

(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 – 07.05.2020

Balmer post

■ **CALCUTTA:** Sandip Das has taken over as director finance of Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd and the chief financial officer with effect from May 1, 2020. He will be overseeing the finance and IT functions of the PSU.

The New Indian Express – 10.05.2020

Balmer Lawrie appoints Sandip Das as CFO

Balmer Lawrie, a PSU under the Union Ministry of Petroleum, has announced that Sandip Das has taken over as Director [Finance] and Chief Financial Officer of the company from May 1, 2020. Das, who joined the firm in May 1993, was previously Senior Vice President [Finance]. He will now oversee the Finance and IT wings of the PSU.



Aajkaal – 07.05.2020

The Indian Express – 10.05.2020

Board level appointment in Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.

Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., a Mini Ratna Category-I PSE under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, GOI, has announced an important leadership change at the Board level. Mr. Sandip Das has taken over as Director [Finance] and Chief Financial Officer with effect from 01 May 2020. Mr. Das will be overseeing the Finance and IT functions of the Company. Mr. Sandip Das, a qualified Chartered Accountant, joined Balmer Lawrie on 24th May 1993. Prior to taking over as Director, he was holding the position of Senior Vice President [Finance]. A seasoned professional with more than 30 years of experience, he has worked in core business areas in both manufacturing and services and the Corporate Finance function, during his tenure at Balmer Lawrie.

» নতুন ডিরেক্টর

ভারত সরকারের পেট্রোলিয়াম ও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস মন্ত্রকের অধীনে মিনি রত্ন কোম্পানি-১ রত্নায়ত্ত সংস্থা বামার লরির নতুন ডিরেক্টর (ফিন্যান্স) এবং চিফ ফিন্যান্সিয়াল অফিসার হিসেবে দায়িত্বভার গ্রহণ করলেন সন্দীপ দাস। ১ মে তিনি কার্যভার গ্রহণ করেছেন এবং তিনি কোম্পানির ফিন্যান্স ও আইটি কার্যাবলি দেখাবেন। সন্দীপ বাবু ১৯৯৩-র ২৪ মে বামার লরিতে যোগ দেন। ডিরেক্টর হিসেবে যোগ দেওয়ার আগে তিনি ছিলেন সংস্থার সিনিয়র ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট (ফিন্যান্স)।

बामर लॉरी के निदेशक बने संदीप दास



कोलकाता. केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की अधीनस्थ मिनी रत्न कंपनी बामर लॉरी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड में बोर्ड स्तर पर लीडरशिप में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव किया गया है. कंपनी ने वित्त विभाग के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष संदीप दास को निदेशक (वित्त) और मुख्य वित्तीय अधिकारी के पद पर नियुक्त किया है. यह आदेश 1 मई 2020 से प्रभावी होगा. कंपनी की ओर से जारी बयान के अनुसार, श्री दास कंपनी में वित्त व आईटी विभाग के कार्यकलापों को देखेंगे. जानकारी के अनुसार, श्री दास चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट हैं और उन्होंने वर्ष 1993 में बामर लॉरी कंपनी ज्वाइन की थी और तब से कंपनी में मैनुफैक्चरिंग, सर्विसिस व कॉर्पोरेट फाइनेंस सेक्टर में अपनी सेवाएं दी हैं. उनके पास कंपनी के विभिन्न विभागों में कार्य करने का 30 वर्ष से भी अधिक समय का अनुभव है.

Prabhat Khabar –
08.05.2020

<https://psuwatch.com/sandip-das-assumes-charge-as-director-finance-of-balmer-lawrie>

Nomura, Goldman expect India's GDP to contract in FY21

India's GDP growth estimate received a clutch of downgrades on Friday with Japanese investment bank Nomura and Goldman Sachs forecasting the economy to contract in FY21 due to the impact of the Covid-19 induced lockdowns, while global ratings agency Moody's Investors Services estimated zero growth for the current fiscal year. "We have cut India's 2020 (calendar year) GDP growth forecast to -5% vs -0.5% earlier. For FY21, we have lowered our forecast to -5.2% vs -0.4% earlier. The downward revision reflects extended lockdown and recent evidence that the likely hit to growth during April-June quarter will be much worse than our earlier expectation," Sonal Varma, chief economist, India and Asia (ex-Japan) of Nomura, told TOI. Normura's estimate is the sharpest cut in India's GDP growth estimate, which has ranged from 1.6% to 2% against the devastating impact of the Covid-19 and the lockdowns unveiled to combat the spread of the virus. If Nomura's forecast is realised, it would be the worst outcome since the economy contracted 5.2% in 1979-80 due to the oil shock.

The Times of India - 09.05.2020

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2020%2F05%2F09&entity=Ar01108&sk=CD90D60E&mode=text>

Economy to be in Deep Freeze: Moody's

Moody's Investors Service said India's economy will not grow in the current financial year because of the "deep shock" triggered by the coronavirus outbreak and cautioned against downside risks to growth from a further extension of the lockdown. Moody's expects a bounce-back to 6.6% growth in FY22, assuming a gradual pick-up in economic activity and demand in the second half. The rating company had predicted 2.5% growth for India in FY21 in March. It reaffirmed India's Baa2 rating with a negative outlook, indicating a credit upgrade was unlikely in the near term, as it estimated a fiscal slippage of up to two percentage points to 5.5% of GDP against the budgeted 3.5%. The economic jolt from the coronavirus outbreak will weigh significantly on growth until at least the second half of 2020, Moody's said in a ratings update released on Friday. "The shock will exacerbate an already material slowdown in economic growth," it said, adding that economic expansion will remain significantly lower than in the past. Chief economic advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian told ET earlier this week that India could grow 2% in FY21.

The Economic Times - 09.05.2020

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/ThEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2020%2F05%2F09&entity=Ar00711&sk=D14D9C9F&mode=text>

IMF's Georgieva downbeat on global economic forecast, warns against protectionism

The head of the International Monetary Fund on Friday signalled a possible downward revision of global economic forecasts, and warned the United States and China against rekindling a trade war that could weaken a recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Kristalina Georgieva, the IMF's managing director, told an online event hosted by the European University Institute that recent economic data for many countries was coming in below the fund's already pessimistic forecast for a 3% contraction in 2020. "With no immediate medical solutions, more adverse scenarios might unfortunately materialize for some economies," Georgieva said. "It is the unknown about the behaviour of this virus that is clouding the horizon for projections." The IMF's April projection for a 3% contraction the global economy would mark the steepest downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The IMF forecast a partial rebound would follow in 2021, but warned that outcomes could be far worse, depending on the course of the pandemic.

The Business World - 10.05.2020

<http://www.businessworld.in/article/IMF-s-Georgieva-Downbeat-On-Global-Economic-Forecast-Warns-Against-Protectionism/09-05-2020-191633/>

Covid blow results in steep fall in April services activity

India's services sector collapsed in April after the lockdown imposed to combat the coronavirus outbreak brought activity to a complete halt, leading to a historic spike in layoffs and reinforcing fears of a deep recession, a private survey showed on Wednesday. The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index plunged to 5.4 in April from 49.3 in March, an unprecedented contraction since the survey started over 14 years ago. "The Indian services economy posted its worst ever month-on month drop in business activity during April. The extreme slide in the headline index, which fell by over 40 points, shows us that the strict lockdown measures have led to the sector essentially grinding to a complete standstill," said Joe Hayes, an economist at IHS Markit. Highlighting that the economic damage of the pandemic has so far been "deep and far-reaching" in India, Hayes said: "Historical comparisons with GDP data suggest that India's economy contracted at an annual rate of 15% in April." However, Hayes said the hope is that the economy has endured the worst and things will begin to improve as lockdown measures are gradually lifted. The Purchasing

Factory orders shrink in April due to coronavirus lockdown

India's manufacturing activity slumped to a record low in April as business activities came to a near standstill after the Centre imposed a nationwide lockdown on 25 March to contain the spread of Covid-19, a private survey showed. The Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by IHS Markit, plunged to 27.4 last month from March's 51.8, by far its lowest since the survey began in March 2005 and it's for the first time below the 50-mark separating growth from contraction in nearly three years. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. Factory order books shrank in April amid widespread business closures. New orders fell for the first time in two-and-a-half years and at the sharpest rate in the survey's history, far outpacing the fall during the global financial crisis, the survey said. "After making it through March relatively unscathed, the Indian manufacturing sector felt the full force of the coronavirus pandemic in April," said Eliot Kerr, economist at IHS Markit.

The Telegraph - 05.05.2020

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/factory-orders-shrink-in-april-due-to-coronavirus-lockdown/cid/1770393>

India's budget gap for FY 19-20 breaches estimate on poor tax collection

India's budget gap for the year ended March 31 has touched 4.4% of gross domestic product, breaching the target set in February as an economic slowdown reduced tax collections, people with knowledge of the matter said. A revenue shortfall of 1.7 trillion rupees (\$22 billion) led to the higher deficit number, the people said, asking not to be identified as the figures are not public. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had targeted a 3.8% gap. A finance ministry spokesman declined to comment. The widest budget gap in six years means Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government might have to suspend a law meant to cap its fiscal deficit, according to Anubhuti Sahay, head of South Asia research at Standard Chartered Bank Plc. That may put the credit rating outlook for India at risk. The government had suspended it during the global financial crisis, Mumbai-based Sahay said. Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's may change their outlook to negative, she said. The slippage adds to the challenges faced by Modi, who is trying to

Managers' Index (PMI) survey, also known as Services PMI, was based on responses from about 400 service sector companies collected from April 7 to 28.

The Economic Times - 07.05.2020

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2020%2F05%2F07&entity=Ar00121&sk=BEF9D47A&mode=text>

Govt to allow cos to hold AGM through video conferencing

The government has allowed companies to conduct annual general meetings this year through video conferencing and other audio-visual means amid the coronavirus pandemic.

In the wake of the pandemic and subsequent nationwide lockdown, that have disrupted economic activities, the ministry, which is implementing the companies law, has been providing various relaxations in terms of compliances from time to time. "On account of need for continuous adherence to the social distancing norms and restrictions placed on movement of persons, it has become necessary and hence it has been decided to allow companies to hold their AGM by video conferencing or other audio visual means during the calendar year 2020," it said in a release on Tuesday. The decision by the corporate affairs ministry would come as a relief for all corporates as they are required to hold their Annual General Meetings (AGMs) within six months from the end of a financial year. For conducting the first AGM, companies have nine months from the end of a financial year. Last month, the ministry permitted companies whose financial year ended on December 31, 2019 to hold their AGMs by September 30, 2020.

News18.com - 05.05.2020

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/covid-19-crisis-govt-allows-companies-to-hold-agm-through-video-conferencing-mode-2607105.html>

Pradhan hints at new gas policy, says low oil prices no answer

With current pricing formula making natural gas production economically unviable, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday hinted at bringing in a new gas policy as well as launching a gas exchange very soon as part of reforms to promote greater use of environment-friendly fuel in the world's third-largest energy-consuming nation. Pradhan also said that India favours reasonable prices that give some space to the producer countries. "We have to have a reasonable price.

salvage growth that has ground to a halt due to a nationwide lockdown to check the spread of Covid-19.

The Economic Times - 05.05.2020

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-budget-gap-for-fy-19-20-breaches-estimate-on-poor-tax-collection/articleshow/75535547.cms?from=mdr>

India's fuel consumption dips 46 per cent in April; expected to rebound in May

India's fuel consumption fell almost 46 per cent in April as all petroleum products, except LPG, saw massive demand erosion following the nationwide lockdown that halted economic activity and travel. The demand, which showed signs of pick up in the last 10 days of April after the government allowed resumption of economic activity beyond the urban municipal limit, is likely to rebound in second half of May as more areas are opened. India's fuel consumption fell 45.8 per cent to 9.929 million tonnes in April, down from 18.32 million tonnes fuel consumed in the same month a year back, according to official data released by the petroleum ministry. Fuel consumption during March, when travel restrictions began to be imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus, stood at 16.08 million tonnes. Petrol sales were down 60.43 per cent to 9,73,000 tonnes in April. The demand for the fuel had fallen 64 per cent in first half of the month, but there was some pick up in sales after reopening of some offices brought few more vehicles back on road. Diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country, slumped 61 per cent in the first half of April, but ended the month with a 55.6 per cent fall in sales at 3.25 million tonnes.

The Economic Times - 10.05.2020

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/indias-fuel-consumption-dips-46-per-cent-in-april-expected-to-rebound-in-may/75660104>

India's fuel demand growth could return to normal by mid-May: Dharmendra Pradhan

India's fuel demand growth could return to normal levels by mid-May as the nation takes steps to end a lockdown aimed at stemming the spread of COVID-19, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, helping refiners hit by severe inventory losses. Fuel demand growth in India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, plunged to historic lows in April, provisional data shows, as the country's eight-

India is a major consumer. But at this juncture, India's viewpoint is the price should be reasonable and responsible. Very low prices are not the answer. Reasonable prices are the answer," he said. Speaking in the latest edition of the CERAWEEK Conversations series, he said, "Oil prices should give some space to the producer countries. It should be profitable for them; it should be viable for them." The transcript of his address was provided by the organiser, IHS Markit. His views come days after international oil prices plunged to USD 18.10 a barrel, its lowest since November 2001. Rates have since rebounded to around USD 30 per barrel.

The Economic Times - 08.05.2020

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/pradhan-hints-at-new-gas-policy-says-low-oil-prices-no-answer/75624123fgxgb>

Taxes now constitute 70% of petrol and diesel Prices

Taxes now comprise 70% of retail prices of petrol and diesel after Tuesday's duty hike that also cut oil companies' record-high fuel marketing margin by three-fourths. Central and state governments, starved of revenue due to a nationwide lockdown, are increasingly resorting to fuel tax hikes to capture most gains from a global oil crash that began early March, leaving little benefits to the consumers. A central excise duty hike of Rs 10 per litre on petrol and Rs 13 per litre on diesel along with an increase in value-added tax by the Delhi government took the share of taxes in retail prices to 70% in the national capital. The share would vary in other states according to the local taxes. Additional duties imposed by the Centre on Tuesday didn't raise retail prices in the country as fuel retailing companies adjusted it against their own margins that had expanded to record high. The excise duty hike of Rs 3 per litre in mid-March had also left retail prices unaffected. This is because the central government first allows state-controlled oil marketing companies to inflate marketing margins and then get them to absorb the duty hike, obviating any need for retail price changes.

The Economic Times - 07.05.2020

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2020%2F05%2F07&entity=Ar00712&sk=4CAE4D03&mode=text>

India uses low crude prices to stockpile 32 million tonnes of oil

week long lockdown hit economic and industrial activity. "Since last two week there is a gradual increase in the demand, very slow ... but we are confident by middle of May we will be moving towards the normal position. That's our calculation," Pradhan told IHS Markit's CERAWEEK conversations. Falling fuel demand has reduced crude processing by refiners, who are facing storage constraints at a time when lower cracks in overseas markets have made exports unattractive. Pradhan said the slump in global oil prices, together with falling fuel demand, would lead to inventory losses for refiners. Refiners had to defer some oil cargoes due to the fall in local demand, he added.

The Economic Times - 08.05.2020

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/indias-fuel-demand-growth-could-return-to-normal-by-mid-may-dharmendra-pradhan/75621153>

India's LNG imports jumped 18 per cent in 2019-2020

In an indication of increasing demand for natural gas in the country, India's import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) jumped 18 per cent to 33,680 Million Standard Cubic Meter (MMSCM) in 2019-2020, as weaker global prices of LNG prompted the local industry to consume more, data analysed by ETEnergyWorld showed. Despite higher volumes, the LNG import bill witnessed a decline last fiscal indicating a sustained weakness in global LNG prices. According to data published by Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), the country's LNG import declined 8 per cent to \$9.5 billion in 2019-2020. According to analysts many refiners, gas marketing companies and gas-based power plant operators aggressively grabbed distressed LNG cargoes during the first quarter of 2020 in anticipation of robust natural gas demand. All the major sectors which consume imported LNG witnessed a major jump in demand last financial year. Data showed LNG imports by the power sector increased 26 per cent to 3,595 MMSCM. Spot LNG imports by gas-based power plants peaked at 10.63 Million Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD) in March 2020, the highest for 2019-2020.

The Economic Times - 08.05.2020

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/indias-lng-imports-jumped-18-per-cent-in-2019-2020/75626804>

Petrol, diesel prices may rise again after daily price revision restarts

India has stored as much as 32 million tonnes (mt) of oil in underground storages, tanks, pipelines and on ships to create a stockpile using low global oil prices to its advantage, petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday. India is the world's third-biggest oil importer and is reliant on foreign nations to meet 85 per cent of its oil needs. In a Facebook talk on mitigating challenge in times of COVID-19, Pradhan said globally oil demand has evaporated due to lockdowns imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus. "This is an unprecedented situation in the energy sector. Such a situation hasn't been witnessed ever before." This has led to a crash in oil prices, with crude in the US market even slipping into negative territory, he said. India is, however, using this crash to its advantage by stocking oil for use at later date. "Taking advantage of low global oil prices, we decided to fill up our strategic reserves," he said. The purchases from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Iraq helped fill up the 5.33 million tonnes underground strategic reserves that India had built as insurance against supply and price disruptions.

The Times of India - 05.05.2020

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-uses-low-crude-prices-to-stockpile-32-million-tonnes-of-oil/articleshow/75537730.cms>

ONGC, OIL earnings to decline, credit metrics weaken due to lower oil prices: Moody's

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd are likely to see earnings decline and credit metrics weaken due to fall in oil prices, Moody's Investors Service said on Thursday. ONGC and OIL get rates equivalent to those prevalent in the international markets. Oil prices in the international markets last month slumped to a two-decade low of USD 18 per barrel before rebounding by some measure. In addition to the decline in oil prices, ONGC and OIL also face a reduction in government-regulated prices for the natural gas they produce. "We expect ONGC's earnings to decline and its credit metrics to weaken because of lower oil prices over the next 12-18 months," Moody's said in a report on Asian national oil and gas companies. Although ONGC is an integrated oil and gas company, its downstream segment contributed only about 30 per cent of its consolidated EBITDA for the year ended March 31, 2019 (fiscal 2019). Crude oil, which accounted for about half of its total production, contributed nearly 80 per cent of its upstream revenue in FY19.

The Economic Times - 07.05.2020

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/ongc-oil-earnings-to-decline->

Amid COVID-19 disruption fuel consumers could further face the heat from rising fuel prices with public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) bracing up to restart daily price revision of the retail price of petrol and diesel later this month. Sources in OMCs said the daily price revision of auto fuels may start again once the lockdown is lifted or more relaxations are announced by the government later in the month. However, no decision has been taken on it now. If this happens, petrol and diesel prices can start rising again every day as global oil market has also studied gaining more than 50 per cent over last months prices to around \$ 30 a barrel now. "Petrol and diesel prices have not been revised since March 16 (it went up in Delhi on May 5 only after state government raised VAT) and that gave cushion to the government to steeply raise excise duty on the two products without impacting their retail prices. But that cushion is no longer there now and once daily price revision plan starts, auto fuel could see steep rise over the course of few days," said an official of a public sector OMC asking not to be named.

The Economic Times - 11.05.2020

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/petrol-diesel-prices-may-rise-again-after-daily-price-revision-restarts/75670670>

In a gloomy oil market, India's pump prices echo \$100-plus crude

Crude oil has plummeted to about \$30 a barrel from \$115 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi first came to power six years ago, but Indian consumers are yet to enjoy the benefits of the plunge. Modi's administration has repeatedly raised taxes on fuel to cushion worsening public finances. Diesel in the country's capital now costs 20 per cent more than it did in 2014, with levies accounting for nearly half the retail price, while gasoline is roughly priced the same as under Modi's predecessor. Higher prices help avoid unnecessary use of the polluting fuel, authorities have said in the past. But, as consumption takes a dangerous dip amid the coronavirus lockdown, reducing costs could have helped citizens -- from factory owners to farmers -- at a time when millions have lost their jobs and are living on handouts from the government or the charity of neighbours. The latest increase came close to midnight on Tuesday, when the central government imposed an additional levy of Rs 13 per litre on diesel and Rs 10 on gasoline. Pump prices will, however, not change, the government said.

The Economic Times - 07.05.2020

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/in-a-gloomy-oil-market-indias-pump-prices-echo-100-plus-crude/75592665>

[credit-metrics-weaken-due-to-lower-oil-prices-moodys/75598212](https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/oil-marketing-companies-shares-trim-most-of-sharp-early-losses/75592889)

Oil marketing companies' shares trim most of sharp early losses

Shares of oil marketing companies -- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd -- on Wednesday trimmed most of their early losses at close of trade after plunging up to 13 per cent during the day after hike in excise duty on petrol and diesel. Shares of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) settled 5.68 per cent lower, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) slumped 2.73 per cent and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) fell 0.94 per cent on the BSE. During the day, HPCL tanked 13 per cent, Bharat Petroleum 9.99 per cent and Indian Oil 7.49 per cent. Late on Tuesday evening, the government hiked excise duty on petrol by Rs 10 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 13 a litre to mop up gains arising from international oil prices falling to a two-decade low. The government will gain close to Rs 1.6 lakh crore in additional revenues this fiscal from a record increase in excise duty on petrol and diesel, that will help make up for revenue it lost in a slowing economy and shutting down of businesses due to COVID-19 led lockdown.

The Economic Times - 07.05.2020

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/oil-marketing-companies-shares-trim-most-of-sharp-early-losses/75592889>

The downside of saving consumers from oil price hikes

Economic reforms have moved slowly in India, and not moved at all in the oil sector. While several segments, like insurance, have been freed from government interference, restrictions remain for oil. The goods and services tax (GST), touted as the mother of all reforms, also bypassed this segment. To understand the plight of the oil sector, one needs to take a closer look at the reform efforts there. The first stage of oil reform was supposed to start from 1 April 2002 —the date on which the government promised to abolish administrated pricing mechanism (APM) and allow oil companies to decide retail prices based on market dynamics. However, the government did not allow oil marketing companies (OMCs) to do this till 2007 due to the jump in international crude prices. OMCs reported heavy losses during this period because they were forced to buy crude at higher prices, refine it and sell finished products at lower prices. While the government reimbursed a part of this loss to PSU OMCs in the form of

Investors search for bargains in energy sector minefield

Investors are rummaging through battered energy stocks to play a potential rebound in oil prices, just weeks after crude futures traded below zero for the first time ever. It's a high-stakes game. The months-long plunge in oil has dragged valuations in the sector to their lowest levels in decades, according to some measures, raising companies' allure to bargain hunters. Yet bankruptcies in the oil patch are expected to grow, and choosing the wrong stock could leave a portfolio with outsized losses. "There is so much value there," said Hugo Rogers, chief investment officer at private bank Deltec International Group. "But you have to know what you're doing." Energy stocks have consistently underperformed over the last decade, even as US crude oil production reached an all-time high of nearly 13 million barrels per day. A worldwide economic slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic further pounded oil prices that were already in decline after top exporter Saudi Arabia and its allies flooded the market with record levels of supply.

The Economic Times - 11.05.2020

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/analysis-investors-search-for-bargains-in-energy-sector-minefield/75669144>

Steel majors bank on exports to offset low domestic demand

Domestic steelmakers are relying on exports to offset low demand at home in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak. Tata Steel and Jindal Steel & Power are exporting 75-90% of their production, while JSW Steel is looking at shipping out somewhere around 20-30%. In addition to traditional markets like Southeast Asia and the Middle East, China has emerged as a significant importer of semi-finished steel items as mills in that country ramp up production. Exports are now likely to come down as India gradually eases the lockdown restrictions. Tata Steel said it was focusing on exports which accounted for a significant share of its production in this period. In April, for instance, Tata Steel sold 80-90% of its production in export markets, global chief executive TV Narendran told ET. "The proportion of exports will come down over next few months as domestic demand revives," he added. India exported 11 million tonnes of steel

subsidies, the same was denied to private sector companies. Oil marketing became unviable for the private sector and most retail outlets started by companies like Reliance Petroleum, Essar Oil, etc were forced to shut shop. Upstream PSUs like ONGC, Oil India, etc also suffered as these had to bear a part of the subsidy.

The Economic Times - 11.05.2020

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/the-downside-of-saving-consumers-from-oil-price-hikes/75667327>

India's tourism & hospitality sector faces ₹10L-Crore Business Risk

The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) — the policy federation of all the national associations representing the tourism, travel and hospitality industry of India — has doubled its estimate on Indian tourism's economic value at risk due to Covid-19 to ₹10 lakh crore. The federation presented the revised guidance during a meeting on Monday with the Empowered Group-6 (EG-6), an inter-ministerial panel set up by the government and headed by Niti Aayog chief executive Amitabh Kant. The earlier estimate was given to the government in March. The federation now believes the value at risk could go as high as ₹10 lakh crore given the way tourism supply chains are breaking down across all its key inbound, domestic and outbound markets. While the government has allowed reopening of several industries in the third phase of the lockdown, hospitality services including hotels and restaurants remain prohibited. The direct and indirect economic impact of the pandemic and the lockdown on the tourism industry in India is estimated at about 10% of India's GDP. This roughly puts the full-year economic multiplier value of tourism in India at almost ₹20 lakh crore, FAITH said.

The Economic Times - 06.05.2020

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2020%2F05%2F06&entity=Ar00410&sk=79FBF908&mode=text>

Sanjeeb Kumar (IRAS) assumes charge as Director (Finance) of RVNL

Sanjeeb Kumar (IRAS) has assumed charge as Director (Finance) of Rail Vikash Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Miniratna PSU under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways, on Wednesday. Prior to this assignment, he was working as Executive Director (Finance/PPP) in the Ministry of Railways. He has been appointed on the post of Director (Finance) of RVNL with effect from May 6, till the date of his superannuation or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Kumar has also been nominated as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the company on the same day. This information has been shared by the Rail PSU in a regulatory filing to the stock exchange on Wednesday.

PSU Watch - 06.05.2020

<https://psuwatch.com/sanjeeb-kumar-iras-assumes-charge-as-director-finance-of-rvnl>

in 2019. Steel items like rebars, hot-rolled coils, slabs and billets are exported from India. "There is an opportunity. China is importing steel. Japan, Korea had shut blast furnaces. As a result, their captive markets such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia are countries that are importing steel," a senior executive at JSW Steel said.

The Economic Times - 07.05.2020

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2020%2F05%2F07&entity=Ar00407&sk=6AE93C8B&mode=text>

GAIL's CMD Manoj Jain gets additional charge of Mahanagar Gas Ltd

CMD of Gail India Limited (GAIL), a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Manoj Jain has been appointed as Chairman on the Board of Mahanagar Gas Limited. The decision has been taken by Mahanagar Gas Limited's promoter company GAIL, upon Dr Ashutosh Karnatak, who ceased to be Chairman and Non-Executive Director of the company. The appointment of Jain shall be effective post-approval of its board of Mahanagar Gas Limited. The company is taking necessary action in this regard. This information has been shared by the Mahanagar Gas Limited during a regulatory filing to the stock exchange on Thursday.

PSU Watch - 07.05.2020

<https://psuwatch.com/gail-cmd-manoj-jain-additional-charge-of-mahanagar-gas-ltd>

