

(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.)

Balmer Lawrie in News

Swachh Bharat Pakhwara at Balmer Lawrie



To spread awareness on cleanliness as part of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', Balmer Lawrie is celebrating the Swachh Bharat Pakhwada across all its units and offices from 16th-31st July, 2017 and will conduct various activities during the fortnight. The Pakhwara kicked off with employees taking the Swachhta Pledge. Cleanliness activities at the work place as well as in and around factories will be carried out during the fortnight along with tree plantation drives. A "SwachhKaryasthal" contest has been organized for all the employees.

Business Standard – 27.08.2017

Prabhat Khabar –
25.07.2017

बामर लॉरी में स्वच्छ भारत. पखवाड़ा



कोलकाता: स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के तहत जागरूकता के लिए बामर लॉरी की सभी इकाइयों और कार्यालयों में 16 से 31 जुलाई तक स्वच्छ भारत पखवाड़ा मनाया जा रहा है। पखवाड़े की शुरुआत कर्मचारियों को स्वच्छता प्रतिज्ञा दिलाकर की गई। इस दौरान स्वच्छता और पौधारोपण अभियान के अलावा स्वच्छ कार्यस्थल प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया जा रहा है।

Sanmarg – 25.07.2017

बॉमर लारी में स्वच्छ भारत पखवाड़ा जारी

कोलकाता. केंद्र सरकार की महत्वाकांक्षी स्वच्छ भारत योजना को मूर्त रूप देने के लिए बॉमर लारी केम्पस में स्वच्छ भारत पखवाड़ा का आयोजन किया गया है. यह पखवाड़ा 16 से लेकर 31 जुलाई तक चलेगा. इसमें सबसे पहले स्वच्छ कार्यस्थल का संदेश दिया गया. इसके अलावा कंपनी की ओर से जयनगर के विभिन्न स्कूलों के शिक्षकों के लिए भी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया है. जिसमें स्वास्थ्य व सफाई से जुड़े पहलुओं की जानकारी दी गयी. उल्लेखनीय है कि बॉमर लारी ने आंध्र प्रदेश में भी स्वच्छ विद्यालय मिशन के तहत अब तक 306 शौचालयों का निर्माण कराया है.

SWACHH BHARAT PAKHWARA AT BALMER LAWRIE

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The Indian Express
– 28.07.2018

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The
Financial
Express –
29.07.2017



Morning India –
28.07.2017

Balmer Lawrie celebrating the Swachh Bharat fortnight across all its units and offices since July16 as part of the cleanliness drive under the Swachh bharat Abhiyan. The Programme was kicked off with the employees taking the Swachhta Pledge. It will continue till July 31.

Swachh Bharat Pakhwara at Balmer Lawrie



KOLKATA, JULY 24 /--/ In a bid to spread awareness on cleanliness as part of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', Balmer Lawrie is celebrating the Swachh Bharat Pakhwara across all its units and offices from July 16 to July 31 and conducting various activities. The Pakhwara kicked off with employees taking the Swachhta Pledge. Cleanliness activi-

ties at the work place as well as in and around factories will be carried out during the fortnight along with tree plantation drives. A "Swachh Karyasthal" contest has been organised for all the employees. For community engagement and participation during the Pakhwara, workshop on health and sanitation is being organized for principals and teachers in

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Dainik Vishwamitra – 25.07.2017

बामर लॉरी में स्वच्छ भारत पखवाड़ा



कोलकाता में बामर लॉरी के औद्योगिक पैकेजिंग कारखाने में स्वच्छता शपथ का पाठ।

विश्वमित्र

कोलकाता, 24 जुलाई (नि.प्र.)। 'स्वच्छ भारत अभियान' के सिलसिले में जागरूकता फैलाने के लिए बामर लॉरी 16 से 31 जुलाई तक अपनी सभी इकाइयों और कार्यालयों में स्वच्छ भारत पखवाड़ा मना रहा है और पखवाड़े के दौरान विभिन्न गतिविधियों चलाएगी। कर्मचारियों द्वारा स्वच्छता संकल्प के साथ आरम्भ हुआ। इस पखवाड़े के दौरा कार्य स्थल और कारखानों के आसपास भी सफाई गतिविधियों के साथ ही वृक्ष रोपण कार्यक्रम किया जाएगा। सभी कर्मचारियों के लिए एक 'स्वच्छ कार्यस्थल प्रतियोगिता' आयोजित की गयी है। राज्य के जयनगर में स्वास्थ्य और स्वच्छता पर कार्यशाला तथा सामुदायिक सहभागिता के कार्यक्रम हुए। अभियान के दौरान पश्चिम बंगाल, हरियाणा और आंध्र प्रदेश के स्कूलों में बाकर स्वच्छ विद्यालयों की सफाई का आयोजन किया जाएगा। एमओपीएनजी के तहत बामर लॉरी पहली कंपनी है जिसने सभी 306 शौचालयों का निर्माण पूरा कर लिया। उल्लेखनीय है कि स्वच्छ भारत अभियान स्वच्छ भारत के महात्मा गांधी के दृष्टिकोण को 2019 में उनकी 150वीं जयंती पूरा करने के लिए जनता का आह्वान करने के लिए 2 अक्टूबर 2014 को प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा आरम्भ किया गया है।

बॉमर लॉरी ने ली स्वच्छता की शपथ

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क
rajasthanpatrika.com

कोलकाता, स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के तहत लोगो में जागरूकता फैलाने के लिए बॉमर लॉरी स्वच्छ भारत पखवाड़ा मना रही है।

इसकी सभी इकाइयों व कार्यालय में 16 से 31 जुलाई तक यह मनाया जाएगा। इस अभियान के तहत अधिकारियों व कर्मचारियों ने स्वच्छता की शपथ ली। साथ ही पौधरोपण किया।

इस मौके पर कर्मचारियों में स्वच्छ कार्यस्थल प्रतियोगिता की गई। पखवाड़ा के दौरान स्वास्थ्य व सफाई पर कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया जिसमें जयनगर के शिक्षकों व प्रिंसिपलों ने हिस्सा लिया। बॉमर लॉरी ने एमओपीएनजी के तहत 306 शौचालय बनवाया है। केन्द्र की योजना के तहत वर्ष 2019 में महात्मा गांधी के 150वें जन्म दिवस पर देश को स्वच्छ बनाना है।

(कार्यालय संवाददाता)

The Echo of India – 28.07.2017

Jansatta – 28.07.2017

बॉमर लॉरी का स्वच्छ भारत पखवाड़ा

कोलकाता, 25 जुलाई (जनसत्ता)।

बॉमर लॉरी की ओर से इसकी सभी इकाइयों में 16 से 31 जुलाई 2017 तक 'स्वच्छ भारत अभियान' चलाया जा रहा है। इस स्वच्छ भारत पखवाड़ा के दौरान विभिन्न तरह की गतिविधियां चलाई जा रही हैं।

पखवाड़े की शुरुआत बॉमर लॉरी के कर्मचारियों द्वारा स्वच्छता की शपथ के साथ हुई। इसके तहत पंद्रह दिनों तक कार्यस्थलों व फैक्ट्रियों में स्वच्छता अभियान चलाया जा रहा है। इस मौके पर कर्मचारियों के लिए 'स्वच्छकार्यस्थल' नामक प्रतियोगिता भी आयोजित की गई। साथ ही पश्चिम बंगाल के दक्षिण चौबीस परगना जिले के जयनगर में स्कूलों के शिक्षकों व प्रिंसिपलों के लिए स्वास्थ्य व साफ-सफाई पर कार्यशाला का भी आयोजन किया जा रहा है। अभियान के तहत पश्चिम बंगाल, हरियाणा व आंध्र प्रदेश में बॉमर लॉरी के तहत 'स्वच्छविद्यालय' में शौचालयों को साफ-सफाई भी की जा रही है। बॉमर लॉरी पहली कंपनी है, जिसने एमओपीएनजी के तहत 306 शौचालयों का निर्माण पूरा किया है। यह जानकारी एक प्रेस विज्ञापन में दी गई।

বামার লরির স্বচ্ছতা পক্ষ

Aajkaal – 25.07.2017

আজকালের প্রতিবেদন

স্বচ্ছ ভারত অভিযানে शामिल হয়ে
নিজেদের সব ক'টি অফিস ও কর্মক্ষেত্রে
এক পক্ষকাল ধরে স্বচ্ছতা অভিযান
চালাচ্ছে বামার লরি। বৃক্ষরোপণ,

স্বচ্ছ কার্যস্থল প্রতিযোগিতা অনুষ্ঠানের
অঙ্গ। পশ্চিমবঙ্গ ছাড়াও হরিয়ানা ও
অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশের বিভিন্ন স্কুলে স্বচ্ছতা
অভিযানে নেমেছে সংস্থাটি। ৩১ জুলাই
শেষ হবে বামার লরির স্বচ্ছতা পক্ষ।

Indian Economy To Grow 6.5-7.5% Over 12-18 Months: Moody's

India's GDP growth will remain in the range of 6.5-7.5 per cent over the next 12-18 months and GST (Goods and Services Tax) will support the momentum for faster growth, a Moody's poll said on Monday. More than 75 per cent respondents said exposure to large corporates in power, steel and infrastructure sectors poses as the greatest risk to banks' asset quality in India. Over 200 market participants, polled by Moody's and its affiliate ICRA, were confident of India's stable economic growth prospects. "India's GDP growth rate will remain in the range of 6.5 -7.5 per cent over the next 12-18 months, according to more than 60 per cent of the respondents," Moody's said in a statement. The view is in keeping with signs of economic recovery after the short-term negative impact of demonetisation. According to the estimates of the US-based agency, the economy will grow 7.5 per cent in 2016-17 and 7.7 per cent in 2017-18. Moody's believes that economic growth will gradually accelerate to around 8 per cent over the next 3-4 years.

NDTV Profit - 31.07.2017

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/economy/article-indian-economy-to-grow-6-5-7-5-over-12-18-months-moodys-1731362>

GDP at the low end of plan panel projections during 2012-14: Niti Aayog

India has performed worse than the "policy logjam" scenario in the first two years of the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012-17) based on the old GDP series, on the basis of which the 12th Five-Year projections were made, says Niti Aayog in its rather late appraisal of the Plan that came to an end on March 31, 2017. However, as per the revised GDP series, the economic growth in the country stood at 5.6 per cent, 6.6 per cent, 7.2 per cent and 7.6 per cent, respectively, in the first four years of the 12th Plan, it said. Under the new methodology, the base year has been changed from 2004-05 to 2011-12 and more reliable

India may have already become a 4% inflation economy: HSBC economist

India may have already become a 4 per cent inflation economy, Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist, HSBC Global Research, said in a report on Thursday. First, the long-term differential between global inflation and India inflation has been around 2 percentage points with the 5 percentage points differential seen in 2008-13 being more of an aberration. Second, inflation expectations have fallen into a virtuous cycle, so every fall in inflation leads to expectations of a further fall — a reverse of how it was between 2008 and 2013. Third, a confluence of one-off factors (a bumper crop, demonetisation and GST implementation) and durable measures (food distribution reforms) have pushed food inflation into negative territory. After taking into account all these factors, food inflation and core inflation (excluding food and fuel) are expected to be at 4 per cent and therefore, headline inflation is also likely to be around 4 per cent, Pranjul said. Pranjul said in the report that if the RBI was a pure inflation targeter, it would mean no rate cuts (or hikes) since the target is perfectly met.

The Hindu Business Line - 28.07.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-may-have-already-become-a-4-inflation-economy-hsbc-economist/article9791147.ece>

GST produced a big positive effect on economy, says Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi says implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has produced "a big positive effect" on India's economy and instilled "a new sense of confidence" in the country. During his 'Mann Ki Baat' monthly radio address, he expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the new tax regime in the country, saying the "lofty dream" of 'One Nation-One Tax' has "finally" been fulfilled "It has been one month since GST was implemented and its benefits can be seen already. I feel very happy and satisfied when a poor person writes to say how because of GST

sources of data has been used for the corporate sector, financial corporations and local bodies and autonomous institutions. The GDP is now measured at market prices (broadly equivalent to consumer prices) instead of factor costs (broadly equivalent to producer prices) in conformity with international standards. "When measured at factor cost, the real GDP growth under the old methodology turns out to be 4.5 per cent in 2012-13 and 4.7 per cent in 2013-14.

The Economic Times - 25.07.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/gdp-at-the-low-end-of-plan-panel-projections-during-2012-14-niti/articleshow/59746515.cms>

India's engineering exports to China rise 123 per cent in June quarter

India's exports of engineering goods to China saw a whopping 123 per cent growth at USD 629 million during April-June this fiscal, driven by an upsurge in shipments of non-ferrous metals, according to trade body EEPC India. The country's shipments to China stood at USD 282 million in the April-June quarter of the previous fiscal. The rise assumes significance as India has a massive trade deficit with China, which mounted to USD 46.56 billion last year as Indian exports continued to decline while the bilateral trade marginally slowed down by 2.1 per cent to nearly USD 71 billion, data released earlier showed. India's overall exports grew by 4.39 per cent to USD 23.56 billion in June, according to commerce ministry data. Shipments in the first quarter of 2017-18 rose by 10.57 per cent to USD 72.21 billion while imports surged 32.78 per cent to USD 112.2 billion, leaving a trade deficit of USD 40 billion. Shipments of engineering goods from India to China aggregated USD 234 million in June, against USD 94 million in the same month last year.

The Economic Times - 31.07.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-engineering-exports-to-china-rise-123-per-cent-in-june-quarter/articleshow/59830675.cms>

'Post ONGC deal, HPCL to continue as PSU'

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd will continue to function as a Central Public Sector Enterprise even after the government sells its stake to ONGC, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan informed the Lok Sabha on Monday. "Post-acquisition by ONGC, HPCL will

prices of various items essential for him have come down, and commodities have become cheaper," he said. One overriding priority for "every government" has been to ensure that there is no burden on the plate of the poor on account of GST, he said. Using the GST app, one can know as to how much an item cost before the rollout of the GST and how much it is now post-GST, he said. "This is a historic achievement. And this is not just a tax reform; it is a new economic order that will strengthen a new culture of honesty.

Deccan Herald - 31.07.2017

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/625468/gst-produced-big-positive-effect.html>

LS Passes Companies Act (Amendment) Bill

The Lok Sabha has passed the Companies Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016, that makes significant changes to the 2013 law to remove complexities and improve the ease of doing business. The amendments raise the threshold for the easy compliance scheme to `100 crore from `20 crore, making more companies eligible for the simple compliance regime. The bill eases rules for private placement of securities and fixes an eight-year limit on reopening of past accounts against no limit in the earlier regime. The compliance burden for unlisted companies has been eased as well, allowing them to hold annual general meeting in places other than registered office as well. The bill also harmonises insider trading rules with those of the stock market watchdog Sebi. Companies with common directors have been allowed to give loans to each other, another measure flagged as a concern in the 2013 law. The bill has been brought to improve the ease of doing business, said Arjun Ram Meghwal, minister of state for finance and corporate affairs, moving the bill for consideration. It would improve ease of doing business ranking, he added.

The Economic Times - 28.07.2017

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31817&articlexml=LS-Passes-Companies-Act-Amendment-Bill-28072017013012>

More oil mergers in the pipeline

The government has begun the process of merging more oil companies even as the contours of the ONGC-HPCL deal are being worked out by a panel headed by finance minister Arun Jaitley. At least two more mergers - Indian Oil Corporation-Oil India and BPCL-GAIL (India) - can be expected, sources

continue to be a Central Government Public Sector Enterprises (PSE), having become a subsidiary of ONGC," he said adding that HPCL will maintain its cultural uniqueness and brand identity, distinct from ONGC. Pradhan said that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved setting up of an Alternative Mechanism, headed by the Finance Minister. This committee will help in taking quick decisions with regard to the timing, price, terms and conditions and other related issues to the transaction. The CCEA had given 'in-principle' approval for strategic sale of the government's existing 51.11 per cent of total paid up equity shareholding in HPCL to ONGC along with transfer of management control. Pradhan also said that the proposed acquisition in the oil sector will create a vertically integrated public sector 'Oil Major' having presence across the entire value chain.

The Hindu Business Line - 25.07.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/post-ongc-deal-hpcl-to-continue-as-psu/article9786743.ece>

Pradhan: Govt plans to set up petrochemical clusters

The Centre is planning to set up petrochemical clusters, in Eastern, Western and Southern India to spur the growth of the sector with a view to meeting the increasing demand for polymers/plastics and speciality chemicals across diverse industrial segments, said Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Minister, while inaugurating the 6th edition of the Petrochemicals Conclave here on Saturday. Mansukh L Mandaviya, MoS for Chemicals & Fertilisers, Govt. of India; and Gujarat Deputy CM Nitin Patel were also present on the occasion. Over 70 global companies and about 800 delegates from India and abroad are participating in the Conclave. Pradhan, who is Minister of State (Independent Charges) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, said that the petrochemicals sector is contributing in a big way to all major sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, healthcare, textiles, consumer durables and packaging, leading to robust growth of the industry. With increase in the per capita income and discretionary spending, there has been a steady change in spending patterns, from products made of metals to those made of fibres and plastics, which are both economical and long-lasting," he said.

Millennium Post - 30.07.2017

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/pradhan-govt-plans-to-set-up-petrochemical-clusters-255006>

in the oil ministry said. The officials indicated that initial discussions on these mergers had started. However, the talks will gain momentum once the ONGC-HPCL deal structure is finalised by the panel. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the country's largest company by revenue, is likely to acquire the government's 66.13 per cent stake in upstream company Oil India. Another oil marketer, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) is likely to acquire the government's 54.88 per cent stake in GAIL (India), the gas transporter and marketer. The transactions could fetch the government around Rs 31,600 crore. While presenting the Union budget, finance minister Arun Jaitley had said "we seek opportunities to strengthen our central public sector enterprises through consolidation, mergers and acquisitions.

The Telegraph - 26.07.2017

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170726/jsp/business/story_163833.jsp

Natural gas production up 6.05% during June

Domestic oil and gas companies produced 6.05 per cent more natural gas in June, year-on-year. This could result in lesser import of natural gas during the month as gas demand is directly linked to availability. The country imported 4 per cent less natural gas in June, annually. According to data shared by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, natural gas production during June 2017 was 6.05 per cent higher than production during the same month last year. The country's total gas production during the month under review stood at 2,755.48 MMSCM (million metric standard cubic metres). This resulted in lower LNG imports that stood at 1,768 MMSCM during June 2017. Comparably, the country imported 1,958 MMSCM of LNG during June 2016. The total natural gas consumption during June 2016 stood at 4,471 MMSCM; this too came down to 4,442 MMSCM in June 2017. The spurt in natural gas production was driven by ONGC, which produced 12.92 per cent more gas. ONGC's gas production stood at 1,974.47 MMSCM in June 2017.

The Hindu Business Line - 25.07.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/natural-gas-production-up-605-during-june/article9785771.ece>

Crude import bill likely to rise 23% this fiscal, says oil ministry

India's crude oil import bill is expected to increase 23% in the current fiscal year, according to the Petroleum Planning Analysis Cell (PPAC), data and policy analysis wing of the oil ministry. "India's crude oil import bill is expected to increase 23% from \$70 billion in 2016-17 to \$86 billion in 2017-18 considering Indian basket crude oil price of \$55 a barrel and rupee-dollar exchange rate of 65 for the balance part of the financial year," PPAC said in a report released on 24 July. According to PPAC, if crude prices increase by one dollar a barrel, the net import bill increases by Rs 7969 crore (\$1.23 billion) and if exchange rate of dollar increases by Re1 a dollar, net import bill increases by Rs6,743 crore (\$1.03 billion). "If we take \$50 a barrel for oil and Rs 65 as exchange rate, compared to last year, then overall bill may not increase that much. However, indigenous production we don't see any material increase because ONGC's oil production is falling from the maturing fields. Cairn India's production is also stagnating. In the next three years, new fields in KG basin and western offshore would kick in and uplift the country's oil production," K Ravichandran, senior vice president and group head, corporate sector ratings, ICRA Ltd .

Mint - 28.07.2017

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/kANQiGgw33p5EaemEYXSsK/Crude-import-bill-likely-to-rise-23-this-fiscal-says-oil-m.html>

Firming up of steel prices requires global market stability

Currently, Indian steel industry faces new sets of challenges. Thanks to the prompt trade measures undertaken by the government that the unabated flow of cheap steel imports into the country that seriously threatened the survival of steel producers, big or small, were stopped. Fortunately, it was not India alone, many other major steel producing countries like the US, Canada, EU, Japan, South Korea, Turkey and Vietnam were fighting the challenge of low priced imports from China, Ukraine, Russia by adopting anti-dumping and countervailing duty measures and could successfully block these imports. The net impact of this brief period of protectionism that has been prodded up with a little bit of emotional appeal by the new president of the US witnessed firming up of prices of all categories of steel. The positive price movement in steel had pulled up prices of iron ore, coking coal and also scrap, but these prices were more impacted by infrequent problems relating to flooding of mines and logistic bottlenecks. Thus, an overall upward price

Base Oil Market is Expected To Be Worth USD 41 Billion By 2021

Base oil is a very essential component used for making various products like motor oils, greases and processing fluids for metals. One of the most important aspects of base oil is its viscosity this is because different products created with base oil have different composition in the oil as well as different properties. Base is manufactured either by chemical synthesis or by heating crude oil at a specific temperature. Hydrocarbons are separated from crude oil when it heated at a specific temperature; these hydrocarbons are either light or heavy in weight. Petrol and other forms of fuel are made from light weight hydrocarbons whereas base oil is created from heavy weight hydrocarbons. In addition to base oil, heavy hydrocarbons are also used for making premium engine oil, hydraulic oil and gear oil. It is estimated that by 2021 the Base Oil Market will cross more than USD 41 billion and in between year 2015 and 2021 the CAGR will grow up to almost 1.0 percent. Factors contributing in the growth of base oil market include the considerable development in the automotive industry which will increase the demand for different lubricants. The fast pace industrialization with rising economies is enhancing the demand for lubricants among different market segments.

Finances Wire - 26.07.2017

<http://www.financeswire.com/base-oil-market-is-expected-to-be-worth-usd-41-billion-by-2021/>

India's crude steel production dips to 7.9 MT in June

The country's crude steel production declined marginally by 1.1 per cent to 7.9 million tonnes (MT) in June, according to the latest report by World Steel Association. The steel output stood at 8 MT in the same month last year, it said. However, the domestic production in the first six months of 2017 increased by 5.3 per cent to 49.48 MT over 46.9 MT in the same period of 2016, the data said. Global steel production for the 67 countries reporting to World Steel Association (worldsteel) was 141 MT in June this year, registering an increase of 3.2 per cent over 136.6 MT in June 2016. For the first six months of 2017, global steel production stood at 836.0 MT, up 4.5 per cent from 799.9 MT in the same period of 2016. While Japan produced 8.3 MT steel in June, a fall of 4.3 per cent from the year-ago period, the US produced 6.7 MT, down 1.7 per cent from 6.8 MT earlier. The crude steel capacity utilisation ratio of the 67 countries in June 2017 was 73 per cent. This is 1.4 percentage points higher

movement in the global market had enabled all the major steel producing countries to derive reasonably better realisation for their end products, both in the domestic market and in exports.

The Financial Express - 25.07.2017

<http://www.financialexpress.com/market/commodities/firming-up-of-steel-prices-requires-global-market-stability/777801/>

Tourism Sector Makes Hay on Business Travels

A policy push for travel and tourism sector, growth of regional low cost carriers, a stable economy and growing small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are all boosting growth in business travel in India, a trend that travel portals, companies and hoteliers are hoping to harvest by ramping up for the segment. On Monday this week, India's second largest online travel operator Yatra Online Inc announced it acquired corporate travel services provider Air Travel Bureau to strengthen its position in the corporate travel segment. Yatra said Air Travel Bureau is the largest in the space, with gross bookings of Rs 15 billion generated through a mix of over 400 large and medium sized businesses across India. Business travel management company Carlson Wagonlit Travel, which caters to around 200 clients, said it has seen a 20% year-on-year growth in business. On travel portal Cleartrip, bookings for corporate destinations are growing 12% more than leisure bookings this year. Rising business travel has bolstered leisure travel in the industry, implying extension of business trips for leisure.

The Economic Times - 27.07.2017

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31817&articlexml=Tourism-Sector-Makes-Hay-on-Business-Travels-27072017001015>

Foreign Carriers May Get a Chance to Fly Air India

The government may not be averse to the prospect of allowing overseas carriers to bid for stakes in Air India, according to a senior government official.

"This (sale to foreign airlines) was one of the options suggested in the presentation made to the ministerial panel by the aviation secretary," said the official. "The ministerial panel did not object to the idea of a foreign partner for the national carrier and foreign airlines could be allowed to bid for the national carrier. "The discussion took place last Friday at the first meeting of the panel led by finance minister Arun Jaitley that's looking into possible options for Air India's disinvestment. Others at the meeting included aviation minister

than June 2016. Compared to May 2017, it is 1.3 percentage points higher, it said.

The Economic Times - 27.07.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/steel/indias-crude-steel-production-dips-to-7-9-mt-in-june/articleshow/59773962.cms>

Govt may Prefer Another Airline as Air India Buyer

The government may prefer that an airline acquires Air India even if it means selling the domestic and international operations separately, senior officials said. "We also want continuity for the existing staff which could only happen if it is being taken over by another airline," said one of them. While IndiGo has said it may be interested in Air India's international business, there have been reports that some private equity investors had been eyeing a possible stake-sale process. The Tata Group, which has stakes in Vistara and AirAsia India, has also been mentioned as a possible suitor. Analysts said the government shouldn't seek to keep out potential bidders, given the state of the carrier. "The government should not limit its options to just airlines as anyone who understands the aviation business will be able to run it," said Mark Martin, founder and CEO of Martin Consulting, an aviation advisory firm. The key burden for any investor in Air India would be its `50,000 crore debt.

The Economic Times - 28.07.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/government-may-prefer-another-airline-as-air-india-buyer/articleshow/59798968.cms>

Aviation industry says bye bye to YY Fares

One of the earliest relics of the global aviation industry will soon be buried. YY Fares, the multilateral interlineable fares from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) will be rescinded from October 31, 2018. The Association, which represents 275 airlines across the world, said in early July that "the rescinding of YY fares reflects the dramatic transformation that continues to take place in the distribution of airline products." YY Fares were established in 1945, enabling a flier to travel anywhere in the world on a single ticket in a single currency. This facility threw open the world as a travel destination for the customer as he could now fly on different airlines and

Ashok Gajapathi Raju, power minister Piyush Goyal and railway minister Suresh Prabhu. Analysts said Air India would fetch a fair price if overseas airlines are allowed to bid for it. "Foreign airline equity participation up to 49% in AI's divestment will be critical to achieve a successful outcome for the government," said Kapil Kaul, CEO, CAPA South Asia.

The Economic Times - 29.07.2017

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31817&articlexml=Foreign-Carriers-May-Get-a-Chance-to-Fly-29072017001027>

Rail tickets for foreign tourists a year in advance

Visitors to India will now be able to plan their itinerary way ahead of the trip with the Eastern Railways deciding to sell them tickets a year in advance. The facility will be available for trains like Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi, and the travellers need to book seats in the executive class, AC first or second class. The fare for these seats is 1.5 times more than the base fare and, on cancellation, 50% of the ticket price will be deducted, an official said. He added that this was being started on a trial basis and depending on the feedback, the facility can be provided to other trains as well. The tourists will only be able to book tickets online. They will have to provide their passport details and international phone numbers. The passengers will be able to pay via debit or credit card and they will get an SMS, which they need to provide to book the ticket. The railways won't allow local agents to buy the tickets on behalf of the tourists. Prof Abusaleh Sakendar a teacher of Jagannath University, Bangladesh, said "Often we need to come to India, but getting a visa is a problem.

The Times of India - 27.07.2017

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/rail-tickets-for-foreign-tourists-a-year-in-advance/articleshow/59780073.cms>

Post-GST, travel time of trucks has reduced by a fifth: Government

Post-GST, travel time for long-haul trucks have reduced by at least a fifth, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has said. "A typical truck spent 20 per cent of its runtime at interstate check posts (pre GST)...Inter-state check posts removed, travel time of long-haul trucks, other cargo vehicles cut by at least one-fifth," the Ministry has said in a recent report. On an average, a truck in India runs an annual distance of 60,000 kms, as against 200,000 km in the West. The Ministry said trucks earlier took 50-65

have his luggage checked through to final destination. That was the essence of multilateral interlineable fares. "It was like an open ticket," says an official from a leading travel company. "Those times, till the 1990s, an airline would only fly to a limited number of destinations. YY fares would help a flier to travel on multiple airlines using an open ticket," he adds.

The Hindu Business Line - 25.07.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/specials/flight-plan/aviation-industry-says-bye-bye-to-yy-fares/article9788263.ece>

Internet access across railway network soon

Passengers will soon be able to surf the Net, send emails, access Facebook and use WhatsApp throughout their travel on the Indian Railway's network. After installing Wi-Fi systems in over 125 stations across the country, the carrier is now scouting for technologies that will enable it to provide internet access to all on-board passengers through Wi-Fi. On an average, 23 million passengers travel on the railways' network every day. To be sure, the railways already provides internet access on trains such as Tejas, Gatimaan, Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express and other luxury trains. However, this is not a viable cost-effective method of providing the service. "We are planning to have high-speed Wi-Fi in trains. The internet provided on trains currently is through satellite, but is very expensive," said a railway ministry official requesting anonymity. Under the new system, Wi-Fi devices will be installed on track-side equipment at periodic intervals for uninterrupted Internet access.

The Financial Express - 28.07.2017

<http://www.financialexpress.com/economy/on-railways-train-network-get-set-to-surf-the-net-access-facebook-whatsapp-carrier-scouting-for-wi-fi-tech/783229/>

Trucks Swerve to Sheds Amid GST Freight Fear

More than a fourth of India's 6 million-strong truck pool is said to be idle after the goods and services tax (GST) came into force on July 1 amid a drop in interstate movement of untaxed and under-reported cargo, leading to a fall in retail freight charges. That's having a knock-on effect on the transport and truck-making businesses, at least in the short term, experts said. Interstate retail freight rates are down 40-50%, the sharpest decline in over three decades, said SP Singh, senior fellow at

hours in reaching Kolkata from Chennai and the travel time now stands reduced by 20 per cent. This was corroborated from interviews with transporters as well as GPS data of express transporters. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, had last week said that India's logistics sector stands to gain the most under the GST regime as costs will dip by almost 20 per cent. The Ministry said that pre-GST, the complex tax structure and paperwork forced the transport industry to spend a lot of resources on tax compliance and deposit of inter-state sales tax.

The Economic Times - 31.07.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/post-gst-travel-time-of-trucks-has-reduced-by-a-fifth-government/articleshow/59831749.cms>

Logistics to gain most from GST; costs to dip 20 per cent: Nitin Gadkari

India's logistics sector stands to gain the most under the GST regime as costs will dip by almost 20 per cent, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said today. "India's logistics sector would gain the most from the Goods and Services tax (GST) as costs would fall by almost 20 per cent," Road Transport and Highways Minister Gadkari said. He said that logistics parks are being set up at various places across the country to act as freight aggregation and distribution hubs. "These logistics parks will enable long haul freight movement between hubs on larger sized trucks, rail and waterways. This will not only reduce freight transportation costs, but also throw open many employment opportunities and reduce pollution levels," he said and added that investments worth Rs 2 lakh crore were committed at a recent logistics event. As per a statement from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the transport sector stands to benefit from the recently rolled out GST in several ways.

The Economic Times - 26.07.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-transport/logistics-to-gain-most-from-gst-costs-to-dip-20-per-cent-nitin-gadkari/articleshow/59776984.cms>

the Indian Foundation of Transport Research and Training (IFTRT). Such steep declines in freight rates were seen in 1984, 1988, 2008 and just after the 2016 demonetisation, say transporters. To be sure, transport operators are reporting logistic efficiency gains as those trucks that are running are reaching destinations quicker with border check posts having been scrapped. India's 6 million trucks range from 5 tonnes to 49 tonnes. Out of the total, 1.3 million have national permits and 1.2 million have permits for their home state and neighbouring states, with 4045% of them not running currently.

The Economic Times - 27.07.2017

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31817&articlexml=Trucks-Swerve-to-Sheds-Amid-GST-Freight-Fear-27072017001024>

Logistics, warehousing space leasing up 50% in H1 2017: CBRE

The leasing of industrial and warehousing space rose 50 per cent in January-June at 7.3 million sq. ft. in eight cities and absorption may touch an all-time high in 2017 on positive sentiments after GST rollout, according to a study. Property consultant CBRE, in its report 'India Industrial and Logistics MarketView, H1 2017', said that the companies from third party logistics, engineering, manufacturing and FMCG sectors contributed about 75 per cent of the leasing. Leasing activities grew in all sectors except pharma, which absorbed 20 per cent less space in the first half of 2017 as compared to the second half of 2016. Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Chennai were the preferred markets for leasing space. Mumbai's share was 13 per cent of the total leasing in first half of 2017, while Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Pune constituted 23 per cent of the demand. "The leasing activity continued to witness strong growth during the first half of 2017, as close to 7.3 million sq. ft. was leased across cities.

The Economic Times - 31.07.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-construction/logistics-warehousing-space-leasing-up-50-in-h1-2017-cbre/articleshow/59831033.cms>