

(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 e-mailed on every Monday.)

Balmer Lawrie in News

Vizag Port to get 2 mobile cranes for handling Panamax vessels

As part of its preparation to handle Panamax vessels in the Inner Harbour, Visakhapatnam Port has decided to acquire two more hi-tech 100-tonne harbour mobile cranes. Each crane costs around Rs.35 crore. The port is already operating two such cranes in WQ-1, 2 and 3 and three in EQ 8 and 9. Two have been installed at WQ-6 and are expected to be commissioned shortly. Other proposals include developing a Multi Modal Logistic Hub (MMLH) as JV between VPT and Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd, Container Freight Station by a BOT operator in the port area and MMLH being built by CONCOR near the airport. A warehousing hub is also proposed in an area of 500 acres at Valluru near Anakapalli.

The Hindu - 17.02.2015

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/vpt-readying-for-handling-panamax-vessels-in-inner-harbour/article6905390.ece>

NDA's spending push to leverage PSU balance sheets as private spends tepid

The government has asked public sector units to significantly ramp up their internal spending for projects in the new fiscal, as part of a renewed focus on boosting expenditure in infrastructure sectors such as power and highways. This is expected to be reflected through an incremental Rs 30,000 crore to Rs 50,000 crore in the IEBR projections — or the estimates for mobilisation of funds by way of internal and extra budgetary resources — in the Union Budget 2015-16 as against the Rs 2.47 lakh crore Budgeted estimate for the current fiscal.

The attempt to jumpstart the investment cycle by getting Central PSUs to unlock their cash reserves — as on end-March 2014, the 54 listed CPSUs were estimated to be sitting on cash and surpluses of Rs 1.98 lakh crore — for scaling up capital expenditure is seen as a means of neutralising the impact of lower private investments, especially at a time when there is pressure on the government to maintain fiscal prudence and thereby limit upfront funding through the Budget.

Indian Express - 20.02.2015

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/business-others/ndas-spending-push-to-leverage-psu-balance-sheets-as-private-spends-tepid/>

Oil ministry to set up manufacturing zones focused on oil field services

The oil ministry plans to give local companies a

Deepak Parekh suggests large PSU divestments, wants pro-growth Budget

Pitching for disinvestment in public sector behemoths like LIC, Air India and BSNL, top industry leader Deepak Parekh has said it can unlock huge funds worth "lakhs of crores of rupees" and shares should be given to retail investors without depending on the overseas entities. However, one of the major requirements for such large-scale disinvestments is a government thinking on those lines, as lack of political will and union pressure have been halting such proposals for a long time including during the tenure of the previous UPA government, he said.

Giving examples from during the UPA regime, Parekh said he has been part of many important government panels, including those on BSNL and Indian Railways, but nothing moved on the suggestions made by those committees. "...if you run down a company to that level in the public sector that no private sector entity will want to take it, then what will you do?" he wondered.

The Financial Express - 22.02.2015

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/deepak-parekh-suggests-large-psu-divestments-wants-pro-growth-budget/46027/>

Budget 2015: Customs duty on crude oil may be re-introduced

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley may look at re-

juicy share of the Rs 6-7 lakh crore investment planned in the next five years by helping local equipment makers compete successfully against foreign vendors, and setting up manufacturing clusters with attractive funding with the help of the Rs 10,000-crore collected as oil industry development cess every year. The ministry hopes to make significant contribution to the NDA government's Make-in-India programme in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to make the country a manufacturing hub and create jobs. The oil ministry, as part of its initiatives for the programme, plans targeted fiscal measures such as long-term funding and interest subvention for manufacturing clusters. The ministry is likely to modify procurement norms for public sector entities by aggregating their requirements and has set a target of 50% indigenisation for investments in the upstream sector over the next three years.

The Economic Times - 18.02.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/oil-ministry-to-set-up-manufacturing-zones-focused-on-oilfield-services/articleshow/46280709.cms>

Govt should explore non-tax options to raise revenue: CII

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested the government explore non-tax options for revenue, while expressing hope that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley would keep a leash on spending in the Budget to keep the fiscal deficit under control.

Underscoring the significance of reining in the fiscal deficit, CII Director-General Chandrajit Banerjee said "a restrained fiscal deficit would keep inflationary tendencies under check and facilitate 'crowding in' of private investment, thereby, strengthening the recovery process". Jaitley will unveil the first full Budget of the Narendra Modi-led government on Saturday. In its suggestions for the Budget, CII has requested the government to explore non-tax options for garnering revenue. Some such non-tax revenue options include hastening disinvestments, effecting dilution of residual government shares in private companies as well as going ahead with sale of spectrum and mineral blocks.

Business Standard - 23.02.2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/govt-should-explore-non-tax-options-in-to-raise-revenue-115022200341_1.html

Govt finances looking up thanks to crude price crash

Ahead of the Union Budget, the government's finances are looking up thanks to the benefit

imposing five per cent customs duty on crude oil imports to shore up revenues by \$3 billion and create a level-playing field for domestic producers. Presently, the government does not levy any import or customs duty on crude oil imports. On the other hand, domestically produced crude oil attracts two per cent central sales tax, something which imported oil is exempted from. Given that there is no customs duty on imported crude oil, the CST levy places domestic producers at a significant disadvantage vis-a-vis imported crude, government sources said. Thus, 20 per cent of India's crude oil consumption that comes from domestic oil fields is taxed, whereas 80 per cent of imported oil goes untaxed.

The Economic Times - 16.02.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/budget-2015-customs-duty-on-crude-oil-may-be-re-introduced/articleshow/46261075.cms>

Oil min leak impact: Industry says lobbying not a dirty word, should be legalised

In the wake of this week's arrests by Delhi Police in connection with alleged corporate espionage, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India Sunday reiterated their earlier demand for legalising lobbying to improve transparency in government-industry dealings. "Each Indian and multinational company should have a right to engage in lobbying groups to advance their line of arguments and convince the decision-making authorities that they have merit. Lobbying should no more be considered as a dirty word," Assocham secretary-general D.S. Rawat said in a statement.

Assocham said the only way to get rid of "corporate espionage" in the corridors of state machinery is introducing complete transparency and demolishing the four walls of secrecy around the process of "decision-making".

First Post - 23.02.2015

<http://www.firstpost.com/business/oil-min-leak-impact-industry-says-lobbying-not-dirty-word-legalised-2115567.html>

End of logjam: Oil Ministry clears development of discoveries worth Rs 150,000 crore

Ending months of logjam over discoveries

flowing from the major slump in crude oil prices in the past eight months. The government's petroleum subsidy burden, that accounts for 35% of the Rs 245,000 crore of major subsidies annually, is seen declining by Rs 30,000 crore in the current financial year from Rs 85,000 crore recorded last fiscal. Experts expect the fuel subsidy outgo will further come down by Rs 25,000 crore in 2015-16. In addition, the government is set to gain an additional Rs 15,500 crore in the current fiscal and Rs 50,000 crore next fiscal from the four recent excise duty hikes.

Business Standard - 17.02.2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-finances-looking-up-thanks-to-crude-price-crash-115021700798_1.html

Lower oil prices have changed economic environment for region's exporters: Fitch

Fitch Ratings says in a new report that the divergence between the ratings of energy exporters and importers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is narrowing due to lower oil prices. Lower oil prices have changed the economic environment for the region's exporters. They will reduce fiscal and external outturns and hit corporate and consumer confidence. Fitch expects Brent crude to average USD70/b in 2015 and USD80/b in 2016. The extent of the impact on the fiscal position depends on the policy response, although in a region where growth is dependent on government spending, fiscal consolidation is likely to have negative impacts on growth

India Infoline - 19.02.2015

http://www.indiainfoline.com/article/news-top-story/lower-oil-prices-have-changed-economic-environment-for-region-s-exporters-fitch-115021900250_1.html

Make in India: Public-private war heats up

Competition between the public and the private sector is heating up for grabbing a bigger slice of the Make in India pie. The public sector's monopoly over defence production appears to be under threat, with private players asserting they can perform better if the government levels the playing field. It is too early to bet on whose contribution will be more significant in unshackling the potential but the rivalry is already playing out. It will get fierce as foreign suppliers scout for Indian partners to execute lucrative orders. Nikhil Gandhi, chairman, Pipavav Shipyard, was bullish about the prospects of the private sector and its ability to take on state-run units. "We are more competitive and we can negotiate better," Gandhi

mired in contractual disputes, the Oil Ministry has used the recently granted freedom to clear development of oil and gas discoveries worth about Rs 150,000 crore. The ministry has used the flexibility granted by the Cabinet in October 2014 in deciding on timelines for development of oil and gas discoveries to clear as many as 30 pending cases. This would enable early monetisation of oil and gas discoveries in two blocks each of Gujarat State Petroleum Corp (GPSC) and Oil and Natural Gas Corp and one of Focus Energy, according to a note by upstream regulator DGH.

The Economic Times - 17.02.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/end-of-logjam-oil-ministry-clears-development-of-discoveries-worth-rs-150000-crore/articleshow/46274007.cms>

MRPL to begin retail marketing of petrol and diesel during 2015-16

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals (MRPL) is planning to begin retail marketing of petrol and diesel during 2015-16. Plans for 2015-16 are to start around 120 outlets. Out of which, around 60% may actually come on the ground and start functioning. The deregulation of the pricing of diesel has made the company to plan for the retail marketing of products. MRPL, a schedule 'A' CPSE and a subsidiary of ONGC is a State of Art Grassroot Refinery located in a beautiful hilly terrain, north of Mangalore city, in Dakshin Kannada region

Mint - 16.02.2015

<http://money.livemint.com/news/sector/news/mrpl-to-begin-retail-marketing-of-petrol-and-diesel-during-2015-16-359947.aspx>

As big developing economies stumble, India rides high on early success of PM Modi

China's economy is slowing. Brazil is struggling as commodity prices plunge. Russia, facing Western sanctions and weak oil revenue, is headed into a recession. As other big developing markets stumble, India is emerging as one of the few hopes for global growth. The stock market and rupee are surging. Multinational companies are looking to expand their Indian operations or start new ones. The growth in India's economy, long a laggard, just matched China's pace in recent months. India is riding high on the early success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a raft of new business-friendly policies instituted in his first

told HT. Foreign vendors are eyeing contracts worth more than Rs.1,00,000 crore for building submarines, planes, helicopters, artillery guns and missiles in India.

The Hindustan Times - 18.02.2015

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/public-private-war-heats-up/article1-1318286.aspx>

Make for India' will boost the economy: OECD economist

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' programme should also focus on making 'for India', said economists from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This will encourage businesses that cater to the local market and boost the economy. "India is a huge and diverse market. So, firms here should have a comparative advantage of serving the Indian market. Creating special zones, free trade zones to promote exports is good for the short run but that will create a dual economy. That is the wrong direction to go," said Catherine Mann, OECD Chief economist, after a seminar on the 3rd OECD Economic Survey of India at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM-A) here. Mann further said there was a large domestic market of willing buyers in India, and Indian firms should be serving it. "So, Make In India for India should be the direction to go," she told media persons.

The Hindu Business Line - 19.02.2015

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/make-for-india-will-boost-the-economy-oecd-economist/article6913549.ece>

Travel companies seek exporter status

The travel industry has asked the government to withdraw service tax on services provided to Indian tourists visiting countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldives as the service is provided outside of India. Travel firms have asked the government to treat them on a par with exporters based on their foreign exchange earnings. They have also sought service tax exemption on inbound package tours as payment comes in foreign exchange.

"The tourism industry gets discriminated vis-a-vis exporters even though it earns foreign exchange, and retention of foreign exchange is much higher than any other export oriented industry. Like exporters, based on foreign exchange earnings, tour operators should also get exemption of service tax on package tours as the payment is received in foreign exchange," said Cox & Kings CFO Anil Khandelwal.

The Hindu - 18.02.2015

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/travel-companies-seek-exporter->

eight months.

The Economic Times - 18.02.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/as-big-developing-economies-stumble-india-rides-high-on-early-success-of-pm-modi/articleshow/46285581.cms>

Govt to decide on selloff in 3 PSUs

The government is expected to decide on selling stake in three blue chip public sector companies Nalco, Bhel and NMDC on Thursday after its move to sell shares in IndianOil and ONGC have run into rough weather in the wake of low oil prices. The finance ministry has proposed a sale of 10% each in state-run mining firm NMDC and aluminum maker Nalco, while recommending a fresh 5% disinvest in heavy engineering major BHEL.

Based on Wednesday's close on the Bombay Stock Exchange, sale of shares in the three companies is expected to fetch close to Rs 10,000 crore. While the cabinet is scheduled to discuss the proposals on Thursday, it is not clear whether the share sale will be undertaken during the current financial year or is part of the list of PSUs where the government intends to disinvest its equity next year.

Times of India - 19.02.2015

http://mlife.mtsindia.in/news_details.jsp?pid=168528

E-visa power? Tourism shot up by 400% in a year: Rajnath

Tourist arrivals in December last year soared by over 400% as compared to December 2013, in a development now linked to the launch of tourist visa on arrival (TVoA) enabled by electronic travel authorization (ETA) scheme in 44 countries on November 27, 2014. Union home minister Rajnath Singh told a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee on home affairs, here on Tuesday that there had been a 421.6% jump in tourist arrivals in December 2014, with the government having issued 14,083 ETAs as compared to just 2,700 visas in December 2013. Besides, he added, as many as 65,000 ETAs were issued within 75 days of launch of the facility, with the daily average being 1,000 ETAs.

The Times of India - 18.02.2015

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/E-visa-power-Tourism-shot-up-by-400-in-a-year-Rajnath/articleshow/46281239.cms>

status/article6909586.ece

Travel app Trip38 raises Rs 6 crore to invest in tech and marketing

Travel management app Trip 38 has raised about Rs 6 crore (\$1 million) in funding from InterGlobe Technology Quotient, the parent of Indigo airlines, and Singapore based Lantern Capital. "The funds will be invested towards improving our technology, product features and expanding consumer base through effective marketing," said cofounder Niranjana Gupta. Gupta had earlier co-founded Via.com and Magic rooms, which was sold to Yatra.com. His other co-founders include Seshadri Krishnan, the former head of travel and retail vertical at Sapient Europe, and Markish R, the former technology chief at MagicRooms.

Trip38 is a mobile app that provides context sensitive, location content in terms of flight e-tickets, flight status, airport information, sightseeing options, restaurants, local events, weather, etc on the traveler's smart phone with their confirmation vouchers and flight tickets. Anil Parashar, president and CEO, InterGlobe Technology Quotient, said "being a leader in aviation, hospitality and travel related services, we saw a huge market potential with Trip38's global product; hence, investing in Trip38 was natural business symbiosis to us".

Economic Times - 23.02.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/emerging-businesses/startups/travel-app-trip38-raises-rs-6-crore-to-invest-in-tech-and-marketing/articleshow/46337454.cms>

Thomas Cook eyes business growth through student tours

Tour operator Thomas Cook is expanding its travel business and has launched a new segment - student tours. "We see a fairly large opportunity from the student tour segment including from non-metro cities," said Abraham Alapatt, head of marketing of Thomas Cook. The company is present in India since 1881 and has a diversified travel and foreign exchange portfolio which caters to leisure and corporate travellers. With a view to increase its brand awareness, Thomas Cook conducted nationwide travel quiz contest covering five lakh students. This reach has also allowed the company to engage with schools and grow its business. "We are in discussion with schools and text book publishers to design itineraries along school curriculum. We recently conducted a student tour to Ranthambore national park and will be organising similar trips within India and abroad," Alapatt said.

Business Standard - 17.02.2015

<http://www.business->

Air India set to miss revenue target for February

The finance department of Air India has asked its commercial department to carry out "necessary" changes in the national carrier's network after it became clear that the airline will fail to meet its revenue target for February. "There is a drop in the revenues that we had estimated for February and we are unlikely to achieve the target for the month," the executive said, requesting anonymity. "The equity infusion for the year has also dried up and we are likely to get only Rs 50 crore during March. The finance department has asked the commercial department to do necessary changes in the network."

The executive, however, added that the commercial department does not plan any immediate changes in the network. "The finance department keeps raising these concerns as and when there is a dip in revenues," the official said. The drop in revenues comes after two successive months of profits. Air India posted a profit of Rs 13 crore in January and Rs 11 crore in December.

Economic Times - 23.02.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/air-india-set-to-miss-revenue-target-for-february/articleshow/46336915.cms>

Government may relax Leave Travel Concession norms in Budget to boost tourism

In order to give boost to the tourism sector, the Budget for 2015-16 is likely to expand the scope of LTA and LTC by including hotel and other expenses besides travel for the purpose of tax benefit. The Ministry, sources said, it is also considering a proposal to allow employees to avail Leave Travel Concession (LTC)/ Leave Travel Allowance (LTA) every year as against the current practice of two times in a block of four years. At present, LTA or LTC covers only economy class air travel or first class (AC I Class) rail fare. An announcement in this regard is likely to be made in the Budget to be presented by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on February 28. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier expressed his keenness to promote tourism.

IBN Live - 19.02.2015

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/government-may-relax-leave-travel-concession-norms-in->

standard.com/article/companies/thomas-cook-eyes-business-growth-through-student-tours-115021700702_1.html

No plans to reduce train fares: Minister

Ahead of presentation of the Railway Budget in Parliament next week, government today ruled out the possibility of reducing train fares, saying they were "already low". "It (fare reduction) will not be done. Fares are already low and government is giving subsidy," Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha said here. He was answering questions from reporters last night on the possibility of reduction in train fares in the Railway Budget to be presented in Parliament on February 26. Sinha said the requirement of the ministry was more and resources were limited, therefore rail budget would be balanced and public interest will be kept in mind. He also said a bill to amend an existing law to empower Railway Protection Force (RPF) to lodge FIR would be introduced in the upcoming session of Parliament beginning Monday. Sinha, who is a member of Lok Sabha from Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh, said the Railways had its own security wing - RPF - but it did not have the power to lodge FIR in crimes taking place under its jurisdiction.

The Hindu Business Line - 20.02.2015

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/no-plans-to-reduce-train-fares-mos-railways/article6912507.ece>

Twelve smart cities to come up at ports with Rs 50k-crore investment

The government is working on an ambitious plan to build one smart city each at the country's 12 major ports, at an estimated total investment of Rs 50,000 crore, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said. "Each port will construct one smart city. We are trying to do this. Each city will be built with an expenditure of about Rs 3,000-4,000 crore," said the Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping. "These will be green smart cities. We are starting work on these in four to six months. You will see all these complete in five years," Gadkari told in an interview.

The 12 major ports under central government's control have between them an estimated 2.64 lakh acres of land which is being mapped through satellites and are major resources with Shipping Ministry.

The Economic Times - 22.02.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/twelve-smart-cities-to-come-up-at-ports-with-rs-50k-crore->

budget-to-boost-tourism/529441-7.html

SpiceJet's scrip soars 18 percent, after CCI clearance

Budget passenger carrier SpiceJet's scrip soared nearly 18 percent in the intra-day trade Friday, after the airline informed that Competition Commission of India (CCI) has cleared the proposed takeover of the company by Ajay Singh. The airline's scrip was trading at Rs.23.25 up 16.79 percent in the afternoon trade session. The upsurge in the company's stocks came after it informed the BSE in a regulatory filing that the CCI had cleared the proposed takeover of the airline by Singh. On Jan 15, the airline's board had approved the plans to allow Kalanithi Maran together with his KAL Airways to off-load their stake in the company to Singh after regulatory clearances. Maran together with his KAL Airways, held 53.5 percent stake in SpiceJet, while Singh had a 4.5 percent stake. Maran acquired SpiceJet for close to Rs.750 crore. In December 2014, Maran made it clear that no fresh bailout package could be put together for the airline in which nearly \$400 million or Rs.2,500 crore has been invested since 2010

ABP Live - 20.02.2015

<http://www.abplive.in/business/2015/02/20/article507178.ece/SpiceJets-scrip-soars-18-percent-after-CCI-clearance>

Logistics hub in Bhiwandi, CM Devendra Fadnavis promises industry chamber

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said the government would be setting up a logistics hub in Bhiwandi as part of the Make In Maharashtra initiative, which is set up on the lines of Make In India scheme. He was addressing the 'Progressive Maharashtra 2015' seminar organised by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (Ficci) at five-star hotel in south-Mumbai. Industries minister Subhash Desai, Ficci president Jyotsna Suri, MIDC CEO Bhushan Gagrani, Sicom managing director Ashish Kumar Singh, and principal secretary (chief minister's office) Praveen Singh Pardeshi were present for the event. Fadnavis said that while concentrating on ease of doing business in the state, the government is keen to provide the best possible infrastructure to various industries and would set up a logistics hub at Bhiwandi.

DNA - 15.02.2015

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report->

investment/articleshow/46330673.cms

Vizag port shows the way

In a trend-setting move, Visakhapatnam Port Trust has proposed construction of an integrated logistics and warehousing park generating tremendous enthusiasm among bulk, retail and e-commerce operators. The proposal, which is awaiting green signal from Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has already received enquiries for buying space by e-commerce firms including Flipkart. The port, which has identified 500 acres at Tadi and nearby areas close to Anakapalle, about 40 km from Visakhapatnam, wants to create infrastructure to cut down delivery cost of various white goods, furniture, seafood and other items. "We have submitted a proposal to the State government and it is under consideration at the highest level," Visakhapatnam Port Chairman M.T. Krishna Babu told The Hindu.

The Hindu - 20.02.2015

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/vizag-port-shows-the-way/article6914748.ece>

Safexpress launches warehousing facility at Udaipur

Supply chain & logistics firm Safexpress has launched its ultra-modern warehousing facility at Udaipur. Spanning over an area of 4500 sq. feet, this ultra-modern Logistics Park is strategically located on NH 8. 'Udaipur, also known as the 'Venice of East', is a commercial hub of the world for handicrafts and marble mining. The important industrial minerals of the place are marble, emerald, lime stone and calcite, the transportation of which is very difficult. Udaipur holds vital importance due to its focal location,' Pawan Jain, CMD, Safexpress said. The launch is in line with the company's strategy of developing 32 ultra-modern Logistics Parks at key industrial hubs in India. The Logistics Park in Udaipur is the company's third successful launch within this year.

Indian Retailer - 18.02.2015

<http://www.indianretailer.com/article/operations/logistics-and-supply-chain/Safexpress-launches-warehousing-facility-at-Udaipur-2926/>

Make air travel reachable for all

Travel must be reachable for all, and this is done only through cooperation between governments and all other stakeholders. There must be a

logistics-hub-in-bhiwandi-cm-devendra-fadnavis-promises-industry-chamber-2061014

Toshiba Logistics starts operations in India

Toshiba Logistics India Private Limited (TLGI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Toshiba Logistics Corporation in Japan, today said it has commenced operations in India. Founded in August 2014, TLGI has scaled up its expertise and skills in forward logistics to facilitate Toshiba Group companies execute timely delivery of industrial large scale products to their customers in India, the company said in a statement. TLGI will be a logistics provider operating with end-to-end logistics capabilities starting from transportation engineering, packing/repacking, order processing, excise and customs compliance and clearance.

The Hindu Business Line - 15.02.2015

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/toshiba-logistics-starts-operations-in-india/article6898606.ece>

Shipping Ministry asks for more financial powers for ports

A high-level committee constituted by the shipping ministry has proposed more financial powers for the country's 12 major port trusts to allow them to take decisions faster and function more like commercial organisations on a par with public sector enterprises. The committee, comprising officials of the shipping ministry and representatives of port trusts, has recommended that board of port trusts be given full powers to execute contracts, take temporary loans, sanction works up to Rs 200 crore and write off losses up to Rs 40 crore in a year. "It will expedite a lot of our future projects, for which we had to get the ministry's approval. This does not mean that the scrutiny of the projects will be compromised in any way," said Ravi Parmar, chairman of Mumbai and Kandla Port Trusts.

The Economic Times - 21.02.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-transport/shipping-ministry-asks-for-more-financial-powers-for-ports/articleshow/46319092.cms>

Dr. Hanumanthu Purushotham joins as CMD NRDC

Dr. Hanumanthu Purushotham assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of

relaxation in tax regulations on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and mandatory route guidelines that prevent low-cost carriers from expanding and growing the market. Though ATF prices have gone down significantly, many States levy VAT, which varies from 4 to 30 per cent. VAT on ATF must be unified across States to around 3-4 per cent. While some States have taken steps towards this, others remain reluctant. Although direct import of ATF is possible, the infrastructure required to facilitate its transportation is dominated by India's oil marketing companies.

The Hindu Business Line - 16.02.2015

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/make-air-travel-reachable-for-all/article6898795.ece>

National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) last week. Prior to this assignment, he was Scientist-G & Head of Knowledge Management Centre of International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, located at Hyderabad.

Press Information Bureau - 20.02.2015

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=115044>