

(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

The Telegraph – 05.10.2017

**Balmer Lawrie organised 'Hindi Pakhwada'**

Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. is celebrated the 'Hindi Fortnight' from September 12 – September 26, 2017 across all its offices, units and establishments. To create general awareness



amongst employees and promote the use of Hindi as Official Language, a number of events were organized during the fortnight. The Pakhwada was inaugurated by Mr. Prabal Basu, Chairman & Managing Director, Balmer Lawrie. During the opening ceremony a quiz in Hindi was organized for the employees. Various events like Hindi extempore, essay and slogan writing competitions saw enthusiastic participation from the employees.

The Indian Express – 06.10.2017



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## High five for core growth

The country's infrastructure sector grew at its fastest pace in five months in August, driven by higher coal and electricity production. The eight core industries -coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity - grew at a combined rate of 4.9 per cent this August against a 3.1 per cent expansion in the year-ago period. On a sequential basis, infrastructure growth was 2.6 per cent in July. "Benefiting from a favourable base effect, and below-average rainfall in parts of the country, coal production recorded a sharp 15.3 per cent growth in August. The year-on-year growth of electricity generation improved to 10.3 per cent in August 2017 from 6.5 per cent in July 2017, reflecting some improvement in industrial demand post GST," Aditi Nayar, principal economist at rating agency Icria, said. The production of coal, natural gas and electricity rose 15.3 per cent, 4.2 per cent and 10.3 per cent, respectively, in August,

## Services PMI rises to 50.7 in September

Services sector activity in India expanded for the first time in three months in September, providing another set of data that showed the economy was recovering from the disruptions due to the goods and services tax (GST). The Nikkei India Services PMI rose to 50.7 in September from 47.5 in August following a surge in new business orders, triggering fastest rate of jobs creation in the services sector since mid-2011. A reading in excess of 50 shows expansion on this survey-based index. "The Indian private sector regained some lost ground since the implementation of July's GST as service providers followed the manufacturing industry back to growth," said Aashna Dodhia, economist at IHS Markit and author of the report. The PMI for manufacturing released on Tuesday showed an expansion for the second month running. Nikkei India Composite PMI

according to the official data released today. However, the output of crude oil, fertiliser and cement contracted in August.

*The Telegraph* - 04.10.2017

[https://www.telegraphindia.com/1171004/jsp/business/story\\_176094.jsp](https://www.telegraphindia.com/1171004/jsp/business/story_176094.jsp)

### **RBI lowers GDP forecast to 6.7% from 7.3%, says next quarters will be better**

The Reserve Bank of India kept key rates on hold+ on Wednesday, while reducing its growth forecast+ for the fiscal year ending March 2018 to 6.7% from 7.3%. It put the onus of reviving the economy on the government, calling for structural reforms. Announcing the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee on Wednesday, RBI governor Urjit Patel cautioned against a fiscal stimulus, pointing to the combined (central and states) fiscal deficit+ of 6%. "We should be very cautious lest fiscal actions undercut macroeconomic stability," he said. The government has indicated that it is planning measures to revive the economy, raising expectations of a spending boost. Explaining the decision to hold rates, Patel said he expected inflation to move up to 4.2% to 4.6% in the second half. Besides rising crude oil prices, wage hikes for government employees are expected to fuel inflation. Patel, however, said the door was not shut on future rate cuts as there was also a possibility that lower commodity and food prices could keep inflation down.

*The Times of India* - 06.10.2017

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/rbi-lowers-gdp-forecast-to-6-7-from-7-3-says-next-quarters-will-be-better/articleshow/60947221.cms>

### **Govt must ensure operational autonomy of PSEs: Sebi panel**

A high-profile Sebi panel on corporate governance has suggested independence of public sector enterprises (PSEs) from the administrative ministry concerned to ensure speedy decision-making. In its report for overhaul of corporate governance norms for listed companies, the panel headed by eminent banker Uday Kotak said the government should establish a transparent mandate for PSEs and disclose their objectives and obligations. The objectives of the state-owned companies should be disclosed to shareholders on a regular basis so that investors can take informed investment decisions. "The government should aim at ensuring independence of the PSEs from

Output Index, a combined reading of manufacturing and services sectors, rose to 51.1 in September, from 49 in August.

*The Economic Times* - 06.10.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indian-services-activity-returns-to-growth-in-september-pmi/articleshow/60950864.cms>

### **Slowing economy pushes India to 8th spot in valuable nation brand list**

The current economic slowdown has pushed India down one spot to eighth on a list of most valuable nation brands compiled by Brand Finance. Meanwhile, US continues to be at the top the list, followed by China, Germany, Japan and United Kingdom, according to Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017 report. In terms of valuation, India's National Brand Value in 2017 is USD 2.04 trillion, down one percent from last year's USD 2.06 trillion. The country's brand rating, however, improved from 'AA-' to 'AA'. Despite a rating improvement, India does not feature in the list of 10 best performing nation brands. "With so much focus on China, the emergence of India as a top-tier investment destination has not received the notice that it warrants," the report said. "India's nation brand still lags behind that of China in the league table, but it now sits comfortably in the top ten and if its economic performance continues to stay strong, it might well crack the top five soon," it added. However, India took a hit on several fronts. "The less than impressive track record of implementing change renders the nation's outlook unstable.

*Moneycontrol* - 09.10.2017

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/slowing-economy-pushes-india-to-8th-spot-in-valuable-nation-brand-list-2407865.html>

### **Tips for better corporate code**

A panel appointed by market regulator Sebi proposed a slew of new regulations on Thursday to boost corporate governance, from enhancing the role of independent directors to improving financial disclosures. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had set up the 25-member panel headed by Uday Kotak, managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, in June, following several high-profile corporate tussles. Its recommendations include mandating that boards have at least six members, half of these independent directors. Current regulations specify no board size, and the number of independent directors may vary, depending on whether the chairman is part of

the administrative ministry to ensure speedy decision-making, functional and operational autonomy in pursuit of their stated objectives, for better commercial goals and to attract talent in a competitive market place," the report noted. As a sustainable and optimal solution for minimising conflicts arising from the ownership and regulatory dichotomy in PSEs, the committee also recommended that the government should consider consolidating its "ownership and monitoring" of PSEs into independent holding entity structure by April 1, 2020.

*Millennium Post - 07.10.2017*

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/nation/govt-must-ensure-operational-autonomy-of-ps-es-sebi-panel-265315>

### **Exporters relieved as government moves to lower GST burden**

Exporters are breathing a sigh of relief with the government on Friday announcing a series of steps to reduce the payment and compliance burden of goods and services tax (GST). The GST Council has approved the creation of an e-wallet for each exporter with a notional advance refund amount. E-wallet for exporters is to be implemented by April 1, 2018, till then a nominal 0.1% GST will be applicable to exports. While most exporters see their liquidity and cash crunch issues getting resolved due to easier procedural requirements, others are looking forward to a further reduction in GST rates. "The move is a welcome one and shows that the government is listening to and acting on our concern," said Rakesh Kumar, executive director, Export Promotion Council for Handicraft. Kumar said handicraft exports will get a big boost as they have declined 29% in the July-September quarter on account of GST-related concerns. Moreover, exporters will continue to get the pre-GST exemptions under the Advance Authorisation and EPCG schemes while importing goods for the purpose of exports.

*The Economic Times - 09.10.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/policy--trends/exporters-relieved-as-government-moves-to-lower-gst-burden/articleshow/60974935.cms>

### **Auto, OMCs, Metals & Pvt Banks to Buoy Q2 Show**

After a brief lull in the previous quarter, Nifty 50 companies are expected to report double-digit growth in profits with improved profitability in the September quarter, aided largely by a better showing by automobile players, oil marketing companies (OMCs), metal and mining companies and private sector lenders. On the other hand,

the main shareholder group. The panel recommended at least five board meetings each year, up from four now, with at least one set aside to discuss issues such as board evaluation, risk management and succession planning. The panel also recommended making it mandatory for companies with a public shareholding of at least 40 percent to separate the role of chairman and chief executive from April 1, 2020, curbing some of the freedom companies now have.

*The Telegraph - 06.10.2017*

[https://www.telegraphindia.com/1171006/jsp/business/story\\_176440.jsp](https://www.telegraphindia.com/1171006/jsp/business/story_176440.jsp)

### **Exports from SEZs jump 15.4% to Rs 1.35 lakh cr in April-June**

Exports from special economic zones (SEZs) paced up 15.4 per cent to Rs 1.35 lakh crore during the first quarter of this fiscal, according to Commerce Ministry data. According to industry analysts, exports are growing from these zones, but observed that the government should do more to step up shipments. "In the GST (Goods and Services Tax) regime, units in SEZs have advantage compared to the units in domestic tariff area," the Chairman of Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs (EPCES), Rahul Gupta, pointed out. He felt that the government should set up a proper refund mechanism for duties to be paid by SEZs when they buy products from outside these zones. Exports grew about 12 per cent to Rs 5.24 lakh crore in 2016-17 against Rs 4.67 lakh crore in the previous fiscal. According to the ministry data, these zones have attracted investments worth Rs 4.33 lakh crore up to June this year. The highest number of SEZs are operational in states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Maharashtra. Till September 7, the government has approved as many as 424 zones, of which 222 are operational.

*The Hindu Business Line - 04.10.2017*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/exports-from-sezs-jump-154-to-rs-135-lakh-cr-in-apriljune/article9884768.ece>

### **Exports to China gallop by 40.69% in January-August**

India's exports to China, which have been showing signs of revival this year after years of slump, registered a 40.69 per cent rise year-on-year to reach \$10.60 billion in the first eight months of 2017. Fired by exports of zinc, iron ore and steel, total Indian exports to China registered a 38.6 per cent increase year-on-

sectors including capital goods, cement, construction, infrastructure, IT, and pharmaceuticals may continue to languish. According to the ET Intelligence Group's estimates, the Nifty 50 set of companies will report a 12.8% year-on-year jump in net sales for the second quarter. Operating profit before depreciation (PBDIT) is likely to increase by 17.8% while net profit may rise by 11.3%. In the previous quarter, sales had grown by 10% while operating profit had fallen by 1.7% and net profit had increased by 0.8%. "Q1 (June 2017 quarter) was a foregone story since companies focused on reducing inventories in the run-up to the GST implementation. Q2 will be largely seen as a recovery from Q1 as inventories are replenished and volumes are likely to improve due to festive demand," said Mayuresh Joshi, fund manager, Angel Broking.

*The Economic Times - 09.10.2017*

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31817&articlexml=Auto-OMCs-Metals-Pvt-Banks-to-Buoy-Q2-09102017001017>

### **Corp Affairs Ministry Objects to Some Suggestions of Sebi Panel**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has opposed some of the recommendations made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) committee on corporate governance on the grounds that they concern matters already covered by the Companies Act. The committee, which was set up by Sebi to suggest ways in which to enhance corporate governance standards, has called for an increase in the minimum number of directors and the inclusion of at least one independent woman board member - areas under the ambit of the Companies Act and therefore not under the remit of the market regulator. "Committee proposes to make reposes to make recommendations which seek to empower Sebi to prescribe a number of additional requirements on matters which have been core company law principles and find place, rightly so, under Companies Act," MCA joint secretary AK Bhatia said in a letter to Uday Kotak, chairman of the Sebi committee on corporate governance. The letter was among the annexures attached to the report. The regulator released the report on Thursday for public feedback.

*The Economic Times - 09.10.2017*

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31817&articlexml=Corp-Affairs-Ministry-Objects-to-Some-Suggestions-of-09102017001034>

### **OPEC should go for 'responsible pricing', says oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan**

year in August this year totalling to \$1.26 billion, the sharpest increase this year. However, the trade deficit expanded to \$44.51 billion in the first seven months despite surge in Indian exports as imports from China continue to increase. The India-China bilateral trade increased 18.34 per cent year-on-year to reach \$55.11 billion from January to August this year, according to official data. India's exports to China increased by 40.69 per cent year-on-year to reach \$10.60 billion during the seven months. India's imports from China saw a year-on-year growth of 14.02 per cent to reach \$44.50 billion. The cause for surge of Indian exports to China was a result of exponential increase of 353.99 per cent of exports of zinc and related items, 248.19 per cent of iron and steel and 100.7 per cent increase in ores and slag and 151.17 per cent rise in copper.

*Millennium Post - 07.10.2017*

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/export-s-to-china-gallop-by-4069-in-january-august-265346>

### **India to surpass China as fastest growing oil market in 2018: Moody's**

On the back of a 6% demand growth, India will surpass China as the fastest growing Asian market for petroleum products in 2018, says a report. This is possible as Chinese demand growth is seen halving to 2.5-3% in 2017-18 from a higher 6% in 2016-17. Despite the weakening growth numbers in both these countries, China and India will continue to be the key growth engines for the sector in Asia, representing over 80% of the expected growth in 2018, says a report by Moody's. Quoting the American energy information administration projections, the report said the demand for petroleum products in the Asia Pacific will rise a modest 2% or 0.7 million barrels per day in to 34.6 million bpd in 2018. "Given the oil sector's reliance on China and increasingly India, we believe demand would face considerable risks if economic growth weakens materially below our expectations. However, India will surpass China as the fastest growing product market in Asia with petroleum consumption growing 6 per cent in 2018," Moody's said in a report Tuesday.

*Mint - 04.10.2017*

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/VKSp8swmjNF3tLknR3a1UI/India-to-surpass-China-as-fastest-growing-oil-market-in-2018.html>

### **India is future of energy demand, says OPEC Secretary General**

India today pressed oil cartel OPEC to adopt "responsible pricing" for oil and consider the world's third-biggest oil consumer as its preferred sales destination. Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met OPEC Secretary General Sanusi Mohammad Barkindo to discuss "the current scenario of oil and gas industry of the world and exchanged notes on the recent developments", an official statement stated here. During the meeting, Pradhan highlighted that in today's oversupplied market, it is important for producers to understand the perspective of consuming countries and the changes that have taken place in these demand centres. Barkindo is in India to attend the first CERAWEEK India Energy Forum. The two had last met in Vienna in May 2017 for the 2nd India-OPEC Institutional Dialogue. "Pradhan reiterated that the OPEC should work towards 'responsible pricing', which is important for India for socio-economic and developmental reasons," the statement said. Reiterating the decade-old India's view that the OPEC should consider giving 'Asian Dividend' rather than charging 'Asian Premium' on the crude supplied to India, he said countries like India should actually be the "preferred destination".

*The Economic Times - 08.10.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/opec-should-go-for-responsible-pricing-says-oil-minister/articleshow/60995499.cms>

## **Automotive Grease Market size in terms of volume and value 2016 – 2024**

Automotive grease helps diminish friction and wear, provide corrosion protection, seal bearings from contaminants and water, repel leakage, resist change in consistency or structure during service, maintain flexibility under conditions of application, and repel or tolerate moisture. The consistency or hardness of the grease is measured by a penetrometer, which consists of a cone of specific weight and size dropped into the grease for five seconds. The colour of the grease is determined by thickener, base oil, dye, and additive. Grease can be of any colour to suit a particular application, environment, or identification purposes. The ability of any particular grease to be handled by grease dispensers, grease pumps, and other components in an automated greasing system depends on the viscosity of the grease. Depending on the application of grease, different base oils and thickeners can be used. Growth in the automotive industry is anticipated to boost the demand for automotive grease. Additionally, increase in demand for automobiles in emerging economies in

India is future of energy demand, Secretary General of Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Sanusi Mohammad Barkindo said on Sunday. Talking to media here, Barkindo said that India is the growing end of the global economy and the future of energy demand. Barkindo is in India to attend the first CERAWEEK India Energy Forum. Earlier, he held a meeting with Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan here wherein they discussed the current scenario of oil and gas industry of the world and exchanged notes on the recent developments. The OPEC Secretary General termed the partnership between OPEC and India as strategic one. "The OPEC and India engage in ongoing dialogue. The OPEC has established similar dialogue with the European Union, with Russia and other countries. But, one of most important dialogues is with India as OPEC member countries supply India over 80 percent of its oil requirements. Our member countries also participate in the downstream sector of Indian industry. India is also investing in some of our member countries. So, it is a strategic partnership between the two," Barkindo said.

*Business Standard - 08.10.2017*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-is-future-of-energy-demand-says-opec-secretary-general-117100800764\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-is-future-of-energy-demand-says-opec-secretary-general-117100800764_1.html)

## **Little elbow room for state to reduce fuel prices further**

BJP-ruled Gujarat may have declared a reduction in state taxes following the Centre's appeal, but for West Bengal the stumbling blocks are huge debt burden and the Centre's refusal to restructure it. A debt repayment of nearly Rs 40,000 crore every year is eating almost 80% of state's own revenue generation. Sources in the West Bengal government, though, have indicated that it is assessing the situation. "The Centre is not paying heed to the appeal of CM Mamata Banerjee to restructure the debt burden. We have very limited resources despite 100% jump in own generation," added sources. Petroleum products at over Rs 5,200 crore account for almost 13% of the state's own generation. Incidentally, petroleum products have not been subsumed into GST and both the Centre and states have the power to levy or withdraw taxes on petroleum products. In fact, West Bengal, along with 27 other states, were against the proposal to subsume petroleum products into the purview of GST. Incidentally, the only other item that is not under GST is liquor.

Asia Pacific and Latin America is estimated to further propel the demand for automotive grease.

*Sat PR News - 06.10.2017*

<http://www.satprnews.com/2017/10/06/automotive-grease-market-size-in-terms-of-volume-and-value-2016-2024/>

## **PM Modi Set to Meet Big Guns of Oil Firms**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a high-profile meeting with CEOs of foreign and Indian companies including Rosneft, Saudi Aramco, BP, Reliance Industries and Cairn India as the government seeks big-ticket investment in its vast, rapidly growing energy market. Modi will meet Rosneft CEO Igor Sechin, BP CEO Bob Dudley, Saudi Aramco CEO Amin H Naseer, Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, Cairn India chairman Anil Agarwal, ExxonMobil president Rob Franklin and chairmen of state-run oil companies at a brainstorming session coordinated by Niti Aayog on Monday. The meeting follows a turnaround in investor sentiment in the sector with the announcement of a \$6 billion investment by BP and Reliance to develop deep-sea gas fields and the active interest of Aramco, which has been eyeing investment opportunities in India. The Saudi company is opening an office in the country and is moving a senior executive from China to India.

*The Economic Times - 09.10.2017*

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31817&articlexml=EYE-ON-BIG-TICKET-INVESTMENTS-IN-ENERGY-MARKET-09102017001018>

## **Centre wants states to cut VAT on petrol, diesel by 5%**

After cutting excise duty by Rs 2 per litre, the Centre now wants states to cut sales tax or VAT on petrol and diesel by 5 per cent to provide further relief to consumers. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will soon write to all state chief ministers urging them to cut VAT on petrol and diesel, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters here. "We have proactively cut excise duty. Now it is the turn of states to reduce VAT," he said. Unlike the Centre, states levy VAT as an ad valorem duty which rises every time there is an increase in price. The Centre, he said, sacrificed Rs 26,000 crore in revenue in the cut in excise duty. "States are the biggest beneficiary. They get all of the VAT collection plus they also get 42 per cent of the central excise collections. The amount remaining with the Centre is used to finance centrally sponsored schemes in states," he said. The Centre had raised excise duty by Rs 11.77 per litre on

*The Times of India - 07.10.2017*

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31812&articlexml=Little-elbow-room-for-state-to-reduce-fuel-07102017004021>

## **Excise duty on petrol, diesel cut by ₹2 per litre**

The government on Tuesday slashed the excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹2 per litre, effective from October 4, in an effort to infuse some festive cheer in a slowing economy and dispel the RBI's worries about inflationary pressures that are holding back interest rate cuts. "This decision has been taken to cushion the impact of rising international prices of crude petroleum oil and petrol and diesel on retail sale prices of petrol and diesel as well as to protect the interest of common man," the Finance Ministry said in a statement, days after senior ministers repeatedly defended the Centre's high tax levies on petroleum products. Both Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had reiterated several times in recent weeks that the government was not considering a cut in the excise duties in the face of rising fuel prices. The Finance Minister has also dared Opposition-ruled States to slash State-level taxes on petroleum products and forego their share of the exchequer's revenue from excise levies.

*The Hindu - 04.10.2017*

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/excise-duty-on-petrol-diesel-cut-by-2-per-litre/article19791455.ece>

## **Govt keeps oil excise hike option open**

A day after the Union government cut the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2 a litre, a senior finance ministry official hinted on Wednesday that the levy could be hiked to the previous level once global crude oil prices cool down. The government, meanwhile, asked states to cut the value-added tax (VAT) on the two fuels by at least 5 per cent to give relief to consumers. "We do not expect the trend of oil prices to continue to be high; it may get subdued. Then there will again be scope for imposing it (previous excise duty rate)," the official, who did not wish to be named, told Business Standard. He said the ministry did not visualise continuing with this concession for the entire financial year. The revenue loss to the government on account of the latest duty cut will Rs 13,000 crore in the remaining part of the current financial year. "We think this (rise in global crude prices) has happened due to cyclones in the US, and other

petrol and Rs 13.47 a litre on diesel between November 2014 and January 2016 to take away gains arising from plummeting international oil rates.

*The Economic Times - 04.10.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/centre-wants-states-to-cut-vat-on-petrol-diesel-by-5/articleshow/60940518.cms>

## **India to renegotiate LNG rate with US, Russia**

After getting Qatar and Australia to lower gas price, India is seeking to renegotiate rate of LNG it has contracted from the US and Russia to reflect current market realities, GAIL Chairman and MD B C Tripathi said today. "We have successfully renegotiated, along with Petronet LNG Ltd, two long-term (LNG import) contracts. We are now working on third and fourth contract," he said at a Ficci (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) conference here. While Tripathi did not name the contracts, he was referring to last month's in-principle agreement with Exxon Mobil Corp for a cut in price of 1.44 million tonnes a year liquefied natural gas (LNG) to be imported from Australia's Gorgon project. In 2015, India renegotiated price of the long-term deal to import 7.5 million tonnes per year of LNG from Qatar, helping save Rs 8,000 crore. "This is how market structure has changed," Tripathi said. "The point which I am trying to drive is that we are moving from a supply constraint market to a supply surplus market."

*The Financial Express - 05.10.2017*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/india-to-renegotiate-lng-rate-with-us-russia/882342/>

## **Saudi Aramco plugs into India's oil growth story**

The world's largest oil exporter, Saudi Aramco, on Sunday officially launched its unit in India with a view to tap opportunities presented by the country's rapidly growing appetite for energy. Oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Aramco CEO Amin Nasser, who is here to attend the India Energy Forum beginning on Monday, jointly inaugurated the company's office in Gurgaon, a move the minister said would take the buyer-supplier relationship between the two countries to a level of "strategic partnership" in the hydrocarbon sector. Aramco's move to launch a subsidiary in India, Aramco Asia India (AAI), coincides with its ongoing talks for acquiring a stake in the Rs 40,000 crore coastal refinery being planned in Maharashtra by an IndianOil-led consortium of state-run refiner-marketers. India is

short-term factors," the official said. "If (global) oil prices come down, consumers will not be affected much.

*Business Standard - 05.10.2017*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-keeps-oil-excise-hike-option-open-117100500108\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-keeps-oil-excise-hike-option-open-117100500108_1.html)

## **US oil export to India will increase jobs: Perry**

Export of American crude oil to India will create jobs, economic stability and national security in both countries, US Energy Secretary Rick Perry has said, days after the first ever shipment of US crude oil landed in Odisha. The shipment, loaded at Saint James, Louisiana and Freeport, Texas terminals last month, docked at Paradip port in Odisha on October 2. "This event represents the growing and important strategic energy partnership between the US and India, and I look forward to exploring new opportunities to expand the role of reliable, responsible, and efficient energy sources with our allies," Perry said yesterday. He said the export of US crude oil to India will create jobs, economic stability and national security in both countries. Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US, Indian companies ramped up purchases of American crude. To encourage US crude purchases, the government has allowed refiners to use a foreign rather than an Indian-owned vessel for the purchase. Indian refiners typically have to use domestic vessels for their crude imports.

*PTI - 06.10.2017*

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/9129623\\_US-oil-export-to-India-will-increase-jobs--Perry](http://www.ptinews.com/news/9129623_US-oil-export-to-India-will-increase-jobs--Perry)

## **The future of oil is almost here and it doesn't look very pretty**

The world is propelling fast towards a post-oil future when electric batteries will drive the world. After Elon Musk's Tesla popularised electric vehicles (EVs), now is the turn for planes to go electric. Boeing and JetBlue Airways have announced they would begin selling a hybrid-electric commuter aircraft by 2022. Planned by start-up Zunum Aero, the small plane would seat up to 12 passengers and reduce travel time and cost of trips under 1,600 km. A futurist and clean energy expert, Toni Seba, has predicted that electric vehicles would destroy the global oil industry after a decade. By 2030, 95% of people won't own private cars which would wipe off the automobile industry, he says. Electric planes are actually the third disruption in oil industry, After electric vehicles,

particularly important for Aramco as the firm is trawling for refinery stake in major oil-consuming economies to lock in customers ahead of its IPO next year. Both International Energy Agency and BP Statistical Review of World Energy have projected India's oil consumption growth to be the fastest among all major economies over the next two decades.

*The Times of India - 09.10.2017*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/saudi-aramco-plugs-into-indias-oil-growth-story/articleshow/60998636.cms>

## **Railways looking at airline pricing model: Lohani**

The much-hyped dynamic pricing system that invited a lot of criticism for the Indian Railways may soon be converted into an airline-like model. This could mean that railway fares would go down during lean seasons. Ashwani Lohani, the newly-appointed railway board chairman, said the railways were relooking at the new pricing system. Though a railway cadre official, Lohani was Air India chairman when he moved to the Railway Board in August, and, therefore, has seen the airline pricing model closely. "I personally was not happy with the way dynamic pricing has been structured. We have to really look at the way airlines are doing it," Lohani said in an interview. The new system of pricing called flexi-fare or dynamic pricing was launched on September 9, 2016, on 142 premium trains, including the Rajdhani, Shatabdis and Durontos. The pricing system, based on the models used by cab aggregators, had faced wide criticism and led to low occupancy levels since airlines became a cheaper option for passengers.

*Business Standard - 06.10.2017*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/railways-looking-at-airline-pricing-model-lohani-117100600056\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/railways-looking-at-airline-pricing-model-lohani-117100600056_1.html)

## **Now, brace for a 15 per cent hike in airfares**

Get ready to shell out up to 15% more for flying. Airlines are looking at 10-15% hike in airfares due to sharp increase in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices every month since August. The most recent increase came on Sunday when oil marketing companies raised prices by 6%. These hikes come at a time when the rupee is weakening against the US dollar. After the latest price revision, ATF will

the buzz grew around autonomous vehicles. Self-driven vehicles are going to deliver another big blow to the oil industry as they will reduce personal ownership of cars. The technology-driven models in mass transport such as Ola and Uber can lead to shared transport further reducing demand for oil. Seba has predicted that by 2030, 95 per cent of people won't own private cars.

*The Economic Times - 06.10.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/the-future-of-oil-is-almost-here-and-it-doesnt-look-very-pretty/articleshow/60970730.cms>

## **Air travel demand in India continues in double digits for 36**

The air travel demand in India continued in the double digit for the 36 months on a trot with the domestic passenger traffic rising 16 per cent in August over the same period of 2016, global airlines body IATA said today. Also, the demand grew almost twice of the average global domestic traffic in August, which stood at 7.6 per cent in the month, according to the traffic data released by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The overall passenger traffic (both domestic and international) climbed to 7.2 per cent in August compared to August 2016, IATA said. August capacity (available seat kilometres or ASKs) increased by 6.3 per cent while the load factor climbed 0.7 percentage points to 84.5 per cent, which was just below the record for the month set in 2015, it said. "Indian airlines achieved a 36th consecutive month of double-digit traffic growth as demand rose 16 per cent. Traffic continues to be stimulated by sizable increases in the number of domestic routes served," IATA said. According to IATA, the August international passenger demand rose 7 per cent compared to August 2016 with all six regions.

*The Economic Times - 06.10.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/air-travel-demand-in-india-continues-in-double-digits-for-36/articleshow/60959332.cms>

## **Rethink on five- year export target**

The commerce ministry will revisit the \$ 900-billion exports target for 2019- 20 as growth in shipments was slow in the first three years of the target period. After holding an over three-hour long meeting with exporters yesterday, commerce secretary Rita Teotia said there was certainly a need to revisit the five- year export target because nobody factored in the swing in global commodity prices and currency



now cost Rs 53,045 per kilolitre in Delhi, up Rs 3,025 per kl from Rs 50,020. This is the third consecutive monthly hike. Last month, the price was hiked by 4%. While no airline came on record, they said the twin impact of costlier ATF and weaker rupee leaves them with few options but to raise fares unless they want to meet a Kingfisher like fate. "We will take a decision shortly on fares. The operating cost has gone up substantially, and we have to pass on the same to flyers," said the official of a full service airline. In addition, from August 1 the government has started levying a regional connectivity cess of Rs 5,000 on each flights. Most airlines have transferred this cost to passengers.

*The Times of India - 03.10.2017*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/now-brace-for-a-15-per-cent-hike-in-airfares/articleshow/60905957.cms>

### **FM Logistic opens warehouse in Pune for European retailer**

FM Logistic, an €1-billion family-owned company, has opened a 20,000-sq-metre warehouse in Pune for a European retailer. In Asia, FM Logistic is present in China, India and Vietnam. While FM Logistic did not reveal the client's name, it expects to get more such corporate clients in India. The company is also in the process of acquiring land close to Delhi and Mumbai to build multi-client distribution centres, as a part of its plan to set such facilities near cities. Following the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 1, the company expects distribution centres to come down by half. The company said most of its customers, including those in the retail and cosmetics sector, were reviewing their distribution network. "We expect the distribution centres to be down by half or even two-third as bigger distribution centres come up," he said. For its entry into the Indian market, the company did a detailed market analysis three years ago and acquired a firm, Spear Logistics, in 2016. It entered India through the acquisition route as India is a "complex market, almost a continent".

*The Hindu Business Line - 04.10.2017*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/fm-logistic-opens-warehouse-in-pune-for-european-retailer/article9885653.ece>

### **New Director (Finance) takes charge at BEL**

Koshy Alexander has taken charge as the new Director (Finance) of Navratna Defence PSU

fluctuations. "We are certainly not going to aim for the same target because we have not been able to show that growth rate in the first three years," she told reporters here. On April 1, 2015, the government had announced a slew of incentives and new institutional mechanisms as part of the new Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020) to nearly double the country's goods and services exports to \$ 900 billion by 2019- 20. India exports goods worth around \$ 300 billion per financial year, while services exports amounted to around \$ 150 billion annually. On whether the ministry would come out with a mid-term review of the foreign trade policy, Teatota said commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu would take a call after returning from Morocco, where he is going for a WTO (World Trade Organisation) meeting.

*The Telegraph - 08.10.2017*

<https://epaper.telegraphindia.com/detail/283055-155247903.html>

### **GST: Freight forwarders to lose business to global competitors**

The Indian freight forwarding and logistics sector is set to lose a major chunk of Rs 20,000-crore international freight forwarding business to international competitors because of a tax parity issue following the roll-out of the goods and services tax (GST) regime. By virtue of Section 13 (9) in the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act, 2017, an Indian freight forwarding company has to levy GST on all shipments to India to an overseas supplier. However, the overseas company is not faced with any incidence of tax on the same transaction if it chooses to work with a foreign freight forwarder. It implies that Indian freight forwarders are losing their edge when competing with foreign freight forwarders for transactions involving imports to India. Nailesh Gandhi, director, Express Global Logistics, told FF that overseas suppliers to India usually prefer Indian freight forwarders because of their familiarity with the Indian customs procedures, documentation and other formalities. Gandhi said, "This is a business that had been gaining traction over the last seven-eight years.

*The Financial Express - 05.10.2017*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/industry/gst-threatens-this-rs-20000-cr-business-in-india-some-50000-smes-under-spotlight/882973/>

### **Rajnish Kumar new SBI chairman as Arundhati Bhattacharya retires**

Rajnish Kumar, 59, the senior most of the managing directors at State Bank of India

Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) on Monday, September 25, 2017. He was GM (Finance) & Chief Financial Officer before his elevation. Koshy Alexander joined BEL-Bangalore in June 1986 as Accounts Officer after completing his Chartered Accountancy, securing the 19th and 16th ranks in the CA Inter and Final examinations, respectively. A Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, he had completed his Bachelor of Commerce from Bangalore University with 2nd Rank. He is also a post-graduate in Commerce and degree in Law from Bangalore University.

*Millennium Post - 05.10.2017*

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/new-director-finance-takes-charge-at-bel-264002>

(SBI), will become the 25th chairman of the country's largest lender, succeeding Arundhati Bhattacharya, who is set to retire on 6 October. The government on Wednesday announced his appointment for three years. Kumar currently is in charge of retail banking at SBI. Kumar's appointment comes at a time when SBI's profitability is under strain because of ballooning bad loans and sluggish credit growth. At the end of June, the bank was weighed down by gross non-performing loans of Rs1.88 trillion. Gross bad loans account for almost one-tenth of its total advances.

*Mint - 05.10.2017*

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/rnlyyYw01!eZIWJQIS7csM/Rajnish-Kumar-appointed-new-SBI-chairman.html>