

(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

Business Standard – 17.08.2017

### Balmer Lawrie wins Hindi Award



Balmer Lawrie received the "Rajbhasha Award" for best performance in official language implementation during the 'TOLIC (PSUs) - Kolkata' half-yearly meet held on 12th August at Kolkata. The award was given away by Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Bihar, Shri Keshri Nath Tripathi to Shri Prabal Basu, C&MD, Balmer Lawrie.

The Hindu Business Line – 18.08.2017

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## बामर लॉरी ने जीता राजभाषा पुरस्कार

कोलकाता. नगर राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति (उपक्रम) कोलकाता की छमाही



बैठक सह राजभाषा समारोह में राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन के क्षेत्र में श्रेष्ठ निष्पादन के लिए बामर लॉरी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड, कोलकाता को "राजभाषा पुरस्कार" से सम्मानित किया गया. पश्चिम बंगाल के राज्यपाल केशरी नाथ त्रिपाठी के हाथों

से कंपनी के अध्यक्ष व प्रबंध निदेशक प्रबाल बसु ने पुरस्कार ग्रहण किया.

Prabhat Khabar – 17.08.2017

Aajkaal – 20.08.2017



‘রাজভাষা পুরস্কার’ বামার লরিকে। হিন্দি ভাষার প্রসারে উল্লেখযোগ্য অবদানের জন্য। বামার লরির সিএমডি প্রবাল বসুর হাতে পুরস্কার তুলে দেন রাজ্যপাল কেশরীনাথ ত্রিপাঠী।

### **PSUs' overwhelming presence holding back Indian economy: Ruchir Sharma**

The overwhelming presence of public sector is holding back the Indian economy, Morgan Stanley's Ruchir Sharma said today. Citing the example of Indian banks, Sharma said the public sector's share in the banking industry is two-thirds, which is way above the average of one-third in the emerging markets. "In India, the state remains meddlesome. The public sector's presence in the economy is overwhelming, which is holding back the Indian economy," he said. The head of Emerging Markets and Chief Global Strategist at Morgan Stanley Investment Management said while delivering a lecture on leadership organised by FICCI to commemorate its 90th anniversary. Sharma, a well-known author, outlined 10 rules that need to be assessed over a period of five years to determine an economy's current and future outlook. These parameters are what he describes as politics, role of state, income inequalities, concentration of wealth from a geographical standpoint, investment, inflation, exchange rate, kiss of debt, demographics and curse of the cover story.

*The Economic Times - 16.08.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/psus-overwhelming-presence-holding-back-indian-economy-ruchir-sharma/articleshow/60090692.cms>

### **Exports growth in July slowest in 8 months**

India's export growth slowed to eight-month low of 3.9% in July, while the trade deficit widened to

### **India's real GDP growth to average at 7.4% over 2017, 2018: Deutsche Bank**

India's growth momentum will get stronger with revival in private investment cycle and real GDP growth is expected to average at about 7.4 per cent over 2017 and 2018, says a Deutsche Bank report. It also termed as 'faulty' the argument that a 7.5-8 per cent real GDP growth in the next few years will still be lower than what was achieved in the boom period of 2006-2008. It said the global economy post the 2008 global financial crisis (GFC) has adjusted to a new-normal of low-growth low-inflation environment, and India's growth achievement should therefore be judged taking this structural shift into consideration. "In the current new normal, an economy which delivers a steady 7.5-8.0 per cent growth in real terms should be comparable to 9-10 per cent growth in the pre-GFC period, in our view," it added. According to the global financial services major, the country's growth momentum will only get stronger as private investment cycle starts reviving gradually, along with continuation of strong private consumption.

*The Economic Times - 15.08.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indias-real-gdp-growth-to-average-at-7-4-over-2017-2018-deutsche-bank/articleshow/60069795.cms>

### **India Inc's Weak June Quarter may Point to More Pain Ahead**

The weaker-than-expected earnings by companies in the June quarter may be a

\$11.4 billion on account of high gold imports, official data released on Monday showed. The country's overseas shipments aggregated at \$22.5 billion in July 2017 against that of \$21.7 billion in the same month of last year, showing a growth rate of 3.9%. It is the lowest export growth since November 2016 when shipments had expanded by 2.3%. Thereafter, the growth rate had risen to 27.6% in March before it began to decelerate. A contraction in export of pharmaceuticals, gems & jewellery and ready-made garments hit the overall export growth in July. Import rose by 15.4% to \$34 billion in July from \$29.5 billion in the year-ago month due to rise in inward shipments of crude oil and gold. Gold imports increased by 95% to \$2.1 billion in July against \$1.1 billion in the same month last year. Trade deficit narrowed when compared to the previous month. In June, the gap stood at \$12.9 billion. In July it was lowest in five months.

*The Times of India - 15.08.2017*

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31812&articlexml=Exports-growth-in-July-lowest-in-8-months-15082017018017>

### **Retail, wholesale inflation inch up, rate cut hopes fade**

Retail inflation gathered momentum in July, rising for the first time in four months as pace of sharp decline in food prices in previous months moderated, prompting economists to say that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may not cut interest rates in the rest of the year as price pressures rise. Data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Monday showed retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), rose an annual 2.4% in July, faster than the record low of 1.5% in June. The June number was the lowest since CSO started publishing the new retail inflation data in 2012. Separate data showed the annual rate of inflation, based on the monthly wholesale price index, stood at 1.9% in July compared to 0.9% for the previous month and 0.6% during corresponding month of the previous year. The increase in WPI inflation was largely led by vegetables, minerals and some food items. Vegetable prices rose an annual 22% while mineral prices shot up 25%. Robust monsoon rains are expected to have a sobering impact on prices but floods in some parts may put some temporary strains on supplies.

*The Times of India - 15.08.2017*

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31812&articlexml=Retail-wholesale-inflation-inch-up-rate-cut-hopes-15082017017022>

harbinger of further earnings downgrades in the foreseeable future. Companies have warned investors and analysts of more weakness in earnings as the impact of demonetisation and Goods and Service Tax (GST) may defer earnings recovery by a few more quarters. "Earnings recovery has been delayed to few quarters by demonetisation and GST. Now it could take 3-4 quarters for companies to cope with these changes," said Raamdeo Agrawal, managing director, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. "Till then, the pain and downgrades will continue, but market will discount the recovery at least two quarters in advance." Several companies in the materials, consumer discretionary and consumer staple sectors were weighed down by the impact of GST in the June quarter results. These companies have warned further weakness is likely in the coming quarters.

*The Economic Times - 21.08.2017*

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31817&articlexml=India-Incs-Weak-June-Quarter-may-Point-to-21082017010024>

### **Government to appoint advisors for stake sale in four PSUs soon**

The government is in advanced stage to appoint advisors for proposed strategic sales in state-run firms such as Scooters India, BEML, Pawan Hans Ltd and Hindustan Prefab, to divest its entire or partial stakes to private sector players, a senior official said. "In all cases we will soon appoint advisors who will help to identify and select specialised professional intermediaries required for the transaction," the official said. The pursuance of strategic sale adds to the government's government's reform policy, said a finance ministry official. "We have a comprehensive strategy," he said. "The focus is not on the amount but to bring more professionalism in the newly listed firms and increase value for the stakeholders." The finance official said the government has initiated several economic reforms, including the Bankruptcy Code, to help professionalise all these firms in different sectors. "We expect that by 2022 these firms will already be extracting the full benefits of these reforms and giving the investors unprecedented benefits," he said.

*The Economic Times - 16.08.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/advisors-for-stake-sale-in-4-psus-soon/articleshow/60078103.cms>



## Centre aims big on strategic sales

After slow progress over the past two years regarding privatising state-owned companies, the government is looking to speed up the process of 'strategic disinvestment'. On Wednesday, the Cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) approved the setting up of a high-powered committee of ministers that will shorten the time taken from identification of a company to its final sale. The committee, dubbed an 'alternative mechanism', will consist of Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, and the minister of the administrative department whose company has been earmarked for strategic sale. Senior government officials told Business Standard that the alternative mechanism could enable the Centre to increase the quantum of strategic sales by simply cutting down the number of times the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has to approach the Cabinet for any particular sale. "The final decision on the privatisation and approving the buyer rests with the CCEA.

*Business Standard - 20.08.2017*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/why-the-modi-government-is-aiming-big-on-privatisation-117081800324\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/why-the-modi-government-is-aiming-big-on-privatisation-117081800324_1.html)

## India seeks to diversify oil imports

Indian Oil Corporation placed India's first ever shale oil order two days ago with the U.S., according to company Chairman Sanjiv Singh, who said that the prices from the U.S. were very competitive even when compared with those from Gulf nations. Speaking after his meeting with Turkmenistan Deputy Prime Minister Rashid Meredov in New Delhi on August 14, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that, regardless of the current tensions between India and China on the border, China was showing keen interest in maintaining business relations between the two countries. Mr. Pradhan added that the increasing oil imports from new sources such as the U.S. was also putting pressure on OPEC countries to reduce the 'Asian premium' on oil prices they charge Asian countries, including India. "Two days ago, we gave the first shale oil order, the first time shale oil will come to India," Mr. Singh said, also speaking following the meeting between the two ministers.

*The Hindu - 17.08.2017*

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/india-seeks-to-diversify-oil-imports/article19504225.ece>

## Double drill for mega oil PSU merger

The ONGC-HPCL merger will be a two-stage process: first, the state-owned explorer will acquire the refiner and, in the second step, the downstream subsidiaries of ONGC will be merged. "The move is to take one step at a time and not jumble up the process. The two-step process will help in a smooth transaction of the merger," a senior oil ministry official said. The two subsidiaries of ONGC are MRPL and OPaL. HPCL has a 16.96 per cent stake in MRPL, in which ONGC holds 71.63 per cent. ONGC has a 49.36 per cent stake in OPaL with GAIL holding 49.21 per cent. They said the move was aimed at consolidating ONGC's downstream operations, leaving it free to focus on exploration and production. HPCL will look after refining and marketing. HPCL has 24.8 million tonnes per annum of refining capacity. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) - a subsidiary of ONGC - has a capacity of 15 million tonnes (mt). After the deal, HPCL will have 40mt capacity, the third-largest in the country after Indian Oil Corp (IOC) at 69.2mt and Reliance Industries at 62mt.

*The Telegraph - 21.08.2017*

[https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170821/jsp/business/story\\_168278.jsp](https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170821/jsp/business/story_168278.jsp)

## Lower production costs help upstream oil, gas companies tide over depressed crude prices

Despite crude oil and natural gas prices remaining range bound, technological enhancements and lower production costs have come to the rescue of upstream oil and gas companies, according to industry players and analysts. The changed nature and composition of upstream oil and gas operators have also brought down the cost of production, according to domestic companies. Managing Director and CEO of Petronet LNG, Prabhat Singh said, "After the shale revolution, there are people who are ready to produce at operating profit only. And there are smaller players who are drilling in their backyard on shoe string budgets, utilising the unutilised rigs in their garages so everything has become very low cost now. And therefore a molecule that used to cost x dollars for production has become as cheap as 0.1 x. So the price of gas to rise is actually a very tough now." The depressed price of hydrocarbons has led to reduced domestic production costs too.

*The Hindu Business Line - 18.08.2017*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/lower-production-costs-help-upstream-oil->

## **Selling LEDs at petrol pumps a major step in boosting oil companies' non-fuel retail business: Pradhan**

The government's latest move to make LED bulbs and other energy-efficient appliances available for sale at petrol pumps will give a major fillip to oil companies' business arising from segments other than fuel retail, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan said. The retail fuel outlets of Oil Marketing Companies witness a total footfall of over 35 million every day. "In order to take advantage of this to enhance the non-fuel retail energy business, LED bulbs and other energy efficient appliances from EESL will be sold at ROs. The Ministry had recently taken the decision on daily pricing of fuel to prevent huge distortions in margins in the retail business. This step of selling LED bulbs will also help in the margins of retail outlets," Pradhan said. The minister was speaking at a ceremony marking an initial pact between the three OMCs – Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL) – and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) under the power ministry for selling of LED bulbs and other energy-efficient appliances at over 55,000 pumps across the country.

*The Economic Times - 17.08.2017*

<http://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/selling-leds-at-petrol-pumps-a-major-step-in-boosting-oil-companies-non-fuel-retail-business-pradhan/60088932>

## **Non-oil exports continue to decline sequentially**

Non-oil exports have declined every month of the current financial year, falling by 15.04 per cent in April, 1.10 per cent in May, 2.67 per cent in June and 6.47 per cent in July, based on calculations of figures released by the commerce ministry. While month-on-month calculations run the risk of not taking into account changing production cycles in trade for different commodities, it shows that in July, major export sectors were depressed. Non-oil exports have contracted, month-on-month, since April. Exports of petroleum and related products have been rising in the first four months of 2017-18. Non-oil exports have declined every month of the current financial year (FY18), falling by 15.04 per cent in April, 1.10 per cent in May, 2.67 per cent in June and 6.47 per cent in July, based on calculations of figures released by the commerce ministry. While month-on-month calculations run the risk of not taking into account changing production cycles in trade for different commodities, it shows that in July – the first

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*The Hindu - 17.08.2017*

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/india-seeks-to-diversify-oil-imports/article19504225.ece>

## **Diesel, LPG imports swell despite high refining capacity**

India is slowly becoming a big importer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG or cooking gas) and diesel. In 2016-17, the import of LPG increased by 23.5 per cent, while that of diesel zoomed 463 per cent compared to the previous year, raising eyebrows among industry experts. In the current financial year (from April 1), the country imported 915,000 tonnes of diesel in the first quarter itself, as against 997,000 tonnes in all of 2016-17 and 177,000 tonnes in 2015-16. While the rise in LPG import is mainly because of an increase in consumption through pro-poor schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), officials claim the rise in diesel import is mainly due to the implementation of BS-IV emission grade automobile fuels from April 1. "The rise in import in the year's first quarter is a temporary arrangement in the case of diesel," S Jeyakrishnan, director, marketing, of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, told

month after the goods and services tax (GST) was rolled out — major export sectors were depressed.

*Business Standard - 17.08.2017*

<https://www.pressreader.com/india/business-standard/20170817/281573765805390>

### **India's fuel demand grows 1% in July**

India's fuel demand grew by over 1% in July as consumption of diesel and petrol rose, government data showed. Fuel consumption in July totalled 15.8 million tonnes as compared to 15.63 million tonnes in the same month of 2016, data from the petroleum planning and analysis cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed. The growth was higher than the 0.4% recorded in June when consumption of industrial fuel had dipped. Oil demand has been erratic in 2017-18 so far—growing by 6.1% in May and 2.4% in April. For July, diesel sales were up 8.5% at 6.3 million tonnes while petrol consumption was up 11.6% at 2.14 million tonnes. With a record number of free cooking gas connections being doled out, LPG sales were up 12.5% to 1.92 million tonnes. Since launch of the scheme to provide free liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections to women of poor households in May 2016, more than 2.6 crore connections have been given. Naphtha sales fell 30% to 833,000 tonnes. Consumption of bitumen, used for making roads, also dipped 8% to 255,000 tonnes.

*Mint - 14.08.2017*

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/o1LKNvL8YKNGB9POGrdhLP/Indias-fuel-demand-grows-1-in-July.html>

### **IOC eyes global expansion of lubricants business**

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) has set an ambitious target to explore overseas markets for its lubricant business by increasing its presence in 27 countries currently to about 50 countries in the next decade, informed a senior company official here. The company looks to explore markets in the North America and Canada region. "Servo is the top lubricant oil brand in India and we are exploring market opportunity in Canada and North America in two to three years for our lubricant business," said K L Murthy, Executive Director – Lubes at IOC. He added that even after liberalisation of the energy sector in 1992, IOC remains India's largest lubricant player with 26 per cent market share under its flagship Servo

Business Standard. The company feels with 20 mn additional connections through PMUY in 2017-18, LPG import might further increase.

*Business Standard - 17.08.2017*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/diesel-imports-rise-23-5-lpg-up-more-than-5-fold-in-fy17-117081601079\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/diesel-imports-rise-23-5-lpg-up-more-than-5-fold-in-fy17-117081601079_1.html)

### **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley asks states to cut VAT on natural gas, other fuel**

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has written to state chief ministers seeking a cut in sales tax or VAT on fuels like natural gas that have been kept out of the GST but are used as inputs for goods that come under the new indirect tax regime. Crude oil, petrol, diesel, natural gas and jet fuel (ATF) have been kept out of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) which kicked in from July, replacing over a dozen central and state levies like central excise, service tax and VAT with a single uniform levy. "The letter by Finance Minister highlights a concern being raised by the manufacturing sector in the country regarding the rise in input costs of petroleum products happening on account of transition to GST regime," an official statement said here. Inputs like natural gas are used for power generation as well as in manufacturing fertiliser, petrochemicals and a variety of products like glass. Crude oil is used to make petrol and diesel as also kerosene, LPG and industrial fuels like naphtha, fuel oil and bitumen.

*The Economic Times - 19.08.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/finance-minister-arun-jaitley-asks-states-to-cut-vat-on-natural-gas-other-fuel/articleshow/60116274.cms>

### **Policy in the works to assure crude oil business for local ship-owners**

Coming to the rescue of domestic ship-owners hit by a dip in business, the Centre is likely to ask public sector oil refiners to extend long-term crude shipment contracts to them. Multiple sources told BusinessLine a policy is being worked out at the behest of the Prime Ministers' Office, which will enable domestic shipping companies to have a larger say in acquiring committed business from PSU refiners Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. The volume of business involved can be assessed from the fact that almost 80 per cent of India's crude requirements are met through imports.

brand. Murthy further stated that IOC will expand its presence from the current 27 countries mostly in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and SAARC countries to 50 countries in the next 10 years. From its lubricant production capacity of over 400,000 tonnes per annum, the company exports nearly 3 per cent, and aims to increase the share of exports to 10 per cent in the next five years.

*The Hindu Business Line - 19.08.2017*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/ioc-eyes-global-expansion-for-its-lubes-business/article9822842.ece>

### **Steel makers' earnings to be steady, says Moody's**

Indian steel makers' earnings will be stable or rise in the next 12 months on the back of rising domestic demand and protectionist measures, Moody's Investors Service said today. The rating agency said that it has changed the outlook for Asian steel industry to stable from negative on expectation that profitability will remain steady. "We expect operating conditions in India to be the most supportive among major steel-producing Asian countries." The earnings of the two rated Indian steel companies will remain steady (JSW Steel) or increase significantly (Tata Steel) during the coming 12 months, owing to robust domestic demand and protectionist measures," the rating agency said in a statement. It said Indian steel makers' earnings will be stable or rise in the next 12 months amid the country's rising demand and its protectionist measures. This expectation comes despite an increase in raw material prices and higher production volumes arising from new capacity additions, it added. Healthy GDP growth of 7.5-7.8 per cent during 2017 and 2018 as well as the Indian government's measures related to fiscal stimulus and rising infrastructure spending will underpin the demand, the statement said.

*Deccan Chronicle - 18.08.2017*

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/business/economy/170817/indian-steel-makers-earnings-to-be-steady-moodys.html>

### **Private airlines ask for more money to fly heavy**

Passengers on domestic flights will now have to shell out more for excess baggage on private airlines, as the Delhi High Court today quashed a Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) order limiting excess baggage charges to Rs 100 a kilogram till 20 kg. Passengers could carry up to 15 kg of check-in baggage free of cost on private

According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell snapshot of Indian oil and gas data for June 2017, the crude oil import bill is estimated to increase 23 per cent from \$70 billion in FY17 to \$86 billion in FY18, taking the price at which Indian refiners buy crude at \$55 a barrel, and the rupee at 65 versus the dollar. Though PSU refiners have been allowed to source crude oil from the spot market, the ratio is still tilted towards long-term purchases.

*The Hindu Business Line - 19.08.2017*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/policy-in-the-works-to-assure-crude-oil-business-for-local-shipowners/article9823117.ece>

### **Finished steel exports surge 64% in July y-o-y, imports up 42%**

Finished steel export jumped by 64.2 per cent to 0.770 million tonne (mt) in July compared to 0.469 mt in the same month last year, says a report. Import of finished steel also shot up by 42.2 per cent at 0.798 mt in July this year compared to 0.561 mt in the same month last year, the report said. "India was a net importer of total finished steel in July 2017 but maintained its net exporter status for the cumulative period, i.e. During April-July 2017," it said. During April-July 2017, export of total finished steel was up by 65.5 per cent at 2.807 mt compared to 1.696 mt during the same period of last fiscal, the report by Joint Plant Committee (JPC), which collects data on iron and steel industry in the country, said. Import of total finished steel at 2.505 MT in April-July 2017 was up by 4.7 per cent as compared to 2.393 MT in the year-ago period, it added. The consumption of total finished steel grew 3.7 per cent to 6.905 mt in July 2017 over 6.660 mt in July last year. However, the overall consumption was down 4.2 per cent in July as compared to 7.210 mt in June 2017, the report said.

*Business Standard - 21.08.2017*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/finished-steel-exports-surge-64-in-july-y-o-y-imports-up-42-117082000195\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/finished-steel-exports-surge-64-in-july-y-o-y-imports-up-42-117082000195_1.html)

### **After SpiceJet, IndiGo also hikes excess baggage fee for domestic flyers**

India's largest domestic airline, IndiGo, has hiked its excess baggage charges for domestic flyers checking-in more than 15 kg. Pre-booking five kg extra to check 20 kg in all will cost Rs 1,425, up from Rs 500 earlier. Similarly, pre-booking 10 kg; 15 kg and 30 kg (over and above the allowed 15kg) will now



airlines. Government-owned Air India, however, allow passengers to fly with 25 kg of free check-in luggage. Agencies today reported that Justice Vibhu Bakhru set aside the DGCA's June 10, 2016, circular according to which private airlines had been allowed to charge Rs 100 per extra kg till 20 kg as against their earlier rates, ranging from Rs 220 to Rs 350. Airline sources told ET that the airlines would definitely increase charges to earlier levels. "Good news for the day. The Delhi High Court allowed FIA's Writ Petition filed against DGCA challenging the circular wherein DGCA directed the airlines to charge a consolidate rate of Rs 100/-on excess baggage from 15kg to 20kg.

*The Economic Times - 18.08.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/private-airlines-ask-for-more-money-to-fly-heavy/articleshow/60093886.cms>

### **Indian Carriers Flew 12.43% More Passengers in July**

Indian carriers flew 12.43% more passengers during July, proving airline body International Airline Transport Association (IATA) wrong that had predicted the Indian aviation market's double-digit growth to end in June. During July, which is traditionally a lean month for airlines in India, Indian carriers together carried about 9.6 million passengers, registering about 12.43% growth over 8.5 million passengers carried during the same month last year. IATA had said that the slowdown in the country's aviation growth started post demonetisation and passenger growth will fall to single digit from July. Among load factors, SpiceJet continued its dominant position for 28 months in a row by flying 94.4% of its flights full, followed by AirAsia India that flew planes with 88.4% of its seats full. These two low-fare carriers were followed by a full-service carrier Vistara which flew its planes with 84.6% seats full. IndiGo maintained its lead in the market share and on the on-time performance front.

*The Economic Times - 19.08.2017*

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31817&articlexml=Indian-Carriers-Flew-1243-More-Passengers-in-July-19082017004023>

### **Freight carriers asked to cut cargo-handling cost**

Calls are getting louder for freight carriers to immediately lower cargo-handling rates after the GST overnight removed interstate check posts and octroi gates, speeding up goods movement across India. Any tangible reduction in costs may,

cost Rs 2,850; Rs 4,275 and Rs 8,550, respectively. Those not pre-booking excess baggage will pay Rs 300 per kg for each kilo beyond the allowed 15 kg. IndiGo, which controls 40 per cent of domestic market share, hike is similar to the increase in baggage charges implemented by SpiceJet from Friday. The two airlines together account for 53 per cent of domestic market share. Other airlines are also expected to hike their baggage charges as the Delhi High Court had this Wednesday set aside a Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) order that capped excess baggage charge at Rs 100 per kg for each extra kilo between 15 kg and 20 kg.

*The Times of India - 20.08.2017*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/after-spicejet-indigo-also-hikes-excess-baggage-fee-for-domestic-flyers/articleshow/60132355.cms>

### **As Indians Set Sail, Cruise Travel Registers Strong Growth**

Cruises, once considered the preserve of the rich and the famous, are gaining in popularity with Indians and the business is all set to expand in the country. Service providers said growth in demand for cruise tourism from Indian travellers over the past year has been significant and they expect a further jump in bookings this year. While the business consists largely of Indians sailing overseas, the government plans to promote cruises by developing domestic sailing hubs. TIRUN Travel Marketing, the exclusive India representative of Royal Caribbean Cruises, witnessed a 60% growth in business for the January-April period from a year earlier. For Cox & Kings, cruise vacation bookings increased by about 20%, while short river cruises in Europe grew 10% this year. The cruise business for FCM Travel Solutions expanded 15% this year. FCM plans to add expedition cruises and river cruises to its portfolio this year and has started receiving bookings for next summer.

*The Economic Times - 18.08.2017*

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31817&articlexml=As-Indians-Set-Sail-Cruise-Travel-Registers-Strong-18082017005027>

### **In logistics, warehousing realty, investors find a store of value**

After commercial real estate, foreign investors and real estate players are aggressively pumping money into logistics and warehousing realty signalling a buoyancy in the segment. Logistic and warehousing demand is booming



however, take longer to materialize. Executives at two prominent fashion lines and a pharmaceutical maker told ET that they have requested their logistics service providers (LSPs) to reduce tariffs. Senior executives at four top logistics providers in India and a transportation company confirmed that clients have requested price cuts. "Yes, customers have been asking us for a cut," said Anshuman Singh, chairman of the Warburg Pincus-backed Stellar Value Chain Solutions. "Union Minister Nitin Gadkari recently spoke about a 10%-20% reduction in logistics costs due to GST in the long run. Customers have taken a note of that and have immediately asked the LSPs to pass on the benefits." The GST replaces at least seven indirect tax heads including countervailing duty, special additional duty of customs, excise duty, service tax, central sales tax, value-added tax, octroi and state cesses. Interstate movement of goods is now easier, with the check posts demolished.

*The Economic Times - 17.08.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-/transport/freight-carriers-asked-to-cut-cargo-handling-cost/articleshow/60093732.cms>

## **Indian Logistics Industry to Experience Higher Investments with the Passing of Industry Tax Reforms**

The Government of India's emphasis on manufacturing and initiatives such as "Make in India" is boosting domestic production, which is bolstering the logistics industry. Logistics companies are making concerted efforts to keep pace with this growth in demand by digitizing their solutions and offering online freight services, according to a Frost and Sullivan Study. These services will provide visibility across the supply chain and transform it into an organized industry. Some of the advanced technologies adopted include automated storage and retrieval systems (ASRS) in warehouse and transportation, radio frequency identification (RFID) in place of bar codes, and global positioning system (GPS) for real-time tracking. "In addition to riding the digital wave, logistics companies in India are strategizing for the transition from indirect taxation to goods and service tax (GST). The simplified tax structure will benefit the warehousing industry and reduce logistics costs by upto 2.5%," said Senthil Kumar Subbiah, Research Analyst, Supply Chain and Logistics Transformation Practice, Frost & Sullivan.

*The Economic Times - 17.08.2017*

<http://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/indian-logistics-industry-to-experience-higher-investments-with-the-passing-of-industry-tax-reforms/60086713>

followed by growth in consumer segment and e-commerce and most investors are seeking to capitalise on the flavour of the season. In the last three months key players such as Ascendas-Singbridge, Assetz Property Group, Logos, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) and Everstone Group have made major investments to grow the business here. Earlier this week, Logos and Assetz Property Group together set up a logistics and warehousing platform that will invest around \$400 million, asequity, to build and manage specialised logistics and industrial parks. Logos India will look at investment, development and asset management of modern logistics assets and initially focus on the key logistics hubs of Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and the National Capital Region (NCR).

*The Hindu Business Line - 15.08.2017*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/in-logistics-warehousing-realty-investors-find-a-store-of-value/article9818206.ece>

## **In GST era, differentiated services key to domestic logistics companies**

Differentiated services and not just cost efficiency will be the mantra of domestic logistics companies going ahead. With the goods and services tax (GST) rolled out, domestic logistics companies are witnessing increased enquiries from customers for varied services, setting a new tone for revenue generation. "Since in GST, the entire supply chain will iron out inefficiencies, an efficient product pricing alone will not help companies thrive and grow. In fact, good amount of competition is expected to show up (due to GST) and differentiated services would be a factor that would come to the fore for assured survival of logistics businesses," said Praveen Somani, director at Inland World Logistics. "For our company, we are expecting a revenue growth of about 30-35 percent this financial year over the last year due to our differentiated services model in place," he added. The Kolkata based company had churned revenues worth ~1,000 crore in FY17. Noting the increase in enquiries for differentiated services in the logistics segment, the company will be investing about ~25 crore in strengthening its last-mile delivery.

*Business Standard - 18.08.2017*

<https://www.pressreader.com/india/business-standard/20170818/281625305415094>

## **Shipping sector may get to deploy navigation system Gagan**

The maritime regulator has initiated discussions on implementing the indigenous navigation system 'Gagan' as per the recommendations of the government, a top official has said. "We have started deliberations with all stakeholders and the roadmap is being defined," Director General of Shipping (DGS) Malini Shankar said over the weekend. She said after the launch of Gagan (GPS-aided geo augmented navigation) in July 2015, the government has been looking at various applications for the system and its introduction on the maritime front will be a part of the same. However, it may not be a smooth sailing for the country to adopt Gagan which can serve as an alternative to the American or Russian systems being used at present, as a slew of clearances and heavy investments may be required. Sources said at first, Gagan needs to get the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) nod to be used for movement of ships. Switching to the new system also involves costs, which have to be minimised, they added.

*Millennium Post - 21.08.2017*

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/shipping-sector-may-get-to-deploy-navigation-system-gagan-258351>