

(This document comprises news clips from various media in which BalmerLawrie is mentioned, news related to GOI and PSEs, and news from the verticals that we do business in. This will be e-mailed on every Monday.)

Balmer Lawrie in News

Business Standard

TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2014

Balmer Lawrie organizes a Walkathon to promote Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



As a part of "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" that was initiated by the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, Balmer Lawrie organized a Walkathon on 14th December 2014 to further promote the cause. The Walkathon was ceremoniously flagged off jointly by Company's Ex-Directors Mr. M.S Khanna and Mr. Virendra Verma. More than three hundred enthusiastic employees of the Company participated in the 5.3km long Walkathon supporting the largest cleanliness mission, taken up by the Government of India. Mr. Viren Sinha, C&MD, Balmer Lawrie addressed the employees and thanked them for their solidarity in promoting the cause.

The Economic Times

18 December 2014

Megacorp

DIGEST

Balmer Lawrie walkathon for Swachh Bharat

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The Times of India

19 December 2014

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The Telegraph

22 December 2014

Happenings

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Dainik Jagran

20 December 2014

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के लिए बामर लारी की पहल

कोलकाता : स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के लिए बामर लारी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड ने गत दिनों विशेष अभियान चलाया। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के तहत कंपनी ने वाकाथन का आयोजन किया। इस मौके पर कंपनी के पूर्व निदेशक एमएस खन्ना व वीरेंद्र वर्मा ने वाकाथन को रवाना किया। कंपनी के सीएमडी वीरेन सिन्हा ने सभी को अभियान को सफल बनाने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। वाकाथन में कंपनी के सैकड़ों कर्मचारियों ने हिस्सा लिया।

Jansatta
19 December 2014

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के लिए पदयात्रा

कोलकाता, 18 दिसंबर (जनसत्ता)। देश की अग्रणी कंपनी बॉम्बर लारी ने केंद्र सरकार की पहल पर शुरू हुए स्वच्छ भारत अभियान को और ज्यादा व्यापक बनाने के लिए हाल ही में एक पदयात्रा (वॉकथान) का आयोजन किया। इस पदयात्रा को हरी इंडी कंपनी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी एमएस खन्ना और वीरेंद्र वर्मा ने दिखाई। इस पदयात्रा में कंपनी के सौ से ज्यादा उत्साही कर्मचारियों ने हिस्सा लिया। इस कार्यक्रम में कंपनी के चेयरमैन व एमडी वीरेंद्र सिन्हा ने कर्मचारियों को संबोधित किया। यह जानकारी एक प्रेस बयान में दी गई है।

THE ECHO OF INDIA
21.12.2014

Promoting Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Balmer Lawrie organizes a Walkathon

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Equity Bulls - 17.12.2014

http://www.equitybulls.com/admin/news2006/news_det.asp?id=151767

<http://pocketnewsalert.blogspot.in/2014/12/balmer-lawrie-organizes-walkathon-to.html>

<http://www.kemmannu.com/index.php?action=headlines&type=10593>

Inflation and industrial production: 5 thoughts on Indian economy

Kotak Securities takes an in-depth look at the permutations and combinations in the Indian economy post the unveiling of the economic data on Friday.

Transient production shock, stable disinflationary trends. The IIP growth shock is transitory and should be seen as lull post the festive demand in September. We expect November to pick up both partly on production and mostly on positive base effects. The good news comes from a stabilizing disinflationary trend in CPI inflation. December data release will be keenly watched to gauge the deviation from RBI's estimated outturn of ~5.5%. We maintain our call for 50-75 bps cut in CY2015 with the first cut likely after the Union Budget. November CPI inflation expectedly has positive base effects through food... November CPI inflation at 4.38% was helped by vegetable prices expectedly falling further by 1.5% sequentially, pulling the yoy inflation down to (-)10.9%. However, December onwards base effect on food articles will be significantly minimized and the typical seasonality seen due to kharif produce in December and January may be muted this year given (1) correction over the past three months and (2) impact of lower kharif production.

The Financial Express - 15.12.2014

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/inflation-and-industrial-production-5-thoughts-on-indian-economy/19392/>

No CSR spend yoke in Companies Bill

The central government has dropped provisions in Companies Bill to make it mandatory for companies to spend and report its corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Companies will not have to spend 2% of average net profit of last three years as mandated nor will they have to pay penalty for not spending the amount. The Companies Act (Amendment) Bill that was passed in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday does not have the provisions. Corporate affairs ministry sources said stiff opposition from the multinational companies led the government to soften its stand on the matter. "Oppressive provisions have been removed from the Companies Act 2013 as nobody will come here to set up business if such an environment persists," Arun Jaitley, finance minister, said on the Bill. "There were some provisions which was oversight and there were some which were left out," he said. A total of 14 amendments have been approved. The amendments, however, propose a severe penalty for the companies running chit funds and illegal deposits.

DNA - December 18, 2014

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-no-csr-spend-yoke-in-companies-bill-2044931>

India on track to 5.5% GDP growth; falling oil to help reforms

India is on track to achieve projected 5.5 per cent economic growth rate in 2014-15 as declining oil prices present a golden opportunity for many beneficial reforms, Asian Development Bank said today. "India is on track to reach the growth forecast of 5.5 per cent in FY2014 (ending 31 March 2015) after expanding by 5.7 per cent in the first quarter and 5.3 per cent in the second quarter," the Manila-based agency said. "The growth outlook in developing Asia remains steady despite a slowed momentum in the second half of 2014, but declining oil prices present a golden opportunity for many beneficial reforms in Asia," it said. Falling global oil prices present a golden opportunity for importers like Indonesia and India to reform their costly fuel subsidy programmes, ADB Chief Economist Shang-Jin Wei said

The Economic Times - December 17, 2014

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-on-track-to-5-5-gdp-growth-falling-oil-to-help-reforms/articleshow/45550983.cms>

Corridors of Power: Arun Jaitley must revive the Disinvestment Commission

Going by the current state of affairs, the existing disinvestment strategy—drawn up during the UPA regime—has to be among the first few policies that the NDA government must review in the next budget. Year after year, the government has failed to meet the disinvestment target fixed in the budget. The way things are going, the outcome in FY15 appears no different, with a R43,425 crore target and only R1,700 crore realised so far from the 5% stake sale in SAIL. And with big-ticket ONGC and Coal India divestments looking uncertain, there is no doubt that this is not the best course of action. The current method of fixing a target based on the needs of the finance ministry to bridge fiscal deficit and then forcing the department of disinvestment to find ways to get to that target has proved to be a failed exercise—in the last four financial years, only R75,813.71 crore could be realised against the total target of R1.5 lakh crore.

The Financial Express - December 18, 2014

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/fe-columnist/jaitley-must-revive-the-disinvestment-commission/20375/>

Diesel deregulation, gas price to have positive impact on oil companies: Fitch Ratings

Too much adhocism in disinvestment

Every other day, the government announces disinvestment in PSUs and State-owned banks, and some issues are put out in the market. But there does not appear to be any designed strategy to carry out the disinvestments. In his Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas Memorial Lecture in 2010, Vijay Kelkar had said: "...disinvestment and privatisation policy has now assumed strategic importance in our country" as he expounded a framework for disinvestment strategy. Given the prevailing hullabaloo over disinvestment and privatisation, it would be wise to put his ideas to practice. The privatisation of some entities is also on the cards.

The Hindu Business Line - 18.12.2014

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/too-much-adhocism-in-disinvestment/article6704904.ece?homepage=true>

Govt plans 30% local procurement for foreign companies

Foreign companies selling goods worth over Rs 300 crore to government or PSUs will now have to source part of their supplies from domestic manufacturers, according to the new draft National Offset Policy (NOP). According to the draft policy prepared by the Commerce Ministry, minimum value of the offsets obligation would be 30 per cent of the estimated cost of the import, meaning the company will have to procure this percentage from local players to boost domestic manufacturing. "This was proposed by the ministry in the draft policy which would be considered the Committee of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary by the end of this month and then it would be approved by the Union Cabinet," sources said. The policy is aimed at boosting manufacturing sectors growth. Besides it would help in attracting investments; transfer and acquisition of new technology; acquisition of raw material and assets; improving balance of payment; increasing capacity for R&D; long term supply pacts; and enhancing exports.

Deccan Chronicle - 17.12.2014

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/448036/govt-plans-30-local-procurement.html>

Petrol, diesel rates cut by Rs 2/litre

Petrol and diesel prices were today cut by Rs 2

Key oil and gas sector reforms like diesel deregulation and a new gas pricing policy will have a positive impact on companies engaged in fuel retailing and gas production, says a report by Fitch Ratings. But the rating outlook for Indian oil and gas entities remains stable in 2015, it said. "The benefits from the oil price reforms and lower global oil prices for refining and marketing companies will be offset by their large capex needs in the medium-term, which will lead to negative free cash flows. "The low global oil prices will hurt the cash generation of the upstream companies that have heavy exposure to oil, while the state-owned production companies will have to also cope with the still-large discounts that they have to offer to local refiners," the report said.

The Economic Times - December 17, 2014

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/diesel-deregulation-gas-price-to-have-positive-impact-on-oil-companies-fitch-ratings/articleshow/45547186.cms>

India's crude oil refinery output surges 8.1% to 19.21 million tonnes in November 2014

Refinery production declines 0.5% to 147 mt in April-November FY2015. India's crude oil refinery output jumped at 20-months high pace of 8.1% to 19.21 million tonnes (mt) in November 2014 over a year ago, in addition to healthy 4.2% increase posted in the previous month. The output of public sector refineries surged 10.7% to 10.31 mt. Meanwhile, the output of private refineries galloped 5.5% to 7.4 mt, while that of public-private JV refiners improved 4.2% to 1.49 mt in November 2014. Among the public refineries, the output of Indian Oil jumped 8.3% to 4.54 mt, while the output of Chennai Petroleum improved 15% to 0.894 mt in November 2014 over November 2013. The output of Hindustan Petroleum surged 17.9% to 1.405 mt. Further, the output of Bharat Petroleum also jumped 10% to 1.989 mt, while that of Mangalore Refineries shot up 15.8% to 1.252 mt. However, the output of Numaligarh Refineries declined for fourth straight month at 12.1% to 0.226 mt.

Business Standard - 19.12.2014

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/india-s-crude-oil-refinery-output-surges-8-1-to-19-21-million-tonnes-in-november-2014-114121901176_1.html

After PM's call, PSUs flood MSU with waste bins

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat campaign seems to be flooding MS University (MSU) with waste bins with major public sector

per litre each as international oil prices slumped to five-year low. This is the eighth straight reduction in petrol prices since August, and fourth in diesel since October. New rates will be effective midnight tonight, Indian Oil Corp, the nation's largest fuel retailer, announced here. In Delhi, petrol will cost Rs 61.33 a litre, the lowest in 44 months, as compared to current price of Rs 63.33. The price has been cut by Rs 2.09 a litre in Mumbai to Rs 68.86. Rates differ from state to state because of varied rates of local sales tax or VAT. Diesel will cost Rs 50.51 a litre in Delhi, the lowest since

July 2013, as against Rs 52.51 currently. In Mumbai, it will cost Rs 57.91 per litre as compared to Rs 60.11.

The Times of India - 15.12.2014

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Petrol-diesel-rates-cut-by-Rs-2/litre/articleshow/45525208.cms>

ICRA sees PSU OMCs FY16 subsidy burden reducing to Rs 280-340 crore

The subsidy burden on public sector oil marketing companies is likely to decrease to Rs 280-340 billion by 2015-16 as the overall gross under recoveries are projected to decline to Rs 560 billion in the year, rating agency ICRA said in a note Wednesday. The fall in under-recoveries is likely to be sharper to around Rs 800 billion for FY15 (estimated at Indian Basket crude oil price of US\$ 70/bbl and INR/US\$ of 62 for H2 FY15). ICRA Research had earlier projected the gross under recoveries of PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to decrease to around Rs 1000 billion for FY15 from Rs 1,399 billion for FY14 considering average Indian basket crude oil price of US\$ 108/bbl and INR-USD rate of 59.5. "The fall in subsidy burden on PSU upstream companies is important for energy security of the country considering the capex and overseas acquisition plans of upstream companies, which may require significant cash outgo," ICRA said.

The Economics Times - December 17, 2014

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/icra-sees-psu-omcs-fy16-subsidy-burden-reducing-to-rs-280-340-crore/articleshow/45551296.cms>

Vistara receives flying licence, to start operations soon

Air travellers will soon have more choice. The Tata Sons-Singapore Airlines (SIA) joint venture full service airline, Vistara, is all set to

units (PSUs) diverting their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds to support cleanliness at the campus. Last week, two public sector players - Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited and the Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited - handed over 40 waste bins of 1,100 litre capacity to Gujarat's only English medium university. On Tuesday, another PSU - Power Grid Corporation of India Limited - handed over 200 waste bins of 100 litres capacity which will be installed at the campus while MSU is expecting another 200 waste bins to arrive from Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited. Before Modi's call, MSU could hardly practice the cleanliness lessons that it preached to its students for decades. Now, the more the merrier for the university, which has approached 15 other PSUs to donate in kind through their CSR funds.

The Times of India - 17.12.2014

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Vadodara/After-PMs-call-PSUs-flood-MSU-with-waste-bins/articleshow/45543901.cms>

SpiceJet shares plunge as airline asks for govt help

SpiceJet shares plunged as much as 17 per cent on Tuesday as the cash-strapped airline raced against time to convince the government to help it remain in the air.

SpiceJet executives were set to meet government officials for another round of talks after a deadline set by regulators for the budget carrier to set out a plan for paying its dues to airline authorities and fuel suppliers expired on Sunday. SpiceJet Chief Operating Officer Sanjiv Kapoor said on Monday the airline had not yet submitted a financial plan to the regulators. A spokesman for the airline said he could not comment on the talks on Tuesday. The pressure on the embattled airline, which has been making losses since last year, to find the fresh capital it says it needs has increased this month. "It is a typical squeeze of funds which will threaten working capital for Spicejet," said Deven Choksey, managing director of brokerage K.R. Choksey Securities.

The Hindu Business Line - 16.12.2014

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/spicejet-shares-plunge-as-airline-asks-for-govt-help/article6697277.ece>

Domestic air traffic registers 14.35 per cent growth in November

Domestic air traffic logged 14.35 per cent growth

take the skies next month. The directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA) Monday gave Vistara the air operator permit (AOP, read licence) which now paves the way for what will be India's third full service airline after Air India and Jet, to take off. Vistara's approval came at a time when struggling-to-survive SpiceJet has drastically cut its fleet and flights, leading to a surge in fares due to the ensuing demand-supply mismatch in the ongoing peak travel season. The Tata-SIA JV, which takes off after two aborted attempts in the past, is going to ease the supply crunch in coming months and also provide more international options for travellers as the government is all set to relax norms for Indian carriers to fly abroad. Vistara CEO Phee Teik Yeoh said: "All our energies now are going to be concentrated towards fulfilling the Vistara brand promise.

The Times of India - 15.12.2014

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Vistara-receives-flying-licence-to-start-operations-soon/articleshow/45524545.cms>

India logs 10% rise in foreign tourist arrivals

India appears to have overcome the issue of women's safety and dollarless growth to draw 10% more tourists than last year. Significantly the increase in tourists came during non-peak season between May and October 2014. Over 32 lakh foreign tourists visited India between May and October this year as compared to last year, according to tourism minister Mahesh Sharma. August saw the sharpest increase of foreign tourists visiting India, registering an increase of 16.9% as compared to last year while May saw a marginal hike of 0.8% as compared to the same month last year. After the Delhi gangrape in December 2012, the tourism industry had suffered a huge setback with many visitors especially women expressing fear and hesitation in traveling to India. The hospitality industry suffered cancellations with an ASSOCHAM 2013 report pointing to 35% drop in number of tourists to the country. Industry sources now expressed apprehension that the Uber rape case may impact the market.

The Times of India - 16.12.2014

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-logs-10-rise-in-foreign-tourist-arrivals/articleshow/45529904.cms>

Tourism to boom in holiday season

Upcoming holiday season is expected to witness about 30 per cent increase in the

in November as compared to the corresponding period last year propelled by the festive season rush, official data showed today. The number of passengers rose to 58.74 lakh as against 51.37 lakh carried by the seven Indian airlines a year-ago, the data showed. The traffic logged a 19.4 per cent growth in the April- November period this year, with all domestic airlines combined having flown 609.43 lakh passengers in the period compared to 558 lakh passengers flown in November 2013. IndiGo was inching closer to the two-million passenger mark as it flew 19.60 lakh passengers last month, followed by Jet Airways with 10.81, Air India carried 10.27 lakh passengers in November.

The Economic Times - 18.12.2014

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/domestic-air-traffic-registers-14-35-per-cent-growth-in-november/articleshow/45566758.cms>

Why Indian ports can't compete with Colombo

Cargo ships are getting bigger to handle larger volumes from Asia, particularly China, to Europe and the US. The container ship CSCL Global is the new 'monster at sea;' over 100 mega ships with carrying capacity of around 15,000 boxes on board sail the oceans.

However, not one such vessel calls at Indian ports due to inadequate volumes and infrastructure – both at waterfront and onshore. The average ship size handled at Indian ports is of a capacity of around 5,000 boxes. This is enough for now but as volumes increase multi-fold in future, ports need to be ready. The smaller size vessels came to the market two decades ago and could become defunct over the next five years to make way for large vessels that will call at ports that have good infrastructure, industry sources said. Currently, cargo to US or UK are taken to transshipment ports such as Colombo, Singapore or Jebel Ali to be shipped to final destinations in large mother vessels.

The Hindu Business Line - 16.12.2014

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/why-indian-ports-cant-compete-with-colombo/article6698168.ece>

Let Indian lines carry more oil cargo

By admitting that he knew very little about shipping business, Minister Nitin Gadkari has put the ball in the ship-owners' court. At the Inmarco-

tourism activity comprising domestic tourists, outbound holidayers and inbound foreign visitors despite a sharp increase in the fares by airlines, according to a study. According to Assocham study Indian hospitality industry is anticipating an upsurge in the tourist footfall this season with improving business and economic sentiment. "High-end professionals in private sector and others well off would be inclined to spend more on leisure tourism this season as compared to last year," said the chamber. It said that the increase in the number of travellers for the New Year has kept the cash register ringing, bringing smiles back in the travel and hospitality trade.

"The popular tourist destinations have reported good bookings for the year-end over the previous year."

Asian Age - 22.12.2014

<http://www.asianage.com/business/tourism-boom-holiday-season-099>

Rail box cargo may get cheaper

Users of container services are likely to get some relief following the Railways Ministry decision to roll back the recent haulage charge hike partially. Container Corporation of India (Concor), the largest train operator in the country, which had passed the hike on to its customers, has now decided cut the charges for a two-and-a-half-month period. Concor has over 70 per cent market share. The Railways Ministry, which had decided to implement a 25-41 per cent rate hike from December 5, has now decided to lower the extent of hike by 33 per cent between December 15 and February 28, 2015. With effect from March 1, the entire rate hike will be implemented.

"We will roll back the hike by a corresponding proportion for the limited period," Concor CMD Anil Kumar Gupta said. However, the container train operators' association maintained that such flip flop is leading to confusion in the market as they usually have longer term agreements with their customers. "Following the sharp hike by the Railways, we had passed on most of the hike to customers. But now, the Railways' move of delaying some portion of the hike for less than three months has.

The Hindu Business Line - 15.12.2014

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/rail-box-cargo-may-get-cheaper/article6694764.ece>

Freight rates fall on easy position of trucks

Freight rates for nine-tonne pay load section

2014 dinner meet last week in Mumbai, Gadkari confessed that unlike in the case of construction of roads, highways and flyovers where he has first hand experience, he is new to shipbuilding and shipping. He wondered why Indian vessels carry only eight per cent of the country's own international cargo. Why local shipyard account for only one per cent of the ships built globally? Why domestic shipping companies earning in dollars are finding it hard to raise foreign currency loans to buy ships? However, the Minister was clear about one thing - that the maritime sector has been neglected for long, and it has a lot of growth potential. Now, the onus is on the captains of the industry to educate the Minister and get their problems resolved.

The Hindu Business Line - 17.12.2014

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/let-indian-lines-carry-more-oil-cargo/article6698170.ece>

Govt plans multi-model transport body for movement of goods

The government plans to set up a multi-model transport organization to facilitate faster movement of goods through rail, water, air and road, railways minister Suresh Prabhu said on Thursday. The minister said it will help farmers and agriculturists enable better price discovery and the government is already working on a Cabinet proposal for the same. "We want to provide you (industry) a better logistics and supply chain infrastructure. For that we are working on a proposal to set up multi-model transport organization for movement of goods and cargo, it will comprise of all four means of transport, including road, rail, air and ship," Prabhu said at a food processing event. Speaking on the side-lines, he said the government will move a Cabinet note for setting up of this multi-model transport organisation. "... so whosoever wants to move goods, they can approach this authority which will then facilitate the movement of goods and will convey through which medium it could be delivered in faster way and will be cost effective," the railways minister said.

Mint - December 18, 2014

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/55T86uHe8EN3W44Wq9WDaI/Govt-plans-multimodel-transport-body-for-movement-of-goods.html>

Logistics sector stocks in limelight as GST Bill gets Cabinet nod

With the Union Cabinet giving its approval to the Constitutional Amendment Bill for Goods and Services Tax, stocks in the logistics sector were in limelight on Thursday. Stiff valuation stress- Many of these companies are integrated service

for selected destinations dropped by Rs 500 in the local truck transport market today following ample position of trucks in the markets. Transporters said sufficient position of trucks in the markets against cargo movements managed to pull down some centres' freight rates. Delhi to Jaipur, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad and Patna freight rates were down by Rs 500 each to Rs 14,000, Rs 16,000, Rs 20,000 and Rs 25,000, respectively. Rates to Surat, Pune, Mumbai and Kolkata also went down by Rs 500 each to Rs 25,000, Rs 28,000, Rs 26,000 and Rs 29,000, respectively.

Business Standard - 16.12.2014

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/freight-rates-fall-on-easy-position-of-trucks-114121600519_1.html

Developing world class ports is necessary for success of 'Make in India'

When Sri Lanka sought the India's assistance in the development of Hambantota harbour, for reasons that have not been made public so far, India did not show any interest. As a result of this, in spite of India being Sri Lanka's largest trading partner, the Government was forced to approach China. China grabbed the opportunity and has developed Hambantota port with the most advanced handling equipment available, so as to cater to the needs of large vessels that have come to rule the high seas now. While most Indian ports are able to handle vessels carrying 5,000 containers, with the exception of Mundra (which is reported to have handled 14,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit) in 2013, setting a record) and the Gujarat Pipavav port (9,000 TEUs), our southern neighbour's port at Hambantota can easily handle the so-called monster vessels of 15,000 TEUs capacity with ease.

Money life - 19.12.2014

<http://www.moneylife.in/article/developing-world-class-ports-is-necessary-for-success-of-make-in-india/39869.html>

'Supply chains grappling with global competition and talent retention'

Supply chains in India are battling issues such as global competition and talent retention. Addressing the fourth biennial meet on 'Socially Responsible Supply Chains' at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIM-B),

providers, including transportation and warehousing, and their stock prices witnessed a sharp uptick accompanied by strong trading volumes. However, with many of them trading at stiff valuations, the extent to which their stock prices could rise in the near term remains to be seen. While a lot of formalities are yet to be gone through before the GST is enforced, with general consensus reached on the subject it is expected that GST will become a reality from April 1, 2016. Shares of Container Corporation of India (CCI) jumped Rs59.05 to close at Rs1,330, a gain of 4.65 per cent.

Snowman Logistics, which owns a string of temperature-controlled warehouses across the country, gained 7.54 per cent to end the day at Rs100.60. Gateway Distriparks (GDL) is its promoter and the largest stakeholder. GDL, which has three verticals — container freight stations, inland container depots and cold chain storage and logistics, spurred 2.57 per cent to Rs337.20.

The Hindu Business Line - 18.12.2014

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/stock-markets/logistics-sector-stocks-in-limelight-as-gst-bill-gets-cabinet-nod/article6704996.ece>

Invest in development of inland waterways: Nitin Gadkari to industry

Government has taken a slew of steps to develop sea ports and water ports, and the industry should invest in the development of inland waterways, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said today. "The government has initiated steps to develop water ports and sea ports and is looking to build satellite dry ports for connecting the land locked areas with the nearest sea and water ports," Gadkari said. While asking the industry to invest in the development of inland waterways, the minister said, "India is yet to tap the potential of waterways despite the fact that this mode of transport is much more cost effective compared to road and rail transport." He was addressing the annual general meeting of FICCI here. The government is also planning to develop floating helipads and hotels which will boost tourism in the country, he said emphasising the need to control pollution.

The Economic Times - 20.12.2014

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-12-20/news/57257676_1_inland-waterways-sea-ports-road-projects-worth-rs

No plan to stop subsidised LPG to rich: Govt

The government is not considering any proposal to stop supply of subsidised cooking gas (LPG) to the rich, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said

Parasuraman TR, Vice President (Administration, Finance & Human resources), KTTM Toyota Industries, said challenges also include local politics in addition to how to manage contract labour and outsourcing.

Need to diversify - "In India, supply chains are focused around Delhi, Pune, Chennai and Bangalore. We need to diversify our supply chains and strengthen them with better infrastructure if we hope to add muscle to our manufacturing industry," said Parasuraman. According to him, supply chains in India must live by the following commandments – treat failure as an opportunity to learn and reflect; benchmark globally; do not hesitate to stop the line in case of anomaly; do not change process condition else that will affect quality; take quick action to address breakdowns; do change point management in a controlled manner; do real visualization; set challenging targets and, finally, develop people who are passionate and quality-conscious.

The Hindu Business Line - 20.12.2014

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/states/iimb-holds-meet-on-supply-chains/article6708498.ece>

RTGS business hours increased to 12 hours on weekdays

To promote electronic payments, the Reserve Bank today increased RTGS business hours to 12 hours from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays, effective December 29. On Saturdays, the RTGS (real time gross settlement) system of online fund transfer will be open from 8 am to 3.30 pm, the RBI said in a circular. The existing business hours are 9 am to 4.30 pm on weekdays and till 2pm on Saturdays. To keep enhancing the systems and procedures to meet the growing needs of markets/customers and to cater to the expanding volume and to provide liquidity, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the new RTGS system in October 2013. The current minimum amount that can be transferred through this channel is Rs 2 lakh. Today's circular did not mention whether this amount has been revised or not.

Business Standard - 16.12.2014

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rtgs-business-hours-increased-to-12-hours-on-weekdays-114121501201_1.html

Russian economy stagnates in November - on track to recession in 2015

The Russian economy stagnated in November, data published on Wednesday showed, making

Wednesday. Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have given an option to existing LPG consumers to surrender their subsidy and switch to buying cooking gas at market price, Pradhan said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. "Presently, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government," he said, when asked if the government proposed to stop the supply of subsidised LPG to the well-off people. "However, OMCs have given an option to existing LPG consumers to convert his/her existing domestic

LPG connection into a non-subsidised domestic connection, if he/she so desires. This can be done by submitting a written request to the distributor or electronically via www.MyLPG.In," he said. On Monday, Pradhan had told Lok Sabha that only 12,471 out of about 15 crore LPG consumers have so far voluntarily given up their subsidies. The ministry has urged ministers, MPs, MLAs, senior government officials and executives of public sector companies to give up their subsidies.

Zee News – 17.12.2014

<http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/economy/no-plan-to-stop-subsidised-lpg-to-rich-govt-114403.html>

Currency crisis could play spoilsport: Motilal Oswal

Near-term prospects hurt: Emerging markets (RoW ex-India) constitute 18% of the overall business for our coverage universe of stocks. The recent depreciation of emerging market currencies (particularly in Russia, Brazil) poses risk to near-term profitability, especially since the swing has been huge. We have assessed the impact of local currency depreciation (vs INR) for key geographies—Russia/CIS and LatAm—on Indian pharmaceuticals companies in our coverage. Cumulatively, these two geographies account for 40% of the total RoW (rest of the world) sales (7-8% of total sales) for our coverage universe.

Potential Ebitda cuts of 1-5%, should currencies depreciate further: If the current exchange rates persist (RUB:INR=1, BRL:INR=23.5), FY16e Ebitda could be cut by 1-5% for the companies impacted. The impact would be the highest on DRRD and GNP, given their high exposure to Russia/CIS and LatAm (16% of total sales).

The Financial Express - 22.12.2014

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/markets/indian-markets/currency-crisis-could-play-spoilsport-motilal-oswal/21808/>

it even more likely that the rouble's rapid collapse so far this month will push it into recession next year. Investment by Russian companies, once a staple of the country's economic performance, fell sharper than expected last month, underlining pressure from Western sanction imposed on Moscow for its role in the Ukraine crisis. Retail sales rose in line with expectations, but at a 1.8 annual increase they were a fraction of what their rise had been in the post-2008 crisis when consumer demand fuelled the economy. The set of data, which also noted some increase in real wages, follows industrial production numbers, released on Monday, showing that industry output disappointed last month, falling by 0.4 per cent, against analysts' expectations of a 1.1 per cent rise.

The Economic Times – 17.12.2014

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/business/russian-economy-stagnates-in-november-on-track-to-recession-in-2015/articleshow/45553728.cms>

Effective Project-Mode Management Key to Success in Defence

"Success in defence projects is highly dependent upon effective project-mode management and it is imperative to compile best practices in large scale projects," said Dr. R K Tyagi, Chairman HAL at the release of pioneering book titled "Lead and Execute: Art of Managing Large Scale Projects" by Shri Yogesh Kumar at HAL Management Academy, Bengaluru, today. Shri Yogesh Kumar, former Executive Director, HAL and a renowned technologist in aerospace has successfully led a number of programmes during his tenure in HAL. Drawing on his experience in major programmes like Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), the Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) and Jaguar upgrade, this highly innovative book packed with practical tips captures finer management practices with a focus on 'execution' of the project. "Project-mode management is a holistic way of managing a project and it encompasses everything in management--technology, leadership, human resource and mainly execution of the project," said Shri Yogesh Kumar.

Whispers in the Corridor - 18.12.2014

http://www.hal-india.com/Effective%20Project-Mode%20Management%20Key%20to%20Success%20in%20Defence/ND_87

Coal India to get new chairman ahead of key meeting: Sources

Coal India Ltd will get a new chairman in the next few days, two officials with direct knowledge of the matter said, as the state-owned miner readies a plan to double its output in four years amid a severe shortage that has crippled power plants. Career bureaucrat Sutirtha Bhattacharya, chairman of India's second-largest coal producer Singareni Collieries, will take over as the head of its bigger rival ahead of a key meeting at Coal India's headquarters on Dec. 30, the officials said.

The world's largest coal miner by output has been without a full-time chairman since June. The appointment comes at a time when the Narendra Modi government is trying to sell a 10 percent stake in the company and break its near-monopoly by allowing private firms to mine and sell coal.

The Economic Times - 19.12.2014

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/coal-india-to-get-new-chairman-ahead-of-key-meeting-sources/articleshow/45561580.cms>

Marine Policy to Turn State into Logistics Hub of India

Aiming to develop the 960 km - long coastline of the state into the gateway for the vast hinterlands of the country, Andhra Pradesh will unveil its marine policy in January. A marine board will also be set up to explore the development possibilities on the coastal belt, in consultation with all the stakeholders.

The government is hoping to bank on the proposed Viskahapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC), Petroleum, Chemicals, Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) and other key projects to push forward its plan to set up as many minor ports as possible to boost the logistics industry in the state. If the government has its way, several pending projects like Nakkapalli, Bhavanapadu, Duggarajapatnam and Machilipatnam would materialize soon.

New Indian Express - 18.12.2014

http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra_pradesh/Marine-Policy-to-Turn-State-into-Logistics-Hub-of-India/2014/12/18/article2576964.ece