

(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

Antakshari Competition organized at Balmer Lawrie

Under the aegis of Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC), Kolkata, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., a Mini Ratna Category - I PSE under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, organized an inter-company Antakshari Competition at its Corporate Office on December 20, 2018 to promote Hindi as the official language. A total of 17 teams from different PSUs in Kolkata participated in the competition. It was an evening full of melodious Hindi songs and after four rounds of tough competition, the team from Oriental Insurance Company Limited was declared winners, with HPCL and Air India securing the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. Shipping Corporation of India being in the 4th position would get a consolation prize. The prizes will be given away during TOLIC's half yearly meeting to be held in January 2019.

Business Standard –
27.12.2018

ANTAKSHARI COMPETITION ORGANISED AT BALMER LAWRIE

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The Indian
Express -
27.12.2018

बामर लारी में अंत्याक्षरी प्रतियोगिता आयोजित

कोलकाता, 23 दिसंबर (जनसत्ता)।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की मिनी रत्न कंपनी बामर लारी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड की टाउन आफिशियल लैंग्वेज इंप्लीमेंटेशन कमिटी के बैनर तले यहां कारपोरेट आफिस में एक अंत्याक्षरी प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया। इसका मकसद हिंदी को बढ़ावा देना था। कंपनी की ओर से जारी एक बयान में इसकी जानकारी दी गई है। उक्त प्रतियोगिता में कोलकाता स्थित सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की 17 कंपनियों के प्रतिद्वंद्वियों ने हिस्सा लिया। इसमें ओरिएंटल इश्योरेंस कंपनी की टीम विजेता रही। एचपीसीएल और एअर इंडिया की टीमों क्रमशः दूसरे व तीसरे स्थान पर रहीं। चौथे स्थान पर रहे शिपिंग कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया को सांत्वना पुरस्कार दिया गया।

Jansatta –
25.12.2018

India's economy to overtake Britain, France in 2019, possibly 2020: Report

In the race to outpace developed economies, emerging countries such as China, India, and

CII pegs 2019 growth at 7.5% on settled GST, better demand

A settled goods and services tax (GST), improving credit availability and capacity

Brazil suffered a setback this year and will outgrow them later than previously expected, the Centre for Economics and Business Research said. The Cebr consultancy's 2019 World Economic League Table was more downbeat on the global economy than last year's outlook. "For the medium term, we are roughly as optimistic as we were a year ago, but suspect the route to growth will be more bumpy than we had assumed 12 months ago," said the report, which forecast the fortunes of 193 countries to 2033. China is likely to overtake the United States as the world's No. 1 economy in 2032, two years later than previously expected, due to a more lax monetary policy and lower exchange rate, the Cebr said. It expects Brazil to overtake Italy in 2020, not 2018. India would overtake Britain and France, probably in 2019, but possibly 2020, rather than in 2018 as it predicted a year ago. Britain would likely lose its place as then the sixth biggest economy to France next year due to Brexit-related disruption, but should regain that position by 2023.

Business Standard - 26.12.2018

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-s-economy-to-overtake-britain-france-in-2019-possibly-2020-report-118122600037_1.html

Fiscal deficit touches 114.8% of full-year estimates at Nov-end, raises slippage fears

The government's fiscal deficit touched 114.8% of the full-year estimates at the end of November, stoking concerns that the gap between the targets set for FY19 and the final tally could widen. The government had budgeted fiscal deficit of Rs. 6.24 lakh crore, or 3.3% of the GDP, for FY19. Fiscal deficit for April-November stood at Rs. 7.16 lakh crore, or 114.8% of the target. It is slightly more than the 112% recorded in the same period last fiscal. "Fears of a fiscal slippage will persist.....There are several risks to meeting the budgeted targets for revenues and expenditures, with one of the predominant concerns arising from a possible shortfall in indirect tax collections, despite the seasonal pickup in tax revenues in the last quarter of every fiscal," said Aditi Nayar, principal economist, ICRA Ltd. New Delhi has maintained it would meet the fiscal deficit target for the financial year. Total expenditure up to November was 66.1% of the budget estimate of ₹24.42 lakh crore, the data showed, suggesting that while the expenditure largely remained on

expansion from increasing investment in infrastructure are among seven key drivers that will help Indian economy grow 7.5% next year, said the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). In its 'Growth Outlook for 2019', CII said that amid growing global vulnerabilities of trade wars and US monetary tightening, India shines as the fastest growing major economy with robust gross domestic product (GDP) in 2018 that is expected to continue to expand in 2019. "Better demand conditions, settled GST implementation, capacity expansion resulting from growing investments in infrastructure and continuing positive effects of the reform policies undertaken and improved credit offtake especially in services sector at 24% will sustain the robust GDP growth in the range of 7.5% in 2019," CII said in a statement. The positive outlook is supported by improved demand conditions arising from election spending, stronger services and infrastructure sector, it said. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects India's economy to grow 7.4% in 2018-19. CII had suggested only three slabs for GST – a standard rate, a higher rate for demerit goods and a lower rate for some mass consumption items – and inclusion of fuels, real estate, electricity and alcohol in the ambit of the levy.

The Economic Times - 31.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F12%2F31&entity=Ar00707&sk=2EE021A1&mode=text>

Govt pegs FY19 current account deficit at 2% of GDP on slide in oil prices

With global crude oil prices slumping to below \$50 a barrel just months after crossing \$86, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is now confident that the current account deficit (CAD) for 2018-19 (FY19) can be contained at about 2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Earlier, the government had estimated the CAD would be 2.8 per cent of GDP. Both of these are internal estimates. "When the oil prices were at their peak, it appeared that the CAD for FY19 was heading for somewhere around 2.8 per cent of GDP. Now, since the decline, the current trajectory appears to be around 2-2.2% of GDP. If the oil prices keep slipping, it could even be below 2 percent," a senior government official said. "There was a time when oil prices had gone up sharply. There were also other headwinds, such as the pace at which the Fed (United States Federal Reserve) was tightening rates. We also had problems with our credit markets. The good news is that on all three fronts, the pressure has eased significantly," the official said.

Business Standard - 27.12.2018

course, subdued tax receipts largely contributed toward bloating the deficit.

The Economic Times - 28.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F12%2F28&entity=Ar01114&sk=3FCED558&mode=text>

Niti to push growth, ensure reforms are implemented swiftly: Rajiv Kumar

Niti Aayog plans to focus in the new year on steps required to push economic growth, promote e-mobility and ensure expeditious implementation of the Modi government's reform measures, its vice chairman Rajiv Kumar has said. "India will grow at around 7.8% in the next calendar year and investment cycle that has already started picking up will gather further strength and we will see more private investments," Kumar said. India grew at 6.7% in the last fiscal year ended March 2018. "I also hope that liquidity crunch which has been effecting non-banking financial company (NBFC) sector would also be addressed and the credit allocation capacity of banks under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) would be enhanced... All of that will contribute to strengthening the investment cycle," Kumar said. He said various key reforms undertaken by the Modi government has laid foundation stone for high growth and the low inflation and the time is now to focus on their implementation. "I am certain that some more policy reforms may be announced in the sectors such as e-mobility or in reducing import-dependency in energy sector and development of the North East region," the Niti Aayog vice chairman said.

The Economic Times - 31.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F12%2F31&entity=Ar00704&sk=6E25AF2C&mode=text>

Govt confident of strategic sales in 3 PSUs this fiscal

The government is confident of wrapping up at least three strategic disinvestments in the current fiscal year, an official has said, asserting that it will help send a signal about the Centre's willingness to move ahead with such share sales in state-run firms. The government hopes that the strategic sale in helicopter services firm Pawan Hans will sail through smoothly as it has received "substantial interest". The government holds 51% in Pawan Hans, which has a fleet of 46 helicopters and the rest is held by ONGC. Strategic sale refers to transfer of management control and ownership. The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government successfully experimented with the policy of strategic

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-pegs-fy19-current-account-deficit-at-2-of-gdp-on-slide-in-oil-prices-118122600824_1.html

PSUs' contribution to Central Exchequer dips

The contribution of state-owned firms to the central exchequer by way of excise duty, customs duty, GST, corporate tax, dividend and others fell 2.98% to ₹3,50,052 crore in 2017-18, according to a survey tabled in Parliament Thursday. In 2016-17, CPSEs' contribution to the exchequer stood at Rs. 3,60,815 crore. The dividend declared or paid by such firms in the last fiscal stood at Rs. 76,578 crore against Rs. 78,129 crore in 2016-17, as per the Public Enterprises Survey 2017-18. "It has been observed that the return on net worth is highest in the mining and exploration sector (14.77%) followed by manufacturing, processing and generation (14.34%), services (5.04%), while agriculture sector has shown negative (-39.3%) return on net worth," said the survey. The central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) employed 10.88 lakh people excluding casual and contractual workers in 2017-18 compared to 11.35 lakh in 2016-17, showing a fall of 4.14% in employee strength, it said. However, the salary and wages of all CPSEs stood at Rs 1,57,621 crore in 2017-18 against Rs 1,40,956 crore in the previous year, exhibiting a growth of 11.82 per cent.

The Economic Times - 28.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F12%2F28&entity=Ar01116&sk=E34162CC&mode=text>

Cabinet approves listing of 7 CPSEs

The government has approved the listing of seven central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to unlock value and raise funds through share sales to meet its disinvestment target. Those approved for listing by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) include RailTel Corp India Ltd, Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd, National Seeds Corporation Ltd, Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals (India) Ltd and Tehri Hydro Development Corp Ltd. All these will list through IPOs. CCEA also cleared a follow-on offer by Kudremukh Iron Ore Co Ltd. "The listing of CPSEs on the exchange shall unlock their value and

disinvestment during its tenure and managed to privatise a string of firms, including some state-run hotels. The Narendra Modi government had vowed to pursue an aggressive policy of strategic disinvestment but has so far shied away from taking any big steps on this front. Government think tank NITI Aayog has recommended strategic sales for a number of state-run firms, but progress has been limited. The government has identified about a dozen firms for outright sale. The other firm where the government is hoping to get the sale through is Bridge and Roof Corporation of India, a construction company set up in 1920.

The Times of India - 31.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2018%2F12%2F31&entity=Ar01304&sk=FD5533FC&mode=text>

Indian Oil, ONGC, NTPC most profitable PSUs

Indian Oil Corporation, ONGC and NTPC emerged as the top three most profitable PSUs in 2017-18, while BSNL, Air India and MTNL incurred the highest losses for the second consecutive year, according to a survey tabled in Parliament Thursday. The Public Enterprises Survey 2017-18, which mapped the performance of central public sector units, revealed that the top ten loss making PSUs claimed 84.71% of the total losses made by all the 71 CPSEs. Indian Oil Corporation, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and NTPC, contributed 13.37%, 12.49% and 6.48%, respectively to the total profit earned by CPSEs during 2017-18, the survey revealed. Coal India and Power Grid Corporation occupied the fourth and fifth spot in the list of top 10 profit making CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises) in the 2017-18 fiscal. The three worst performing PSUs, including BSNL, AI and MTNL, contributed 52.15% of total loss incurred by CPSEs in 2017-18. On the other hand, Power Finance Corporation entered into the list of the top ten profit making CPSEs, while Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd has not featured in the latest list.

The Economic Times - 28.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F12%2F28&entity=Ar01115&sk=D B3DA673&mode=text>

Opec holds the key to Indian economy's fortunes in 2019

encourage investor participation in the CPSEs," said Ravi Shankar Prasad, minister of law, electronics and IT, briefing reporters on the decision. The alternative mechanism, comprising finance minister Arun Jaitley, minister of road transport and shipping Nitin Gadkari and the minister of the administrative ministry concerned, has been empowered to decide on the extent and mode of disinvestment along with pricing and timing. The Cabinet also expanded the eligibility criteria for listing of CPSEs. Companies with a positive net worth and a net profit in any of the immediately three preceding financial years will be now eligible for listing.

The Economic Times - 29.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F12%2F29&entity=Ar00124&sk=6D07D8C6&mode=text>

Companies CSR expenditure rises 47% in 4 years to FY18, says survey

Companies in India spent Rs 7,536.3 crore on corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in 2017-18, a 47 percent rise compared to 2014-15, says a survey. "This is a significant rise, clearly demonstrating higher expenditure towards CSR activities from the mandated year, 2014," said the KPMG India CSR Reporting Survey 2018. The cumulative expenditure by top 100 companies from 2014-15 to 2017-18 is about Rs 26,385 crore, the survey said. The average amount spent per company has gone up to Rs 76.1 crore as compared to Rs 58.8 crore during 2014-15, up 29 percent, it said. The survey further said that the total unspent amount has reduced by Rs 749 crore to Rs 989 crore during 2017-18 from Rs 1,738 crore in 2014-15. "This is the fourth year into the report and also government regulation to spend 2 percent on CSR. This year, the two outcomes which are showing progress due to the regulation are - governance around CSR and contribution of private sector in the development," said Santhosh Jayaram, Partner and Head, Sustainability and CSR Advisory, KPMG in India. "The governance around CSR has improved to a great extent

Business Standard - 27.12.2018

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/companies-csr-expenditure-rises-47-in-4-years-to-fy18-says-survey-118122600641_1.html

Sharply fluctuating fuel prices defined oil and gas sector in 2018

Even as foreign institutional investors pull out money from the country, the rupee is witnessing a smart recovery over the past few trading sessions. The reason behind this paradox is simple: falling crude oil prices, which is hovering near the \$50 per barrel mark for the first time in 16 months. Oil has been the major bugbear of the Indian economy. A sharp rise in oil prices this year raised fresh concerns about India's outsized dependence on oil imports. The fears of widening current account and fiscal deficit had spooked investors and made the rupee the worst-performer among emerging markets currencies. The decline in oil prices seems to have reversed the rupee-dollar trade. However, the fundamental weaknesses in India's macroeconomic balance sheet remain. Owing to populist pressures ahead of elections in 2019, the fisc is under strain, and sluggish export growth has left the current account vulnerable to shocks. A spike in oil prices, could therefore widen the twin deficits once again. The trajectory of oil prices will have as much bearing on the health of the economy in 2019 as it did in 2018.

Mint - 28.12.2018

<https://www.livemint.com/Politics/dPSTD7NkWqHX9Ir4fh2TiN/Opec-holds-the-key-to-Indian-economys-fortunes-in-2019.html>

Opec promises curbs, but it's no relief for oil

Oil fell towards \$45 a barrel as worries over rising US supplies and the global economy overshadowed signals from Opec that it may extend or even deepen its pledged output curbs. Futures fell 0.3% in New York, after declining 11% last week - the most since January 2016. Officials from Iraq, Kuwait and UAE agreed with Saudi Arabia's expectation that the group will extend its cuts for another six months. They will have to contend with US producers, which added 10 oil rigs last week, according to Baker Hughes data, even as the nation's output stays near record - high levels. The UAE's energy minister, while stressing that Opec and its allies' 1.2 million barrel-a-day reduction will clear a glut in the first quarter, hinted additional curbs could be discussed. But investors remain skeptical. US President Donald Trump's trade war with China and the Federal Reserve's rate policy are raising concerns over global economic growth. Oil prices have collapsed 40% from a four-year high in early October. "The main input over the weekend has been the continued intervention by Opec members," said Olivier Jakob, managing director at Petromatrix. "For now, those statements are ignored by the market because we are in this bearish cycle."

For the Indian oil and gas sector, the year was defined by what occurred outside with crude oil prices rising steadily to cross \$86 a barrel owing to oil producers starting output cuts from January, before a sharp correction in the third quarter brought it down to below \$50 earlier this month. Consequently, 2018 saw petrol and diesel prices scaling record highs daily under the dynamic pricing regime for transport fuel prices introduced last year, even as the rupee plunged to new lows against the US dollar in the second half of the year, leading to a soaring oil import bill and widening of the current account deficit. High fuel prices spurred the government to make excise cuts and increase its efforts to take India towards a gas-based economy. In mid-May, the price of petrol in Mumbai breached the Rs 86-a-litre mark as fuel prices across the country increased for the 15th day in a row, surpassing fresh records daily. Thereafter, following the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC producers deciding in Vienna to raise oil production by some 1 million barrels a day, fuel prices in the country suddenly started declining in June.

The Economic Times - 30.12.2018

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/sharply-fluctuating-fuel-prices-defined-oil-and-gas-sector-in-2018/67309278>

India's crude oil production down 3.6 per cent in current fiscal so far

India's crude oil production slumped 3.6 per cent to 23,075 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) in the first eight months (April-November) of the current financial year from 23,943 TMT recorded in the same period last fiscal. Oil production during the period was also down 5.26 per cent as compared to the target of 24,357 TMT set by the government for the April-November 2018 period, according to the oil ministry. This comes at a time the government is working on a target to cut the country's import dependence for energy supply by 10 per cent by 2022. India meets over 80 per cent of its crude oil demand through costly imports in the absence of adequate domestic output. Crude oil production by state-owned explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) stood at 14,146 TMT in the first eight months of 2018-19, down 5.6 per cent as compared to the production in the same period last year. India's natural gas production during the April-November period of the current fiscal also dropped 0.69 per cent to 21,783 Million Standard Cubic Metre (MMSCM).

The Economic Times - 25.12.2018

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/indias-crude-oil-production->

The Economic Times - 25.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F12%2F25&entity=Ar01205&sk=27EC710C&mode=text>

India's crude oil imports see first monthly fall since Iran sanctions

India's crude oil imports declined by 11.4 per cent year-on-year in November, the first fall since Iranian crude was restricted due to US sanctions. Imports have risen every month in the current financial year except April when it fell by 5.4 per cent year-on-year. While imports by government-owned firms decreased by 1.9 per cent in November that by private companies fell by 25.1 per cent. One of the reasons for the decline could be cuts made by Russian oil giant Rosneft-owned Nayara Energy, which used to import six million barrels a month but had started cutting imports even before the sanctions were kicked in. India has restricted its monthly purchase to 1.25 million tonne, or 15 million tonne in a year (300,000 barrels per day), down from 22.6 million tonne (452,000 barrels per day) bought in 2017-18. Two of its refiners — Indian Oil Corp and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals — bought 1.25 million tonne of oil from Iran in November and December. India, which uses 80 per cent of imported crude oil for its requirements, imports around 10 per cent of its crude oil requirement from Iran, the third-largest supplier after Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The Indian Express - 25.12.2018

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/indias-crude-oil-imports-see-first-monthly-fall-since-iran-sanctions-5508269/>

Holidaymakers in high spirits as travel costs remain low

Airlines are resisting the temptation to raise last-minute ticket prices and hotels are keeping rates more or less unchanged due to greater supply, resulting in a bustling holiday season. Indian travellers don't mind braving the winter chill, going by data from travel companies and hotels that indicate a rising preference for colder destinations. Bookings for Europe have surged and demand within India is for snowclad destinations such as Manali, Sonmarg, Patnitop, Kufri and Auli. These destinations didn't have much pickup last year due to the late arrival of snow. "This year these destinations are seeing a surge in bookings by at least 15% to 20%. Hotel tariffs have not gone up significantly due to increase in supply and traditional destinations such as Goa, Dubai, Kerala and Rajasthan also continue to be top favourites," said Karan Anand, head of relationships at Cox &

[down-3-6-per-cent-in-current-fiscal-so-far/67242329](https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/crude-prices-right-now-offer-binary-recession-bet-oil-strategy/67270232)

Crude prices right now offer binary recession bet: Oil strategy

A recipe for New Year crude oil price weakness: Take 2 parts trade-war worries, 1 part each of quantitative tightening and fear of a slowdown in Chinese growth. Add a dollop of credit default concern and a generous pinch of European Union chaos, seasoned with a dash of Brexit uncertainty and Italian budgetary angst. Blend and allow to simmer gently for several months. This stew of broader economic concerns has done more than oil market fundamentals to undermine crude prices since early October. Oil's 9 per cent surge on Wednesday only brings it back to around the same price level it was at for the start of the week. The supply-demand balance for oil does not appear to support the dramatic slump in prices since then, and there are plenty of reasons to expect crude supplies to fall in the coming weeks and months. The OPEC+ group of oil-producing countries has pledged to remove about 1.2 million barrels a day from supply from January, with most countries using October 2018 as the baseline for their cuts. Expect them to do what they have pledged, even if it takes them a little time to get there.

The Economic Times - 27.12.2018

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/crude-prices-right-now-offer-binary-recession-bet-oil-strategy/67270232>

Airfares set to rise a tad with increase in passenger service fee

Flying is about to get more expensive in India as the government has decided to raise the Passenger Service Fee (PSF) to Rs. 170 from ₹135 to meet the rising cost of airport security, which is provided by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). "This increase will be enough to meet the cost of securing airports across the country for another three years and also clear the dues," said an aviation ministry official, who did not want to be identified. "There will also be a system in place, which will ensure that PSF is increased every three years to meet the cost of securing airports." Delhi airport owes about Rs. 800 crore to CISF, prompting a threat to curtail its services in August. The decision to raise PSF, unchanged since 2001, was taken after the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) asked the finance ministry to look

Kings. The hill stations around Delhi national capital region are also gaining in popularity, said Sharat Dhall, chief operating officer, B2C, Yatra.com. "Snow is aspirational for a lot of people. Shimla has already seen its first snowfall. There is an uptick in bookings for hill stations and Europe in the winters is also getting popular," he said.

The Economic Times - 25.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F12%2F26&entity=Ar00114&sk=88521B90&mode=text>

Bengal may see 3L jobs boost

The leather industry in West Bengal is going through a facelift that is expected to generate an additional employment of 3 lakh in the next two years. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said at least 1,000 leather manufacturing units have shown interest and so the government has started the process of developing infrastructure at Bantala to garner more investment in the sector. "There have been more than 1,000 applications for expansion in the leather sector for which around 350 acres need to be allocated. We have already started work for identifying land and at the same time developing infrastructure for water supply and other requisites to fructify quick investment. It has the potential to generate 3 lakh jobs," Banerjee said after chairing the cabinet meeting at Nabanna. Council for Leather Exports (CLE)-eastern region secretary Ramesh Juneja said: "The leather industry is safe only in Kerala and West Bengal because we not only have skilled labour but also a safe environment that is very important for the growth of the industry." "At present, we have a market of Rs 13,000 crore but if we can successfully rope in investment that is coming, the market will grow to Rs 45,000 crore to Rs 50,000 crore in the next two years," Juneja added.

The Economic Times - 25.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2018%2F12%2F25&entity=Ar01403&sk=DD65DAF1&mode=text>

India takes over operations of Iran's strategic Chabahar Port

India on Monday formally took over operations at Chabahar port in Iran, giving a major boost to the country's efforts to support war-torn Afghanistan, people familiar with developments said. New Delhi's efforts to develop the port, which allows India to ship supplies to Afghanistan while bypassing Pakistan, received a fillip recently when

into the matter. The home secretary had written to the aviation ministry about withdrawing the CISF from Delhi airport unless dues were paid. "The mandate to raise PSF to meet the cost has gone to the finance ministry now," the official said. "It has been asked to raise PSF at regular intervals to ensure that costs are met."

The Economic Times - 25.12.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F12%2F26&entity=Ar00502&sk=4661AAFE&mode=text>

Maersk unit to open India's first green warehouse for chemicals in Pune

APM Terminals Inland Services, a unit of Danish transport giant AP Moller Maersk Group, is to open India's first environment approved inland container depot (ICD) for handling chemicals in Pune, its Managing Director for South Asia, Ajit Venkataraman, has said. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has given APM Terminals Inland Services blanket approval to store 35,000 tonnes of chemicals of all types, except explosives and radioactive chemicals, at its facility located 150 km from Mumbai. The ICD can handle 60,000 containers a year. It has 100,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space, half bonded and half non-bonded, besides 50,000 sq. ft. of yard space to store containers. The move is aimed at supporting India's chemical industry, currently estimated at \$200 billion, and accounting for about 3 per cent of the global market. By 2025, the local chemical industry is expected to double to \$400 billion, nudging multinational chemical companies to set up base in India, though the lack of compliant facilities was hampering growth.

The Hindu Business Line - 27.12.2018

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/maersk-unit-to-open-indias-first-green-warehouse-for-chemicals-in-pune/article25840295.ece>

Alka Mittal takes charge as ONGC Director (HR)

Dr Alka Mittal joined as Director (HR) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited on Wednesday. A post-graduate in Economics, MBA (HRM) and Doctorate in Commerce and Business Studies, she joined ONGC as a Graduate Trainee in 1985 and brings with her extremely rich experience spanning over three decades. She is on the

Washington exempted Chabahar from Iran-related sanctions in November. Iran formally handed over the port to India during a first meeting of the follow-up committee for the implementation of the Chabahar Agreement between Iran, Afghanistan, and India in the port city Tehran. The Indian side at the meeting was led by joint secretary (Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran) Deepak Mittal of the external affairs ministry, while the Iranian team was led by Mohammad Ali Hassanzadeh, the deputy head of the Ports and Maritime Organisation, the people said. "This is a major step forward in India's efforts to support Afghanistan and also for regional cooperation," an official in New Delhi said.

The Hindustan Times - 25.12.2018

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-takes-over-chabahar-port-operations-from-iran-will-ship-supplies-to-afghanistan/story-kWKZeStt1MfQR4s5Voz4fL.html>

Board of ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited (OMPL) as ONGC nominee Director since August 2015. Prior to joining as Director (HR), Mittal held the post of Chief Skill Development (CSD) of the Company. In her capacity as CSD she streamlined the activities and brought in uniformity in the working of the Skill Development Centres promoted or supported by ONGC.

Millennium Post - 27.12.2018

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/alka-mittal-takes-charge-as-ongc-director-hr-333580>