through Thomas Cook were early planners this year, planning almost 120-180 days prior to departure and opting for long haul destinations such as Australia, South Africa, the US and New Zealand.

Mint - 27.06.2016

<http://www.livemint.com/Money/qzWtju1dGzOxg1SsNSyR00/Indians-plan-their-summer-holidays-23-months-in-advance-re.html>

India to roll out new multiple-entry visa to attract foreign tourists

India is planning to soon introduce a long-term multiple entry visa which would combine business, tourist, medical and conference visas all-into-one. The step is being taken in order to attract more foreigners and boost trade. Under the new category, people from other countries, whether they come for leisure, for business trip, medical treatments, film shoots or for attending conferences in India, will all be covered under the new category. Following a suggestion from the Prime Minister's Office, the commerce ministry recommended the proposal, Press Trust of India reports. Just like the U.S., India will now offer a multiple-entry 10 year visa wherein the visitor will not be allowed to work or stay

889) instead of the earlier Bahraini Dinar 25 (Rs 4,446). "We want more Indians to explore the country's history and its entertainment, including nightlife, and retail culture," said Jerad Bachar, executive director (tourism) of Bahrain Economic Development Board. Bahrain is also pitching itself as a short-haul destination from India. The airfare and flight time for a Mumbai-Bahrain trip is more or less equal to a Mumbai-Delhi journey. "There is excellent air connectivity between Bahrain and India with 75 flights a week.

The Times of India - 27.06.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/international-business/Bahrain-slashes-visa-fees-by-80-for-tourists/articleshow/52930820.cms>

New policy for dry bulk cargo for major ports from August 20

To increase efficiency of major ports, a new berthing policy for dry bulk cargo will be in place from August 20, the government said today. "Ministry of Shipping has formulated a new Berthing Policy for Dry bulk cargo for all major ports which will come into effect from August 20, 2016," Ministry of Shipping said in a statement. The objective of the new policy is to provide a standardised framework for calculation of norms, specific to the commodity handled and the infrastructure available on the berth besides driving higher productivity and achieving near-design capacity of the available equipments/infrastructure, it said. It will reduce berthing time and overall turn-around time of ships, drive higher cargo throughput using the available infrastructure in major ports, the statement, said adding it will improve utilisation of port assets and create additional capacity without any significant capital investment.

The Economic Times - 21.06.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/new-policy-for-dry-bulk-cargo-for-major-ports-from-august-20/articleshow/52837179.cms>

Vizag Port declared as second gateway port for Nepal

Visakhapatnam Port has been declared as the second gateway port for Nepal after Kolkata-Haldia. The movement of traffic-in-transit between Port of Visakhapatnam and Nepal will be in sealed containers and in full rake only and the cost of transshipment will be borne by the consignor/consignee. Visakhapatnam Port has the deepest container terminal among major ports with permissible draft of 15 metres and LOA up to 320 metres. Most of the transit cargo of Nepal will be from China. The terminal can act as an ideal gateway for east-bound cargo. Handling of cargo

indefinitely, a government official was quoted as saying by the news agency. In that case, the visiting non-Indian will not be allowed to stay in India over a period of 60 days. However, complete bio-metric details and full security obligations will have to be met, the official further added. The home ministry is working on the proposal, which will be implemented soon. Opportunities worth \$80 billion lie untapped in terms of attracting foreigners and foreign exchanges. According to reports, medical tourism in India is expected to be valued at \$3 billion, the PTI report added.

International Business Times - 26.06.2016

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/india-roll-out-new-multiple-entry-visa-attract-foreign-tourists-684434>

Govt plans incentive to shift cargo transport from roads to waterways

The shipping ministry plans to offer companies an incentive of Rs.1 per tonne per km to transport goods, including foodgrain, automobiles, cement and other commodities, through inland waterways and coastal shipping. The proposal has been discussed with stakeholders in the transport industry and would soon be presented before the cabinet for its approval. "It is not a subsidy but an incentive being given to the industry for switching to cleaner transportation like inland waterways and coastal shipping from railways and roadways," a shipping ministry official said on condition of anonymity. With the infrastructure available at present, the incentive offer would cost the shipping ministry Rs.100-150 crore per year during the initial years. At present, just 6% of freight transported in India is carried by coastal shipping and inland waterways; the comparative share in Germany and China is 11% and 24%, respectively.

Mint - 21.06.2016

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/ogX4wldjSfXJkgwfAPhzEI/Govt-plans-incentive-to-shift-cargo-transport-from-roads-to.html>

Container cargo: Vizag poised to become a regional hub

With growing emphasis on promoting transshipment and efforts to set up 'dry ports' (Inland container depots) by Visakhapatnam Port Trust in Telangana, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh, Visakhapatnam has bright prospects to emerge as a regional hub for container cargo. The steady growth at the all-weather container terminal developed by Visakha Container Terminal Private Ltd (VCTPL), a BOT operator, and availability of huge hinterland extending up to 700 km on the East Coast, have led to brisk business at container

will be advantageous in terms of ocean freight and liner detention, export-import traders say. A team headed by Dr. Mr. Somlal Subedi, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal, will be visiting Visakhapatnam on June 23 and 24. The team will interact with various stakeholders such as like the East Coast Railway, CONCOR, Customs, VCTPL, CII, liner and shipping agents associations.

The Hindu Business Line - 21.06.2016

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/viza-g-port-declared-as-second-gateway-port-for-nepal/article8756676.ece>

Logistics parks for Rs 30,000 cr to aid cargo flow, cut costs

The government has prepared a road map for setting up 15 multi-modal logistics parks around major cities, which have a share of about 40% of country's freight movement by road. With an estimated investment of Rs 30,000 crore, the project aims to make transport of cargo faster, reduce cost and improve the supply chain, key for taming inflation. In a concept note titled 'Logistics Efficiency Enhancement Programme', the road transport ministry has identified Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, north and south Gujarat, Hyderabad, south and north Punjab, Vijayawada, Kochi and Chennai as some of the major transport nodes for this project in the first phase. This is part of a study funded by the World Bank. Logistics parks, act as hubs for freight movement enabling cargo aggregation and distribution. Freight from production area will be shipped to nearby logistics parks where it will be aggregated and transported to a logistics park near the consumption zone on a larger vehicle. Freight arriving at the destination logistics park will be disaggregated and distributed to the consumption zones inside the city, according to the government paper.

The Times of India - 27.06.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Logistics-parks-for-Rs-30000-cr-to-aid-cargo-flow-cut-costs/articleshow/52931386.cms>

freight stations (CFS). VCTPL and others are also developing CFS. Presently, the city has CFS by Container Corporation of India, which is developing a huge container park in an area of 100 acres near the airport, Container Warehouse Corporation, Sravan Shipping Services, Gateway Distiparks, and VPL Integral.

The Hindu - 27.06.2016

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/container-cargo-vizag-poised-to-become-a-regional-hub/article8778119.ece>

Option for senior citizens to forego Indian Railways train ticket concession

Eager to reduce its huge subsidy burden, the Indian Railway has now given senior citizens the option of foregoing concession on purchase of reserved class tickets. Besides, it has started printing the real cost involved in the train journey on the tickets to make passengers aware of the subsidy borne by the public transporter. Subsidies cost the public sector behemoth about Rs 1600 crore in the last fiscal on account of concessions extended to passengers in various categories including senior citizens, sports awardees and cancer patients, among others. There are 55 categories of passengers who are eligible for availing of concession on purchase of train tickets. The maximum number of concessions are availed by the senior citizens which alone put a subsidy burden of Rs 1,100 crore on the transporter last year, said a senior Railway Ministry official. The senior citizen's concession is 50 per cent for women passengers and 40 per cent for men. While a female passenger is eligible for availing it at the age of 58, for men the permissible age is 60 years.

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<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/india-news/indian-railways-option-for-senior-citizens-to-forego-train-ticket-concession/297182/>