

(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 – 04.11.2019

Vigilance Awareness Week at Balmer Lawrie



Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from October 29 – November 4, 2018 at all the units and establishments of Balmer Lawrie. The observance of the week commenced with employees taking the vigilance pledge. A series of events on the theme "Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India" are being organised. Competitions like essay and slogan writing for employees and interactive sessions for vendors, customers and contractors of Balmer Lawrie are scheduled during the week to highlight the iniquities of corruption and its impact on society. The Company invited Dr. B.N Ramesh, IPS, ADG to conduct a session for its officials at the Corporate Office. Outreach programmes are also being conducted in schools and colleges of Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai to make the youth more cautious and vigilant.

Business Standard – 01.11.2019

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Millennium Post – 02.11.2018



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Sanmarg – 02.11.2019

बामर लॉरी में सतर्कता जागरुकता सप्ताह



कोलकाता: बामर लॉरी की सभी इकाइयों और संस्थानों में 29 अक्टूबर से 4 नवंबर तक सतर्कता जागरुकता सप्ताह मनाया जा रहा है। सप्ताह की शुरुआत कर्मचारियों द्वारा सतर्कता की शपथ लेकर की गई। भ्रष्टाचार मिटाओ- एक नया भारत बनाओ की तर्ज पर कई तरह के आयोजन किए जा रहे हैं। कर्मचारियों के लिए निबंध और नारे लेखन प्रतियोगिता तथा वेडर्स, ग्राहकों और ठेकेदारों के लिए परिचर्चा सत्र आयोजित किए जा रहे हैं। इनमें भ्रष्टाचार और उसके समाज पर कुप्रभाव बताया जा रहे हैं। कंपनी ने अपने कॉर्पोरेट कार्यालय में अधिकारियों के लिए विशेष सत्र हेतु एडीजी डॉ. बीएन रमेश को आमंत्रित किया। कोलकाता, चेन्नई और मुंबई के कॉलेजों में कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए गए ताकि युवा अधिक जागरुक हों।

भ्रष्टाचार निरोधक सप्ताह के तहत बामर लॉरी में सेमिनार

कोलकाता. सतर्कता जागरूकता सप्ताह के अंतर्गत बामर लॉरी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड ने मंगलवार को महानगर में परिसंवाद आयोजित किया. इसमें संस्थान के अध्यक्ष व प्रबंध निदेशक प्रबाल बसु ने सभी अधिकारियों व कर्मियों से समर्पण व पारदर्शिता से कार्य करने का आह्वान किया, ताकि देश में भ्रष्टाचार पर लगाम लगायी जा सके. उन्होंने कहा कि संस्थान के सभी कर्मियों को न केवल कार्यालय में बल्कि घर-परिवार में भी सतता व निष्ठा से कार्य करने का आदर्श प्रस्तुत करना चाहिये. राज्य के पुलिस अपर महानिदेशक डॉ. बीएन रमेश ने भी सेमिनार में अपना वक्तव्य रखा. डॉ. रमेश ने भ्रष्टाचार की प्रवृत्ति तथा उस पर प्रभावी लगाम लगाने के उपायों पर प्रकाश डाला. इस आयोजन में संस्थान के सतर्कता उपाध्यक्ष दीपकर मंडल, व्यवसाय व प्रबंधन निदेशक डी सोती सेल्वम सहित बामर लॉरी के अनेक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी भी उपस्थित थे.



Vigilance Awareness Week at Balmer Lawrie



C&MD and Directors with Dr B N Ramesh, IPS, ADG during the Vigilance Awareness Week.

KOLKATA: Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from October 29 to November 4 at all the units and establishments of Balmer Lawrie. The observance of the week commenced with employees taking the vigilance pledge. A series of events on the theme "Eradicate Corruption- Build a New India" are being organised. Competitions like essay and slogan writing for employees and interactive sessions for vendors, customers and contractors of Balmer Lawrie are scheduled during the week to highlight the iniquities of corruption and its impact on society. The Company invited Dr. B.N Ramesh, IPS, ADG to conduct a session for its officials at the Corporate Office. Outreach programmes are also being conducted in schools and colleges of Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai to make the youth more cautious and vigilant.

बॉमर लारी में निगरानी जागरूकता सप्ताह

कोलकाता, 2 नवंबर (जनसत्ता)।

बॉमर लारी की सभी इकाइयों व संस्थानों में 29 अक्टूबर से चार नवंबर तक निगरानी जागरूकता सप्ताह मनाया जा रहा है। इस अभियान की शुरुआत कंपनी के कर्मचारियों द्वारा निगरानी शपथ के साथ हुई। इस मौके पर 'भ्रष्टाचार का उन्मूलन-नए भारत का निर्माण' थीम पर कई तरह के कार्यक्रम भी आयोजित किए जा रहे हैं। इसके तहत कर्मचारियों के

लिए निबंध लेखन व नारा लेखन जैसी प्रतियोगिताएं व बॉमर लारी के वेंडर्स, ग्राहकों के लिए परिसंवाद सत्र का आयोजन भी किया जा रहा है। कंपनी ने आईपीएस, एडीजी डॉ. बीएन रमेश को कारपोरेट ऑफिस में अधिकारियों के लिए विशेष सत्र के लिए आमंत्रित किया। इसके अलावा कोलकाता, चेन्नई व मुंबई में स्कूल व कॉलेजों में भी इसी तरह के कार्यक्रम किए जा रहे हैं। यह जानकारी एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में दी गई।

Jansatta –
03.11.2018

Dainik Jagran
– 04.11.2018

Aajkal – 03.11.2018



ভিজিল্যান্স সচেতনতা সপ্তাহ পালিত হচ্ছে বামার লারী-র সব কটি অফিসে। দুর্নীতি রুখতে রচনা, শ্লোগান লেখা প্রতিযোগিতাও অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। প্রধান অতিথি ছিলেন এডিজি ডি. বি এন রমেশ।
কলকাতায়। ছবি: আজকাল

बामर लॉरी का सतर्कता जागरूकता सप्ताह अभियान

कोलकाता : बामर लॉरी की सभी इकाइयों और प्रतिष्ठानों में 29 अक्टूबर से 4 नवंबर, 2018 के बीच जागरूकता सप्ताह मनाया जा रहा है। कर्मचारियों ने सतर्कता की प्रतिज्ञा लेते हुए इसका पालन करने का निश्चय किया। इसके तहत भ्रष्टाचार मुक्त भारत, नया भारत की तर्ज पर विभिन्न कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया है। इसमें बामर लॉरी के कर्मचारी, ग्राहक व टेकेदारों के लिए भ्रष्टाचार व इसके प्रभाव विषय पर निबंध लेखन और स्लोगन लेखन का आयोजन किया गया है। इस मौके पर एक परिचर्चा सत्र का आयोजन किया था जिसमें कंपनी के अधिकारियों और आईपीएस व एडीजी डॉ. बीएन रमेश को आमंत्रित किया गया था। इसके साथ ही साथ कोलकाता, चेन्नई व मुंबई के युवाओं को सतर्कता का पाठ पढ़ाने के लिए विभिन्न स्कूल व कॉलेजों में कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया।

Manufacturing Activity Rises on Strong Order Flow

Manufacturing activity in India picked up pace in October on new orders and output, marking a strong start to the third quarter, a private survey showed on Thursday. The Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index strengthened from 52.2 in September to 53.1 in October as new orders and production increased at the quickest rate in four months. This is the joint-highest reading for 2018. Festival season may have boosted demand. A reading of over 50 on this survey-based index indicates expansion, below that is contraction. This is the 15th consecutive month that the manufacturing PMI remained above the 50-point mark. "A combination of domestic and foreign orders fuelled the upturn in overall activity, although export orders displayed the slowest expansion since July, total new work rose at the sharpest pace since mid-year," said Pollyanna De Lima, principal economist at IHS Markit and author of the report. New orders rose due to successful advertising efforts, strengthening underlying demand and competitive price-setting, according to the survey. The rise in new order flows was the fastest since June.

The Economic Times - 02.11.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F11%2F02&entity=Ar01310&sk=99F5E332&mode=text>

India Jumps 23 Ranks in Ease of Doing Business

India jumped 23 points in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking to 77th place, becoming the top-ranked country in South Asia for the first time and third among the BRICS nations. In the last two years, the country has climbed 53 notches, a performance matched in the past only by Bhutan and Djibouti. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's objective is to lift India into the top 50. "With 13 reforms between them, China and India — two of the world's largest economies — are among the 10 top improvers," the World Bank said in its report. "Ease of doing business is to maximise the governance with minimum government personnel and procedures," said finance minister Arun Jaitley. He identified registering property, starting a business, insolvency, enforcement of contracts and taxation as the key areas of improvement for India and said: "If we improve on these areas in a focused way, getting up to 50th rank is not out of reach". "Today's ranking is an indication of collective work between various ministries," said commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu, adding that state

Crude, NatGas Pull Down Sept Core Growth to 4-month Low

India's infrastructure sector growth slowed to a four month low in September, following a decline in crude oil and natural gas output. Eight infrastructure industries, as measured by a core sector index, grew 4.3% year-on-year in September, down from 4.7% in both August 2018 and September 2017. The sectors included in the index are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity. The slowdown suggests a moderation in industrial growth given that these eight sectors have a combined weight of 40.27% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). "The low base effect advantage appears to have worn off by September," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, CARE Ratings. The IIP numbers for September will be released on November 12. Industrial growth had moderated to 4.3% in August from 6.6% in July. Production of crude oil and natural gas slipped 4.2 % and 1.8 % respectively in the month under review, according to the data released by the commerce and industry ministry on Wednesday.

The Economic Times - 01.11.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F11%2F01&entity=Ar01504&sk=2F2F4158&mode=text>

Govt may Step up Disinvestment Drive with Power PSUs' Mergers

The government is looking to execute at least two mergers among central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) in the power sector to step up the disinvestment process and meet its target. It may kick start the process with top power generation company NTPC taking over hydropower firm SJVN, a senior government official said. "Some blue chip CPSEs have shown interest in acquiring smaller CPSEs where they feel synergies exist," the official told ET. "Also there are some CPSEs which can achieve efficiencies of scale if they combine their strengths." NTPC has already evinced interest in taking over SJVNL where government holds 63.79% stake, he said, adding that there could be a possible merger between power sector financing firms Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Ltd. The government holds 65.64% in PFC and 57.99% in REC Ltd. The government expects to raise around ₹21,000 crore at existing market prices if these two deals work out in this financial year, the above quoted official said. The government has so far

and central governments worked in-tandem to bring about this significant jump.

The Economic Times - 01.11.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F11%2F01&entity=Ar00111&sk=C&AFA5D09&mode=text>

Companies law amended; case load of special courts expected to reduce 60%: Govt

The government on November 2 amended various provisions of the companies law through an ordinance, a move that is expected to reduce pendency of cases before special courts by 60 percent besides bringing down applicable penalties for small companies. The ordinance amending the Companies Act, 2013, has been promulgated with twin objectives of "promotion of ease of doing business along with better corporate compliance", an official release said. President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent for the ordinance on November 2 after the Union Cabinet cleared the proposal for promulgating it on November 1. The amendments have been made on the basis of recommendations made by a government-appointed panel that reviewed the offences under the Act. With the latest amendments, jurisdiction of 16 types of corporate offences would be shifted from the special courts to in-house adjudication. This is "expected to reduce the case load of special courts by over 60 percent, thereby enabling them to concentrate on serious corporate offences.

Moneycontrol - 02.11.2018

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/companies-law-amended-case-load-of-special-courts-expected-to-reduce-60-govt-3125821.html>

Iran oil imports: India 'cautiously optimistic' on US sanctions

Caught between the US and Iran, India is 'cautiously optimistic' about not attracting secondary sanctions from Washington for continuing to import oil from the Islamic nation beyond November 4. "Our optimism comes from the talks we have had with US officials (on oil imports from Iran), who seemed sensitive to our needs and concerns," an official told BusinessLine. "But we are also cautious as it all boils down to the will of one powerful person in the US." While American sanctions on Iran have been in effect since August 6, those concerning the oil and banking sectors will kick in from November 4. This will block banking channels, making payment for oil bought from Iran difficult. It will also stop

raised Rs.10,028 crore from disinvestment in the current fiscal against the target of Rs. 80,000 crore.

The Economic Times - 31.10.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F10%2F31&entity=Ar01504&sk=0E820419&mode=text>

Oil prices set for biggest monthly decline since 2016 on growth fears

Oil's on track for its worst month since 2016 as the spectre of a slowing global economy haunts the market that's grappling with growing U.S. inventories and mixed signals from producers. Futures in New York are poised for a 9.3 percent drop this month, ending two months of gains. Prices have slipped from a four-year high this month as concerns that American sanctions on Iran would squeeze supply were overshadowed by a rout in global equities and an escalating trade dispute between the U.S. and China. Oil has lost more than 10 percent after breaching \$76 a barrel earlier this month. With U.S. sanctions against the Persian Gulf state taking effect later this week, investors are assessing different output signals from Organization and Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies. Saudi Arabia, which is under scrutiny over the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, has said the group is in "produce as much as you can mode," while an OPEC committee said it could cut supplies next year. West Texas Intermediate for December delivery traded at \$66.45 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, up 27 cents, at 11:50 a.m. in Seoul.

Mint - 31.10.2018

<https://www.livemint.com/Industry/jp24sAJ3whtQ4jVjzDuuRO/Oil-prices-set-for-biggest-monthly-decline-since-2016-on-gro.html>

India to continue Iranian oil imports post US sanctions

In the first clear indication of India's willingness to continue trade with Iran despite US sanctions, state refiners have contracted import of 1.25 million tonnes of crude oil from the Persian Gulf nation and is preparing to replace dollar payments with rupee trade. Top industry sources said Indian Oil Corp (IOC) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) have contracted 1.25 million tonnes of Iranian oil for import in November, the month when the US sanctions against Iran's oil sector kick-in. While India wants to continue importing Iranian oil, albeit a reduced volume, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last month stated that Washington would consider waivers

reinsurance cover to refineries processing Iranian oil. Apart from India, Iran exports crude oil to the EU, China, South Korea, Turkey and Japan. Indian refiners, however, have not signed any new contract with Iran. Their existing contracts run till March/April 2019. PSU refineries have booked imports for November, and it is expected that they will keep their purchase agreements for December as well.

The Hindu Business Line - 29.10.2018

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/iran-oil-imports-india-cautiously-optimistic-on-us-sanctions/article25354001.ece>

US allowing buying Iranian oil upholds consuming nations' interest: Pradhan

The US decision to let India keep buying oil from Iran after reimposition of sanctions on the Persian Gulf nation is a reassertion that interests of consuming nations cannot be ignored, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Saturday. The US administration has allowed India and other seven countries to keep importing oil from Iran, despite its reimposition of crippling sanctions on the Persian Gulf nation from November 5. "Hon'ble Prime Minister's forceful campaign has been that you can't ignore interests of consuming countries. Understanding geo-political situation, India has been able to get its way. The US has given waiver to some countries including India," Pradhan told reporters on the sidelines of an agreement signing event between CSC e-Governance Services and oil marketing companies - BPCL, India Oil and HPCL. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday that the US would temporarily allow eight countries to continue buying Iranian oil even after enforcing its sanctions on Tehran. "I give credit of this to emerging acceptance of world leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. From this campaign not only India but other consuming nations will be benefitted. The nitty-gritty of this will come gradually," he said.

The Economic Times - 04.11.2018

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/us-allowing-buying-iranian-oil-upholds-consuming-nations-interest-pradhan/66494640>

Oil price rise: Making India's voice count

The steep rise in international oil prices over the last few months is pinching the government and the people alike. This has not only affected the finances of people and the government, it has also affected the exchange rate of the rupee against international currencies. The current geopolitical and scape continues to pose a challenge in keeping prices within an affordable range. We

on the embargo but made clear that these would be time-limited, if granted. Sources said IOC is importing the "usual" monthly volumes of oil from Iran. It had planned to import of 9 million tonnes of Iranian oil in the 2018-19 fiscal (April 2018 to March 2019) or 0.75 million tonnes a month. US sanctions against Iran kick in from November 4, which will block payment routes.

The Economic Times - 02.11.2018

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-to-continue-iranian-oil-imports-post-us-sanctions/articleshow/66088584.cms>

US waiver gives India a breather

India and Iran have put systems in place to continue their trade in crude oil, with India winning a temporary waiver from the United States after Washington re-imposed sanctions on the Persian Gulf nation over its disputed nuclear programme. The sanctions inhibit global fleet owners and insurers from dealing with Iran crude shipments for fear of incurring the wrath of the US. Lack of ship and cargo insurance will hurt imports from Iran, India's third-biggest supplier after Saudi Arabia and Iraq. To bypass this hurdle, India's Shipping Ministry has amended a key shipping rule mandated by the government for crude purchases by state-run oil refiners. The Ministry has also granted permission till February 2020 for two Iranian ship underwriters - Kish P&I Club and QITA P&I Club - to provide cover to Iran tankers bringing crude to the country with a liability limit equivalent to the one extended by a London-based global insurance group. This is expected to help continue oil supplies from the sanctions-hit country. India will pay Iran for the crude purchases in rupees, which that country will use to import goods from India.

The Hindu Business Line - 04.11.2018

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-and-iran-put-systems-in-place-to-continue-crude-shipments-post-sanctions/article25418245.ece/amp/>

Crude import bill pinch

The oil import bill for the current financial year is expected to jump a massive 42 per cent to \$125 billion because of a spike in global crude prices and the depreciation of the rupee. However, a waiver from the US sanctions on Iran could stabilise the global crude prices and help to arrest the depreciation of the rupee against the dollar. The benchmark Brent is

have come across statements of global leaders appealing to oil-producing countries to reduce oil prices for long-term benefits that will accrue to the global economy. That hasn't helped. While OPEC countries remain the main balancer of prices, there are several other factors that affect global crude rates. We have been raising the issue of the Asian premium, loud and clear, at every relevant international forum. At the ministerial meeting of the International Energy Forum on April 11, PM Narendra Modi had said, "We need to move to responsible pricing, which balances the interests of both the producer and consumer." In a recent meeting with global oil experts and CEOs, which was also attended by the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Modi noted that the oil market was producer-driven and oil-producing countries determined both the quantity and prices.

The Times of India - 05.11.2018

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/oil-price-rise-making-indias-voice-count/articleshow/66504723.cms>

OPEC oil output rises to highest since 2016 despite Iran

OPEC has boosted oil production in October to the highest since 2016, a Reuters survey found, as higher output led by the United Arab Emirates and Libya more than offset a cut in Iranian shipments due to U.S. sanctions. The 15-member Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has pumped 33.31 million barrels per day this month, the survey on Wednesday found, up 390,000 bpd from September and the highest by OPEC as a group since December 2016. OPEC agreed in June to pump more oil after pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump to curb rising prices and make up for an expected shortfall in Iranian exports. Oil hit a four-year high of \$86.74 a barrel on Oct. 3 but has since eased to \$76 as concerns over tight supplies faded. "Oil producers appear to be successfully offsetting the supply outages from Iran and Venezuela," said Carsten Fritsch, analyst at Commerzbank in Frankfurt. The June pact involved OPEC, Russia and other non-members returning to 100 percent compliance with output cuts that began in January 2017, after months of underproduction in Venezuela, Angola and elsewhere had pushed adherence above 160 percent.

The Economic Times - 01.11.2018

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/opec-oil-output-rises-to-highest-since-2016-despite-iran/66454491>

Export demand buffs up leather sector

Hit by tariffs on Chinese leather imports, US companies have begun shopping in India. "US

trading around 72.83 per barrel and the rupee has surged 100 paise to close 72.45 to the dollar. "The import bill of crude oil is estimated to increase 42 per cent from \$88 billion in 2017-18 to \$125 billion in 2018-19 considering the Indian basket of crude oil price of \$77.88/barrel and dollar-rupee exchange rate of 72.22 for the remaining part of the year," the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), the oil ministry's technical arm, said in its latest report. The government had earlier estimated crude price at \$65 a barrel for the year and \$56.39 for 2017-18. During the initial estimates by the PPAC, the exchange rate for the rupee was presumed to be 65 a dollar.

The Telegraph - 05.11.2018

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/crude-import-bill-pinch/cid/1673887>

India's crude steel output grows 2% to 8.5 MT in Sep: worldsteel

India's crude steel production rose 2.1 per cent to reach 8.520 million tonnes (MT) in September 2018, global steel body worldsteel said in a report. The country had produced 8.345 MT steel during the same month last year, the World Steel Association (worldsteel) said. According to the report, India's steel output during January-September 2018 was 6.1 per cent higher at 79.660 MT, as against 75.048 MT during the corresponding period of 2017. Japan has reported a 2.4 per cent contraction in output at 8.418 MT in September 2018, compared to 8.626 MT during the same month last year. In the first nine months of 2018, Japan's steel output reported a marginal growth of 0.4 per cent to 78.615 MT from 78.266 MT in the year-ago period. China maintained its position as the world leader in crude steel production during the last month and in the January-September period of 2018. In September, China produced 80.845 MT of crude steel as against 75.199 MT, a rise of 7.5 per cent. It produced 699.424 MT steel in January-September 2018, up 6.1 per cent, from 659.425 MT it had produced in the year-ago period.

The Hindu Business Line - 29.10.2018

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-crude-steel-output-grows-2-to-85-mt-in-sep-worldsteel/article25358252.ece>

Airlines under CCI scanner for alleged fixing of airfares

importers are panicking," said Mecca Rafeeqe Ahmed, a leading exporter and founder of the Farida Group, a Chennai-based exporter of footwear. "There is one US company which is looking to buy 50 million pairs of footwear," he said, adding ruefully that India is short of capacity. "The entire country exports 135 million pairs," he said (The CLE, or Council for Leather Exports, puts the export figures at 115 million pairs.) Footwear is not yet on the list of Chinese goods on which the US has slapped a tariff — of 10 per cent, which could rise to 25 per cent on January 1, 2019. Other goods, such as handbags and wallets, are on the list, but industry insiders, such as PR Aqeel Ahmed, Vice-Chairman of CLE, said it is only a matter of time before US President Donald Trump slaps tariffs on leather footwear as well. Aqeel Ahmed also confirmed that the domestic industry is receiving more interest from US companies. "We have to grab this opportunity," he said. The industry has prepared a roadmap to raise exports from the current \$5.6 billion to \$10 billion by 2021-22. The US-China trade war has come in handy.

The Hindu Business Line - 01.11.2018

<https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu-business-line/20181101/281711205650516>

Dynamic fare for 15 trains scrapped

In a big relief for passengers ahead of the Diwali and Chhath rush, railway and coal minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday paved the way for lowering fares in Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duranto and Humsafar trains by tweaking the flexi-fare scheme. In the revised scheme, 'dynamic pricing' will be scrapped for 15 trains and suspended for the "lean months" of February, March and August for 32 others. The new plan also lowers the ceiling for dynamic pricing to 1.4 times of the last fare for the remaining 101 trains under the scheme and offers up to 20% discount on 'last-minute' bookings made up to four days before the journey. From now on, the discounts will be available on 'Humsafar' trains too. Goyal described the move as a "win-win situation" and saw passengers "availing tickets at cheaper rates" and railways witnessing a "surge in demand and occupancy". TOI had on September 14 first reported that the flexi-fare plan was being scrapped in a third of trains to wean back passengers. The 'dynamic pricing' scheme was introduced for 44 Rajdhani, 46 Shatabdi and 52 Duronto trains — all in premium super-fast category — on September 9, 2016.

The Times of India - 01.11.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2018%2F11%2F01&entity=Ar01820&sk=8337EB4B&mode=text>

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is looking at algorithms used by airlines to determine fares, as part of a detailed probe into alleged fixing of air ticket prices, according to its chief Sudhir Mital. The fair trade regulator is investigating allegations of similar pricing as well as simultaneous increase in ticket prices by airlines. The cases pertain to steep fluctuations in airfares during the Jat agitation in Haryana and floods in Chennai, among other instances, in the last few years. Mital said the CCI was currently looking into couple of cases of alleged price fixing by airlines. "We are trying to work out the pricing pattern followed by airlines. Airlines have often stated that similarity in airfares and increase in prices are an outcome of demand-based dynamic pricing by softwares used by them. Unless and until the issue is examined and looked into in detail, we cannot say much at this stage." The CCI chief said cases being looked at involved allegations of similar pricing by airlines during the Jat agitation and floods in Chennai. While the Jat agitation took place in early 2016, the floods occurred in 2015.

Mint - 01.11.2018

<https://www.livemint.com/Industry/grAMdTMl8pvq7XVvWQcepN/Airlines-under-CCI-scanner-for-alleged-fixing-of-airfares.html>

Thomas Cook India starts US operations

Travel services firm Thomas Cook India Tuesday said it has commenced operations in the US to leverage the high potential business travel segment to and from the Americas. The company has accordingly obtained ARC (Airlines Reporting Corporation) accreditation and necessary operating licences via its destination management brand Allied TPro, Thomas Cook India said in a filing to BSE. Commenting on the development, Thomas Cook India Group Global Corporate Travel President Indiver Rastogi said, "We are excited with this development that also marks the beginning of our corporate travel operations in the US - a market that offers us significant potential across business and business-leisure segments." This new initiative will enable Thomas Cook manage travel and related services for its growing customer portfolio of MNCs, Indian corporate houses, and equally SMEs travelling to and from the USA, he added. The Thomas Cook India Group provides integrated travel management and advisory services to more than 500 corporates, including several national, multinational companies and SMEs, the company said.

The Economic Times - 30.10.2018

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/travel/thomas-cook-india-starts-us-operations/articleshow/66428259.cms>

Krishnapatnam, Vizag getting cargo previously transhipped through Singapore or Colombo: Shipping Secretary

Union Shipping Secretary Gopal Krishna on Tuesday said relaxation of cabotage for foreign-registered vessels has helped reduce coastal shipping rates and Indian seaports like Krishnapatnam and Visakhapatnam are attracting a share of cargo which was previously transhipped at Singapore or Colombo. The Centre relaxed cabotage for foreign registered vessels in May. It allowed foreign liners to pick up cargo en-route. Shipping Line Maersk has already opened coastal links between Kolkata- Paradip and Kattupalli port of the Adani group in Chennai to facilitate coastal shipping. "We are getting back the cargo," Krishna said. According to him coastal shipping failed to grow due to various restrictions involving the ownership of ships, which in turn impacted the availability of ships. The cabotage relaxation has "impacted" the supply. However, to further promote the sector which would benefit consumers in terms of lower logistics cost, India should do away with the restrictions. Currently an Indian citizen cannot charter a foreign flag vessel. This policy is not helping the consumer and is preventing competition and restricting market growth," he told BusinessLine.

The Hindu Business Line - 30.10.2018

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/cabotage-relaxation-has-helped-reduce-coastal-shipping-rates/article25371959.ece>

J K Goel takes over as AAI's Executive Director (HR)

J K Goel took over the charge as Executive Director (HR), Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Thursday. Prior to his appointment as ED (HR), he has served as General Manager (HR) at Corporate Headquarters (CHQ), Delhi and at Regional Headquarters (RHQ), Eastern Region, Kolkata, AAI. He has a rich experience of handling different responsibilities at various airports like Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, Chennai Airport and NSCBI Airport, Kolkata, Industrial Relations, Employee Management, Labour Management, Talent Management are some of his strong HR traits, besides having excellent interpersonal relation skills.

Millennium Post - 02.11.2018

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/j-k-goel-takes-over-as-aais-executive-director-hr-325651>

Tough Negotiations Led to Iran Waiver

India has not only been engaged in tough negotiations to secure a waiver from US sanctions for its oil imports from Iran but has also explored mechanisms to secure its interests in the strategic Chabahar Port should Washington decide not to exempt the project from the curbs. In the backdrop of Iran's significance as a key gateway to Eurasian region, India will hold a ministerial-level meeting with Tehran and Moscow this month to implement the much-delayed International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC). ET has learnt that Indian officials held detailed discussions with the US on the one hand and with Iran-Afghanistan on the other to continue and expand its presence at Chabahar Port. The US hasn't committed to granting a waiver for the use of Chabahar port by India and Afghanistan. While the port does not yield revenue for Iran from the sale of oil, the Indian entities involved in expanding the port complex will not find it easy to function if it comes under sanctions. During the past month, India has looked at ways to safeguard its interests at Chabahar Port if no waiver is granted for the project, which is New Delhi's key gateway to Afghanistan. Kabul is also a party to the project through a trilateral mechanism.

The Economic Times - 05.11.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/Th/eEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETM%2F2018%2F11%2F05&entity=Ar00404&sk=CECCB182&mode=text>

Navin Pandey takes charge as director, T&FS at ONGC

The national energy explorer ONGC Monday said Navin Chandra Pandey assumed the charge of the director of technical and field services (T&FS). Pandey, a mechanical engineer from Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College, Allahabad, joined the oil and gas behemoth way back in 1982 and has a vast experience in the oil and gas industry. He has held various key positions in both offshore and onshore portfolios, handling challenging assignments asset management, operations and services. As operations manager of deep-water areas, he brought about significant performance improvements in deep-water drilling operations.

The Quint - 29.10.2018

<https://www.thequint.com/pti/navin-pandey-takes-charge-as-director-t-fs-at-ongc>