

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

Balmer Lawrie in News

The Indian Express – 09.08.2019



SCOPE CORP-COMM EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2019

Balmer Lawrie wins SCOPE Corporate Communications Excellence Awards 2019 – Balmer Lawrie won awards in two categories during the SCOPE Corporate Communications Excellence Awards-2019 - The 'Collect Stories' campaign by brand Vacations Exotica (VE) under the category 'Effective use of Digital Media' and 'The Making of Next'- the History Book penned down during the completion of 150 years of the organization under the 'Special Brand Building Publication' category. The awards were given away by Dr. BP Singh, former governor of Sikkim during the Corporate Communications Summit organized by SCOPE recently at New Delhi. A Ratna Sekhar, Director [HR & CA] along with Corporate Communications and VE team members received the awards on behalf of the company.

Dainik Jagran – 08.08.2019

बामर लॉरी ने अवार्ड जीता

कोलकाता, जासं : बामर लॉरी ने स्कोप कॉर्पोरेट कम्युनिकेशंस एक्सलेंस अवार्ड्स -2019 के दौरान दो श्रेणियों में पुरस्कार जीते।

हाल ही में नई दिल्ली में स्कोप द्वारा आयोजित कॉर्पोरेट कम्युनिकेशंस समित के दौरान सिक्किम के पूर्व गवर्नर डॉ बपी सिंह ने यह पुरस्कार दिए। ए रत्ना शेखर, निदेशक (एचआर एंड सीए) कॉर्पोरेट कम्युनिकेशंस और वीई टीम के सदस्यों ने कंपनी की ओर से अवार्ड प्राप्त किया।



अवार्ड प्राप्त करते कंपनी के अधिकारीगण।

Balmer Lawrie wins SCOPE Corporate Communications Excellence Awards 2019

KOLKATA : Balmer Lawrie won awards in two categories during the SCOPE Corporate Communications Excellence Awards-2019 - The 'Collect Stories' campaign by brand Vacations Exotica(VE) under the category 'Effective use of Digital Media' and 'The Making of Next'- the History Book penned down during the completion of 150 years of the organization under the 'Special Brand Building Publication' category. The awards were given away by BP Singh, former governor of Sikkim during the Corporate Communications Summit organized by SCOPE recently at New Delhi. A Ratna Sekhar, Director [HR & CA] along with Corporate Communications and VE team members received the awards on behalf of the company.



Morning India –
08.08.2019



बॉमर लॉरी ने दो प्रतिष्ठामूलक पुरस्कार हासिल किये हैं। हाल ही में नयी दिल्ली में आयोजित स्कोप कॉर्पोरेट कम्युनिकेशन्स एक्सेलेन्स अवार्ड्स-2019 के दौरान कंपनी को इन पुरस्कारों से सिक्किम के पूर्व राज्यपाल डॉ. बी. पी. सिंह ने नवाजा है। प्रस्तुत चित्र में कंपनी के निदेशक श्री ए. रत्नाशेखर कंपनी के अन्य अधिकारियों के साथ पुरस्कार हासिल करते हुए प्रलक्षित हैं।

Vishwamitra –
09.08.2019

The Echo of India – 08.08.2019

Balmer Lawrie wins SCOPE Corporate Communications Excellence Awards 2019

FOICORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, AUG 7/-/ Balmer Lawrie won awards in two categories during the SCOPE Corporate Communications Excellence Awards-2019. The 'Collect Stories' campaign by brand Vacations Exotica (VE) under the category 'Effective use of Digital Media' and 'The Making of Next', the History Book penned down during the completion of 150 years of the organization under the 'Special Brand Building

SCOPE Corporate Communication Summit 2019
Corporate Communications In the Age of Disruptions - Innovative Solutions.

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MCX Gold contracts registered highest delivery

KOLKATA/MUMBAI, AUG 7/-/The Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. (MCX), exchange in the commodity derivatives segment has witnessed a record delivery of

Global economy may face recession in 9 months, but not India: Morgan Stanley

Economies globally are showing signs of acute weakness and the next stage could be a worldwide recession, if Morgan Stanley is to be believed, in nine months from now. Escalation in trade tension between the two largest economies — US and China — is the chief factor nudging the world economy towards a recession. Warning signals are also coming via other reliable indicators of recession: the bond yield curve. The yield curve has typically inverted before recession and it is now nearly similar to what was seen ahead of the 2008 financial crises. Morgan Stanley believes if the trade war further soars via US again raising tariffs on all goods imported from China to 25%, "we would see the global economy entering recession in three quarters". India, however, is not close to a recession, but is witnessing a crippling slowdown. Some sectors like the automobile industry are dangerously close to recession. India's economy has declined for three straight quarters and the growth forecast are also not uplifting. Both industrial production and core infrastructure sectors have witnessed a decline.

Mint - 12.08.2019

<https://www.livemint.com/news/world/global-economy-may-face-recession-in-9-months-but-not-india-morgan-stanley-1565607598801.html>

Industrial Production Slows to a Four-month Low in June

Industrial growth slowed to a four-month low in June, pulled down by a sharp decline in the output

Services activity rebounds in July

India's service sector activity rose to a 12-month high in July, boosted by fast output growth and strong domestic and international demand, pushing job creation to an eight-and-a-half year high, a private survey showed on Monday. The IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index climbed to 53.8 last month from 49.6 in June, rising above the 50 mark that separates contraction from growth. As per the survey report, job creation picked up the strongest since early 2011 in response to strengthening demand conditions and upbeat predictions for the economic outlook. "India's service economy showed renewed vigour in July... PMI data indicated that the strongest upturn in new work for nearly three years led to a rebound in business activity," said Pollyanna De Lima, principal economist at IHS Markit and author of the report. New export orders rose for the fifth consecutive month in July, growing at the fastest pace since the survey began measuring export growth in September 2014.

The Economic Times - 06.08.2019

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2019%2F08%2F06&entity=Ar01206&sk=82BA53DC&mode=text>

India Mulls FDI in Contract Manufacturing

India is considering allowing 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in contract

of mining and manufacturing, reflecting the growth slump. Industrial production as measured by the index of industrial production (IIP) rose 2% in June, data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) showed on Friday. Only eight of the 23 industry groups in manufacturing reported positive growth in the month, highlighting the broad based nature of the slowdown. Cumulatively, industrial output rose 3.6% in the first quarter of FY20 as against an increase of 5.1% in the same quarter last year. This suggested overall economic growth was likely to remain muted in the April-June period, near the 5.8% reported for the March quarter. First-quarter GDP data will be released on August 30. Domestic passenger car sales have plunged in recent months, suggesting there will be no immediate respite. "Although the sequential dip in industrial growth is partly on account of the base effect, the anaemic June 2019 IIP print as well as the year-on-year contraction in 15 of the 23 sub-sectors of manufacturing, reinforce the evidence of a slowdown emerging from various sectors," said Aditi Nayar, principal economist, ICRA.

The Economic Times - 10.08.2019

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2019%2F08%2F10&entity=Ar00100&sk=67DA73DA&mode=text>

Cos may have to geotag CSR projects soon

Companies may soon have to geotag and furnish pictures of projects undertaken under their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes to the government. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is considering such a move after the government introduced penal provisions to deal with companies failing to meet their CSR obligations, a government official said. Parliament last week approved amendments to the Companies Act, adding provisions that make companies criminally liable for CSR violations. Companies with a minimum net worth of ₹500 crore, turnover of Rs. 1,000 crore, or net profit of ₹5 crore are required every year to spend at least 2% of their average profit for the previous three years on CSR activities. "We want greater transparency so people can see the CSR work being done," said the official. Details of the CSR expenditure that some companies have filed on ministry portals did not even tally with their annual reports, the official added. Recent amendments also mandate that companies deposit any unspent CSR funds for a financial year into a fund specified by the government. If the unspent funds are for an ongoing project, then they may be deposited in an escrow account.

The Economic Times - 06.08.2018

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

manufacturing to give a boost to manufacturing in the country along with foreign inflows. Although the existing norms allow 100% FDI in the manufacturing sector under the automatic route, there is no clarity on contract manufacturing. The rules say that "a manufacturer is permitted to sell its products manufactured in India through wholesale and/or retail, including through e-commerce, without government approval". "This is a grey area, as the government feels that contract manufacturing is a trading activity because a company only sells a product after getting it manufactured from someone else, whereas industry says it should be considered manufacturing," said a person aware of the details, speaking on condition of anonymity. If allowed, the move will give a push to the efforts to increase the share of the manufacturing sector in gross domestic product (GDP) to 25% by 2022 from 16-17% now, in line with the objectives of 'Make in India' programme.

The Economic Times - 12.08.2019

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2019%2F08%2F12&entity=Ar01107&sk=FA3B9998&mode=text>

Govt to Look at Review of CSR Penal Provisions

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman assured business leaders that "at no point and on no score" does the government want to make it difficult for the industry. On CSR, the CII statement quoted Sitharaman as stating that she would review the criminal penal provisions, which allow for fines of up to ₹25 lakh to be levied for failure to perform CSR and the jailing of officials responsible for three years. CSR notices with retrospective effect were "unacceptable" and she will put a stop to them, according to the CII statement. The minister said that even with some moderation, India remains the fastest-growing large economy. In a tweet, the CII quoted the finance minister as stating, "We are looking at financial sector woes and will address them. With all the inputs we have received, we will take these forward in the next few weeks." CII's president designate Uday Kotak said the finance minister's engagement with industry goes a long way in reassuring business that the economy is top priority, along with building trust. India's economy grew slower than expected at a 20-quarter low in the January-March period, dragging overall growth to a five-year low in FY19.

The Economic Times - 10.08.2019

[M%2F2019%2F08%2F06&entity=Ar01208&sk=7E52562E&mode=text](https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/slowdown-enters-oil-track-oil-consumption-imports-decline/70563973)

Slowdown enters oil track: Oil consumption, imports decline

The oil sector seems to be latest addition to the list of sectors facing stress due to the ongoing economic slowdown. For the first time in many months, both oil demand and imports have witnessed a sharp fall indicating that the poor health of the economy has now begun impacting a sector where the country has to rely a lot on imports. As per the latest Oil Ministry data, crude oil imports decreased by 13.4 per cent and 2.2 per cent during June 2019 and April-June 2019 respectively as compared to the same period of the previous year. During the first quarter as well, the country's oil demand was lower by 0.2 per cent than that a year ago with the fall sharper in June at 1.7 per cent. Though the slowdown in oil imports in a country that spends its foreign exchange to buy crude oil should be welcomed, yet it is reflective of the poor demand scenario that has slowed oil imports by refineries. The refineries are using their inventories to meet domestic supplies of petroleum products rather than buying additional quantities of crude oil from overseas even though buying at this juncture would be beneficial with international crude prices at a low of \$64-65 a barrel.

The Economic Times - 07.08.2019

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/slowdown-enters-oil-track-oil-consumption-imports-decline/70563973>

India's fuel demand rose 3.3 per cent in July

India's fuel demand rose 3.3 percent in July compared with the same month last year. Consumption of fuel, a proxy for oil demand, totalled 17.58 million tonnes, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed. Sales of gasoline, or petrol, were 8.8 percent higher from a year earlier at 2.52 million tonnes. Cooking gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sales increased 9.0 percent to 2.22 million tonnes, while naphtha sales fell 5.2 percent to 1.22 million tonnes. Sales of bitumen, used for making roads, were 36.4 percent up, while fuel oil use edged up 8.3 percent in July.

The Economic Times - 11.08.2019

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/indias-fuel-demand-rose-3-3-percent-in-july/70626859>

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2019%2F08%2F10&entity=Ar00704&sk=BDFFA7BF&mode=text>

IEA warns oil demand growth so far in 2019 lowest since 2008

Mounting signs of an economic slowdown and a ramping up of the U.S.-China trade war have caused global oil demand to grow at its slowest pace since the financial crisis of 2008, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Friday. "The situation is becoming even more uncertain ... global oil demand growth has been very sluggish in the first half of 2019," the IEA said in its monthly report. The Paris-based agency said that compared with the same month in 2018, global demand fell by 160,000 barrels per day (bpd) in May - the second year-on-year fall of 2019. From January to May, oil demand increased by 520,000 bpd, marking the lowest rise for that period since 2008. "The prospects for a political agreement between China and the United States on trade have worsened. This could lead to reduced trade activity and less oil demand growth," the IEA said. Lowering its global demand growth forecasts for 2019 and 2020 to 1.1 million and 1.3 million bpd, respectively, the IEA cited China as the only major source of growth at 500,000 bpd for the first half of this year.

The Economic Times - 09.08.2019

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/iea-warns-oil-demand-growth-so-far-in-2019-lowest-since-2008/70603028>

OMCs issue letters of intent for 9,000 new petrol pumps

State-owned oil companies have issued letters of intent for more than 9,000 new petrol pumps as part of their biggest-ever expansion of fuel retail network. The companies are moving quickly to select dealers for new pumps that would help double their retail network in just a few years, serve customers better in less-penetrated micro markets and meet the growing challenge from the private sector. In November 2018, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. had launched the process to select petrol pump dealers at about 78,500 locations across the country. Companies received applications for about 95% of locations - single applications for 39% and two or more applications for 56%. The companies suspended the selection process after the general elections were announced in

March but resumed once results were out late May. Two broad categories of pumps have been offered by companies – one, where a dealer is chosen via draw of lots and the second where the highest bidder is selected.

The Economic Times - 06.08.2019

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/omcs-issue-letters-of-intent-for-9000-new-petrol-pumps/articleshow/70543686.cms>

India to relax rules for entry into fuel retail sector: Source

India is set to relax rules for setting up fuel stations after almost two decades, in a move expected to allow companies like Saudi Aramco, Total and Trafigura to gain a foothold in a sector dominated by state-run entities. The new rules - suggested by an expert panel - mirror those in developed nations like the United States and Britain, and would allow convenience stores, shopping malls and hypermarkets to sell fuels if they are eligible, said an oil ministry source. The government panel has recommended allowing marketing rights for sale of gasoil, gasoline and aviation fuel to companies with a net worth of 2.5 billion rupees. India, where fuel demand is expected to rise in the coming years, has turned into a lucrative market after the government removed controls on retail pricing of gasoline and gasoil. Global players, however, faced difficulties in getting a foothold as they need to commit investment of 20 billion rupees (\$272 million) in India's oil and gas sector to get fuel marketing rights. The cabinet is expected to approve the proposal in four to six weeks, said the source, who declined to be named because they are not authorised to speak to media.

The Economic Times - 08.08.2019

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/india-to-relax-rules-for-entry-into-fuel-retail-sector-source/70581374>

India ceases oil imports from Iran in June; Rise in shipments from Nigeria, Venezuela

India ceased crude oil imports from sanctions-hit Iran but ramped up shipments from Nigeria, Venezuela, USA, Iraq and United Arab Emirates (UAE), fresh data sourced from the commerce ministry showed. Overall, the country's crude oil imports in June declined 13 per cent to 16.9 Million Tonne (MT). In the three months ended June, oil imports dropped 2.29 per cent to 55.4 MT. While oil imports from Iran ceased in June, imports rose 82 per cent from Nigeria, 26 per cent from

Reliance Industries, BP to set up fuel retail joint venture

Reliance Industries and BP have agreed to set up a 51:49 joint venture to operate their fuel retailing business, targeting expanding number of filling stations to 5,500 in five years and offer home delivery of fuel. Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani and BP group chief executive Bob Dudley signed heads of agreement for the venture in Mumbai on Tuesday. Final agreements will be reached later in 2019 and the transaction, subject to regulatory approvals, will be completed in the first half of 2020, the firms said in a statement. BP obtained a licence to market transportation fuel in India three years ago but didn't begin. It, instead, decided to explore partnership with Reliance for fuel retailing. BP already has stake in RIL's upstream business. Reliance has been cautious in expanding its fuel retail network in the past five years. By comparison, its rival Nayara Energy (formerly Essar Oil) expanded much faster since 2014 when diesel sales were deregulated again. Reliance's current network of more than 1,400 filling stations will now be overtaken by the joint venture that can also access the RIL's aviation fuel business, as per the joint statement.

The Economic Times - 07.08.2019

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/reliance-bp-form-joint-venture-to-set-up-5500-petrol-pumps/articleshow/70555251.cms>

Oil prices rise on expectations of more Opec output cuts

Oil prices rose on Friday, supported by expectations of more production cuts by Opec amid fears the U.S.-China trade row could lead to a global slowdown, curbing demand for crude. International benchmark Brent crude futures, were at \$57.61 a barrel by 0009 GMT, up 23 cents, or 0.4%, from their previous settlement. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures were at \$52.79 per barrel, up 25 cents, or 0.5%, from their last close. Both contracts jumped more than 2% on Thursday to

Venezuela, 96 per cent from USA, 12 per cent from Iraq and 66 per cent from the UAE. Interestingly, while the government-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have stopped crude oil imports from Venezuela in the light of US sanctions, private refiners continue to import crude oil from that nation. "Government-owned OMCs have stopped importing oil from Venezuela since US announced sanctions on the country's oil company PDVSA. However, it seems that private companies continue to import Venezuelan crude either directly or indirectly," an executive from one of the three government-owned OMC requesting anonymity told ETEnergyWorld.

The Economic Times - 07.08.2019

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/india-ceases-oil-imports-from-iran-in-june-rise-in-shipments-from-nigeria-venezuela/70555912>

Government's EV push has oil industry worried

The overemphasis on Electric Vehicles (EVs) by the government has the oil and gas industry in India concerned. The industry feels that the prevailing situation will lead to investors and bankers having second thoughts on making investments in the oil and gas sector. The players under the aegis of Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), which represents Indian Oil Corporation, Reliance Industries, Nayara Energy, BP, ONGC to name a few, propose to take up the issue with the Ministry for Petroleum and Natural Gas. "What happens to the investments made in projects for BS VI fuel quality, Bio-CNG and 2G ethanol bio refineries is the fear," said an industry player. "Huge investments have already been made by the oil refiners for BS VI stage. The public sector refiners alone are executing projects worth more than Rs. 30,000 crore to move from BS IV to BS VI fuel quality level," Direct-General FIPI RK Malhotra told BusinessLine. Malhotra feels that instead of just pushing EVs, the government should promote and incentivise hybrid technology (IC Engine plus battery) that do not require charging stations.

The Hindu Business Line - 06.08.2019

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/governments-ev-push-has-oil-industry-worried/article28830768.ece>

recover from January lows, buoyed by reports that Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, had called other producers to discuss the recent slide in crude prices. Oil prices have still lost more than 20% from their peaks reached in April, putting them in bear territory. Global financial markets were rocked over the past week after U.S. President Donald Trump said he would impose 10% tariffs on Chinese goods starting September and a fall in the Chinese yuan sparked fears of a currency war. China's yuan strengthened against the dollar on Thursday, on the back of strong export growth in July.

The Economic Times - 09.08.2019

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/oil-prices-rise-on-expectations-of-more-opec-output-cuts/70597650>

Government launches programme for converting used cooking oil into biodiesel in 100 cities

State-run oil marketing companies IndianOil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum on Saturday launched a programme to procure biodiesel made from used cooking oil in 100 cities across the country. The programme was formally launched by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, under which the three OMCs would invite expression of interest from private entities for setting up plants to produce biodiesel from used cooking oil. Initially, the biodiesel would be procured by the OMCs at an assured rate of Rs 51 per litre, which would be increased to Rs 52.7 in the second year and Rs 54.5 per litre in the third year. The minister also launched Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) sticker and a mobile phone application for collection of used cooking oil (UCO) to ensure that it does not come back to ecosystem. The sticker would be affixed by the food joints, hotels and restaurants in their premises to show that they supply UCO for producing biodiesel. Addressing an event to mark 'World Biofuel Day' here, Pradhan said, "Biodiesel is available in many forms other than used cooking oil. It is waste to wealth. We will celebrate World Biofuel Day as alternative energy day."

The Economic Times - 10.08.2019

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/government-launches-programme-for-converting-used-cooking-oil-into-biodiesel-in-100-cities/articleshow/70617703.cms>

Now, get your fuel delivered right at your doorsteps in Jorhat

The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) on Thursday launched first of a kind fuel dispenser in Jorhat, which would take fuel to the doorsteps of the customers, reports Northeast Now news. Indian Oil Corporation Chief General Manager (Indian Oil- AOD) Uttiya Bhattacharyya said that the initiative was in accordance with the permission was granted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. "IOCL has taken all possible steps to take up the service christened as Fuel@Doorstep to the premises of the customer who would require such a service," said Bhattacharyya. "The fuel referred here is just diesel and petrol is not included," said Bhattacharyya. "Since petrol is more combustible than diesel and is not as safe to deliver, the door delivery service presently is limited to diesel products only," said Bhattacharyya. This unique service is aimed to ensure hassle-free supply of diesel at the customers' doorstep," added Bhattacharyya. The service will save manpower, time and cost for the customers taking fuel in bulk," he further said. "Further, the quantity ordered would have to be 200 litres or more and the payment has to be made online," Bhattacharyya further said.

Nagaland Post - 08.08.2019

<http://www.nagalandpost.com/now-get-your-fuel-delivered-right-at-your-doorsteps-in-jorhat/201433.html>

RIL unveils blockbuster \$15 billion deal with Aramco

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is in the process of selling a 20% stake in the company's flagship chemicals and refining business to Saudi Aramco in a deal valued at \$15 billion, as the Indian company seeks to cut its massive debt and secure an assured supply of crude oil to its refineries. Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest man, announced the proposed transaction at the company's 42nd annual general meeting on Monday, although the terms of the deal have not been finalized. The deal, which values the oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business at \$75 billion, is part of a plan to make RIL a zero-debt company in the next 18 months, Ambani said in a speech at the annual meeting. "Saudi Aramco will invest in Reliance for a 20% stake in oil-to-chemicals division at an enterprise value of \$75 billion for the O2C division, which will be demerged into a separate subsidiary in the next five years," Ambani told shareholders. In addition to the stake sale to Aramco, RIL will raise \$1 billion from BP Plc, which will acquire a 49% stake in RIL's petro-retailing business for ₹7,000 crore, said Ambani.

Mint - 13.08.2019

Government reforms for natural gas sector

The government is planning to introduce a wave of reforms in the natural gas sector, aimed at local discovery of prices and development of a national gas market. The oil ministry has prepared a Cabinet note that proposes snapping the power sector's priority access to cheap local gas, setting up a gas trading platform to encourage market-discovery of prices, and hive off GAIL's transportation unit to enhance third party access to its pipelines. At present, India produces just half of the gas it consumes, a government set formula determines rates for most local gas, and the absence of market price deters producers from investing in the country. By allowing marketing freedom to gas from new discoveries, the government has tried to address much of the investors' concerns in recent years but officials think developing a free market was essential to sustained investment in the sector. Which is why the government wants to build a gas trading platform that can facilitate market discovery of prices. A gas exchange will enhance trade transparency, boost consumer confidence, and increase market opportunities for suppliers, officials said.

The Economic Times - 13.08.2019

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/government-reforms-for-natural-gas-sector/articleshow/70651694.cms>

Researchers design new materials to enhance natural gas storage, reduce global warming

Scientists have designed plastic-based materials that can effectively store natural gas. The materials can not only make large-scale, cost-effective, and safe natural gas storage possible, but further hold a strong promise for combating global warming, suggests a study. The study was published in the journal 'Natural Energy'. Natural gas (predominantly methane) is a clean energy alternative. It is stored by compression, liquefaction, or adsorption. Among these, adsorbed natural gas (ANG) storage is a more efficient, cheaper, and safer alternative to conventional compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage approaches that have drawbacks such as low storage efficiency, high costs, and safety concerns. However, developing adsorptive materials that can more fully exploit the advantages of ANG storage has remained a challenging task. "We envision a whole host of new designs and mechanisms to be developed based on our concept. Since natural gas is a much cleaner fuel than coal and petroleum, new

<https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/ril-unveils-blockbuster-15-billion-deal-with-aramco-1565630176982.html>

After SEBI warning, HPCL agrees to classify ONGC as its promoter

State-run oil refiner Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) has finally agreed to recognize Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) as its promoter after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) warned of "appropriate action" if the market regulator's advice on the issue was not heeded by August 13. HPCL's decision, made in an announcement to the stock exchanges on Friday, puts to rest the controversy over ONGC's status after it bought the government's 51.11 per cent stake in the oil refiner for ₹ 36,915 crore in January 2018. For six consecutive quarterly shareholding pattern filings to the stock exchange including the latest for the quarter ended June, HPCL has listed ONGC as a public shareholder. Under the promoter/promoter group category, even the President of India does not hold any shares in HPCL now. In September 2018, SEBI first advised HPCL to re-file the shareholding pattern to the stock exchanges revising the status of ONGC as 'promoter'. In June this year, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas too directed HPCL to indicate 'President of India' as the promoter of HPCL and ONGC also to be added as a promoter below 'President of India'. The Hindu Business Line - 09.08.2019

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/after-sebi-warning-hpcl-agrees-to-classify-ongc-as-its-promoter/article28938590.ece>

IRCTC to restore service charges on e-tickets

E-tickets bought through IRCTC will get costlier as the Indian Railways has decided to restore service fee charges, almost three years after they were withdrawn to promote digital payments, a pet project of the Narendra Modi-led BJP government. The Railway Board has given its approval to the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to restore the mechanism of charging service charge from passengers booking online tickets. In a letter dated August 3, the Board has said the IRCTC, railways ticketing and tourism arm, had made a "detailed case" for the restoration of service charge on booking of e-ticket and the matter has been examined by the "competent authority". It further said the Finance

developments in this realm will help switch to the use of less polluting fuels," said Cafer T. Yavuz, lead researcher of the study.

The Economic Times - 12.08.2019

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/innovation-researchers-design-new-materials-to-enhance-natural-gas-storage-reduce-global-warming/70643784>

West Bengal, Odisha, J'khand to be major contributors in meeting steel output target

Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal will contribute in a big way in meeting the ambitious 300 million tonnes (MT) steel production target, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday. The government has set a target to ramp up the country's steelmaking capacity to 300 MT by 2030. "The eastern region of the country holds immense potential and a large part of steel production target as envisioned in National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017 will come from states like Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal," a statement issued by SAIL quoted the steel minister as saying. He also discussed plans for creation and development of steel clusters in the region as one of his priority areas, it said. In a tweet, Pradhan who is on a three-day visit to Jharkhand, said his aim is to develop Bokaro as a steel hub. During his visit, the minister visited the Bokaro Steel Plant and reviewed performance of the plant. He also went to SAIL's Gua mines, Kiriburu iron ore mines, Mehghatuburu iron ore mine and Bolani mine, the statement said.

Millennium Post - 12.08.2019

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/west-bengal-odisha-jkhand-to-be-major-contributors-in-meeting-steel-output-target-368657>

Cargo volumes at Indian Ports pick up in July after two months of decline

Indian ports handled more cargo in July over last year after two consecutive months of decline. Volume growth at the ports rose by over 3 percent in July, investment banker Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said in a report, led by iron ore, fertiliser and other cargo. Some of these positives were offset by negative trends in coal- and oil and gas-related product volumes. Ports across the country handled 593.7 lakh tonnes of cargo in July. Liquid cargo—oil- and natural gas-related products—that contributes nearly 40 percent to cargo volumes, too, declined. Volume growth turned negative for the first time in the last seven months. Coal volumes fell for the third straight

Ministry has contended that the scheme of waiving of service charges was a temporary one and that the railway ministry could begin charging e-tickets. "In view of the advice given by the Ministry of Finance, the competent authority has decided that IRCTC may take a suitable decision on the imposition/restoration of convenience fee/service charges and the quantum to be levied," the letter said.

The Economic Times - 09.08.2019

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/irctc-to-restore-service-charges-on-e-tickets/articleshow/70608253.cms>

Leasing of warehousing spaces jumps 31% in 8 major cities in first half of 2019

Leasing of warehousing spaces went up by 31 per cent to over 13 million sq. ft across eight major cities in the first half of this year, while investment of more than USD 200 million was witnessed in the industrial and logistic real estate segment, according to property consultant CBRE. The demand for warehousing/logistics space was driven by third party logistic firms, which absorbed 56 per cent of the total space, CBRE said in its report 'India Industrial and Logistics Market View H1 2019'. Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru accounted for more than 60 per cent of leasing activity. Logistics leasing in the country recorded a growth of 31 per cent on a yearly basis, crossing 13 million sq. ft, CBRE said in the report. The cities tracked in the report are — Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad. "We expect logistics leasing activity to strengthen owing to consolidation/expansion by occupiers," said Anshuman Magazine, Chairman and CEO – India, South East Asia, Middle East and Africa at CBRE. According to the report, third-party logistic players contributed close to 56 per cent of total absorption during H1 2019. On supply side, about 11 million sq. ft space was added in H1 2019, led by Mumbai, Chennai and Ahmedabad.

The Financial Express - 13.08.2019

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/leasing-of-warehousing-spaces-jumps-31-in-8-major-cities-in-first-half-of-2019/1673087/>

Harish Madhav takes over as Director Finance on the board of Oil India Limited

Harish Madhav has taken over as Director Finance on the Board of Oil India Limited on 2nd Aug. 2019. He would be succeeding Smt. Rupshikha Saikia Borah who superannuated from the company on 28th Feb 2019. Earlier, Shri Madhav was Executive Director (Finance) at Oil India's

month to 111 lakh tonnes in July. That was also a shortfall of 13 percent over last year—the highest in at least 19 months. Liquid cargo—oil and natural gas-related products—that contributes nearly 40 percent to cargo volumes, too, declined. Volume growth turned negative for the first time in the last seven months. Coal volumes fell for the third straight month to 111 lakh tonnes in July. That was also a shortfall of 13 percent over last year—the highest in at least 19 months.

Bloomberg Quint - 06.08.2019

<https://www.bloombergquint.com/business/cargo-volumes-at-indian-ports-pick-up-in-july-after-two-months-of-decline>

Petroleum Secy Kutty given additional charge of Secretary, Steel Ministry

Petroleum Secretary M Kutty has been given additional charge of Secretary, Steel Ministry from Saturday, an official order said on Friday. Kutty, a 1985-batch IAS officer of the Union Territory cadre, is presently serving as the Secretary of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. He will be holding the additional charge from August 10 to 19, the period when Steel Secretary Binoy Kumar will be on leave, according to the order. "The Competent Authority has approved assignment of additional charge of the post of Secretary, Ministry of Steel to Dr. M Kutty...Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas from 10.08.2019 to 19.08.2019 during the period of absence on leave of Binoy Kumar...," the official order said.

The Economic Times - 10.08.2019

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/petroleum-secy-kutty-given-additional-charge-of-secretary-steel-ministry/70617283>

K. Sreekant assumes charge of CMD POWERGRID

K. Sreekant has assumed the charge of Chairman and Managing Director of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) on 5th August, 2019. Prior to taking up this assignment, he was serving as Director (Finance) POWERGRID. Sreekant is a B.Com

Corporate office and was also functioning as the Chief Financial Officer handling a diverse gamut of financial and accounting functions covering International Fund raising, Treasury Management, Corporate Strategy, Risk Management, Corporate Accounts & Audit, and Budgeting. Before joining OIL, he had also worked with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. A Chartered Accountant by qualification, Madhav has over 30 years of rich and varied experience in Oil & Gas in both Upstream and Downstream sectors. Madhav's tenure in various capacities during the last decade witnessed major events at OIL and included successful raising of foreign currency borrowing of over \$4.5 Billion in the form of syndicated loans and bonds. He was also instrumental in first ever listing of foreign currency bonds by an Indian oil sector company on the International securities market of London Stock Exchange (LSE). Shri Madhav is an avid reader and loves travelling.

Sarkaritel.com - 07.08.2019

<https://www.sarkaritel.com/harish-madhav-takes-over-as-director-finance-on-the-board-of-oil-india-limited/>

AK Mishra joins NHDC as Managing Director

A K Mishra has joined NHDC as Managing Director on Monday. Mishra did B.E. (Civil) from MACT (now MANIT), Bhopal in 1982 and joined NHPC in the same year. He was serving in NHPC as an executive director and has a rich and varied experience of more than 37 years in various fields including investigation, planning, construction and Contract Management of hydroelectric projects. Out of this, he holds about 23 years' of experience during field postings in various projects which include 9 years of postings in Uri, Middle Siang and Tawang Basin Projects located in remote and inaccessible terrain. He also served for 6 years as Head of Project of Siyom Project (1000 MW) and two Tawang Basin Projects (1400 MW), during which detailed survey & investigation works were completed, DPRs prepared and statutory clearances obtained.

Free Press Journal - 06.08.2019

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/bhopal/bhopal-ak-mishra-joins-nhdc-as-managing-director>

(Hons.) graduate, CMA and PGDBM (Finance), having more than thirty three years of experience in the power sector involving all facets of Finance & Accounting function and in particular, long term financial planning, investment appraisals, formulation of capital budgets, resource mobilization from domestic and international markets and corporate accounts.

Sarkaritel.com - 07.08.2019

<https://www.sarkaritel.com/k-sreekant-assumes-charge-of-cmd-powergrid/>

Shri A.K. Rana takes over as Director Tech of CMPDI

Shri Anil Kumar Rana takes over as Director (Technical) of Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI). He was working as General Manager (CBM), CMPDI (HQ), Ranchi, prior to his taking over as Director (Technical), CMPDI. Shri Rana is a mining engineer from I.T. (BHU), Banaras and has a First Class Mine Manager's Certificate of Competency. He also has to his credit a degree in Law and a Diploma in Business Finance. Shri A. K. Rana has been involved in the preparation of Mining Plans and Project reports for subsidiaries of CIL as well as for other organizations.

PSU Connect - 10.08.2019

<http://www.psuconnect.in/news/shri-a.k.-rana-takes-over-as-director-tech-of-cmpdi/18307>