

(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

Prabhat Khabar – 26.08.2018



बामर लॉरी राजभाषा पुरस्कार से सम्मानित

कोलकाता. महानगर में 24 अगस्त 2018 को आयोजित नगर राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति (उपक्रम) कोलकाता की छमाही बैठक के दौरान बामर लॉरी को राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन के क्षेत्र में श्रेष्ठ निष्पादन हेतु "राजभाषा पुरस्कार" से सम्मानित किया गया. यह जानकारी बामर लॉरी की ओर से जारी प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के माध्यम से दी गयी है.

Sanmarg – 26.08.2018

बामरलॉरी को मिला राजभाषा पुरस्कार



कोलकाता में शुक्रवार को आयोजित नगर राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति (उपक्रम) कोलकाता की छमाही बैठक के दौरान बामर लॉरी को राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन के क्षेत्र में श्रेष्ठ निष्पादन हेतु 'राजभाषा पुरस्कार' से सम्मानित किया गया।

Moody's puts India GDP growth in 2018, 2019 at 7.5 per cent

The Indian economy is expected to grow by around 7.5 per cent in 2018 and 2019 as it is largely resilient to external pressures like those from higher oil prices, Moody's Investors Service said today. In its Global Macro Outlook for 2018-19, Moody's said the run-up in energy prices over the last few months will raise headline inflation temporarily but the growth story remains intact as it is supported by strong urban and rural demand and improved industrial activity. "Growth prospects for many of the G-20 economies remain solid, but there are indications that the synchronous acceleration of growth heading into 2018 is now giving way to diverging trends. The near-term global outlook for most advanced economies is broadly resilient, in contrast to the weakening of some developing economies in the face of emerging headwinds from rising US trade protectionism, tightening external liquidity conditions and elevated oil prices," it said.

The Economic Times - 24.08.2018

GDP may have galloped to strong start in FY19

Another good quarter may be in the store for the economy following 7.7% growth in the January-March period, making for a strong start to the new financial year. Driven by manufacturing and agriculture, India's economy is likely to have grown 7.5-7.7% in the first quarter of FY19, independent experts said, ahead of the release of the official estimate next week. Some economists even expect growth to have crossed the 8% mark. A favourable base effect will also give growth a boost. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth had dipped to a low of 5.6% in the first quarter of FY18 owing to disruptions due to the introduction of goods and services tax (GST) and the lingering impact of demonetisation. That lowered economic growth in FY18 to 6.7% from 7.1% in the year earlier. The Reserve Bank of India expects FY19 growth at 7.4%, on par with private estimates. "We expect an unusually high GDP growth print for Q1, upwards of 8%," said Saugata Bhattacharya, chief economist at Axis Bank.

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/moodys-puts-india-gdp-growth-in-2018-2019-at-7-5-per-cent/65516435>

Industrial policy on GST pattern

Ahead of a spate of state assembly polls this year and general elections next year, the Narendra Modi government intends to come up with a new industrial policy, which plans to set up an industrial decision making body with representations from the Centre and the states in a manner similar to the GST Council. Top finance ministry officials said the draft policy on which work started at least three years back would be placed before the cabinet later this month. The formation of a GST Council like body -- a single-window clearance body for large industrial proposals -- would, however, require consultations with the states. Such a body would also be expected to take quicker decisions on labour law changes, where both the states and the Centre have to agree. Both must also agree on land use and leasing policies as well as on taxation issues. The policy, India's third since Independence, calls for incentives to create jobs, develop skills and R&D by companies as it promises to create millions of jobs and try to push the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent, up from the current 16.5 per cent.

The Telegraph - 25.08.2018

https://epaper.telegraphindia.com/textview_212326_175321721_4_1_8_25-08-2018_71_1.html

Oil Ministry to shut Biecco Lawrie; 'no possibility' of revival

With state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) refusing to buy perpetually sick Biecco Lawrie Ltd, the Petroleum Ministry has decided to shut down the British-era company as it sees "no possibility" of its revival. This is in line with consultant KPMG's report which ruled out revival or part revival as a feasible option, but said that "the option of sale should be explored first and subsequent to this evaluation, closure option may be looked at". Ahead of the proposed closure, the ministry is seeking the approval of the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs for a budgetary support of Rs 153.26 crore as interest-free loan that would be subsequently converted into equity. The money would be used to pay voluntary retirement package to its existing 275 employees, repay the Rs 24.56-crore loan it took from its majority shareholder Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) and one-time settlement with lending

The Economic Times - 25.08.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/Th eEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc =ETKM%2F2018%2F08%2F25&entity=Ar00101&sk=43FD4C1F&mode=text>

Govt looks to meet 75% of FY19 selloff target by Dec

The government is looking to complete nearly three fourths of its disinvestment target by the end of December and has a pipeline of about 15 companies in which it will sell stakes to achieve this interim goal. The government has so far raised around ₹9,200 crore against the target of ₹80,000 crore for FY19. It will need to generate another ₹50,000 crore more to reach the ₹59,000 crore year-end objective. The companies lined up for stake sales include NTPC, Coal India, MMTC and three railway firms. "In some firms we will offload as low as around 5% for quick realisation. There will be a mix of offerings through offers for sale (OFS) and initial public offers (IPO)," said a senior finance ministry official. Three to four firms are also expected to go in for buybacks, a strategy used in recent years to tap into the surpluses of state-run enterprises. Companies taking the listing route include North Eastern Electric Power Corp. (Neepco) and MSTC Ltd in which the government will sell 25% stake each through IPOs.

The Economic Times - 27.08.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/Th eEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc =ETKM%2F2018%2F08%2F27&entity=Ar01114&sk=CFBDA8F9&mode=text>

ONGC will not sell stake in IOCL and GAIL for repaying HPCL acquisition says report

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation of India Ltd will not be diluting its stake either in Indian Oil Corporation Ltd or GAIL (India) Ltd. During January, ONGC was reported of receiving an approval from the government to sell a 13.77% in Indian Oil Corp and 4.86% stake in gas utility GAIL (India) to help fund a Rs 36,915-crore acquisition of HPCL. Of this, ONGC borrowed Rs 24,881 crore on a short-term loan to fund buying the government's 51.11 percent stake in HPCL. The remaining came from its cash reserves. A PTI story confirmed from anonymous officials that ONGC had repaid nearly a third of the loan from its own internal accruals. A person was quoted saying in the report that IOCL shares were trading at Rs 195 in January, while now they were selling at Rs 159 (at the time of closing of

banks. Biecco Lawrie, located in Kolkata, was established in 1919 as British India Electric Construction Company. It started as a tea garden machine manufacturer and made shell cases, food containers, camouflage sets for military during World War II.

The India Express – 21.08.2018

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/communities/oil-ministry-to-shut-biecco-lawrie-no-possibility-of-revival-5316510/>

No GST on petrol, diesel in near future as Centre, states not in favour

Petrol and diesel will not come under the purview of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the immediate future as neither the Central government nor any of the states is in favour on fears of heavy revenue loss, a top source said today. When the one-nation-one-tax regime of GST was implemented in July last year, five petro-products - petrol, diesel, crude oil, natural gas, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) were kept out of its purview for the time being. Though there have been talks in the industry and by some ministers, including by Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, for the need to bring them under GST at the earliest to deal with volatility in prices, there is no immediate plans on the anvil to do so, the source, who wished not to be named, said. The Union finance ministry, he said, has not mooted any proposal to bring petrol and diesel or even natural gas under GST but took up the issue at the last GST Council meeting on August 4 based on media reports. "All states were opposed to the idea," he said. If the two fuels are put under GST, the Centre will have to let go Rs. 20,000 crore input tax credit it currently pockets by keeping petrol, diesel, natural gas, jet fuel and crude oil out of the GST regime

The Economic Times - 22.08.2018

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/no-gst-on-petrol-diesel-in-near-future-as-centre-states-not-in-favour/65496339>

India's crude oil production falls 5% in July, pushes crude import dependence to 82.3%

India's domestic crude oil production fell more than five per cent in July to 2,896 thousand tonne (TMT) as compared to the corresponding month a year ago. This is primarily due to the fall in production from fields operated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and joint venture (JV) players. The decline in domestic crude oil production has pushed the country's crude oil dependence to 82.3 per cent in July as compared to 80.8 per cent in the corresponding month a year

business hours on Friday). This, would have meant a loss to ONGC.

Sify – 21.08.2018

<http://www.sify.com/news/ongc-will-not-sell-stake-in-iocl-and-gail-for-repaying-hpcl-acquisition-says-report-news-business-siumXMggjfbbi.html>

India's petrochemical demand to grow at 8-9% through 2023: CRISIL

India's domestic demand for petrochemicals is expected to grow at a compounded annual rate (CAGR) of 8-9 per cent through 2022-2023, according to ratings agency CRISIL. Demand grew 8.5 per cent year-on-year in the previous fiscal, owing to healthy offtake from end-use segments. "Domestic petrochemicals capacity, however, may not keep pace. It is expected to expand at 4-5 per cent CAGR between fiscals 2018 and 2023 as compared to 8-9 per cent demand growth," the research agency said. Crude oil prices would flare up further in 2018 to range between \$68-73 per barrel, a 25-30 per cent year-on-year increase, according to CRISIL. "Global petrochemicals prices are set to rise in 2018, following uptick in feedstock prices. In fact, in the first half of 2018, petrochemical prices (except butadiene) have already climbed, given high crude oil and naphtha prices," the agency said. It said that ethylene prices would strengthen only 10-14 per cent and the rise in ethane capacity in the US would arrest the sharp increase in ethylene prices.

The Economic Times - 24.08.2018

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/indias-petrochemical-demand-to-grow-at-8-9-through-2023-crisil/65519205>

Government imposes restrictions on import of bio-fuels

The government has imposed restriction on import of bio-fuels including ethyl alcohol and other denatured spirits, bio-diesel, petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals other than crude, through an amendment in import policy. The import of these items, which was free earlier, will now only be allowed for non-fuel purpose on actual user basis. "Import policy of bio-fuels revised from 'free' to 'restricted' and allowed for non-fuel purpose on actual user basis as per the National Bio-Fuel

ago. ONGC, the country's largest producer of oil and gas, witnessed its crude oil production decline seven per cent to 1,789 TMT in July as compared to 1,932 TMT produced in the corresponding month of the previous year. Its cumulative production during the first four months of financial year 2018-19 fell five per cent to 7,181 TMT as compared to 7,559 TMT produced in the corresponding period a year ago.

The Economic Times - 25.08.2018

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/indias-crude-oil-production-falls-5-in-july-pushes-crude-import-dependence-to-82-3/65533045>

Biofuels policy: Industry voices concern over lack of transparency in tech, funding

Less than three months of the Union Cabinet approving the National Policy on Biofuels – 2018, questions are being raised on the lack of transparency in adopting the policy both in terms of technology and funding. "The government needs to revisit its policy. India needs to adopt a holistic approach to meet the consistent targets of ethanol blending, which is at abysmal levels at present," said an industry observer, terming the policy as short-sighted and non-sustainable in the current form. To extend financial and fiscal incentives, the policy categorises biofuels as 'Basic', that is, First Generation (1G) including bio-ethanol and biodiesel; 'Advanced' or Second Generation (2G) covering ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and drop-in fuels; and Third Generation (3G) such as bio-CNG, etc. With a thrust on Advanced Biofuels, the policy proposes a viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol bio-refineries of ₹5,000 crore in six years in addition to tax incentives and higher purchase price compared to 1G biofuels. The setting up of a VGF "beats all logic", he said, wondering, "Why can we not go for a tried-and-tested mechanism (1G – molasses based ethanol) that is available? Much smaller economies such as the Philippines have shown the way on how to balance domestic interests while promoting a consistent ethanol blend."

The Hindu Business Line – 21.08.2018

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/biofuels-policy-industry-voices-concern-over-lack-of-transparency-in-tech-funding/article24738736.ece>

US sanctions hit India, Iran gas field talks

Talks between India and Iran over the rights to develop a gas field in the Islamic Republic have stalled in the wake of fresh US sanctions, people

Policy," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification. In another notification, the government said export of beach sand minerals has been brought under state trading enterprise and shall be canalised through Indian Rare Earths Limited. Export of rare earth compounds classified as beach sand minerals, permitted anywhere in the export policy, will now be regulated.

The Economic Times - 23.08.2018

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/government-imposes-restrictions-on-import-of-bio-fuels/65508826>

India seeks re-negotiation in gas price from TAPI pipeline

India has sought re-negotiation of the natural gas price it is to source through a proposed USD 10 billion Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline in view of the slump in global energy markets, a top source said. The four nations to the pipeline projects had in 2013 signed a gas sale purchase agreement (GSPA) that benchmarked the price of natural gas that Turkmenistan is to export at 55 per cent of the prevailing crude oil price. This translates into a price of about USD 7.5 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu) at current oil prices at the Turkmen border. Added to this would be transit fee and transportation charges which would jack up the rates to over USD 10.5 per mmBtu at the Indian border, the source said. For a consumer, the price would be around USD 13 per mmBtu after adding local taxes and transportation charges. "This rate in the present global energy scenario is unacceptable. And so taking into cognizance of the current gas market, India has proposed for re-negotiation of GSPA," the source said. The price of Turkmen gas is more than double of the USD 3.6 per mmBtu rate paid for post natural gas producers in India.

The Economic Times - 23.08.2018

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-seeks-revision-in-gas-price-from-tapi-pipeline/articleshow/65497724.cms>

VRS not a right, govt can deny plea: SC

The Supreme Court has said a government employee cannot seek voluntary retirement as a matter of right and the government can frame rules to deny pleas for quitting prematurely in

familiar with the matter said. A consortium of Indian state-owned oil companies, led by Oil & Natural Gas Corp, has been negotiating with Iran for two years for the development rights of Farzad B gas field it discovered in Iran a decade ago. The resurrection of sanctions prompted Indian companies to freeze the matter. Sanctions are a huge project execution risk because it would be hard to obtain finance and rope in oilfield services companies, which are mostly US-controlled, people familiar with the matter said. This follows the cancellation of a \$5 billion contract to develop the massive South Pars offshore gas field by French giant Total, signalling the wariness of foreign companies in participating in Iran's exploration sector under sanctions. India imports almost 10% of its crude oil requirements from Iran and is in negotiations with the US for a sanctions waiver by offering to partly cut its purchases from the republic. Officials of the two countries are slated to meet next month to decide on this.

The Economic Times - 23.08.2018

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/us-sanctions-hit-india-iran-gas-field-talks/articleshow/65495573.cms>

UDAN may Extend its Wings to SE Asian Hubs

People living in the north-eastern states in India will soon be able to enjoy cheaper fares to destinations in the Southeast Asia. A draft policy, unveiled on Wednesday extends the subsidised air travel programme Ude Desh ke Aam Naagrik (UDAN) to international circuits, with state governments funding and identifying the routes for operation. "The objective of the UDAN (International) scheme is to enhance international air connectivity between Indian states and select international destinations through the provision of financial support to airlines. It is the next step after the positive domestic impact of UDAN. Under the scheme, the State Governments will be responsible for funding the financial benefits. The scheme envisages providing monetary support, in the form of a subsidy per seat, for the unsold seats from the number of seats as bid by the airline to make operations viable," aviation minister Suresh Prabhu wrote on twitter. "With the International Air Connectivity Scheme-UDAN, we (are) trying to make flying to international destinations more accessible to our citizens. This will help improve overall connectivity and spur trade, tourism and economic growth in the country," Prabhu added in a series of tweets.

The Economic Times - 23.08.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETK>

larger public interest. A bench of justices Arun Mishra and S Abdul Nazeer upheld Uttar Pradesh government's decision to reject the request for voluntary retirement of four senior doctors of the rank of joint directors and senior consultants and said the decision was justified due to shortage of doctors in UP. It said the concept of public interest could be invoked by the government. "The government's decision caters to the needs of human life and carries the objective of public interest. The doctors are claiming the right to retire under Part III of the Constitution, such right cannot be supreme than right to life. It has to be interpreted along with the rights of the state government in Part IV of the Constitution as it is obligatory upon it to make an endeavour to look after the provisions for health and nutrition. In case all the doctors are permitted to retire, in that situation, there would be chaos and no doctor would be left in government hospitals, which would be against the concept of the welfare state and injurious to public interest," the bench said.

The Economic Times - 24.08.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2018%2F08%2F24&entity=Ar01310&sk=76C88515&mode=text>

Domestic Air Passenger Traffic Grows Over 21%

As Indian airlines struggle with their finances on the back of lower yields, domestic passenger growth continued their upward surge by growing at a rate of 20.82% during the month of July — traditionally, a low peak month for airlines — this year over the same month in 2017. As per the data, released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday, Indian carriers carried 11.6 million passengers during the month, up from 9.5 million in June 2017. Gurgaon-based SpiceJet continued to maintain its pole position in terms of load factor by flying its planes 93.8% full, followed by IndiGo, which flew its planes with 88.7%. GoAir was a close third by flying its planes with 87.2% seats full. "July 2018 marked the 40th month in a row that we have flown with the highest loads in the country. I would like to extend our gratitude to each and every customer for investing faith in us time and again," Shilpa Bhatia, chief sales and revenue officer, SpiceJet, was quoted in a statement by the airline. In terms of operating flights on time, IndiGo topped the list by operating 85.5% of its flights on time distantly followed by SpiceJet that operated 80.6% flights on time and Vistara that operated 77.6% of its flights on time.

The Economic Times - 21.08.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc>

[M%2F2018%2F08%2F23&entity=Ar00705&sk=E
C97FD1D&mode=text](https://www.livemint.com/Politics/kVUXYal3XuEHaybKrskg3M/Cheap-fares-killing-airlines-in-Indias-cutthroat-market.html)

Cheap fares killing airlines in India's cutthroat market

Global carriers have flocked to India, lured by a domestic travel boom and what's expected to be the world's third-biggest aviation market by 2025. Yet India has proven an intensely competitive market, where profits are scarce and the life expectancy of weaker airlines is anything but certain. Jet Airways India Ltd., one of the first carriers to launch after the market opened up in the early 1990s, said in a filing this month that it needs cash to meet liquidity requirements. It's the latest sign of financial distress in a market beset by a crushing fare war that's made life difficult for foreign carriers, ranging from Malaysia's low-cost AirAsia Group Bhd. to Singapore Airlines Ltd., not to mention a teeming field of domestic players. The competition is set to intensify if Qatar Airways follows through with its proposal to start a short-haul airline in the country. The Indian commercial aviation industry has pretty much been in shakeout mode ever since the government ended a state monopoly enjoyed by Indian Airlines in 1994. Debt-burdened Kingfisher Airlines ended operations in 2012 -- and 10 other domestic carriers remain locked in a largely profitless struggle for passengers, despite operating in the world's fastest-growing market.

Mint - 27.08.2018

<https://www.livemint.com/Politics/kVUXYal3XuEHaybKrskg3M/Cheap-fares-killing-airlines-in-Indias-cutthroat-market.html>

On a new flight: Online travel agencies want to travel far with India's SMEs

The vast base of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in India (over 40 million, by most estimates) has proved to be an attractive group of customers for many start-ups. Many business models have mushroomed over the last couple of years, including alternate finance providers, GST compliance providers, with a specific focus on serving small and medium businesses (SMEs). Now, it is the turn of established businesses to look towards SMEs as these businesses look for new avenues for sustained growth. India's two biggest online travel agencies (OTAs) - MakeMyTrip and Yatra - are targeting SMEs with special attention. Gurgaon-based MakeMyTrip has a special product for SMEs, called MyBiz. "We started building our product in the Q2 of 2017 as we realised that there was an underserved

[=ETKM%2F2018%2F08%2F21&entity=Ar0151
1&sk=30BA6CDE&mode=text](https://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/indian-travellers-avoid-holiday-packages-prefer-booking-flights-and-hotels-separately-travel-portal-survey/story-FQz5d6jUy073hrCMN3LJDL.html)

Indian travellers avoid holiday packages, prefer booking flights and hotels separately: travel portal survey

Most Indians — largely couples and solo travellers — prefer to book their flight tickets and hotel stay separately despite good discounts on package bookings. A survey conducted by a travel portal states that 93% Indian travellers book their hotel within a week of booking their flights tickets, while 27% book packages only if they get a discount on their stay. Expedia, an online travel portal, conducted the online survey among 600 employed adults from May 30 to June 25, 2018, across Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, and Hyderabad. The Expedia survey also indicated that only 21.6% of Indians would bundle their flight and hotel while the rest (78.4%) booked hotels after booking flights in their convenient time, missing out on potential offers. "Regular travellers who come across a handsome discount tend to quickly grab at the opportunity be it on airfare, hotels or the entire package," Karan Anand, who heads relationships at Cox and Kings. "Family travellers mostly seek group tour packages. Couples and individual travellers usually book airfares and hotels separately as per the available offers and discounts."

The Hindustan Times - 26.08.2018

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/indian-travellers-avoid-holiday-packages-prefer-booking-flights-and-hotels-separately-travel-portal-survey/story-FQz5d6jUy073hrCMN3LJDL.html>

National Logistics Portal to help boost trade competitiveness

The first phase of the National Logistics Portal (NLP) — a digital platform to bring all stakeholders in the logistics sector on board to cut down transaction cost and time for businesses — is likely to be implemented by March, a government official said. "The Department of Commerce, which is designing the portal, has already received an approval of the 'proof of concept' from a Committee of Secretaries and is now working on the detailed project report," a government official associated with the project told BusinessLine. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in his Budget speech this year, had announced that the Department of Commerce will create a portal which will be a single window online market place for trade and will connect business, create opportunities and

segment of corporate travel. There is very little investment that has happened in technology for corporate travel and even in that, the complete focus has been on the top of the pyramid. In India, there are 300-500 large companies which have been the focus of all the OTA players," says MakeMyTrip, chief business officer, Ranjeet Oak.

The Economic Times - 24.08.2018

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sme-sector/on-a-new-flight-online-travel-agencies-want-to-travel-far-with-indias-smes/articleshow/65524842.cms>

India's logistics sector to grow to \$200 bn in 3 years, government steps will take time to fructify: J Padmanabhan, Crisil

India's logistics sector, valued at about \$160 bn, is expected to grow to about \$200 bn in just three years, according to Jagannarayan Padmanabhan, Director and Practice Lead – Transport and Logistics, CRISIL Ltd, the global analytics, ratings and research company. Multi-modal logistics parks (MMLPs) are going to be key to this growth. At 15-16%, logistics cost continues to be significant for India's manufacturing sector. Though some measures have been taken to lower that, it remains a work in progress. The roll-out of GST and e-way bill are making a positive impact, but it is too early to say logistics cost is declining. The removal of check-posts has certainly eased interstate movement of goods. The real impact would be seen in the medium term (about three-four years) as the hard infrastructure also has to come up. Some areas where efficiencies can be brought in or increased are within the realm of policy. The Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act, expected to be amended soon, proposes to address inefficiencies across the transportation value chain, including modes of transport.

The Financial Express - 27.08.2018

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/india-s-logistics-sector-to-grow-to-200-bn-in-3-years-government-steps-will-take-time-to-fructify-j-padmanabhan-crisil/1293089/>

G Satheesh Reddy Appointed DRDO Chairman

Renowned scientist G Satheesh Reddy was on Saturday appointed the chairman of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO). Reddy is the scientific advisor to the defence minister. He has been appointed DRDO chairman for two years. He will also be the secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development (DoDRD), for the same period, an order issued by personnel ministry said. The post of DRDO chief was lying vacant for about three months after S Christopher completed his term in May this year. Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra was then given additional charge of the post.

The Economic Times - 26.08.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F08%2F26&entity=Ar00201&sk=5AE95991&mode=text>

bring together various ministries, departments and the private sector. Stakeholders like traders, manufacturers, logistics service providers, infrastructure providers, financial services, government departments and groups and associations will all be on one platform, once the portal is created.

The Hindu Business Line - 24.08.2018

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/national-logistics-portal-to-help-boost-trade-competitiveness/article24762985.ece>

R K Chauhan takes charge as Director (Projects), PowerGrid

Rajeev Kumar Chauhan assumed the charge of Director (Projects) of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID). He graduated from IIT Roorkee in Electrical Engineering and has a diverse experience of more than 33 years in EHV AC&DC transmission system covering almost all areas of the transmission system. He has been associated with POWERGRID since 1994 and has contributed to all segments of Power System Management in POWERGRID i.e. Project Management, CTU Planning, Design & Engineering (EHV AC & HVDC), Procurement, Site Execution, Operation & Maintenance, Consultancy, DMS and Commercial Functions in POWERGRID under various capacities. He has also served for 10 years in NTPC prior to joining POWERGRID in 1994. He has been instrumental in design and development of National Grid, now considered the backbone of the country's electricity market including planning and setting up of High Capacity Corridors for facilitating open access to generators and Green Energy Corridors to facilitate integration of renewable generation including state-of-the-art design concept of Statcom stations to improve the static as well dynamic voltage profile of the transmission system.

Millennium Post - 25.08.2018

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