

(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.)

India will remain one of the fastest growing major economies in 2017: ICRA

Moody's Investors Service and its Indian affiliate ICRA -1.16 % said India will remain one of the fastest growing major economies globally in 2017, although GDP growth will moderate in the first half of the year, as the economy adjusts after demonetisation. India is rated Baa3 positive by Moody's. Moody's also believes that the government will likely achieve its fiscal deficit target of 3.5% of GDP for the current fiscal year ending 31 March 2017, the international rating agency said in a statement on Monday. ICRA expects the country's growth of gross value added at basic prices to remain healthy in 2017, although such growth will ease somewhat to about 6.6% from around 7.0% in 2016, with a likely pick-up in H2 2017, it said. "Even after the currency in circulation is replenished, we expect that India's economic growth will stabilize with a lag, while remaining strong," said Aditi Nayar, an ICRA Principal Economist. "The adjustment and recovery period could stretch to as much as 2-3 quarters for certain sectors," she said.

The Economic Times - 16.01.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-will-remain-one-of-the-fastest-growing-major-economies-in-2017-icra/articleshow/56585935.cms>

World Bank cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for FY17

The World Bank has sharply cut its economic growth forecast for India to 7 per cent in 2016-17 after taking into account the impact of demonetisation and the fall in private investments. This growth forecast is lower than the 7.6 per cent growth projected in the middle of last year. "Growth in India is estimated to reach 7 per cent in the financial year 2017...reflecting a modest downgrade to India's expansion," the World Bank said in its Global Economic Prospects report, released in Washington on Tuesday. Unexpected demonetisation — the phasing out of large denomination currency notes — weighed on growth in the third quarter of 2016-17, it added. The World Bank report said that weak industrial production and manufacturing and services purchasing managers' indexes suggest a setback

IIP clocks 13-mth high growth of 5.7% in Nov despite note ban

Industrial production grew at a 13-month high of 5.7 per cent in November notwithstanding the demonetisation that was implemented, while retail inflation remained subdued at multi-year low of 3.41 per cent in December, government data showed today. The industrial output during November, when the government announced demonetisation of high value currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 effective from 9th of the month, showed overall improvement in manufacturing, mining and electricity sectors, according to the figures released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). As regards the retail inflation measured in terms of Consumer Price Index (CPI), it slipped to a multi-year low of 3.41 per cent in December reflecting cash crunch. This is the lowest level at least since January 2014. CPI-based inflation stood at 3.63 per cent in November 2016 as per data released by the government. A year ago, in December 2015, retail inflation was at 5.61 per cent.

Deccan Herald - 12.01.2017

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/591128/factory-output-grows-57-pc.html>

December export grows 5.7% to 21-month high

Merchandise export grew in December for a fourth straight month and was at a 21-month high in absolute terms. Led by a spike in oil prices and improved competitiveness from a weaker rupee, amid muted global demand. Import growth moderated to a four-month low, owing to sharp decline in that of gold. Export grew 5.7% in December and import by 0.5%, compared to the year-ago period, leaving a trade deficit of \$10.3 billion, showed data issued by the ministry of commerce and industry on Friday. Outbound shipment was \$23.8 billion, the highest in close to two years; it was \$20 bn in November. Petroleum, engineering, gems & jewellery and pharmaceuticals were the top contributors. Incidentally, industrial production in

to activity in the fourth quarter of 2016-17. The Central Statistics Office had last week pegged the 2016-17 advance real GDP estimate at 7.1 per cent. The statistics agency had, however, consciously not factored in the surge in bank deposits while calculating growth in the financial services group.

The Hindu Business Line - 12.01.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/world-bank-drops-indias-growth-rate-to-7-post-demonetisation/article9473321.ece>

Centre to rank states on the basis of digital transactions

The Centre will soon rank states on a digital transaction index as part of its big push to make India a less-cash economy. Government think tank Niti Aayog has begun the exercise by reaching out to states to collate data, which will help it compile the first of its kind index. States will be ranked on the basis of this index. An official involved in the exercise told ET that the move will give a boost to the government's digital payments drive and help states improve their ease of doing business. The government has been promoting digital transactions since November 8 when it announced demonetisation of old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the Prime Minister's Office has supported the idea. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the chairperson of Niti Aayog. "The first ranking of states on the basis of digital transactions will be out in few months," the official said. The digital transaction index is likely to be based on three parameters — total transactions in a state, proportion of cash and digital transactions, and the extent of penetration and usage of different modes of digital payments.

The Economic Times - 12.01.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/centre-to-rank-states-on-the-basis-of-digital-transactions/articleshow/56485673.cms>

No charges on card payments for customers, pumps: Pradhan

There will be no additional charges on digital transactions made at petrol stations, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced on Monday even as petroleum dealers threatened to stop accepting credit and debit cards after Friday. "Neither the customers nor petrol pumps will bear additional charges on digital transactions. The issue will be resolved," Pradhan told reporters here after meeting Finance Minister Arun Jaitley over the matter. "Regarding the issue, it is a business module between banks and oil marketing companies which they will resolve. "Government

November, showed data issued by the Central Statistics Office on Thursday, grew at a 13-month high of 5.7%, however, this was explained more by a low base effect than actual improvement in manufacturing activity. Non-oil, non-gold import in December rose by 4.4%.

Business Standard - 15.01.2017

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/december-export-grows-5-7-to-21-month-high-117011301352_1.html

Jaitley hopes to overcome GST hurdles

Finance minister Arun Jaitley today said all pending issues would be resolved in the next few weeks for the rollout of GST from April 1 even as the Centre and states are locked in a stalemate over the control of taxpayers. The GST Council, which has been deadlocked in the past few meetings, will meet on January 16 to discuss the issue of jurisdiction over assesses as well as taxation of trade in territorial waters. "Most of the issues have been sorted out. Some critical issues remain and these over the next few weeks we will try and solve out," Jaitley said at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit here. The goods and services tax (GST), which is to subsume most of the central and state taxes such as excise, service tax and VAT, needs to be rolled out latest by September 16, 2017, he said. Under the constitutional amendment passed by Parliament for the implementation of GST, some of the existing levies will expire after September 16. "There is a provision for the implementation of GST because the constitutional amendment has been passed.

The Telegraph - 12.01.2017

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170112/jsp/business/story_129791.jsp#.WHyX5PB97IU

India's 2016 fuel sales growth highest in at least 16 years

India's fuel demand in 2016 grew at its highest pace in at least 16 years as low oil prices for most of the year boosted demand for gasoline and aviation fuels. Consumption of fuels, a proxy for oil demand, surged 10.7 percent to 196.48 million tonnes in 2016, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Oil Ministry showed. State polls in India in five states in February and March are likely to send thousands of voters criss-crossing vast distances, boosting gasoline demand throughout the first quarter of 2017, but

will abide by guidelines issued in February 2016 wherein it stated customers won't bear extra charges on digital transactions," Pradhan said. The minister said the discussions between the petrol pump association and banks over card transaction charges does not affect consumers, since it focuses on sharing of the merchant discount rate (MDR) charges between petrol pumps and banks, none of which will be passed on to consumers.

Business Standard - 10.01.2017

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/no-charges-on-card-payments-for-customers-pumps-pradhan-roundup-117010900890_1.html

Demonetisation to slow down India's fuel demand growth in 2017: Mackenzie

India's fuel demand growth is expected to slow by as much as 40 per cent in 2017 from last year as a government-induced cash shortage hurts businesses, industry and car sales. The dent in demand growth in the world's third-largest oil consumer is expected to be temporary, though, with India still taking up the third-biggest portion - behind China and United States - of 2017's rise in fuel use on a barrel-per-day basis, according to energy consultancy Wood Mackenzie. India's fuel demand in 2016 grew at its fastest in at least 16 years as low oil prices boosted demand for gasoline and aviation fuels, but analysts say the nation's currency troubles will put the brakes on this year. India's oil product demand growth in 2017 is expected to drop to 1,60,000 barrels per day (bpd), from 2,70,000 bpd in 2016, according to Woodmac. "We see Indian demand growth slowing ... due to the recent currency demonetisation drive by the Indian government," said Suresh Sivanandam.

Business Standard - 11.01.2017

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/demonetisation-to-slow-down-india-s-fuel-demand-growth-in-2017-mackenzie-117011100386_1.html

India's diesel demand to drop in first quarter

Diesel demand in India might drop in the first quarter as a government decision to abolish high-value currency bills is expected to hurt small businesses, analysts said. Diesel demand is expected to grow only 2 percent in the first quarter of 2017 compared with a year ago, less than half of the 5-percent growth rate seen in the first 10 months of 2016, said Tushar Tarun Bansal, director of Singapore-based consultancy Ivy Global. In November, India Prime Minister Narendra Modi scrapped 500- and 1,000-rupee

analysts say growth could slow over the year as currency woes bite. Huge rallies by parties to showcase their political might among voters are a common sight before elections. Canvassing involves transportation of thousands of people from neighbouring areas to the rallies in trucks and buses. India's refined fuel demand grew at 4.3 percent in December, its slowest pace in three months,

Reuter - 10.01.2017

<http://www.reuters.com/article/india-fuel-sales-idUSL4N1F03S2>

Private edge in fuel retail

Superior margins of private fuel retailers have given them the edge both in bulk diesel tenders and at petrol pumps vis-a-vis their PSU rivals. According to industry estimates, the private retailers have captured over 2 per cent of the market for bulk diesel in 2016 and plan to expand their market share through aggressive bidding when buyers float their tenders for the next fiscal. Besides, there is a strong possibility of retailers being asked by the government to shoulder the burden of the discount on card transactions at petrol pumps - where, too, the superior margins of private players will go in their favour. The government, in its attempt to promote non-cash transactions and make things easier for customers after demonetisation, had announced a 0.75 per cent discount on fuel purchase through cards at petrol pumps. There are indications that oil marketing companies will have to bear the discount besides absorbing the one per cent charge levied by banks for every sale through cards.

The Telegraph - 16.01.2017

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170116/jsp/business/story_130467.jsp#.WHYiPB97IU

India's oil demand growth rate to eclipse China's

India's oil consumption is expected to rise 7-8 per cent this year, outpacing China's demand growth for the third consecutive year, as impact of demonetisation is likely to be short-lived, according to Platts. LPG and transport fuels demand will rise, while new petrochemical projects would a boon for naphtha demand. "The dramatic rise in India's oil demand shows no signs of faltering... the country will remain a driver of Asian growth in 2017," Platts Analytics said in a note. The cash

notes as part of a crackdown on tax dodgers and counterfeiters. Nearly 90 percent of transactions used to be in cash in India, which was gripped by a severe shortage of currency after this sudden decision. "The cash crunch is affecting sales of two- and three-wheelers, and liquidity has not been enough to sustain small businesses, which are struggling to survive," said a fuel trader from India.

Reuters - 11.01.2017

<http://in.reuters.com/article/markets-distillates-asia-idINKBN14V1AG>

Government may impose anti-dumping on 19 colour-coated steel items

The government may soon impose anti-dumping duty on 19 colour-coated steel products with a view to protect domestic players from cheap inbound shipments and give a fillip to the sector. Currently, the government has imposed minimum import price (MIP) on these 19 products, which are mainly colour-coated steel items, till February 4. "The MIP was on 173 items. We have brought it down to 19. Rest of them, we have converted into anti-dumping. Anti-dumping will continue as the evidences are there," Steel Secretary Aruna Sharma said in an interview to PTI. She said that anti-dumping investigation is already in the process on these 19 products. "These 19 should not circumvent with it therefore we have put it (MIP) at this stage. On that also, we will move on to the anti-dumping route. Before February it should happen," the secretary said. She said that the government was not against imports but was against dumping. The 19 products include semi-finished products of iron or non-alloyed steel, flat-rolled products of different widths, bars and rods.

The Economic Times - 10.01.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/in-dl-goods/svs/steel/government-may-impose-anti-dumping-on-19-colour-coated-steel-items/articleshow/56440394.cms>

Govt may announce package for leather sector in Budget

The government is expected to announce an incentive package for labour intensive leather sector in the forthcoming Budget with a view to give a boost to the segment and generate jobs. The commerce and industry ministry has asked its finance counterpart to give financial assistance for the Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDLP) and for setting up of mega leather clusters in the country, an official said. As the ILDP, which is a central sector scheme, has provided huge support to the sector, the finance ministry may

crunch following move to demonetise 86 per cent of currency is expected to "temporarily dampen the country's appetite for oil products in the first quarter, or maybe a little longer," it said. "But gains in oil demand that the country is set to achieve from the 'Make in India' initiative, will more than offset the negative effects of demonetisation," Platts quoted analysts as saying.

The Economic Times - 16.01.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-oil-demand-growth-rate-to-eclipse-chinas/articleshow/56560940.cms>

Steel duty shield

The country today imposed anti-dumping duties on flat steels imported from China and the European Union (EU). Officials said similar safeguards could be imposed to help aluminium makers. An anti-dumping duty equivalent to the difference between the landed value of steel products and \$849 per tonne will be imposed on the products, a notification by the revenue department said. The duty has been slapped on pre-painted, colour-coated or organic-coated flat steels whether or not with metallic-coated substrate of zinc, aluminium-zinc or any other substrate coating, excluding plates of thickness 6mm or more. The revenue department said the duty had been imposed for six months. The move follows a recommendation by the directorate-general of anti-dumping and allied duties that these steel items were being exported by China and the EU at below-normal rates and that the domestic industry had suffered a material injury from such imports. This recommendation came after complaints filed by Essar Steel India and JSW Steel Coated Products.

The Telegraph - 14.01.2017

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170114/jsp/business/story_130229.jsp#.WHya-PB97IU

Grounded Air Pegasus to make a come-back

Bengaluru-based regional low cost carrier Air Pegasus seems to have managed to pull itself back from the brink. After having suspended operations on July last year after lessors demanded the return of the airline's aircraft, the start-up on Tuesday announced its entry into a strategic partnership with another start-up Flyeasy. The partnership will allow it to resume operations from March 1, a company statement said. As part of its growth plans, the airline has also announced that it would induct

consider extending it for three more fiscals. It will end by this fiscal. The commerce ministry has asked for about Rs 7,000 crore for this programme for three years. "The incentives are asked broadly on the lines of the package announced for the textiles sector. Presentations have already been given to Prime Minister's Office and the Finance Ministry," the official said. The industry has also demanded cut in excise duty to 6 per cent from 12 per cent for non-leather products like footwear till the Goods and Service Tax comes into force.

The Economic Times - 11.01.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-may-announce-package-for-leather-sector-in-budget/articleshow/56480989.cms>

44 airports have potential for operations under Udan, says FICCI report

About 44 airports across the country have "high potential" for operations under the ambitious regional connectivity scheme (RCS) for civil aviation, *Ude desh ka aam naagrik (Udan)*, according to a report brought out by apex industry body FICCI. "Based on the geographical, operational and commercial parameters, 44 out of the 414 underserved and unserved airports have high potential under RCS. We have also identified around 370 potential destinations for the shortlisted airports, including metros, state capitals and important commercial, industrial and tourism centres," said the FICCI report, brought out in concert with global professional service company KPMG. Uttar Pradesh has four high potential RCS destinations, three each in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, two each in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Bihar, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and one each in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, J&K, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh Jharkhand and Uttarakhand.

Mint - 15.01.2017

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/eFdJaPsWJiLE3oLEeeTSUK/44-airports-have-potential-for-operations-under-Udan-says-F.html>

India tops domestic air traffic demand; 22.3 per cent in November

India's domestic air passenger traffic grew by 22.3 per cent in November 2016, topping the growth chart worldwide for the 20th straight month while there was little sign of demonetisation having any immediate negative impact on passenger numbers, according to IATA. The global grouping of airlines today said India continued to witness over 20 per cent growth in domestic air passenger traffic for the 13th consecutive month in

24 aircraft in the next four years, of which six will be this year. The carrier's flying licence had been suspended by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation following huge losses and its failure to pay lease rentals. "Air Pegasus will continue as a regional airline operating in Tier II and Tier III cities, while Flyeasy airlines will operate as a pan-India operator with an all Airbus fleet. It will have a commercial launch on May 2017", Shyson Thomas, the Managing Director of Air Pegasus, said.

New Indian Express - 11.01.2017

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2017/jan/11/grounded-air-pegasus-to-make-a-come-back-1558331.html>

2016 Year of reform for Civil Aviation, 2017 looks more promising

A landmark year for India's civil aviation sector 2016 witnessed first systematic and integrated policy designed to propel the growth of airlines which is rising by leaps and bounds every passing day. Keeping positive factors in mind aviation experts opine India's domestic market is on track to surpass 100 million passengers in FY2017 and it is likely to overtake Japan this year to become the world's third largest domestic market behind the USA and China. In the year gone by, civil aviation sector continued to reap benefit of lower ATF prices and rise in domestic disposable income as a result passenger traffic during January-November 2016 zoomed by 23.10 per cent to 90.36 million and National Civil Aviation Policy, is expected to further strengthen the sector. NCAP did away with controversial 5/20 norm and now any domestic airline can fly overseas provided it deploys 20 planes or 20 per cent of its total capacity for domestic operations.

Pioneer - 10.01.2017

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/business/2016-year-of-reform-for-civil-aviation-2017-looks-more-promising.html>

56.6% rise in foreign tourists arrival on e-tourist visa in December 2016

Over 1.62 lakh foreigners arrived in India last month on e-tourist visa, registering a growth of 56.6 per cent, with the UK continuing to occupy the top slot availing the facility. UK continues to occupy the top slot with 22.4 per cent, followed by the US (16.4 per cent) and Russia (7.7 per cent) among the countries availing the e-tourist visa facility during December 2016. The facility of e-visa is

November 2016 -- when global passenger traffic too saw the strongest demand in nine months. Globally, total revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs) increased 7.6 per cent compared to November 2015 while capacity -- available seat kilometres or ASKs -- went up by 6.5 per cent. ASK for India stood at 20.2 per cent in November 2016. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said domestic India topped the growth chart for the 20th consecutive month. Apart from India, only two other countries -- Russia (15.5 per cent) and China (14.9 per cent) clocked double digit growth in November last year, as per IATA data.

The Economic Times - 11.01.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/india-tops-domestic-air-traffic-demand-22-3-per-cent-in-november/articleshow/56482020.cms>

Government to sell 51% stake in Pawan Hans

Moving ahead with the strategic sale of Pawan Hans, the government today said it will sell its entire 51 per cent stake and transfer the management control of the helicopter service operator. Pawan Hans is a joint venture where state-owned ONGC holds 49 per cent. The government has sought applications from entities to act as transaction advisor for the proposed disinvestment of its stake in the company. "The government of India intends to divest its entire shareholding of 51 per cent in Pawan Hans Ltd, through strategic disinvestment with transfer of management control," a public notice said today. As per the notice, issued by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, a transaction advisor is to be roped in from "reputed professional consulting firm, investment bankers, merchant bankers, financial institutions and banks" who would provide advisory services and manage the strategic disinvestment process. The deadline for sending the applications is February 2.

The Hindu Business Line - 13.01.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/government-to-sell-51-stake-in-pawan-hans/article9476103.ece>

Air India protests listing as third-worst airline

Air India on Monday dismissed a Bloomberg report that ranked it as the world's third-worst performing airline in 2016. ANI quoted the airline as saying that it contested the report and said it seems it is in fact fabricated. According to the article by Bloomberg, the aviation insights company FlightStats every year puts together a

available to the citizens of 161 countries arriving at 16 international airports in India. "During the month of December 2016, a total of 1,62,250 foreign tourists arrived on e-tourist visa as compared to 1,03,617 during the month of December in 2015, registering a growth of 56.6 per cent," according to a release by Ministry of Tourism. During last year, a total of 10,79,696 tourists arrived on the facility as compared to 4,45,300 during 2015, registering a growth of 142.5 per cent. During December last year, among the countries availing e-tourist visa,

Millennium Post - 12.01.2017

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/NewsContent.aspx?NID=351828>

Global travel search engine Kayak enters India

Global travel search engine KAYAK today officially announced its entry into the Indian market, providing innovative travel tools to help people search, plan and manage their travel. Having pioneered the category globally, the company helps travellers get the information they need before they book and offers tools and features to assist them throughout their trip, KAYAK Director Southeast Asia and India Imbert Fung told PTI here. He said the website and mobile app search hundreds of travel sites at once so that travellers have the information they need to make the best decisions. KAYAK will help travellers to search and compare prices with ease and avail themselves of services like price alerts, price forecasts and free itinerary management with trips, without having to go to multiple websites. In India, the company will initially offer information of hotels, flights and car rentals, he said.

The Economic Times 11.01.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/travel/global-travel-search-engine-kayak-enters-india/articleshow/56479115.cms>

AI to double fleet by leasing 100 planes

The government has decided that Air India will almost double its fleet by adding over 100 aircraft, but without burdening the exchequer with a mammoth debt burden like last time. The airline will grow by leasing aircraft instead of purchasing them -the model adopted by Congress-led UPA. "AI will induct 100 more

list of the international airlines with the best on-time performance records. The company tracks delay and cancellation patterns for airlines across the globe. The reports suggested, that as per Flight Stats the worst 10 international airlines of 2016 feature the national carrier Air India – it has been ranked as the third worst international airlines of 2016. This has come as a major blow and embarrassment to the national carrier. According to the vice president of aviation and distribution at FlightStats, Jim Hetzel, compiling the list is no small feat.

The Financial Express - 10.01.2017

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/air-india-protests-listing-as-third-worst-airline-by-bloomberg/502175/>

Merge ministries, create new departments for focused action: Secys in their presentations to PM

Integration for synergy seems to be the thrust of presentations that the group of secretaries (GoS) have made to the Prime Minister. While one group has suggested the need to merge urban development ministry with housing and poverty alleviation, pharmaceuticals with health, another has recommended a separate department for logistics to deal with issues relating movement of cargo through road, rail and waterways. Till now, seven out of the total eight GoS have made their presentations to the full house of all department heads, officials from PMO, Niti Aayog and Cabinet Secretariat at PM's residence. The GoS have been set up to review the progress of government schemes in the past two-and-a-half years and suggest policy changes to achieve the targets set by each department. Sources said one group on Sunday evening suggested that urban development and housing ministries should be clubbed since both deal with only urban issues and most of the issues they cover are inter-related.

The Times of India - 10.01.2017

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/merge-ministries-create-new-departments-for-focused-action-secys-in-their-presentations-to-pm/articleshow/56428104.cms>

aircraft in next four years. We have decided not to seek any additional budgetary support except for the turnaround plan approved for the airline earlier. The airline will lease aircraft and has the resources to make the payment that needs to be made for leasing, "aviation secretary R N Choubey told TOI. A financial support of Rs 30,231 crore was approved for AI in 2012. Of which, it has received Rs 22,280 crore till March 2016 and another Rs 1,713 crore was to be given in FY16-17.

The Times of India - 16.01.2017

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31812&articlexml=AI-to-double-fleet-by-leasing-100-planes-16012017015025>

Government to simplify customs norms, to reach out to ports, airports, border areas

The government plans to sensitise ports, airports, border areas, tier-II states and land customs stations about a global trade agreement that seeks to expedite movement of goods and simplify customs procedures. The commerce department is set to begin an outreach programme in a fortnight to make industry aware of the simplified norms under the World Trade Organisation's Trade Facilitation Agreement which is expected to come into force this month. "We are working on an all-India sensitisation plan for the industry because ultimately they have to implement and benefit from the easier norms," said an official, who did not wish to be identified. The agreement is part of the WTO's Bali ministerial package of 2013 and will come into force after it is formally accepted by two-thirds of the organisation's members. Till now, 106 of the WTO's 162 member countries have ratified this pact.

The Economic Times - 13.01.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-to-simplify-customs-normsto-reach-out-to-ports-airports-border-areas/articleshow/56507952.cms>