

(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.)

## **India's GDP growth challenged by lacklustre global demand, high leverage: Moody's:**

Moody's Investors Service says that India's (Baa3 positive) GDP growth over the next two years will be challenged by lacklustre global demand and high leverage in some corporate sectors. "Growth will be adversely affected by high leverage of some large corporates also weighs on credit demand, while impaired assets in the banking system negatively affect credit supply," says Marie Diron, a Moody's Senior Vice President and Manager. By contrast, India's medium-term potential will be supported by the gradual implementation of further targeted policy reforms, thereby improving the business environment, state of infrastructure and productivity growth. As for whether or not the United Kingdom's majority vote to leave the European Union will affect India's financial markets, Moody's says that any effects will be limited because exports to the UK and the rest of the European Union account for 0.4% and 1.7% of India's GDP respectively. In addition, India is not significantly exposed to a potential sharp fall in capital flows to emerging markets.

*India Infoline - 05.07.2016*

[http://www.indiainfoline.com/article/news-top-story/moody-s-india-s-gdp-growth-challenged-by-lackluster-global-demand-high-leverage-moody-s-116070500132\\_1.html](http://www.indiainfoline.com/article/news-top-story/moody-s-india-s-gdp-growth-challenged-by-lackluster-global-demand-high-leverage-moody-s-116070500132_1.html)

## **Service sector growth hits seven-month low**

Tepid increase in fresh orders pulled down India's service sector growth to a seven-month low in June, a private survey showed on Tuesday. The Nikkei India Services Business Activity Index was placed at 50.3 in June, its second-lowest reading over the past 12 months that have seen readings of above 50. The headline index was down from 51 in May, pointing to a slower pace of expansion that was marginal. A reading above 50 on this survey-based index indicates economic expansion while a figure below that indicates contraction. "The Indian service sector saw a further cooling of growth momentum in June, the third in consecutive months, with a weaker rise in new business leading to a softer expansion in activity," said Pollyanna De Lima, economist at Markit, the

## **India Inc's Q1 revenues may grow at fastest pace in 2 yrs.**

The revenue growth for India Inc is expected to touch a two-year high in the quarter ended June 2016. Revenues of the sensex companies (excluding energy firms) will grow 8.3% year-on-year (y-o-y) to Rs 3,64,200 crore during the first quarter of the 2016-17 fiscal, analysts said. Companies on the broader Nifty index will see 8.6% y-o-y increase in net sales to Rs 4,42,000 crore in April-June, estimates by Kotak Institutional Equities showed. Ratings agency Crisil said that the revenue growth of India Inc will jump to a two-year high of 8% during the quarter. "The first sign of top-line growth shifting to a higher trajectory was seen in the (January to) March quarter, when it surged to 6.5% from a drab 1-3% seen in each of the five preceding quarters," the agency stated. Revenue growth, however, remains significantly lower than the long-term average of 12-15%. "But in real terms (adjusted for inflation), the picture looks brighter because top-line growth is likely to be higher than the average for the last four years," Crisil said.

*The Times of India - 08.07.2016*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/India-Incs-Q1-revenues-may-grow-at-fastest-pace-in-2-yrs/articleshow/53107376.cms>

## **Strategic divestment in PSUs within 6 months**

Government is expected to go ahead with the strategic divestment in public sector units (PSUs) within the next six months besides closing down sick firms that are beyond revival, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya said. "On strategic divestment, you will see action in the next six months I would say, meaning that the process is on, but you will see some action happening in the next six months or less," Panagariya said. NITI Aayog has been tasked by the government to identify central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) for strategic disinvestment. The task also involves advising on the mode of sale, percentage of shares to be sold of the CPSE and method for valuation of the unit. Panagariya said NITI Aayog has also done

agency which compiles the index. "Moreover, future expectations dipped to the lowest since February, highlighting concerns regarding the sustainability of the economic upturn," she said.

*The Economic Times - 06.07.2016*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/service-sector-growth-hits-seven-month-low/articleshow/53070768.cms>

## **DIPAM hiring advisor to assist in disinvestment work**

With its expanded scope of work, DIPAM is for the first time looking to appoint an experienced individual to advise and assist the department on its future disinvestments and strategic sales. The individual, who should not exceed 65 years of age as on July 1, should have more than 10 year experience in fields ranging from PSU disinvestment to capital markets. "The work on strategic disinvestment was done about 12 years back. The process and procedures followed at that time need to be updated keeping in view the experience and learning as well as the requirements of the present day policy expectations," DIPAM said in its Request For Proposal (RFP) for engagement of the advisor. He has to assist the Department of Investment & Public Asset Management (DIPAM) in formulating processes and procedure for different modes of disinvestment, including strategic sale. The appointment would be for a period of one year and the advisor has to be well versed with various methodologies involving valuation of assets, the RFP said.

*The Economic Times - 05.07.2016*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/dipam-hiring-advisor-to-assist-in-disinvestment-work/articleshow/53045324.cms>

## **Pay panel suggestions may dent PSUs' profit**

The 7th Pay Commission recommendations may dent profit growth of PSUs who have limited ability to pass on their increased employee cost to customers. These include BHEL, BEL, BEML, SAIL, MOIL, NALCO, GAIL, HPCL, BPCL and IOC. Regulated return entities such as NTPC and Power Grid Corporation (PGCIL) will have no effect as wage increase is a pass-through. Employee cost constituted on an average 60% of the total gross profit (revenue minus raw material) in FY16 for the sample. This ratio hovers in the range of 11% (for BPCL) and 154% (BEML), according to data compiled by the ET Intelligence Group from Capitaline. The impact will be more pronounced for companies such as BHEL, SAIL, BEML where

a report on identifying the units that are sick and may need to be closed down. "So of the two issues, one report that we did was of the closure of the sick firms, the firms that are not performing and have repeated failures of revival.

*The Hindu - 09.07.2016*

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/strategic-divestment-in-psus-within-6-months/article8824948.ece>

## **Meghwal suggests PPP route for utilising idle PSU assets**

Government can use the PPP mode and global bidding process to optimally utilise idle assets of PSUs with a view to promote skill development and generate new jobs, newly appointed Minister of State for Finance Arjun Ram Meghwal has said. "There is a lot of scope for the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). Focus should be on investment and using the PSU assets for employment generation. We need to engage the youth, talent of the country and offer them better services to increase the economic productivity," he told PTI. PSU assets, he said, are "national property" and should be put to use to create scope for skill development and setting up of new institutions. "It can also be done through PPP (public private partnership) mode or global bidding. There are huge lands lying vacant at prime locations," he said. Citing an example, Meghwal said, idle space lying vacant at telephone exchanges can be utilised for setting up skill development centres.

*MoneyControl - 10.07.2016*

[http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/current-affairs/meghwal-suggests-ppp-route-for-utilising-idle-psu-assets\\_7007041.html](http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/current-affairs/meghwal-suggests-ppp-route-for-utilising-idle-psu-assets_7007041.html)

## **Remove anomalies in hiring of key PSU officials, says Indian Society for Training and Development**

The Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD), a forum that has been actively campaigning for a review of existing processes related to the hiring and or selection of human resource professionals, especially in public sector undertakings, has once again appealed to the concerned authorities to remove anomalies in notified job specifications with regard to both qualification and experience. In letters sent to the senior functionaries and departments involved with the selection of key personnel in central public sector undertakings, the ISTD has re-emphasized that in the 21st century business environment, the traditionally

employee cost as a proportion of gross profit is more than 80%. BHEL, for instance, has a high percentage of slow moving orders in the backlog that will keep FY17 execution and margin under pressure; this means an increase in employee cost will affect the company's margin even more.

*The Economic Times - 06.07.2016*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/earnings/pay-panel-suggestions-may-dent-psus-profit/articleshow/53071331.cms>

## **Government plans awards for corporate social responsibility activities**

Government plans to institute awards for corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities across sectors as part of efforts to incentivise companies to take up work towards social welfare. The Corporate Affairs Ministry, which is implementing the Companies Act, is working on the idea of having such awards. Under the Act, a certain class of profitable companies is required to shell out at least 2 per cent of their 3-year average annual net profit towards CSR works. Officials said the ministry is proposing to institute the awards for CSR activities across eight sectors, including education, health and environment. The aim is to incentivise companies to carry out more CSR works that can help in overall development activities, they added. "We are planning to set up the awards in the current financial year," an official said. As per the plan, eight sectors will be chosen and there be three awards for each of them. One will be for public sector companies and two for private firms.

*The Economic Times - 10.07.2016*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-plans-awards-for-corporate-social-responsibility-activities/articleshow/53138398.cms>

## **Oil ends down nearly 5 percent on Brexit worry, supply builds**

Oil prices tumbled nearly 5 percent on Tuesday as investors worried that Britain's exit from the European Union would slow the global economy, making it unlikely energy demand will grow enough to absorb a supply glut. Brexit worries hit Britain's property market and drove the pound to a 31-year low. A flurry of data from China in coming weeks is likely to show weaker trade and investments. Traders also cited data from market intelligence firm Genscape showing a build of 230,025 barrels at the Cushing, Oklahoma storage hub for U.S. crude futures, during the week to July 1. "There are risk-off trades across the board,"

transactional role of senior corporate officials has become more strategic, multidimensional, and complex, and therefore, selection of aspiring candidates must not be treated casually.

*Business Standard - 05.07.2016*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/remove-anomalies-in-hiring-of-key-psu-officials-says-indian-society-for-training-and-development-116070400896\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/remove-anomalies-in-hiring-of-key-psu-officials-says-indian-society-for-training-and-development-116070400896_1.html)

## **Collaborate to compete in global oil & gas industry faced with low prices**

In order to successfully confront the challenges of low oil & gas prices and difficult global economic condition, industry experts believe Indian oil and gas companies should collaborate for scouting oil & gas assets in India and internationally. "Collaborative approach of national oil companies is the right solution to creating oil and gas assets in India to enable it thrive under the low oil and gas price regime. Indian oil sector needs a fiscal regime better than what prevails currently," said Yash Malik, executive director - corporate planning, ONGC, during a conference on 'How to survive in low oil & gas price scenario', organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) on June 30, 2016. Malik also pointed out that in the low price scenario of oil and gas, ONGC is successfully going ahead with joint venture approach. During the conference, Prabhat Singh, managing director & CEO, Petronet LNG Limited, floated a proposal for creation of a consortium or special purpose vehicle (SPV).

*Business Standard - 05.07.2016*

[http://www.business-standard.com/content/b2b-chemicals/collaborate-to-compete-in-global-oil-gas-industry-faced-with-low-prices-116070400492\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/content/b2b-chemicals/collaborate-to-compete-in-global-oil-gas-industry-faced-with-low-prices-116070400492_1.html)

## **India Is Cutting Oil Deals Worldwide**

In May, shortly before he spoke to Congress in Washington, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Tehran to sign a deal with the leaders of Iran and Afghanistan to develop a port on the Gulf of Oman, with India providing \$500 million in financing. "Iran has prioritized expanding relations with those states that stood by its side when it was under sanctions," Tehran-based political analyst Mostafa Khoshcheshm said on Iranian state television in May. India, though pressured to buy less oil from Iran, stayed close to the country during the sanctions. The port deal strengthens ties between Iran and India, which accounted for

said David Thompson, executive vice-president at Washington-based commodities broker Powerhouse. "Stocks, commodities, sterling are all off while U.S. bonds and T-bills are soaring." Brent futures settled down \$2.14, or 4.3 percent, at \$47.96 a barrel while U.S. crude fell \$2.39, or 4.9 percent, to end at \$46.60.

*Reuters - 05.07.2016*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-oil-idUSKCN0ZL011>

### **India stares at oil deficit in 15 years, says IOCs director for refineries**

India, a net exporter of oil products, may not have any surplus capacity in 15 years going by the current rate of consumption and planned expansion, said the chief of refineries at Indian Oil Corporation, the country's largest refiner. "We are already not very much surplus. In 15 years, in spite of all planned steps, the country might be in deficit. But that should not worry us as we can import," Sanjiv Singh, the company's director for refineries, told ET. India has a capacity to refine 230 million tonne (mt) a year. Singh said this will rise to 300 mt by 2030 based on expansion of existing facilities. In addition, the government is assessing the feasibility of building a new, giant refinery of 60 mt on the west coast, which can significantly change the demand supply situation once it is erected. The net export of petroleum products has declined in the past two years, falling to 32.3 mt last fiscal from 42.6 mt in the previous year. This trend, Singh points out, will magnify in the following years despite plans to augment the refining capacity.

*The Economic Times - 11.07.2016*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-stares-at-oil-deficit-in-15-years-says-iocs-director-for-refineries/articleshow/53145285.cms>

### **Focus should be on consumption of steel by identifying newer applications: Chaudhury Birendra Singh**

The new steel minister Chaudhury Birendra Singh has emphasised the need to enhance competitiveness of domestic steel industry and raising consumption of steel by identifying newer applications. The minister feels industry must come forward with innovative solutions, besides directing research in the area of raw materials and in improvement of productivity of the steel industry. He was airing his views during a meeting with Steel Authority of India's (SAIL) chairman, P K Singh on Thursday, a day after he took charge of the steel ministry. The thrust should be on enhancing consumption of steel by identifying newer applications. The steel industry must find

almost a third of Iran's oil exports in March. The prime minister is looking north, too. India's largest oil company, state-owned Oil & Natural Gas Corp. (ONGC), completed a \$1.3 billion purchase of 15 percent of Vankor, one of the biggest Russian oil fields to go into production in the past 25 years.

*Hellenic Shipping News - 08.07.2016*

<http://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/india-is-cutting-oil-deals-worldwide/>

### **We're producing lubricants from an ultra-clean base oil, says Royal Shell Dutch**

Royal Dutch Shell, one of the largest and most diversified international investors in India's energy sector among all global integrated oil companies, has been a marginal player in the retail lubricants business in the country. But that is set to change with the launch of its revolutionary natural gas-based lubes. Akhil Jha, vice president, technical, Shell Lubricants India, tells Sumit Moitra how the global major is strengthening its presence by offering concepts like lifetime warranty on engines. We have around 350 field experts working with our customers and OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) all across the world. And we have research and development centres at strategically located places all around the world – in US, Germany, China and one in India at Bangalore which not only works for our lubricants business but across all our businesses including upstream like refining. This will be one of our top R&D centres in the world.

*DNA - 08.07.2016*

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/interview-we-re-producing-lubricants-from-an-ultra-clean-base-oil-says-royal-shell-dutch-2229859>

### **Minimum import price for steel may be extended by six months**

The minimum import price (MIP) for steel imposed in February for six months could be extended by another six months from August 31, the current date of expiry. Heeding the demand of primary steelmakers, the steel ministry has already recommended to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) extension of the MIP, sources said. India had imposed the tariff measure on 173 products to rein in cheaper imports from China, Japan and Korea among others in the range of \$341-\$752 per tonne. "I think that it should be extended," steel secretary Aruna Sundararajan told FE, echoing the voice of the industry which believes that had MIP not been imposed, the steel industry's survival



ways and means to contribute to the vision of Prime Minister of changing the lives of the common man of the country, he added. P K Singh apprised the steel minister about the initiatives taken by SAIL adding that the company would strive to improve efficiency in various operational areas.

*The Economic Times - 07.07.2016*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/in-dl-goods/svs/steel/focus-should-be-on-consumption-of-steel-by-identifying-newer-applications-chaudhury-birendra-singh/articleshow/53100797.cms>

## **India's steel import curbs raise prices and hit consumption**

India's steel consumption dropped in June for the first time in at least 15 months, as curbs on imports raised prices in the domestic market. Demand fell 4.3% to 6.8 million metric tons from a year ago, the first drop since at least April 2015, when the steel ministry began to publish monthly data. Steel output in the world's third biggest producer was up 2.4% in June to 8.2 million tons. Steel imports fell a third month after the government imposed barriers to protect domestic mills from a glut of cheap steel on world markets spurred by exports from China, the world's top producer. Inbound shipments in June declined 33% to 597,000 tons from a year earlier, according to provisional data from the ministry. For the April-June period, imports were down 31% to 1.8 million tons. India's imposition of floor prices and safeguard taxes on imports has left end-users struggling to absorb an increase in local prices over the last couple of months and producers are finding it difficult to sell their products, said Goutam Chakraborty, an analyst at Emkay Global Financial Services. Seasonal factors are also weighing, he said.

*Mint - 08.07.2016*

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/gYNIA4G0tZLrAp361etkHO/Indias-steel-import-curbs-raise-prices-and-hit-consumption.html>

## **India sees fastest domestic air passenger growth in 2015: IATA**

India witnessed the fastest domestic air passenger growth at 18.8% in 2015, way ahead of neighbouring China and the US, according to IATA. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said airlines worldwide carried 3.6 billion passengers and 52.2 million tonnes of cargo worth \$6 trillion last year. Among the world's largest domestic aviation markets, IATA said India had the fastest domestic passenger growth in 2015. "With annual growth of 18.8% (in a market of 80 million domestic passengers), India's performance

would have been at stake. Tata Steel managing director TV Narendran also said MIP should "certainly" continue in India, particularly since the international market for steel is passing through a turmoil. "MIP does stop people from selling steel in India at a loss.

*The Financial Express - 05.07.2016*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/minimum-import-price-for-steel-may-be-extended-by-six-months/306882/>

## **MakeMyTrip to launch new features to boost its mobile app-user engagement**

Online travel company MakeMyTrip, which gets more than 70% of its traffic for its hotels business from its mobile application, has said it will launch new features to boost app-user engagement. Keeping users coming back to the app and building loyalty, especially in more lucrative segments like hotels and vacations, is key for travel firms facing cutthroat competition. MakeMyTrip competes with Cleartrip and Goibibo. As part of strategy to drive app usage, the company has put all other development work on hold and asked its engineers to focus on 'Tap', a project aimed at improving mobile experience. "Deep (the MakeMyTrip founder) asked me to try and get the buying experience down to just two taps of the screen," said Anshuman Bapna, company's chief product officer. "We put all our other work on hold, like making changes to the desktop, for two weeks to create a new user experience." Bapna said in the past nine months, the company has retrained most of its engineers in mobile development and is already seeing the improvement.

*The Economic Times - 07.07.2016*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/startups/makemytrip-to-launch-new-features-to-boost-its-mobile-app-user-engagement/articleshow/53092716.cms>

## **Air India may lose privilege of being sole carrier of government staff**

Loss-making Air India may soon lose the privilege of being the sole carrier of government employees. The civil aviation ministry is preparing a Cabinet note that will allow them to opt for the cheapest fare, regardless of carrier. Currently, government employees can only use other carriers if there is no Air India option. "The finance ministry, in one of the review meetings, has asked us to abolish this rule mandating Air India for official flights," said a senior aviation ministry official, seeking anonymity. "We are

surpassed that of Russia (11.9% growth, in a market of 47 million domestic passengers)," it said in a release. China witnessed 9.7% growth in a market of 394 million domestic passengers while the US saw 5.4% rise in a market of 708 million local fliers. Last year, carriers flew 3.6 billion passengers on scheduled services, an increase of 7.2% compared to 2014.

*Mint - 06.07.2016*

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/KFxQ8vgmnJDC9FSwQrzf5K/India-sees-fastest-domestic-air-passenger-growth-in-2015-IA.html>

### **For the aam aadmi to be able to fly, implementation of new aviation policy critical**

A lot has clearly been happening in the civil aviation sector over the last month. It began when the Union government unveiled the first integrated National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016 after extensive consultations with stakeholders, seeking to turn India into the world's third largest aviation market by 2022. And more recently, the government sought to liberalise the investment regime by allowing 100% FDI in scheduled airlines under the government-approved route. But first the NCAP. While the new aviation policy is a comprehensive one and covers a host of sub-sectors, it is its thrust on regional connectivity that is its defining feature, seeking to put on the aviation map India's smaller cities and towns, hitherto uneconomical for commercial airlines to fly—significantly, the abolition of the 5/20 rule which has hogged headlines is unlikely to impact the sector in the next few years. While the policy had outlined the contours of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), it was only last week that the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) put in the public domain a draft RCS that fleshes out the details.

*The Financial Express - 06.07.2016*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/taking-air-travel-to-grassroots-aviation-policy/307962/>

### **Shipping sentiment at all-time low on trade slowdown, Brexit**

Global shipping confidence is at an all-time low as fears of a global recession and Britain's vote to leave the EU pile pressure on parts of the industry already suffering from its worst downturn, a leading transport survey showed on Wednesday. The global container sector, which transports everything from bananas to iPhones, as well as the dry bulk shipping market hauling commodities

preparing a Cabinet note, which should reach the Cabinet for approval in 15 days." Air India, in the midst of a government bailout programme, may not have too much sympathy among some members of the government. Cabinet Minister M Venkaiah Naidu recently vented his ire on Twitter about missing a meeting 10 days ago because his Air India flight was delayed.

*The Economic Times - 11.07.2016*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/air-india-may-lose-privilege-of-being-sole-carrier-of-government-staff-if-cabinet-note-goes-through/articleshow/53144940.cms>

### **India a bright spot in slowing air cargo global market**

The air freight market in India grew 7.3% in May year on year against the slowdown in the industry slowed down, reveals the latest statistics available with Airports Authority of India (AAI). The AAI operates most of the civil aviation airports in the country and is a partner in public-private partnership airport projects in Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and Hyderabad. About 243.860 tonne of freight was carried in May 2016 as against 227190 tonne a year ago. Out of the total, about 152,950 tonne was meant for international movement while the rest of it about 90,910 tonne was for the domestic market. A year ago, around 139,720 tonne of freight saw international movement while another 87,470 tonne was in the domestic market, representing 9.5% growth for international cargo and 3.9% for domestic freight movement. The freight movement is an indicator of the growth or slowness of an economy. However, all is not well with the global cargo industry, it seems with the freight movements slowing down in most of the markets due to varied reasons.

*DNA - 11.07.2016*

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-india-a-bright-spot-in-slowing-air-cargo-global-market-2233196>

### **Multi Modal Logistic Parks**

As part of the Sagarmala Programme of the Ministry of Shipping, seven Multi-Modal Logistic Parks (MMLPs) have been proposed in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Telangana, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The potential sites were identified based on comprehensive study of the container cargo movement across the country and are located in the proximity of important industrial clusters.

including iron ore and coal, are struggling with a glut of ships, a faltering global economy and weaker consumer demand. In an annual survey by international law firm Norton Rose Fulbright, just 15 percent of respondents saw current market conditions as positive, the lowest level since the poll began in 2009, with shipping the gloomiest transport sector canvassed. Separately, 68 percent of respondents said a global recession posed the greatest threat to shipping in coming years.

*Moneycontrol - 07.07.2016*

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/world-news/shipping-sentiment-at-all-time-lowtrade-slowdown-brexite-6989641.html>

### **JNPT becomes first port in logistics data tagging of containers**

Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become the first port in the country to implement logistics data tagging of containers. The port implemented the logistics data bank tagging of containers, first of its kind facility, which will help importers and exporters track their goods in transit through logistics data bank service. An RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Tag) tag would be attached to each container which would be tracked through RFID readers installed at different locations. "This would provide visibility' and transparency of the EXIM container movement by covering the entire movement through rail or road till the ICDs (Inland Container Depot) and CFSs (Container Freight Station)," a statement from shipping ministry said. This service will integrate the information available with various agencies across the supply chain to provide detailed real time information within a single window.

*The Economic Times - 05.07.2016*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-transport/jnpt-becomes-first-port-in-logistics-data-tagging-of-containers/articleshow/53047393.cms>

### **Making sense of stevedoring policy**

India's shipping ministry did the right thing by scrapping the auction system for selling permits to stevedores and shore-handling agents on a revenue share model to operate at state-owned ports in a new policy unveiled last week. The auction method of picking stevedores and shore-handling agents was introduced only in August last year. The revenue share had to be discovered through auction from within a ceiling rate allowed to be collected by stevedores and shore-handling agents from exporters and importers. The ceiling rate would be set by the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), the rate regulator for the Union government ports. Consequently, the highest

Sagarmala is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Shipping for promoting port-led development in India. It aims to achieve capacity expansion and modernization of sea-ports along India's coastline, enhance port connectivity to the hinterland, facilitate port led-industrialisation to promote trade and sustainable development of coastal communities. The National Perspective Plan (NPP) prepared under Sagarmala Programme was released in April 2016 by the Prime Minister.

*The Hans India - 07.07.2016*

<http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Hans-Classroom/2016-07-06/MultiModalLogistic-Parks/240062>

### **Railways may seek assured container cargo for lowering tariffs**

As the Railways looks to increase focus on containerised cargo, container train operators have sought a lower pricing policy. However, the Railway Ministry may seek assured incremental volume guarantees in order to lower pricing, as being in government system makes it difficult for it to justify lowering of tariffs. "The Railways plans to focus on containerisation of traffic in a big way. Barring coal and minerals, we will allow containers to carry several other commodities. Railway sheds will be permitted to handle container traffic soon wherever feasible. Also, routes that limit access to ports will be strengthened and parcel traffic will also be opened to container train operators," said Ambrish Kumar Gupta, Additional Member Traffic, Railway Board, in a conference on 'Last Mile Logistics', held by Global Knowledge Forum and the Railway Ministry.

*The Hindu Business Line - 07.07.2016*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/railways-may-seek-assured-container-cargo-for-lowering-tariffs/article8816340.ece>

### **Blueprint on land utilisation at major ports on the cards**

A blueprint for utilisation of land available with 12 major ports, which among themselves share about 78,000 acres, is on the anvil. Consultants are also in the process of submitting a report on how to utilise 1.98 lakh acres of submerged land with ports. India has 12 major ports that handle approximately 61 per cent of the country's total cargo traffic. "We are in the process of coming out with a road map for utilisation of land with our major ports. Consultants have been appointed for this and a blueprint is likely shortly," Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Rajive Kumar told PTI. "We have asked consultants to

revenue share price determined through auction will have to be matched by all other eligible stevedores/shore-handling agents currently operating in these ports to be allowed to hold permits for work. On an average, there are at least 50-80 licensed stevedores operating at each of these ports.

*Mint - 08.07.2016*

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/2bnVXU9xqdpqjGCse4OYmL/Making-sense-of-stevedoring-policy.html>

### **E-Commerce Driving Demand For Warehousing Space: CBRE**

E-commerce continues to drive demand for logistics and warehousing space in the country and has attracted a lot of interest from developers and private equity players, property consultant CBRE said. "With the logistics and industrial segment witnessing significant development, there is a lot of interest from both developers and private equity investment," CBRE South Asia Managing Director, Advisory and Transaction Services, Ram Chandnani said in a statement. The government's investor-friendly investment policies, improving domestic economy and progressive legislative reforms are all steps boosting the sector, he said at a conference here. "India is yet to achieve its full potential when it comes to the logistics sector, even though the World Bank has ranked India 35th in logistics.

*NDTV - 09.07.2016*

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/industries/article-e-commerce-driving-demand-for-warehousing-space-cbre-1429598>

submit a report as to how to utilise 1.98 lakh acres of submerged land of ports also." He said most of the submerged land is with Kandla Port and consultants have been asked whether it could be utilised for salt recovery or any other venture.

*The Economic Times - 10.07.2016*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/blueprint-on-land-utilisation-at-major-ports-on-the-cards/articleshow/53138063.cms>

### **UP Pani gets extension as NTPC Dir (Comm)**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for extension of the additional charge of the post of Director (Commercial), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd, assigned to UP Pani, Director (HR), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd. for a further period of three months or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest, Bureaucracy Today has learnt.

*Bureaucracy Today - 06.07.2016*

<http://bureaucracytoday.com/psumarket.aspx?id=109290>