

(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 – Inauguration of Composting Unit at Victoria Memorial

The Indian Express
Friday, 5 February, 2016

VICTORIA MEMORIAL TO CONVERT WASTE INTO MANURE

Kolkata: To convert organic waste into manure for gardening, a composting unit and solid waste management system was installed Thursday on the premises of the iconic monument Victoria Memorial Hall here.

The composting unit set up by PSU Balmer Lawrie is equipped with cutting-edge technology and has a capacity to treat 500 kg of organic waste daily.

Dr Jayanta Sengupta, secretary and curator of the Victoria Memorial, said the compost produced from organic waste is rich in soil nutrients and will be used in-house for gardening thus, saving a huge amount spent on fertilisers. He added that Victoria Memorial attracts huge footfall daily and with the installation of the composting unit, the organic waste collected can be recycled and reused as manure. PTI

Millennium Post
Saturday, February 6, 2016

Victoria Memorial gets first composting unit to treat 500kg organic waste daily

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Balmer Lawrie & Co. Limited, the highly diversified PSE, as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has set up the first composting unit at Victoria Memorial.

Chairman and managing director Prabal Basu of Balmer Lawrie, who was the chief guest, on Friday inaugurated Kolkata's first of its kind Composting Unit and Solid Waste Management System installed at Victoria Memorial. Manjusha Bhatnagar, director (HR & CA), Balmer Lawrie was the guest of honour. K Swaminathan, director (Service Business) and Jayanta Sengupta, secretary and curator of Victoria Memorial were also present on the occasion. The unit is equipped with



(From left) Secretary and curator of Victoria Memorial Jayanta Sengupta, Manjusha Bhatnagar, director (HR & CA), Balmer Lawrie, Prabal Basu, CMD of Balmer Lawrie and K Swaminathan, director (Service Business) attend a meeting in Kolkata on Friday. PIC/MPST

cutting-edge technology and has a capacity to treat 500kg of organic waste daily.

Speaking on the occasion, Prabal Basu, CMD of Balmer Lawrie said this initiative was a good example of solid waste management and such

a model needs to be replicated across the city.

This will help supplement our Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ongoing initiative of Clean India Campaign and Balmer Lawrie is pleased to be able to contribute towards this

nationalwide cleanliness drive.

The unit helps to recycle the waste to generate organic manure. Thus the waste is prevented from being sent for landfill, reducing air and soil pollution to a great extent. Secretary and curator of

Victoria Memorial Jayanta Sengupta appreciated the efforts of Balmer Lawrie in setting up the unit. He stated that the compost produced from organic waste is rich in soil nutrients and will be used in-house for gardening thus saving a huge amount spent on fertilisers.

He added that Victoria Memorial is one of the important tourist spots attracting huge foot falls daily and with the installation of the unit, the organic waste collected can be recycled and reused as manure. Balmer Lawrie, a responsible corporate citizen, strongly values the need for environmental protection and constantly partners with various stakeholders to promote environment best practices.

Setting up of the Composting Unit is a testimony of this initiative.

Rajasthan Patrika
Friday, 5 February, 2016

विक्टोरिया मेमोरियल में बामर लॉरी की कम्पोजिटिंग यूनिट

कोलकाता @ पत्रिका

patrika.com/city प्रमुख पीएसई बामर लॉरी एंड कम्पनी लिमिटेड ने स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के तहत विक्टोरिया मेमोरियल में कम्पोजिटिंग यूनिट लगाई है। कार्पोरेट सोशल रेस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी (सीएसआर) के तहत महानगर की पहली आधुनिक कम्पोजिटिंग यूनिट व ठोस बर्ज्य प्रबंधन व्यवस्था होगी। गुरुवार को कंपनी के चेयरमैन व प्रबंध निदेशक प्रबाल बसु ने इस

यूनिट का उद्घाटन किया। इस कार्यक्रम में कम्पनी की निदेशक (एचआर व सीए) मंजुशा भटनगर प्रमुख अतिथि के तौर पर उपस्थित थीं। कार्यक्रम में निदेशक (सेवा व्यवसाय) के स्वामीनाथक व विक्टोरिया मेमोरियल के क्यूरेटर व सचिव डॉ जयंत सेनगुप्ता भी उपस्थित थे। बामर लॉरी द्वारा स्थापित कम्पोजिटिंग यूनिट में प्रतिदिन 500 किलोग्राम अर्गैनिक वेस्ट को परिसुद्ध करने की क्षमता है। इस

मौके पर चेयरमैन व प्रबंध निदेशक प्रबाल बसु ने कहा कि इस यूनिट के तहत विक्टोरिया मेमोरियल की गंदगी को सफाई होगी और प्रदूषण भी नहीं होगा।

यह प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के अभियान स्वच्छ भारत का प्रतिबिम्ब है। विक्टोरिया मेमोरियल के सचिव व क्यूरेटर डॉ जयंत सेनगुप्ता ने बताया कि बामर लॉरी की यह शुरूआत सफल होगी।

(कार्यालय संवाददाता)

Aajkaal
Saturday, February 6, 2016

बिक्कोरियाय चालू कम्पोस्ट बिभाग

आजकाले प्रतिबेदन: कर्पोरेट सोशल रेस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी-र अक्ष हिसेबे बामर लॉरी बिक्कोरिया मेमोरियाल चहरे चालू करल कलकातार प्रथम कम्पोस्ट इडिनिट एवंग सलिड गृहेस्ट म्यानेजमेन्ट सिस्टेम। अत्याधुनिक प्रयुक्तिर एई क्वालिटी प्रतिदिन ५०० केजि जैब बर्जा अप्रेस कर यावे। तैरि हबे जैब सार। शुक्रवार उद्घाटनी अनुष्ठाने हिडेन बामर लॉरीर सि एम डि प्रबाल बसु, बिक्कोरियाय सचिव व किडरेटर डा: जयन्त सेनगुप्ता, बामर लॉरीर डिरेक्टर मधुषा भटनगर, के स्वामीनाथन प्रमुख। इडिनिटिडि उद्घाटन करे प्रबाल बसु बललेन, कलकातार अना जायगतेउ एमन इडिनिट चालू करा उडित। आर जयन्त सेनगुप्ता जानालेन, एर फले प्रतिदिन रासायनिक सार बावद आमारेर एकपादा खत कमे यावे।

Ei Samay
Saturday, February 6, 2016

बिक्कोरियाय कम्पोस्ट

एई समय: बिक्कोरिया मेमोरियाले प्रथम कम्पोस्टिंग इडिनिटिडि उद्घाटन हल शुक्रवार। बामर लॉरी आयाड कम्पोनि लिमिटेडेडेर चेयारम्यान एवंग म्यानेजिंग डिरेक्टर प्रबाल बसु शुक्रवार यन्त्रुडि उद्घाटन करेन। संहस्तर अन्यान्य कर्ता एवंग बिक्कोरिया मेमोरियालेर सम्पादक तथा किडरेटर जयन्त सेनगुप्ता अनुष्ठाने हाजिर छिलेन। दैनिक ५०० केजि जैब बर्जा 'ट्रिट' करार क्षमता आछे ओई यन्त्रे। 'स्वच्छ भारत' अभियानेर अक्ष हिसेबेई एई यन्त्र लागानो हल बले ए दिन प्रबाल जानान। जैब बर्जा 'ट्रिट' करे ये परिशेष पाओया यावे, ता बिक्कोरियाय बागाने सारेर काजे लागवे बले जानान जयन्त।

Jansatta
Friday, February 5, 2016

बर्ज्य वस्तुओं को खाद में बदलने की परियोजना

कोलकाता, 5 फरवरी (जनसत्ता)। महानगर के ऐतिहासिक विक्टोरिया मेमोरियल हॉल परिसर में बर्ज्य वस्तुओं को खाद में बदलने की परियोजना शुरू की गई है। इसके तहत यहां सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी बामर लॉरी की ओर से एक कंपोजिटिंग यूनिट की स्थापना की गई है। अत्याधुनिक इस मशीन में रोजाना पांच सौ किलोग्राम बर्ज्य वस्तुओं को खाद में बदलने की क्षमता है। खाद का इस्तेमाल विक्टोरिया मेमोरियल हॉल परिसर में बागीचे में किया जाएगा।

विक्टोरिया मेमोरियल के सचिव व संरक्षक जयंत सेनगुप्त ने कहा कि जैविक बर्ज्य वस्तुओं में मिट्टी के पोषण की बढ़ी क्षमता है। उन्होंने कहा कि तैयार किए गए खाद का उपयोग हम यहां के बागीचे में करेंगे। सेनगुप्त ने कहा कि विक्टोरिया मेमोरियल एक महत्वपूर्ण पर्यटन स्थल है और रोजाना बड़ी संख्या में यहां पर्यटक आते हैं। इस मौके पर बामर लॉरी के सीएमडी प्रबाल बसु ने कहा कि कंपनी की यह कारपोरेट सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी (सीएसआर) का एक हिस्सा है। उन्होंने कहा कि 'स्वच्छ भारत' अभियान के तहत यह पहल शुरू की गई है। बसु ने कहा कि इस यूनिट के माध्यम से बर्ज्य वस्तुओं का दोबारा उपयोग करने में बावु व मिट्टी प्रदूषण पर रोक लगाने में मदद मिलेगी।

Victoria Memorial to convert waste into manure

To convert organic waste into manure for gardening, a composting unit and solid waste management system was installed today at the premises of the iconic monument Victoria Memorial Hall. The composting unit set up by PSU Balmer Lawrie is equipped with cutting-edge technology and has a capacity to treat 500 kg of organic waste daily.

Business Standard- 05.02.2016

- http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/victoria-memorial-to-convert-waste-into-manure-116020400972_1.html
- <http://www.thestatesman.com/news/bengal/victoria-memorial-to-convert-waste-into-manure/121314.html#CUU6ITTTThMVgIdML.99>
- <http://www.iamin.in/en/jadavpur/news/newly-inaugurated-composting-unit-kolkata%E2%80%99s-victoria-memorial-can-treat-500-kg-waste-daily-84289>

GDP data to show economy racing, realities less rosy

India will release data on Monday showing it remains one of the fastest growing economies in the world, but economists are struggling to reconcile that rosy picture with ground realities like weak exports, investment, and flat corporate order books. The median estimate from a Reuters poll of economists put GDP annual growth at 7.3 per cent in the quarter through December, just below 7.4 per cent in July-September. If the data comes in line with expectations, it would be faster than 6.8 per cent growth posted by China in the same quarter. However, very few economists are ready to take the official data at face value, reckoning that it overestimates the pace of expansion in Asia's third-largest economy. "There are inconsistencies between the picture presented by new GDP series and many other tried and trusted real activity indicators," said Rupa Rege Nitsure, group chief economist, L&T Finance Holdings, Mumbai.

The Economic Times - 08.02.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/gdp-data-to-show-economy-racing-realities-less-rosy/articleshow/50894765.cms>

Indian economy likely to grow at 7.4% in FY16: NCAER

Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.4 per cent in the current fiscal despite weak performance of agriculture sector due to poor monsoon, NCAER said. The GDP growth rate forecast is 7.4 per cent for 2015-2016 and 2016-17, the economic policy think-tank said in a report. According to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) report, prospects for agriculture sector in 2015-16 remain weak owing to poor monsoon rainfall for the second year in a row. Agricultural growth during the first half of the current financial year fell to 2.0 per cent from 2.4 per cent in the first half of 2014-

Indian economic recovery losing steam: Nomura

India's economic recovery is losing some steam and there is a likelihood of slowdown in the growth momentum, says Japanese financial services firm Nomura. While improving urban consumption demand and a robust transportation sector are supporting growth, weak external conditions and sluggish investment demand are weighing on the pace of the recovery, it said. There is a "downside risk" to its baseline forecast of 7.8 per cent GDP growth in 2016, it said, adding however that Nomura Composite Leading Index, with a reading still above 100, "suggests a mid-cycle consolidation, rather than the start of a downturn". "The economic recovery, which began in the fourth quarter of 2014, is headed into a consolidation zone into the second quarter of 2016," Nomura said in a research note, adding that the growth recovery is not yet broad-based.

The Economic Times - 07.02.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indian-economic-recovery-losing-steam-nomura/articleshow/50886542.cms>

World economy seems trapped in 'death spiral': Citi

The global economy seems trapped in a "death spiral" that could lead to further weakness in oil prices, recession and a serious equity bear market, Citi strategists have warned. Some analysts — including those at Citi — have turned bearish on the world economy this year, following an equity rout in January and weaker economic data out of China and the US. "The world appears to be trapped in a circular reference death spiral," Citi strategists led by Jonathan Stubbs said in a report on Thursday. "Stronger US dollar, weaker oil/commodity prices, weaker world trade/petrodollar liquidity,

15. However, rabi output may be comparable to the previous year and the overall food grain output for this year may be marginally higher by approximately 1-2 per cent, it said. With regard to factory output, it said the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) contracted sharply in November 2015, with the index declining 3.2 per cent, down from a five-year high of 9.8 per cent in October 2015 and a growth of 3.8 per cent in the comparable period last year.

The Economic Times - 05.02.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indian-economy-likely-to-grow-at-7-4-in-fy16-ncaer/articleshow/50869280.cms>

Jan services PMI at 19-month high

Growth in India's services activity rose at its fastest pace in 19 months in January as demand picked up, a business survey showed today. The Nikkei/Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) surged to 54.3 in January from December's 53.6, marking a seventh month above the 50-level that separates growth from contraction. Growth was noted in four of the six monitored categories, the exceptions being Hotels & Restaurants and Transport & Storage. "The Indian economy shifted into a higher gear in January, supported by a quick rebound in manufacturing production following last month's floods. Concurrently, the service sector gained traction and posted its strongest monthly gain in activity for over one-and-a-half years," said Pollyanna De Lima, economist at Markit. With threats of a sharp slowdown in Asia's third-largest economy, the government may run a higher budget deficit to stimulate demand.

Business Standard - 03.02.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/jan-services-pmi-at-19-month-high-116020300300_1.html

Less than half of PSUs following MSME procurement norms

Less than half of the PSUs are complying with the mandatory 20 per cent procurement of products and services from micro and small enterprises, a review of the policy by MSME Minister Kalraj Mishra has found. Union Minister Kalraj Mishra today chaired a review meeting on the public procurement policy by PSUs. The review meeting follows the Prime Minister's Office taking stock of whether the PSUs were meeting the mandatory procurement norms, sources told PTI. "Presently, less than half of the 146 public sector undertakings (PSUs) are complying with the mandatory 20 per cent procurement of products

weaker EM (and global growth)... and repeat. Ad infinitum, this would lead to Oilmageddon, a 'significant and synchronized' global recession and a proper modern-day equity bear market." Stubbs said that macro strategists at Citi forecast that the dollar would weaken in 2016 and that oil prices were likely bottoming, potentially providing some light at the end of the tunnel. "

Moneycontrol - 06.02.2016

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/world-news/world-economy-seems-trapped39death-spiral39-citi_5342661.html

Govt to revive strategic selloff in FY17, to keep key PSUs out

The government is set to push strategic sale in the next financial year but is not looking to sell shares in key PSUs such as Bhel or oil companies as well as Specified Undertaking of UTI's (SUUTI's) holdings in three blue chips — ITC, L&T and Axis Bank. A strategic sale is the transfer of shares to an institution with management control. Sources told TOI that the government is working on a "high-powered" panel to ensure "collective responsibility" since civil servants are unwilling to take the burden, fearing that they may be hounded later. The government had sought to revive strategic sale in state-owned companies — starting with over half-a-dozen hotels — during the current financial year but has made no headway. Compared with its record disinvestment target of Rs 69,500 crore for the current financial year, it is staring to close the year with around Rs 20,000 crore.

The Times of India - 08.02.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Govt-to-revive-strategic-selloff-in-FY17-to-keep-key-PSUs-out/articleshow/50894574.cms>

Government panel for 100 amendments to Companies Act

Government-appointed panel on Monday suggested nearly 100 amendments to the new Companies Act to make it easier to do business in India, including for simpler laws for incorporating a company and for raising funds, as also for insider trading and dealings with top executives. The ministry of corporate affairs ministry has decided to launch a public consultation process on the suggested changes and has invited comments from all concerned stakeholders till February 15 in this regard. The ministry had constituted the Companies Law Committee in June 2015 for examining and

and services required by them from micro and small enterprises. The sourcing from SC/ST entrepreneurs is also much less than the mandatory 4 per cent prescribed for PSUs," a senior official said. "The Minister directed the MSME Secretary and other senior officials to call a meeting of the top 30-50 PSUs at the earliest to sensitise them towards meeting the public procurement policy norms," the official added.

Business Standard - 04.02.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/less-than-half-of-psus-following-msme-procurement-norms-116020401212_1.html

Crude oil falls on China economic woes, rising OPEC supply

Oil prices fell for a second session in Asian trade on Tuesday as worries about top energy consumer China and rising oil supply weighed on markets, although possible talks between OPEC and Russia on output cuts offered some support. Brent for April delivery had dropped 56 cents to \$33.68 a barrel as of 0358 GMT, after settling down \$1.75, or 4.9 per cent in the previous session. The front month contract for West Texas Intermediate (WTI) was down 67 cents at \$30.95 after falling \$2.00, or 5.9 per cent, the session before. Despite the declines, US crude is still nearly 19 per cent above the more than 12-year low of \$26.19 hit in mid-January. "(Prices) have just come back to reality a bit, although they are holding water above \$30 a barrel," said Ben Le Brun, market analyst at Sydney's Options Xpress, pointing to concern over rising oil supplies and weaker economic data.

The Hindu Business Line - 02.02.2016

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/crude-oil-falls-on-china-economic-woes-rising-opec-supply/article8182444.ece>

Modi stresses on 10% cut in crude oil imports by 2022

Prime minister Narendra Modi today stressed on cutting crude oil imports by 10% by 2022, the year marking 75 years of India's independence. "We want to minimise our imports of crude oil. By 2022, we should aim at 10% cut in imports as we will be celebrating the 75th year of the country's independence. I took a meeting with the Oil ministry officials and impressed upon them on the need to cut oil imports", Modi said here after dedicating to the nation the 15 million tonne oil refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL). India had imported 189.43 million tonne of crude oil in 2014-15 for Rs 6.87 lakh crore. This fiscal the imports are projected at 188.23 million tonne, almost the same level as last year. He underscored the need for blending petroleum with

making recommendations on the issues arising out of implementation of the Companies Act, 2013. The panel has proposed changes in 78 sections of the Companies Act, 2013, which along with consequential changes, would result in about 100 amendments to the Act. Approximately 50 amendments to the rules have also been proposed.

The Times of India - 02.02.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Government-panel-for-100-amendments-to-Companies-Act/articleshow/50812930.cms>

Oil prices up as weak dollar offsets supply concerns

Crude prices rose today as a weaker US dollar offset concerns over a global supply glut and diminishing hopes of a near-term deal by major petroleum producers to cut output. At around 0350 GMT, US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for delivery in March was 16 cents, or 0.5 per cent, higher at \$31.88, while Brent crude for April was 15 cents, or 0.44 per cent, higher at \$34.61. Shailaja Nair, from energy information provider Platts in Singapore, told AFP that crude prices have received support from the flagging dollar. "The dollar will always have an add-on effect on crude oil prices... The volatility in the dollar and the volatility in crude have been like a constant for the past two to three weeks now," Nair said. Oil is traded in dollars and a softening of the US currency makes crude cheaper for holders of other units, increasing demand for the commodity.

The Financial Express - 05.02.2016

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/markets/commodities/oil-prices-up-as-weak-dollar-offsets-supply-concerns/207589/>

Budget 2016: Refuelling India's energy growth

The fact that India's growth story will not be complete without ensuring energy security cannot arguably be disputed. However, as any other success story, it is very important to have a robust plan with a highly committed execution agenda backed by an investor-friendly policy framework. The NDA Government appears to be very keen on setting this story right which is evident from the efforts being made by the oil ministry towards stakeholder participation in policy formulation. Conventional oil and gas has seen some policy movement in the form of increased gas pricing freedom and the intention to shift to revenue sharing from cost recovery model. This can be considered as a good step towards enabling a less regulated regime.

ethanol and use of jatropha oil as an alternative fuel. Talking on the Paradeep refinery, Modi said it is capable of producing 50 million litres of petrol, 66 million litres of diesel, 25 million litres of kerosene and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and 12 million quintals of petroleum coke.

Business Standard – 07.02.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/modi-stresses-on-10-cut-in-crude-oil-imports-by-2022-116020700398_1.html

Indian leather units see opportunity in exports to US, other markets

The Indian leather industry is eyeing an opportunity to increase exports to the US and other countries, at time when Chinese shipments to these markets are becoming more expensive, said senior officials from the Council of Leather Exports (CLE). The Council is the nodal agency for the international promotion and overall development of the Indian leather and leather products industry. Speaking to the reporters while announcing the launch of the 19th International Technical Footwear Congress, organised in India for the first time in collaboration with the International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians and the Designers Fair for Leather Industry, the Council said that while so far Indian exports were focusing in European countries, there is an opportunity in the US and other countries that are opening up to Indian exports. India is one of the largest footwear manufacturers, exporting around 10-15 per cent of the output.

Business Standard - 02.02.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/indian-leather-units-see-opportunity-in-exports-to-us-other-markets-116020200812_1.html

Aviation minister says capping airfares will make flying costlier

Putting "floors and caps" on airfares will push the ticket prices higher as competition among airlines has kept the fares lower, Union Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju said on Tuesday. The civil aviation minister's remarks assume significance against the backdrop of concerns in certain quarters that at times airlines are charging exorbitant prices for tickets. Last year, there were demands from various quarters, including parliamentarians, to put in a mechanism to contain steep fluctuations in airfares. "Competition has kept the prices down and we should not discourage that. "In our analysis, if we take a year of ticketing, 1.7 percent of the ticketing (air tickets) were priced high. So if you go into floors and caps, we will be pushing up the

However, a lot still needs to be done before the next new exploration licensing policy (NELP) auctions. Unviable cost of production in light of lower crude / gas prices, lack of pipeline connectivity and other infrastructure are the biggest challenges before the sector.

Moneycontrol – 04.02.2016

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/economy/budget-2016-refuelling-india%E2%80%99s-energy-growth-5308201.html?utm_source=ref_article

Airlines to offer discount schemes as fuel cost dips 12%

Thanks to prices of crude oil coming down, the term fuel surcharge (FS) — a separate charge Indian carriers started levying about seven years back when oil prices began shooting up amid a slowing global economy — is all set to be junked from your air tickets. Air India on Monday decided to have an all-inclusive base fare from April 1 as FS will be merged with that. The shift comes as other airlines (foreign and Indian) have also started removing this term from their fare structure. In their latest price cut on Monday, oil marketing companies slashed aviation turbine fuel (ATF) or jet fuel prices by 12%. Now, the price (per kl) of ATF in Delhi and Mumbai is Rs 35,126 and Rs 34,284, respectively. Fuel prices were at lower level than this in June 2009 when the price in Delhi and Mumbai was Rs 32,302 and Rs 33,260, respectively.

The Times of India - 02.02.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Airlines-to-offer-discount-schemes-as-fuel-cost-dips-12/articleshow/50813022.cms>

Special services for fliers willing to pay more

Close to three years after the civil aviation ministry allowed domestic carriers to charge fliers separately for frills, some airlines are offering new services for passengers who are willing to spend a bit more for glitch-free travel. On Monday, budget carrier SpiceJet introduced a service that its fliers could use to buy themselves a guaranteed ride by paying a fee of Rs299 above the ticket cost. The feature called 'fly for sure' would apply to travellers held up owing to flight delays exceeding 90 minutes, stuck owing to last-minute flight cancellations by the airline and even those who reach the airport after the check-in counters are closed. The airline said it will reimburse passengers for an alternative flight ticket (not exceeding double the price of the original ticket or the cost of

cost of tickets to about 98 per cent and bringing it down for the rest.

First Post - 03.02.2016

<http://www.firstpost.com/business/aviation-minister-says-capping-airfares-will-make-flying-costlier-2608140.html>

Lower prices boosted air travel in 2015: IATA

Global air passenger traffic jumped 6.5 percent in 2015 compared to a year earlier, boosted largely by lower air fares, IATA said Thursday. "Last year's very strong performance, against a weaker economic backdrop, confirms the strong demand for aviation connectivity," said Tony Tyler, head of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Last year's hike marked the strongest rise in global air passenger traffic since the global post-financial crisis rebound in 2010, and was well above the 10-year average annual growth rate of 5.5 percent, IATA said. One thing that helped boost demand last year was a five-percent average drop in airfares compared to 2014, the organisation said in a statement. Airline capacity meanwhile rose 5.6 percent, while the average load factor, or percentage of seats occupied, climbed 0.6 points to a record annual high of 80.3 percent.

The Economic Times - 04.02.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/business/lower-prices-boosted-air-travel-in-2015-iata/articleshow/50853660.cms>

Tour operators body seeks service tax exemption, e-tourist visas at sea ports

Seeking "expeditious settlement" of various issues related to tourism like extending online visa facility at sea ports and service tax exemption on foreign exchange earnings, tour operators' body IATO has urged Union Minister Mahesh Sharma to ensure these are addressed in a time-bound manner. In a letter to Sharma, who holds the Tourism portfolio, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) President Subhash Goyal said though most of the pending industry issues have already been deliberated upon by the top Ministry officials, they are yet to be implemented. According to IATO, it had a meeting with Tourism Secretary Vinod Zutshi, Joint Secretary Suman Billa, Additional Director General R K Bhatnagar and Director General (Archaeological Survey of India) Rakesh Tewari, among others in mid-January. "May I also request that all these issues need to be resolved and implemented in a time

second ticket, whichever is lower) on the airline of their choice in the same sector of the original booking within 24 hours of the original scheduled departure.

The Hindustan Times - 02.02.2016

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/business/freeze-a-spot-special-services-for-fliers-willing-to-pay-more/story-BgKYipfBOPRABDVpkTQB5M.html>

Bangladesh to 'soon' grant India access to Chittagong port

Addressing a long pending demand by India, Bangladesh will "soon" grant India direct access to its Chittagong port even as both sides work on forward linkages. Bangladesh is working on a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which will ensure India direct access to the port, which is significant in boosting bilateral and intra-regional trade. "Hopefully, we will be realising this soon. We are working on SOPs and forward linkages on other aspects that go beyond just access to Chittagong port," Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque told BusinessLine. Recently, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina suggested creation of a joint consortium between both the countries in an effort to ensure better use of the port. India had been asking for a direct access to the Chittagong Port for nearly five years.

The Hindu Business Line - 02.03.2016

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/bangladesh-to-soon-grant-india-access-to-chittagong-port/article8184735.ece>

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bound manner to achieve sustainable growth of tourism," it added.

The Times of India - 07.02.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/travel/tour-operators-body-seeks-service-tax-exemption-e-tourist-visas-at-sea-ports/articleshow/50887372.cms>

SpiceJet to start door-to-door cargo service

SpiceJet has planned to ramp up its cargo business and introduce door-to-door delivery service for its corporate customers from March. As fares decline, the airline is looking at various means to improve its top line and cargo business. "Cargo and logistics is a growing business for us. Earlier, we used to outsource the business but, now we are handling it ourselves. We have tied up with courier firms and hiring extra staff for door-to-door cargo delivery. Initially, the service will be only for corporate clients but later we might extend it for retail customers as well," said Managing Director Ajay Singh. SpiceJet posted fourth consecutive profitable result with Rs 232 crore profit in Q3.

Business Standard - 03.02.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/spicejet-to-start-door-to-door-cargo-service-116020300545_1.html

by using the Chittagong port as a transit hub to access other Southeast Asian destinations.

The Hindu Business Line - 02.03.2016

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/bangladesh-to-soon-grant-india-access-to-chittagong-port/article8184735.ece>

A K Sahoo takes over as Director Finance, MRPL

Akshaya Kumar Sahoo, took charge from today as Director Finance of MRPL, the mini ratna – category 1, Schedule A, ONGC subsidiary. Vide their order dated 9th November 2015, MoP&NG, Government of India, had appointed A K Sahoo as Director Finance for the next 5 years effective post the super annuation of Vishnu Agrawal on 31st Jan 2016. Sahoo brings to the table over 25 years of rich experience in various aspects of Finance and Finance Management, with 16 years specifically in Project implementation and management. Adding to his expertise is the fact that he has served in diverse sectors like Mining, Manufacturing, Service before turning to Refining and Petrochemicals Industry in India's Oil & Gas.

sarkaritel.com - 02.02.2016

<http://www.sarkaritel.com/a-k-sahoo-takes-over-as-director-finance-mrpl-196884/>