

(This document comprises news clips from various media in which Balmer Lawrie is mentioned, news related to GOI and PSEs, and news from the verticals that we do business in. This will be uploaded on intranet and website every Monday.)

Balmer Lawrie in News

The Indian Express – 16.12.2016

HINDI KAVI SAMMELAN (BALMER LAWRIE)

December 06, 2016, Kolkata – To promote the 'Linguistic Harmony Day' under Qaumi Ekta Week, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. a Mini Ratna Category – I PSE under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, organized a Hindi Kavi Sammelan at its Corporate Office in Kolkata. Poets from Balmer Lawrie as well as from other PSUs like IOCL, HPCL and Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute participated in the sammelan and presented their compositions. Manjusha Bhatnagar, Director [HR&CA], Balmer Lawrie also presented a heart wrenching piece on female foeticide.



Demonetisation fallout: ADB reduces India GDP growth forecast to 7%

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday became the first multilateral agency to reduce India's growth forecast for the current fiscal 2016-17 to 7% from 7.4% estimated earlier in the backdrop of government's decision to demonetise Rs500 and Rs1,000 currency notes. In its Asian Development Outlook 2016 update, ADB said its lower growth projection for India is due to weak investments, a slowdown in the country's agriculture sector, and the lack of available cash due to the government's decision to ban high-denomination banknotes. "This will likely affect largely cash-based sectors in the country including small- and medium-scale businesses," it said. However, it added that the effects of the transition are expected to be short-lived and the Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.8% in 2017. The government announced withdrawing the high-value currencies on 8 November which amounted to 86% of the total value of currency in circulation.

Mint - 14.12.2016

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/Vz3abbBkVLzpUgZK71FbVM/Demonetisation-fallout-ADB-reduces-Indias-growth-forecast.html>

Nirmala Sitharaman hopeful of positive export growth next year

The lacklustre show of exports from the country for almost past two years is no deterrent for the government, which is confident that it will see a

FM Jaitley hints at low tax rates due to demonetisation, digi-payments

Finance minister Arun Jaitley held out hope of tax cuts in the future as higher revenue gets generated by a cashless system that will allow transactions to be tracked, following the November 8 demonetisation announcement. "Future transactions would be substantially digital and once they are substantially digital they get caught in the tax net," he told reporters on Tuesday. "Therefore, the future taxation level (collection) would be much higher than what is currently being collected." He said cancelling the old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes will help India move toward a "less-cash" economy and rising digital payments will deliver multiple benefits. The government was rapidly replacing old currency with new notes and significant amounts will be injected into the banking system over the next three weeks. "There are economic costs of dealing in cash, there are social costs of dealing in cash.

The Economic Times - 14.12.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/fm-jaitley-hints-at-low-tax-rates-due-to-demonetisation-digi-payments/articleshow/55960647.cms>

Budget to focus on higher spending to boost economy: Arun Jaitley

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said infrastructure investment needs a booster and his next Budget in February will focus on

"positive and solid difference" in 2017. "I look at the new year which is going to definitely see positive and solid difference in exports compared to the previous years when we have been really very slow. I hope newer market should emerge," commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman told PTI. The minister's optimism came against the backdrop of a positive growth recorded by the exports in the last three months. Since December 2014, exports fell for 18 straight months till May 2016 due to subdued global demand and slide in oil prices. Shipments started witnessing growth only in June this year, but again entered the negative zone in July and August. In September, October and November, it registered growth though. According to the commerce ministry's latest data, exports in November grew 2.29% to \$20 billion.

The Economic Times - 19.12.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/nirmala-sitharaman-hopeful-of-positive-export-growth-next-year/articleshow/56054399.cms>

Retail inflation cools to two-year low 3.63% in November

Retail inflation fell to a two-year low in November due to the ongoing cash crunch following the demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes from November 8. Data released by the statistics office on Tuesday showed consumer inflation at 3.63% in November led by a fall in food prices, also due to a normal monsoon this year after two consecutive years of drought. Retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index, was 4.2% in October. The overall decline in inflation was due to a moderation in food inflation which fell to 2.11% from 3.32% in October. "There was a strong base effect and some impact of demonetisation. Evidence suggests that supply and demand both moderated after November 8," said Abheek Barua, chief economist at HDFC Bank. While nearly Rs 15.4 lakh crore in old currency notes has become useless, the Reserve Bank of India has so far introduced only about Rs 4.61 lakh of new currency. In the absence of cash, consumers have cut consumption to preserve cash they have, impacting demand.

The Economic Times - 14.12.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/retail-inflation-cools-to-two-year-low-3-63-in-november/articleshow/55961750.cms>

Promoting digital payments: Same objective, several approaches

The Centre's digital transactions push gained momentum only two weeks into its move to

encouraging more public as well as private spending to boost economic growth. Speaking at ET Now awards, he said India aspires to become a developed economy from a developing economy and a 7- 7.5 per cent GDP growth does not satisfy its requirements. "Therefore spending more and now" is the focus, he said adding infrastructure spending "certainly needs a booster." The Finance Minister said there is a long-term potential of more resources getting into the system and that is going to be the top priority. "Therefore, the areas where we were lacking, whether in terms of encouraging investment of the private sector and so on, I think these are going to be the areas where budget should concentrate on," he said.

The Economic Times - 17.12.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/budget-to-focus-on-higher-spending-to-boost-economy-arun-jaitley/articleshow/56039111.cms>

Government officials will not have to file a declaration of their assets in 2016

The enhanced focus on transparency post demonetisation notwithstanding, public servants will not have to file a declaration of their assets and liabilities this year. This is because the new rules under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Act, 2016 are not ready yet. As a result, the extension of deadline for submission of declaration of assets and liabilities till December 31 has become infructuous. "The extension was given under the old Act of 2014, which is now redundant...We are in the process of drafting the final proforma which only will be valid," a senior government official told ET. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Act, 2016 states, "On and from date of commencement of this Act every public servant shall make a declaration of his assets and liabilities in such form and manner as may be prescribed." Since the filing rules have not been firmed up, there is no requirement for filing of declarations by public servants.

The Economic Times - 15.12.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-officials-will-not-have-to-file-a-declaration-of-their-assets-in-2016/articleshow/55989394.cms>

Government to link all savings accounts to Aadhaar

In a major move that will give an impetus to the cashless drive at the ground level, the Centre

withdraw Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes from circulation, with as many as three committees and groups being floated after November 8 to look at ways to impart an impetus to electronic payment tools. On November 21, a high-level group comprising IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and power minister Piyush Goyal met to discuss the ways to fast-track modes of digital payments in the country. This was followed by a panel of secretaries led by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant being formed on November 24, assigned the task of finding the cost and the minimum time it would take for the changeover to a cashless economy to occur. The panel led by Kant comprises IT secretary Aruna Sundararajan and Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) CEO Ajay Pandey. This committee has thus far identified tools for making electronic transactions, and has been holding meetings with state and district-level officials about these tools. However, Kant is also a member on another committee that mainly consists of chief ministers.

The Indian Express - 13.12.2016

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/busines-others/cashless-economy-digital-transaction-online-payment-demonetisation-4424082/>

EPFO likely to retain 8.8% interest on PF for FY17

Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is likely to retain 8.8% rate of interest on EPF deposits for the current fiscal for its over four crore subscribers— same as 2015-16— at its trustees meeting tomorrow. "The Employees Provident Fund Organisation's apex decision making body, the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), may decide to retain 8.8% rate of interest on EPF for the current fiscal on Monday in its meeting in Bangalore," a person aware of the development said. "Although providing 8.8% rate of interest for the current fiscal will leave a deficit of Rs383 crore, the body wants to utilise about Rs409 crore surplus with it, which accrued after providing 8.8% rate of interest for 2015-16," the person added. He further said: "Labour ministry top brass has been pursuing finance ministry higher ups to convince them for retaining 8.8% rate for this fiscal to avoid any embarrassment.

Mint - 18.12.2016

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/GK3Vn9mbqVWoAOdcoigRsI/EPFO-likely-to-retain-88-interest-on-PF-for-FY17.html>

has decided to link all savings bank accounts with the Aadhaar number for enabling digital transactions, especially at retail points. The move will be particularly helpful for those who do not have a mobile phone, their number is estimated at 30 crore, and will be a gateway for them to be linked to the digital economy, official sources said. The sources said the measure has been approved by PM Narendra Modi, who has now tasked finance minister Arun Jaitley and information technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad with its implementation. Prasad said, "The higher the linkages with the Aadhaar number, the more we have in terms of seamless digital transactions." Sources said that of the 112 crore estimated bank accounts across the country, only around 40 crore are linked with Aadhaar. "This needs to be ramped up pretty fast." Detailing the benefits of the move, the sources said it will enable digital transactions even when someone does not have a mobile phone.

The Times of India - 17.12.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/government-to-link-all-savings-accounts-to-aadhaar/articleshow/56028577.cms>

Services to form 25% of global trade by 2030: HSBC

As economic and political headwinds slow global trade in commodities and manufactured goods, opportunities linked to services will be more and are expected to form 25 per cent of global trade in a sustained manner by 2030, a report by HSBC has said. Whilst the USD value of global merchandise exports has probably contracted by about 3 per cent this year, cross-border sales of services, such as tourism, banking, construction and software development, has risen by 1 per cent in nominal terms, according to HSBC's Global Trade Forecast. It opined that if governments refrain from introducing new impediments to trade, the value of global goods exports is expected to recover gradually to expand by 3 per cent in 2017 and then 6 per cent a year to 2030. Services, meanwhile, will average 7 per cent annual growth to contribute USD 12.4 trillion to global trade flows in 2030, up from an estimated USD 4.9 trillion this year, it said.

The Times of India - 18.12.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/services-to-form-25-of-global-trade-by-2030-hsbc/articleshow/56044874.cms>

Pradhan powers natural gas awareness campaign

Heralding the arrival of eco-friendly natural gas in the holy city of Haridwar, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday launched a Natural Gas awareness campaign here to highlight the benefits of the clean and efficient fuel to residents and industrialists. MP Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, MLA Haridwar Shri Madan Kaushik, Hon'ble MLA Ranipur Shri Adesh Chauhan, Hon'ble MLA Jwalapur Shri Chandra Shekhar, Hon'ble MLA Laksar Shri Sanjay Gupta, Hon'ble MLA Haridwar Rural Shri Yatishvaranand, Shri B.C Tripathi, CMD GAIL (India) Ltd., Shri I.S. Rao, ED (Gas), Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd., Shri P.K.Pal, Chairman HNGPL, along with officials of the Oil Industry were present on this occasion. Speaking at the function, Shri Pradhan said the Haridwar City Gas Distribution Project will touch the lives of nearly 19 lakh people in Haridwar district.

Millennium Post - 14.12.2016

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/NewsContent.aspx?NID=347437>

BP to partner Reliance to open petrol pumps

Oil major BP plans to open petrol pumps in the country in a joint venture with Reliance Industries and bring in innovative strategies to capture the market dominated by state-owned companies. "We are partners and are looking at all possible options. We have been discussing the retail foray," sources said. BP is RIL's partner in its exploration, production and gas-sourcing businesses. In February 2011, London-based BP had bought a 30 per cent stake in 21 oil and gas production-sharing contracts operated by RIL for \$7.2 billion. RIL and BP are also partners in India Gas Solutions, an equal joint venture for sourcing and marketing gas in the country. Besides, BP sells automotive and industrial lubricant brand Castrol in India. In January this year, BP got in-principle approval to sell aviation turbine fuel in India. The global giant has also got in-principle approval and licence to set up 3,500 fuel outlets. RIL holds licences to set up 5,000 fuel outlets. So far, it has set up about 1,500 filling stations, of which over 1,000 are operational.

The Telegraph - 13.12.2016

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1161213/jsp/business/story_124404.jsp#.WFeUcvB97IU

Non-Opec producers' output cap drop energises ONGC, OIL scrips

Shares of upstream oil companies touched one-year high on Monday despite a weak broader market as investors cheered the decision of key oil producing nations to reduce their overall output. OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia also signalled a bigger reduction in output than previously agreed. However, stocks of oil retailers declined up to 4 per cent amid the benchmark Sensex tumbling 0.87 per cent. Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, rose to around USD 58 a barrel, the highest level in more than one year. The uptick follows OPEC and some of the non-members reaching a deal in more than a decade to cut oil output to tackle supply glut and help boost prices. Shares of ONGC soared 1.43 per cent to close at Rs 311.30 apiece on the BSE. During the trading session, the stock had went up 2.46 per cent to touch one-year peak of Rs 314.45.

Millennium Post - 13.12.2016

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/NewsContent.aspx?NID=347261>

Fuel rates may rise Rs 6 on global cues

Indian consumers will soon have to pay more for fuel as global crude oil prices have shot up 15% in the last two weeks as OPEC and other major producers such as Russia have agreed to cut supplies for the first time since 2001. Analysts said state oil marketing companies may need to raise petrol and diesel prices by up to Rs 6 per litre when they review global fuel rates on December 15. However, some industry officials said the government may want to spread the pain over two instalments to make the increase more politically acceptable at a time when the cash crunch is hurting people. Hindustan Petroleum Corp chairman Mukesh Surana said the spike in international oil price would require oil companies to raise fuel rates but he didn't say by how much. "It would depend on what is our perception of the future prices, the price elasticity and any other sensibility... I can't tell you the exact quantum of the increase," he told ET.

The Economic Times - 14.12.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/fuel-rates-may-rise-rs-6-on-global-cues/articleshow/55969240.cms>

New oil era ready for kick-off

The discovered oil and gas blocks will be awarded to the successful bidders by the end of this month, ushering in exploration and production under a new revenue sharing formula. In the latest round of auctions for small and marginal fields, 42 companies placed bids for 34 of the 46 contract areas on offer. "The bids are being vetted. The blocks are likely to be awarded to the winner by the end of December," a senior oil ministry official said. The auction has been conducted on a new revenue-sharing model where bidders were asked to quote the revenue they would share with the government at low- and high-end of the price and production bands. The revenue-sharing regime will replace the controversial production-sharing contracts (PSC) - by which oil and gas blocks were awarded to those companies which showed they would do maximum work on a block. The PSC regime allows operators to recover their investments before sharing profits from oil and gas output with the government. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has criticised this model on grounds that it encourages companies to show higher investments to defer the government's share of profit. The government said the auctions were a success as over 73 per cent of the total area on offer received bids.

The Telegraph - 19.12.2016

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1161219/jsp/business/story_125459.jsp#.WF6oKvB97IV

Steel firms plan biggest price hike from January

Major domestic steel companies are planning to raise product prices by a whopping Rs 6,000 per tonne from January as an unprecedented rise in coking coal rates and weak retail sales due to demonetisation are hurting margins. "Not just us, all domestic steel producers are planning to raise product prices from January. There is no option for us. Coking coal prices have gone to Rs 22,000 per tonne from Rs 7,000. The cost push is huge and we have to pass it on whether the market can absorb it or not," Nitin Johari, director (finance) at Bhushan Steel told Business Standard. Currently, the price of domestically produced hot-rolled coil stands at Rs 36,750 a tonne as on December 9. An Rs 6,000-a-tonne hike in product prices would be the biggest upward revision by steel producers since the government started taking measures to curb cheap imports in October 2015. Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel, Essar Steel, Tata Steel, and Naveen Jindal-led Jindal Steel & Power, among others, are the major steel producing companies in the domestic market.

Business Standard - 16.12.2016

Klüber Lubrication brings new tribological solution for textile industry

Klüber Lubrication, manufacturer of speciality lubricants, brings in high-end tribological solutions by supplying tailor made speciality lubricants and services for textile industry. Christian Forster, Market Manager Textile Industry at Klüber Lubrication said that Klüber Lubrication is more than just a manufacturer of speciality lubricants. In the textile industry, the lubrication requirements vary from machine to machine and from production step to production step. The loads, speeds and vibrations to which bearings, chains and gear wheels are exposed can be very high. In many cases, machine manufacturers specify different lubricants to be used for the individual friction points. This results in a huge logistical effort for the production sites around the world and entails the risk of errors in case lubricants are mixed up. Being a well-established partner of the textile industry, they analyse specific applications in order to streamline the use of oils, greases and coatings. In general, the number of different lubricants can thus be reduced while maintaining the quality of lubrication.

Yarns & Fibres - 13.12.2016

<http://www.yarnsandfibres.com/news/textile-news/kluber-lubrication-brings-new-tribological-solution-textile-industry#.WF6tdfB97IU>

Leather Industry Has Been Hit Hard by Demonetisation: Survey

Trade in major clusters of leather and related products in India has been hit hard by the demonetisation, industry body Assocham said on Monday. "There has been a significant decline in the arrival of animal hide. While tanneries in Chennai have recorded more than 60 percent fall in skin arrival, other major leather clusters - Agra, Kanpur and Kolkata have recorded over 75 percent decline in this regard," a survey-cum-analysis on 'Impact of Demonetisation' on leather industry' by Assocham said. "The leather industry is reeling under stress as butchers are not providing animal hide for (which) they are not being paid in cash, tanneries are not able to get the hide transported as they are unable to pay the drivers in cash," it said. Moreover, the survey said, shortfall in coal supply for boilers is also adding to the industry's woes. Assocham interacted with representatives of about 100 tanneries in major leather clusters Agra, Chennai, Kanpur and Kolkata - in the last fortnight to assess the impact of Centre's November 8 decision to demonetise 500 and 1000 rupee notes.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/steel-firms-plan-biggest-price-hike-from-january-116121600970_1.html

Aadhaar may turn must to buy air tickets

Fliers may soon have to furnish their Aadhaar card number to book tickets. Jet Airways has already recommended insertion of the 12-digit unique number in the PNR when tickets are booked. Sources said other airlines would follow suit. Though it was a recommendation now, it would soon become mandatory, sources said. Indian Railways has already announced Aadhaar details will be required while claiming concession on train tickets. Jet Airways has claimed Aadhaar-linked PNR will ensure seamless service to fliers. Airport systems will be developed to recognise the number in the bar code and allow fliers to enjoy express service. The airline website has gone live with the acceptance of Aadhaar number at the time of booking. Web and mobile check-in boarding passes will be integrated later. But the travel trade fraternity is worried the move could lead to fears of snooping by tax authorities and lead to curtailing of travel. "The moment Aadhaar card is linked, it will get connected with the travellers' tax and bank account," said a tax consultant. Travel Agents Federation of India (east) chairman Anil Punjabi felt the move would create apprehension.

the Times of India - 13.12.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/aadhaar-may-turn-must-to-buy-air-tickets/articleshow/55953515.cms>

Airlines want direct line to passengers

Domestic airlines have approached the Centre to enable them to communicate directly with passengers in case of rescheduling of flights, especially during the fog season, citing difficulties in informing those who book their tickets through travel agents about flight delays and other critical information. "Every morning, we wake up to fog in Delhi and I see irate customers on the social media asking us why they weren't informed about the flight delay," Vistara chief strategy and commercial officer Sanjiv Kapoor said at the inaugural of the two-day India Aviation ICT Forum 2016, organised by global air transport IT provider SITA here. "Now, 98 per cent of our customers may carry smartphones but we only have contact information of those who either book through us or are frequent flyer members. We don't have contact information of 50 per cent of passengers who book through travel agents," he said. On the side-lines, Mr. Kapoor said that roughly 75 per

News18.com - 19.12.2016

<http://www.news18.com/news/india/leather-industry-has-been-hit-hard-by-demonetisation-survey-1324816.html>

Railways plans separate agency for fare changes

The railway ministry will soon seek Cabinet approval for setting up an independent agency to recommend passenger and freight fares, a move that could depoliticise the thorny matter of revising rates. According to a top official, the proposal will be sent to the Cabinet this week and approval could come as early as next week. Once approved, this will count as the second most important step, after the merger of the rail budget with the Union Budget, toward reforming the national transporter that's been losing Rs 33,000 crore every year in passenger fare subsidies. The proposed Railway Development Authority of India will consist of a chairman and four members independent of the railways. The ministry has already received comments from various ministries and the Niti Aayog. The official said Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has already discussed the proposal with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top officials in the Prime Minister's Office and they were supportive of such an agency.

The Economic Times - 19.12.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/railways-plans-separate-agency-for-fare-changes/articleshow/56055316.cms>

Chinese airlines are flooding the world with super-cheap airfares for long-haul flights

Killing four empty hours at Guangzhou airport waiting for a China Southern connection to Sydney may not be everyone's idea of fun. For Gina Capella, it was a no-brainer. The 43-year-old Boston resident and her friend saved hundreds of dollars last year choosing China Southern Airlines Co over a direct flight from Seoul with Korean Air Lines Co or Asiana Airlines Inc. "We didn't mind the layover because it was so much cheaper," she said. "Like, almost half the price." Chinese airlines are flooding the world with some of the lowest long-haul fares ever seen — and delivering a hammer blow to foreign carriers trying to keep up. From Delta Air Lines Inc. and American Airlines Group Inc. in the US, to Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd and Korean Air, many operators are feeling the squeeze from the extended reach of mainland Chinese carriers. They don't just offer cheap fares on

cent of all airline tickets are booked through travel agents at present.

The Hindu - 18.12.2016

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Airlines-want-direct-line-to-passengers/article16896750.ece>

Winter travel witnesses 34 per cent growth this year: report

With pleasant weather coinciding with school holidays, winter tourism is picking up in the country as travel plans for Christmas this year have seen a 34 per cent growth during Christmas and New Year as compared to last year, according to a report. "Over 34 per cent more customers are travelling this time during Christmas and New Year compared to last year," revealed a 'New Year and Christmas Travel Trends' report by comprehensive travel website MakeMyTrip. Winter tourism, as a concept, has picked up in India with 34 per cent more customers travelling this time during Christmas and New Year with four times higher growth for domestic travel than international one, compared to last year, MakeMyTrip Chief Business Officer–Holidays Ranjeet Oak said. The report has also found that the travel during Christmas time is higher than around the New Year. "Christmas weekend pips the New Year holiday with 59 per cent of bookings witnessed for Christmas compared to 41 per cent for New Year.

The Indian Express - 18.12.2016

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/winter-travel-witnesses-34-per-cent-growth-this-year-report-4433155/>

Port connectivity set to get a major fillip

Indian Port Rail Corporation (IPRCL), which started operations late last year, has a portfolio of 25 projects worth Rs 10,000 crore focusing on aligning rail with ports for smoother, cleaner and cheaper connectivity. The company plans to start work on the Rs 4,300-crore contract connecting Odisha's Paradip and Dhamra ports to coalfields at Talcher in the state by March 2017. It would give a big push to coastal shipping under the government's ambitious Sagarmala programme to enhance port connectivity and encourage coastal shipping of commodities to reduce overall logistic costs. Paradip is the second largest major port of India. It plans to double its present cargo handling capacity of 118 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to 300 mtpa. The commodity-wise cargo handled include iron ore, thermal coal, coking coal, manganese ore, finished steel, fertiliser, project cargo, and containers. The Dhamra port in

routes long-dominated by national airlines like Korean Air.

Business Standard - 14.12.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/chinese-airlines-are-flooding-the-world-with-super-cheap-airfares-for-long-haul-flights-116121400039_1.html

Govt clears new bill to empower major ports

The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved a bill that would give more autonomy and flexibility to major ports in the country. The Major Port Authorities Bill, 2016, will replace the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, the government said in a statement. "The new Major Ports Authority Bill, 2016, would help to impart faster and transparent decision-making, benefiting the stakeholders and better project execution capability," it said. The bill is aimed at reorienting the governance model in central ports to the landlord port model, in line with successful global practices, it added. In the landlord port model, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body and as landlord, while private companies carry out port operations—mainly cargo-handling activities. Here, the port authority maintains ownership of the port, while the infrastructure is leased to private firms that provide and maintain their own superstructure and install own equipment to handle cargo.

Mint - 15.12.2016

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/P7n8w639i5umBcSrC9vZ8N/Govt-clears-new-bill-to-empower-major-ports.html>

Gajendra Singh to be Gail marketing director

The country's biggest gas utility, Gail, is set to get a new director (marketing) in Gajendra Singh at a time when the government is pushing to create a gas-based economy. Singh, who is executive director in Gail at present, has been chosen by the Public Enterprises Selection Board from among 10 candidates short-listed for interviews for the post. A software engineer, Singh started his career with ONGC in 1985 and joined Gail in 1986 when the gas industry was at its nascent stage. Since then, Singh has been involved in the execution of prestigious projects of GAIL including the country's first arterial gas pipeline -- Hazira-Viajipur-Jagdihpur line. His current responsibility entails expanding gas market and ensure capacity utilisation of Gail's pipeline network. As a director on the company's board, once his appointment is cleared by the

Odisha, a deep draft sea port, plans to enhance capacity to 142 mtpa over the next 10 years from 25 mtpa now.

Business Standard - 14.12.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/port-connectivity-to-get-a-fillip-with-rs-4-300-cr-rail-project-in-odisha-116121301122_1.html

pertinent Cabinet panel, his scope of work would expand to include driving future growth in gas use in line with the government's aim of creating a gas-based economy.

The Times of India - 15.12.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/gajendra-singh-to-be-gail-marketing-director/articleshow/55986696.cms>