

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

Balmer Lawrie in News

Times of India
Thursday, 24 September 2015

Balmer Lawrie capex plan

Kolkata: Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd to invest around Rs 400 crore in the next three years for developing one multi-modal logistics park and seven climate control warehouses.

"The company has an aggressive capex plan for the next 2-3 years as we plan to double our revenue to \$60 billion in the next five years," said Pabal Basu, chairman and managing director on the sidelines at the AGM of the company. The company plans to invest Rs 100 crore of Rs 400 crore of the planned investment by the end of this financial year.

Alongside spending on developing the warehouse and logistics parks, the company would spend another Rs 100 crore on the upgradation of its existing facilities in the next two years. TNN

Hindustan Times
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Balmer Lawrie first quarter turnover rises by 3.35%

KOLKATA: Balmer Lawrie registered a positive increase in net turnover by 3.35% over the corresponding quarter in the preceding financial year. PBT and PAT increased by 35% and 33% respectively. The rise is due to increase in sales volume in the food sector for industrial packaging and substantial increase in exports for greases & lubricants and increase in air exports. Balmer Lawrie recorded its highest turnover of Rs 2,944 crore in 2014-15. HTC

The Telegraph
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Balmer Lawrie set to splurge

ASTAFF REPORTER

Calcutta, Sept. 22: Diversified public sector company Balmer Lawrie plans to invest Rs 400 crore over the next three years, mostly in its logistics infrastructure business.

"On a conservative basis, we plan to spend around Rs 400 crore in the next 24-36 months," chairman and managing director Prabal Basu said on the sidelines of the company's annual general meeting today.

The city-based company will invest Rs 220 crore in a multi-modal logistics hub on 53 acres in Vizag. Balmer Lawrie has signed an MoU with Visakhapatnam Port Trust, and the project is scheduled to start by March 2017.

The company had planned a similar project at Dankuni in Bengal but had to shelve it in the absence of a land clear-



Prabal Basu in Calcutta on Tuesday. A Telegraph picture

ances from the state government.

Besides the Vizag project, Balmer Lawrie is setting up temperature-controlled warehouses in phases at different locations. The first three will be in Hyderabad, Delhi NCR and Mumbai.

It is also planning to revive its loss making logistics subsidiary Transafe Services Limited. "We want to revive this company. Operationally, this is a good venture but because of financial issues it is having a tough time," Basu said.

"We have put two senior officials to revive the operation. There is also a major issue of financial restructuring. The basic problem is that it has a bank loan (Rs 120 crore), which it is unable to service. We have gone to the bankers for some restructuring proposals," he said.

The company may engage an investor who can take over part of the loan at a discounted value. "We are exploring various options," Basu said.

Transafe's losses widened in 2014-15 to Rs 6.79 crore from Rs 6.24 crore in the previous year. The company has been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

The Statesman
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

BALMER LAWRIE LINES UP ₹400 CR FOR EXPANSION

Kolkata, 22 September: Balmer Lawrie today said it has planned a capital expenditure of Rs 400 crore over the next three years.

"We'll have a capex of Rs 400 crore in the next three years on Vizag multi-modal logistics hub and temperature controlled warehouse," Balmer Lawrie chairman and managing director Prabal Basu said here today after the AGM.


This apart, Rs 100 crore would be infused for other expansion and modernisation of ongoing activities.

The Vizag logistics hub would seek an investment of Rs 220 crore and the first and second phase of temperature controlled warehouses would attract investment of Rs 65 crore and Rs 100 crore. PTI

Business Line
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Balmer Lawrie plans ₹400 cr capex

Logistics hub at Visakhapatnam to see ₹220 crore investment



OUR BUREAU
Kolkata, September 22

Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd has planned around ₹400 crore capital expenditure in the next two to three years in its logistics business vertical.

Prabal Basu, CMD, told reporters after its AGM here that the proposed multi-modal logistic hub at Visakhapatnam would see an investment of around ₹220 crore and ₹165 crore for setting up seven temperature-controlled warehouses across the country.

Construction work for the logistics hub has begun in June and is expected to be ready next July.

The hub, which is being set

up through a 60:40 joint venture with the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, will have a container freight station, warehouses including cold storages and railway sidings.

VPT has provided 53.02 acres on lease as its equity in the joint venture - Visakhapatnam Port Logistics Park Ltd. Balmer Lawrie will make cash investment and manage

the project. The company's plan to set up temperature-controlled warehouses has been divided into two phases.

In the first phase, one cold storage each is being set up in Hyderabad, Mumbai and the National Capital Region.

In the second phase, four such cold storages would be set up. Land has also been acquired for the Mumbai and NCR cold chain projects.

"During 2015-16, we have planned investment worth ₹100 crore," Basu said.

Once operational, it would bring in annual revenue worth ₹30-40 crore, he explained.

Meanwhile, he said that the company has merged its logistic services businesses into one to draw on synergy and saving costs.

"This happened in August," he said.

Political Business Daily
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Balmer lines up ₹400 cr capex for next 3 years

PBD BUREAU
KOLKATA, SEPT 22

DIVERSIFIED mini-ratna Balmer Lawrie today said it has planned a capital expenditure of Rs 400 crore over the next three years. "We'll have a capex of Rs 400 crore in the next three years on Vizag multi-modal logistics hub and temperature controlled warehouse," Balmer Lawrie Chairman and Managing Director Prabal Basu said here today after the AGM.

This apart, Rs 100 crore would be infused for other expansion and modernisation of ongoing activities.

The Vizag logistics hub would seek an investment of Rs 220 crore and the first and second phase of temperature controlled warehouses would attract investment of Rs 65 and Rs 100 crore.

"In the first phase, warehouses will come up at

Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi (NCR) and four others in the second phase," Basu said.

He said the state-owned entity had drawn plans to double its turnover to Rs 3,000 crore over the next five years as against in financial year 2015.

Speaking about Transafe, the logistics solution JV, Basu said the company was keen in reviving it as the same hold potential.

"Currently, it is has been referred to BIFR but revival plan is yet to get approval. It has huge loan book of Rs 120 crore and that needs to be restructured. Banks want one-time settlement," he said.

Balmer was looking for an investor or strategic partner to revive the company in which it holds 50 per cent stake.

In 2010, Transafe Ltd's Managing Director was arrested for alleged accounting fraud. —PTI

Balmer Lawrie lines up ₹400 crore capex

RITVIK MUKHERJEE
Kolkata

BALMER Lawrie & Co has lined up a capex plan of Rs 400 crore for the next three years. Besides, the Kolkata-headquartered mini ratna company will infuse another Rs 100 crore for further expansion and modernisation of its ongoing activities. All these will go to help the company double its turnover to Rs 3,000 crore over the next five years, Prabal Basu, chairman and managing director, Balmer Lawrie & Company said on Tuesday.

"We'll have a capex of Rs 400 crore in the next three years on Vizag multi-modal logistics hub and temperature controlled warehouse. This apart, Rs 100 crore would be infused for other expansion and modernisation of ongoing activities," Basu said after the annual general meeting.

He said, "In the first phase, warehouses will come up at Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi (NCR) and four others in the second phase." The Vizag logistics hub would entail an investment of Rs 220 crore and the

first and second phase of temperature controlled warehouses would attract investment of Rs 65 and Rs 100 crore respectively. Meanwhile the company has drawn up plans to double its turnover to Rs 3,000 crore over the next five years, he said. Responding to queries on the company's logistics solution JV - Transafe, whose MD had been brought to book for alleged accounting fraud in 2010 and recently has been referred to BIFR, Basu said that they were keen on reviving it as the company still throws up opportunities.

"Currently, it has been referred to BIFR and the revival plan is yet to get approval. It has huge loan book of Rs 120 crore and that needs to be restructured. Banks want one-time settlement. We are also looking for an investor or strategic partner to revive the company," said Basu. Balmer Lawrie holds 50 per cent in Transafe.

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The Hindu

Hyderabad, Wednesday, September 23, 2015

MULTI-MODAL LOGISTICS HUB

Balmer lines up Rs.400 cr capex for next 3 yrs

KOLKATA: Balmer Lawrie on Tuesday said it has planned a capital expenditure of Rs.400 crore over the next three years on Vizag multi-modal logistics hub and temperature controlled warehouse. Besides, Rs.100 crore would be infused for other expansion and modernisation of ongoing activities. The Vizag logistics hub would seek an investment of Rs.220 crore and the first and second phase of temperature controlled warehouses would attract investment of Rs.65 and Rs.100 crore. "In the first phase, warehouses will come up at Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi (NCR) and four others in the second phase," said Balmer Lawrie CMD Prabal Basu said. — PTI

Morning India
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

State denial of Dankuni land forces Balmer Lawrie to shift hub to Andhra

By Ankur Bhattacharya

KOLKATA, Sept 22: Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, a profit-making public sector enterprise, was denied 52 acres of land at Dankuni in Hooghly district of West Bengal on "flimsy grounds", forcing the PSE to set up a state-of-the-art multi-modal logistics hub near Visakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh at a cost of Rs 220 crore. This has dealt a serious blow to the so-called business-friendly image of the state government and its industrial rejuvenation programme.

"We were forced to move to Andhra Pradesh with such huge investment opportunity after we were flatly denied by the West Bengal government the allocation of land at Dankuni for the proposed multi-modal logistics hub, citing the provisions of the current Land Ceiling Act which barred allocation of more than 17 acres of land at one go for industrial purposes," regretted Balmer Lawrie chairman and managing director Prabal Basu.

Speaking to Morning India Basu said following the signing of agreement with the Visakhapatnam Port authority and a hassle-free acquisition of 23 acres of prime land near the port area earlier this year, the preliminary construction work for the proposed logistics hub had already started. "We hope to complete the work and start the operation there by March 2017," he said.

Asked what could be the reason for the West Bengal government's "flat denial" of the land to Balmer Lawrie, Basu said it was nothing but a lackadaisical attitude of a section of senior government officials coupled with red-tapism.

"The state government has lost not only an investment of Rs 220 crore, but also its image as an industry-friendly state which is eager to seek more investment for a speedy economic growth," Basu lamented.

On whether the company had any plan to return to the state with further investments after the Dankuni fiasco, Basu replied in the negative. "After we were forced to shelve such a massive project, there is no such immediate plan," he said candidly.

Taking more about the company's expansion programme, Balmer Lawrie CMD said with a view to giving more thrust on developing the country's logistics infrastructure they had decided to establish six unique 'temperature controlled warehouses' in different parts of the country in two phases during the next 36 to 48 months.

"Of them the first three such modern warehouses were coming up in Hyderabad, Delhi NCR and Mumbai within the next 12 to 18 months at a total cost of a little over Rs 65 crore," Basu informed and added that efforts were on to identify the sites for establishing three more such warehouses.

However, the city-based company which is going to celebrate its 150th anniversary next year, had plans to spend at least Rs 100 crore on various new projects during the current financial year, a portion of which would be used for the modernisation of its south Kolkata lubricant plant. Basu said replying to a query.

Millennium Post

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Balmer lines up ₹400-cr capex plans for 3 years

KOLKATA: Diversified mini-ratna Balmer Lawrie on Tuesday said it plans a capital expenditure of Rs 400 crore over the next three years. "We'll have a capex of Rs 400 crore in the next three years on Vizag multi-modal logistics hub and temperature controlled warehouse," Balmer Lawrie CMD Prabal Basu said here on Tuesday after the AGM. This apart, Rs 100 crore would be infused for other expansion and modernisation of ongoing activities. The Vizag logistics hub would seek an investment of Rs 220 crore and the first and second phase of temperature controlled warehouses would attract investment of Rs 65 and Rs 100 crore.

"In the first phase, warehouses will come up at Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi (NCR) and four others in the second phase," Basu said. He said the state-owned entity had drawn plans to double its turnover to Rs 3,000 crore over the next five years as against its financial year 2015. PTI

Dainik Vishwamitra
Kolkata, Wednesday, 2015

बामर लॉरी की अग्रगति



बामर लॉरी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड की वार्षिक साधारण सभा को संबोधित करते हुए अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक श्री प्रबल बासु।

कोलकाता, 22 सितम्बर (निम्न)। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की प्रमुख कंपनियों में से एक बामर लॉरी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड ने जाजर की विपरीत परिस्थितियों के बावजूद 2014-15 के दौरान स्थिर एवं मजबूत वित्तीय स्थिति बरकरार रखने में कामयाबी हासिल की है। आज यहां कंपनी की 98वां वार्षिक साधारण सभा के पश्चात संवाददाताओं से बातचीत करते हुए कंपनी के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक प्रबल बासु ने बताया कि कच्चे माल की कीमतें बढ़ने के बावजूद कंपनी अपनी स्थिति यथावत् रखने में सफल रही है। वर्ष 2014-15 के दौरान कंपनी ने 2944 करोड़ रुपए का कारोबार हासिल किया है, जो कि अब तक का सर्वाधिक कारोबार है। वर्ष 2013-14 के मुकाबले यह कारोबार 3.5% अधिक है। हालांकि आलांच्य अवधि के दौरान कंपनी का कर पूर्व मुनाफा घटकर 210 करोड़ रुपए रह गया है। पिछले वर्ष समान अवधि में कंपनी को 220 करोड़ रुपए का कारोबार हासिल हुआ था। आज कंपनी के निदेशक मंडल ने 18 रुपए प्रति शेयर की दर से लाभांश की संस्तुति की है। वर्ष 2015-16 की पहली तिमाही में कंपनी के वित्तीय एवं कारोबारी नतीजे अच्छे रहे हैं। इस अवधि में एक ओर जहां कंपनी के कारोबार में 3.35% की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई, वहीं दूसरी तरफ कर पूर्व एवं कर पश्चात मुनाफे में क्रमशः 3.5% तथा 33% की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है। दरअसल विज्ञान में बहुतायत की खोज से मुनाफे में भी बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

अगले तीन वर्षों में 400 करोड़ पूंजीगत व्यय करेगी बामर लारी

अगले पांच सालों में करोड़ों को टैगला कर 3,000 करोड़ रुपये करने का लक्ष्य रखेगी



जामशेदपुर, 22 सितंबर। बामर लारी ने अगले तीन वर्षों में 400 करोड़ रुपये का पूंजीगत व्यय करना बतलाया है। कंपनी को कोलकाता में कंपनी की स्थापना (एनसीआर) के बाद फरवरी के माह शुरू करने में बामर लारी के अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक प्रबाल बसु ने यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि इस बार का बजट माल्टी मांडल लॉजिस्टिक्स हब और तापमान नियंत्रित गोदाम पर अगले तीन साल में 400 करोड़ रुपये के पूंजीगत व्यय करेगा। इसके अलावा 100 करोड़ रुपये अन्य विस्तार और चार लरी परिवर्धन के आयुर्विस्तार के लिए खर्च किया जाएगा। बामर लारी लॉजिस्टिक्स

एनसीआर में प्रवेश करने को संतुष्टि व्यक्त करती है। बामर लारी के प्रबंध निदेशक प्रबाल बसु ने बताया कि बामर लारी को कोलकाता में 220 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश किया जाएगा जबकि तापमान नियंत्रित गोदामों में पहले और दूसरे चरण में 65 व 100 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश किया जाएगा। पहले चरण में मुंबई, हैदराबाद और दिल्ली (एनसीआर) में गोदामों की स्थापना की जाएगी जबकि दूसरे चरण में चार अन्य गोदाम स्थापित होंगे। श्री बसु ने कहा कि राज्य की स्थापित वाली कर दिवा मग है लेकिन पुनर्निवेश योजना को अभी अनुमति प्राप्त करना बाकी है। ट्रांसिफ पर 120 करोड़ रुपये का खर्च करेगा और इस पुनर्निवेश करने की जरूरत है। बैंक एडमिशन समझौते पर है। कंपनी को पुनर्निवेश करने के लिए एक निवेशक या स्वतंत्रिक साझेदार की तलाश है। प्रत्येक में बामर लारी को 50 फीस हिस्सेदारी है। गैरलेबर है कि वर्ष 2010 में ट्रांसिफ लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक को लॉजिस्टिक्स के अंतर्गत में नियुक्त किया गया था।

चार सौ करोड़ का निवेश

कोलकाता, 22 सितंबर (जनसत्ता)। देश की मिनी रत्न कंपनी बामर लारी ने अगले तीन साल में पूंजी खर्च के मद में चार सौ करोड़ रुपये निवेश करने की योजना बनाई है। यह निवेश कंपनी की विशाखापत्तनम स्थित मल्टी-मांडल लॉजिस्टिक्स हब के निर्माण समेत अन्य परियोजनाओं के लिए किया जाएगा। यह जानकारी बामर लारी के चेयरमैन व प्रबंध निदेशक प्रबाल बसु ने दी। वे मंगलवार को यहां कंपनी 98वीं सालाना आम सभा (एजीएम) के मौके पर पत्रकारों से बातचीत कर रहे थे। बसु ने कहा कि कंपनी ने विस्तार व आयुर्विस्तार योजना पर भी सौ करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करने की योजना बनाई है। उन्होंने कहा कि विशाखापत्तनम परियोजना पर 220 करोड़ रुपये खर्च होंगे और पहले व दूसरे चरण के तापमान नियंत्रित वेयरहाउस के निर्माण पर क्रमशः 65 व 100 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए जाएंगे। पहले चरण में वेयरहाउस मुंबई, हैदराबाद व दिल्ली (एनसीआर) में तैयार किए जाएंगे, जबकि चार अन्य दूसरे चरण में तैयार किए जाएंगे। बसु ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा 'स्वच्छ भारत अभियान' के तहत बामर लारी को 10 अगस्त 2015 तक 306 शौचालयों के निर्माण का जिम्मा दिया गया था।

जमि दिल अफ़्क़, बामर लरि विधि वाम राजे

निज्ज सवादानाता: एक ज्ञायगय जमि केनाई थायनि। आर एक ज्ञायगय जमि केनार परेओ मेलेनि उर्ध्वसीमार हाइपत्र। त्हाई ए राजेो दिनेर आनो देपेछे ना बामर लरि व बहुमूनी लजिस्टिक्स हब प्रकल्प। अर्ध सेई अर्कई समयेर मथेो तारा जमि पेमेछे अर्ज्जपेसे। हाते असेछे प्रयोोजनीय सब हाइपत्र। २०१९ सालेर मार्चेर मथेो विशाखापत्तनमे तानेर प्रकल्प चलू हये थावे बले मज्जलवार संस्कार तरफे जानानो हयेछे।

मिनिरत्न संस्कार बामर लरि २०१२ साले जामियेछिल, कलकाता वा तार संस्कार अर्धक एव विशाखापत्तनमे दू-टि लजिस्टिक्स हब तैरि करवे तारा। दू-ज्ञायगतेई सञ्चार लरि अर्ध छिल २५० कोटि टाका।

ए राजेो प्रथमे डानकुनिते हाव तैरि परिकल्पना करा हय। त्रिक हय, पण्य मज्जतेर जना शीताउप नियंत्रित गुदाम गड़ा हवे सेखाने। कर्सेनारे पण्य ठेगानो-नामानो, रेलेर ठेगाने आसा पण्य थालास इत्यादि काज्ज हवे। २०१२ सालेई ए जना ५० एकर जमि जोगाड़ करे तारा। प्राथमिक चूक्ति हय जमि मालिकदनेर ससेओ। किन्तु एतदूर एगोमेनार परेओ जमि उर्ध्वसीमा आइनेर पेरोरो गठ्ठा थाय परिकल्पना। दीर्घ समय अपेक्षा करेओ राजेोर काह थेके त्हुमि ओ त्हुमि संस्कार आइनेर १४ ठेगाने धारा मते सिनिंग अतिरिक्त जमि राधार अनुमति ना-पेरे शेषमेश डानकुनिते प्रकल्प गड़ार परिकल्पनाई बाक्ति करे देय तारा।

एर पर आटेर पाताय

२०१३ साले केर उह प्रकल्प बागाना गड़ार कथा थेवेछिल बामर लरि। उहकालीन शिज्जमन्त्री पार्थ चट्टोपाध्याय दावि करेछिलेन, "प्रस्ताव पाठ्यार परेई हाइपत्र देओयार कथा जानिये नियेछि। संस्कार कर्तृपक्षके बलेछि, पूरा ५५ एकर जमि तेई प्रकल्प शुरू करार अनुमोदन देओया हवे।" अर्थात् जमि उर्ध्वसीमा आइनेर से ए वार आर बाधा हवे ना, ता प्पष्टि करे सिचे देयेछिलेन त्तिनि। किन्तु बागाना जमि-मालिकदनेर ससे कथा बले प्रयोोजनीय ५०-५५ एकर जमि किनेई उठेते पारनेनि संस्कार।

शिज्जमहल बलाछे, ए राजेोर जमि नीति से कत असार, बामर लरि व घटनाई तार प्रकृष्ट उदाहरण। एर सिचे शिज्ज जना एक छूटक जमिओ अर्धिग्रहण ना करार जेद धरे बसे जयेछे मज्जा बल्योपाध्यायेर सरकार। पश्चिमदनेर मथेो बह जेते विज्ञाजित राजेो असंख्य मालिकदनेर ससे कथा बले जमि केना से शिज्जपतिदनेर पक्षे कार्यत असञ्च, सेटी वारवारई बलेछे शिज्जमहल। किन्तु राजा सरकारेरे टनक नछेनि। फले गत चार बछेरे राजेो प्राय केनओ शिज्जई हयनि। बागाना पेछिचे आसते हयेछे बामर लरि केओ।

जमि उर्ध्वसीमा आइनेर नियेओ आपत्ति जयेछे शिज्जमहलेर। तानेर बञ्च्य, एई आइने राधारई केनओ दरकार नेई। वार उततेर राजा सरकार आवास नियेछे, शिज्जपतिरा नियेओ जमि किने निसे उर्ध्वसीमा आइने केनओ बाधा हये दाँडावे ना। किन्तु हाइ देओयार विषयति राजेोर ईच्छा-अनिच्छार उपर केन निर्भर करवे, सेई प्रश्न उठेछे। एव राजेोर आवास से आदते फाका, शिज्जपतिदनेर आशवाई त्रिक, डानकुनिते बामर लरि अर्धिज्जताई तार प्रमाण।

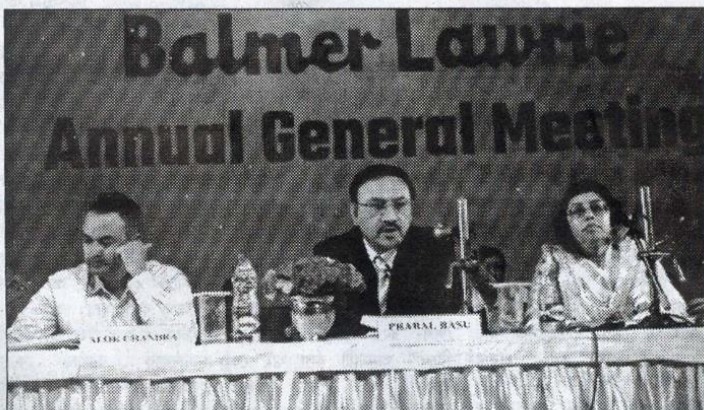
एर उलेटी सिचे की करेछे चम्बार् नयडर राजाओ सेखाने बामर लरि के ५० एकर जमि नियेछे सरकारई। ता वजार धरे किनेछे संस्कार। जमि उर्ध्वसीमा आइनेर बक्ति ओ अर्ज्जपेसे नेई। फले २५० कोटि प्रकल्प तैरि हते चलेछे सेखाने। संस्कार चेयारमान्य ओ म्यानेजि डिरेक्टर प्रबाल बसु कथाय, "डानकुनिते ५० एकर जमि वारवञ्ज निजेराई करेछिलाम। २०१२ साले राजेोर काहे जमि उर्ध्वसीमा आइनेर १४ ठेगाने धारा शोभावेक आवेदन करि। किन्तु २०१३ साले जानानो हय से, ता पाठ्या थावे ना। एर परई अर्ज्ज सरकारेरे काहे प्रकल्प गड़ते जमि चेये आवेदन करि। तार वारवञ्ज हयेछे। ए राजेो दरदर दफ्तर हठ्या सन्धेओ जमि-जटेर कारणेई प्रकल्प गड़ा गेल ना एखाने।"

४०० कोटि लग्नि करवे बामर लरि

एई समय: आगामी तिन बछेरे मोटि ४०० कोटि टाका विनियोगेरे परिकल्पना नियेछे मिनिरत्न संस्कार बामर लरि। मज्जलवार संस्कार वार्षिक साधारण सभाय संस्कार चेयारमान्य ओ म्यानेजि डिरेक्टर प्रबाल बसु बलेन, "विशाखापत्तनमे मास्ति मोडाल लजिस्टिक्स हब एव तप नियंत्रित गुदामघर तैरिरे जना आगामी तिन बछेर आमरा ४०० कोटि टाका विनियोग करते चलेछि।" एखाड़ाओ, विभिन्न आयुर्विस्तारण ओ सञ्चसारण प्रकल्प खाते १०० कोटि टाका विनियोगेरे परिकल्पना नियेछे बामर लरि। विशाखापत्तनमेरे मास्ति मोडाल लजिस्टिक्स हब तैरि करते २२० टाका विनियोगेरे लक्ष्यमात्रा नियेछे संस्कार। अन्यदिके, प्रथम ओ द्वितीय पथायेरे तप नियंत्रित गुदामघर तैरिरे जना वथाक्रमे ७५ कोटि टाका ओ १०० कोटि टाका लग्नि करा हवे। बसु बलेन, "प्रथम पथाये मुहई, हायदरावाद एव दिल्लीते गुदामघर तैरिरे

पाशापाशि द्वितीय पथाये आरओ चारुटि गुदामघर तैरि करा हवे।" राष्ठीयत संस्कार आगामी पाठ बछेरे विक्रिरे परिमाण ५,००० केटि टाकाय निये याओयार परिकल्पना नियेछे बलेओ जानाम बसु।

पण्य परिवहण क्षेत्रे बामर लरिरे योथ संस्कार ट्रांसफे-एर विषये बसु बलेन, "संस्कार पुनरुज्जीवने बामर लरि आग्रही। पण्य परिवहण क्षेत्रे विपुल सञ्चाना रयेछे।" त्तिनि बलेन, "वर्तमाने संस्कार पुनरुज्जीवनेरे जना विआईएफआर-एर काहे पाठानो हयेछे। पुनरुज्जीवन प्रकल्प एखनओ अनुमोदननेर अपेक्षाय रयेछे। ट्रांसफे-एर १२० कोटि टाका वकयेरे देना रयेछे। ओई ऋण पुनगठनेरे प्रयोोजन रयेछे। ऋणप्रदानकारी ब्याङ्कगुलि एककालीन टाका चैछे।" संस्कारेरे ऋण परिणेश ओ पुनरुज्जीवनेरे जना विनियोगकारी वा कौशलगत सहयोगी खूँजे संस्कार।



बामर लरी

बामर लरी आत को लिमिटेडेर १८ तम साधारण वार्षिक सभा हये गेल विडला सभाधरे। एई साधारण सभाय

उपस्थित छिलेन संस्कार चेयारमान्य एव म्यानेजि डिरेक्टर प्रबाल बसु सह कर्पोरानिरे विशिष्टरा। बसु जानाम ए

बछेरे तानेर टर्नओतार २३४४ कोटि टाका। २०१४-१५ साले तानेर मर्जिनल ग्राथ ३.५ शतांश।

Balmer Lawrie lines up Rs 400 crore capital expenditure for next 3 years

Diversified mini-ratna Balmer Lawrie today said it has planned a capital expenditure of Rs 400 crore over the next three years. "We'll have a capex of Rs 400 crore in the next three years on Vizag multi-modal logistics hub and temperature controlled warehouse," Balmer Lawrie Chairman and Managing Director Prabal Basu said here today after the AGM.

The Economic Times – 22.09.2015

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-09-22/news/66792416_1_100-crore-220-crore-120-crore

Balmer Lawrie's travel unit to ramp up focus on private bookings

In face of Rs.150 crore dues from the central government on travel bookings, diversified public sector company Balmer Lawrie & Co on Tuesday said it will enhance its focus on the private sector to grow its travel and tours business. "Currently, 90 percent of our travel business accounts from the central government and rest 10 percent comes in from the private sector. This year onwards, we are trying to increase the proportion of the private sector to 25 percent," company chairman and managing director, Prabal Basu told media persons here after the company's annual general meeting.

Business Standard – 22.09.2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/balmer-lawrie-s-travel-unit-to-ramp-up-focus-on-private-bookings-115092200958_1.html

- <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/balmer-lawrie-plans-400-cr-capex/article7678185.ece>
- http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/balmer-lines-up-rs-400-cr-capex-for-next-3-yrs-115092200606_1.html
- http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/balmer-lawrie-rises-on-plans-to-invest-in-logistics-infrastructure-biz-115092400304_1.html
- <http://www.livemint.com/Money/NHpS4qgAF4dg0eSdoBlg8l/Opening-Bell--Reliance-Industries-Amtek-Auto-LT-to-be-in.html>
- <http://www.anandabazar.com/state/andhra-pradesh-greets-balmer-lawrie-gives-land-for-investment-but-west-bengal-failed-1.212598#>
- <http://www.mydigitalfc.com/news/balmer-lawrie-lines-rs-400-crore-capex-060>
- <http://www.biznews.in/news/balmer-lawrie-lines-up-rs-400-crore-capex>
- http://www.indiainfoline.com/article/news-top-story/sensex-nifty-to-open-on-a-weak-note-115092300167_1.html
- <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/fourteen-stocks-in-focus-in-wednesdays-trade/articleshow/49068820.cms>
- <http://www.asianage.com/business/balmer-lawrie-lines-rs-400-crore-capex-709>

The news was covered in other online portals as well.

India is heaven for investors; want to make it \$20 trillion economy: PM Narendra Modi

Projecting India as a "heaven" for investors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said his government is working on deregulation and ensuring 'ease of doing business' as he aims to convert the country's economy from 8 trillion dollars to 20 trillion dollars. In a Town hall Q&A at the Facebook Headquarters here along with its CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Modi spoke about efforts to revive the

Indian economy to outpace 7.3% growth of last fiscal: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley

Wooing foreign investors with the promise of easier conditions for doing business, finance minister Arun Jaitley on Monday said continuing reforms will push India's economic growth higher than last year's 7.3 per cent despite adverse global winds. India has the potential to be the bright spot in the gloomy world economic scenario, he said, adding fiscal deficit is coming

faith among foreign investors, saying reforms are taking place speedily and the government had managed to "restore the lost confidence" during the last 15 months as he appeared to take a dig at the previous UPA dispensation. He said his government was laying thrust on three sectors particularly - agriculture, services and manufacturing - along with building the physical and digital infrastructure simultaneously. During the 45-minute session, he also spoke in detail about the benefits of social media, particularly how it has been useful to him to connect with the people within the country and abroad, and how it can help take corrective steps if some government steps go wrong.

The Economic Times - 28.09.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-is-heaven-for-investors-want-to-make-it-20-trillion-economy-pm-narendra-modi/articleshow/49130437.cms>

India shining among developing countries, says World Bank MD

World Bank managing director and chief operating officer Sri Mulyani Indrawati is bullish about India's growth prospects and tells TOI in an interview that New Delhi must use the narrow window of opportunity provided by slowing commodity prices to push through more reforms. This is a very rare and good opportunity for India. It is getting advantage of low commodity prices, especially oil that will provide space for the budget in terms of subsidies. The government commitment and announcement on fuel subsidy reform is very encouraging. India has the opportunity to use this narrow window to push for further reforms. The more attention on improving the business climate to be able to attract more foreign direct investment for small and medium enterprises is going to be critical because the growth of India cannot rely only on government spending. GST reform is not only going to be critical from the government budget point of view but, most importantly, for creating a level playing field and the mobility of merchandise and people that will create a huge potential for India. That is going to be the reform which needs to be prioritized.

The Times of India - 25.09.2015

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-a-business/India-shining-among-developing-countries-says-World-Bank-MD/articleshow/49099373.cms>

Fuelling infra-led growth

Softer demand from China, combined with still lacklustre conditions in Europe and Japan, has subdued India's growth prospects to some extent.

down and inflation is very much under control. Showcasing the India growth story to international investors with collective asset under management of \$10 trillion, Jaitley asked them to invest in infrastructure, manufacturing and other sectors that have funding needs. On the last day of his four-day visit to Singapore and Hong Kong, Jaitley said he thinks India has the potential to be the bright spot even in somewhat gloomier situation. "We grew by 7.3 per cent last year and I hope that we are able to outperform our last year's growth numbers," Jaitley said here at the inaugural APIC-India Capital Markets and Institutional Investors Summit.

The Economic Times - 22.09.2015

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-09-22/news/66792244_1_finance-minister-arun-jaitley-reforms-agenda-economic-growth

ADB slices India's growth forecast to 7.4% for 2015-16

India may be looking to make the most of the China's slowdown, but the Asian Development Bank does not see that happening soon and has predicted slower than expected rebound in the country's economy. "Unfortunately, India is not yet in a position to pick up the slack in demand from a moderating PRC (People's Republic of China)," ADB said in an update to its annual Asian Development Outlook that sees weaker Chinese growth dragging down the rest of Asia. ADB has lowered India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.4 per cent from 7.8 per cent estimated in March because of slower than expected pace of reforms and weaker global demand. "Prospects for India's growth acceleration await a pickup in external demand and reform progress," ADB president Takehiko Nakao wrote in the report. The bank pegged India's FY17 growth at 7.8 per cent "as key elements of the government's economic reform package reach fruition". The development bank pared growth forecast for China by 0.4 percentage points to 6.8 per cent this fiscal and 6.7 per cent next year.

The Economic Times - 23.09.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/adb-slices-indias-growth-forecast-to-7-4-for-2015-16/articleshow/49068453.cms>

Achieving 25% of GDP from manufacturing by 2022 a difficult task: CII-BCG survey

This, along with poor domestic demand mainly on account of policy paralysis in the area of land acquisition and delay in getting clearance for big projects, has adversely affected the real sector of our economy. The recent Chinese currency devaluation has further aggravated growth prospects. In a situation where the global market is yet to pick up and export markets on the blink, for any country to grow there is a need to generate ample domestic demand. India is no exception. For this, we need proactive fiscal and monetary policy measures. To boost growth, in recent past RBI has taken accommodative monetary measures by softening interest rates, which has been possible mainly due to low inflation rate. In terms of economic theory, in the short run, there is a trade-off between inflation and growth.

The Financial Express - 22.09.2015

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/fe-columnist/fuelling-infra-led-growth/139306/>

Make in India version 2.0 to be launched to boost manufacturing

India is all set to launch version 2.0 of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship 'Make in India' initiative to turn around the nation's manufacturing sector. While the first level focused on easing processes to help businesses, the next one is aimed at turning it into "a people's movement", on the lines of the Swadeshi movement. "This won't just be a campaign but a movement of the people of India through initiatives like Skill India, Digital India and another big ticket item, Start-up India. It is now or never for India's manufacturing story," a senior government official said. India is trying to upgrade the skills of its workforce. Taking a cue from countries such as Japan and Germany, known for their top-quality manufacturing, New Delhi is starting an investor-outreach programme with several countries to bring global best practices in India. "We have to improve ourselves considerably if we want to achieve world standards and be a part of the global supply chain," the official said.

The Economic Times - 23.09.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/make-in-india-version-2-0-to-be-launched-to-boost-manufacturing/articleshow/49068472.cms>

PSU divestment: Govt woos Australian, Canadian pension funds

The government is trying a turn to Australian and Canadian pension funds to make its disinvestment plans a success, without having to overly depend on the likes of Life Insurance Corp and short-term money from foreign institutional investors (FIIs).

Raising serious doubts over the rate at which the government's ambitious 'Make in India' initiative is progressing, a recent survey from the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and apex industry chamber CII has said that its target of creating 100 million jobs and achieving 25 percent of GDP from manufacturing sector by 2022 may be difficult to meet. The CII-BCG report entitled 'Future of Indian Manufacturing: Bridging the Gap' noted that though manufacturing exports increased from \$ 188 billion in 2011 to \$203 billion in 2014. India's share in global market still remains at 1.5 percent, as expected, this shortfall is reflected in job creation in this sector. 'Make in India' aspires to create 100 million jobs by 2022 in the manufacturing sector.

Mint - 28.09.2015

<http://money.livemint.com/news/market/economy/market-pulse/achieving-25-of-gdp-from-manufacturing-by-2022-a-difficult-task-cii-bcg-survey--400369.aspx>

DoD casts net wide to avoid dud sales

Even as big-ticket PSU stake sales may be on hold till markets stabilise, the department of disinvestment (DoD) is hard-selling these issues with long-term foreign investors from geographies that have hitherto been largely off the map. In line with a shift in focus from foreign institutional investors (FIIs) to more durable investors, a team of Indian officials led by disinvestment secretary Aradhana Johri met officials from top Canadian pension funds and their managers in roadshows held in four cities of the North American country between September 7 and 11. During the whirlwind tour of Canada, the officials met CEOs of the \$123-billion British Columbia Investment Management Corporation and senior executives of \$155-billion The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, among others. "Canadian pension funds, certainly a couple of large investors, are willing to invest in the stocks of Indian companies," one of the officials who participated in the roadshows said.

The Financial Express - 22.09.2015

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/dod-casts-net-wide-to-avoid-dud-sales/139335/>

India aims to double global exports to around \$900 billion in five years

Indian manufacturers and exporters should diversify more and become part of regional multi-lateral trade pacts to boost shipments of their products globally, India's top envoy in Singapore has said. "It is for the business

However, these funds do not know much about India's state-owned companies, which aren't used to sharing information, either, in the style and quantity these entities would want. Concerned about FIIs' tendency on capital flight at the first sign of volatility in the markets, the disinvestment department has suggested prospective stake sales in public sector undertakings (PSUs) to pension funds in the two countries, to come in as long-term investors. Senior officials and PSU executives, earlier in the year, met these funds. The meetings in Australia were organised by Citibank and those in Canada by Deutsche Bank. Officials say funds in both countries are keen on investing in Indian PSUs. There is interest, especially from Canadian funds.

Business Standard - 28.09.2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/psu-divestment-govt-woos-australian-canadian-pension-funds-115092800019_1.html

Exports languish, 23 sectors out of 30 decline in August

Exports from India are still not out of the woods, with as many as 23 key sectors, including petroleum, engineering and leather, declining in August mainly due to a fall in global prices and a demand downturn. In all, 23 out of 30 sectors closely monitored by the Commerce Ministry were in the negative zone last month, according to ministry data. This has prompted exporters' body FIEO to seek immediate intervention of the government to arrest the decline. India's exports declined 20.66 per cent in August to \$21.26 billion, pushing up the trade deficit to \$12.47 billion. "A consultation meeting should be held with export bodies and leading exporters to draw a road map for exports in such a challenging time in which reaching last year's export figure looks difficult," Federation of Indian Export Organisations President S C Ralhan said. He saw a drop in oil prices, subdued demand and other domestic factors as responsible for the current state of affairs. During the month, top two sectors -- engineering and petroleum products -- contracted 29 per cent and 47.88 per cent, respectively.

The Economic Times - 25.09.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/exports-languish-23-sectors-out-of-30-decline-in-august/articleshow/49104782.cms>

Crude oil falls on slowing global economic growth outlook

community of India and Singapore to identify more opportunities and further increase trade flows," India's High Commissioner Vijay Thakur Singh told some 200 delegates at the 'India-Singapore Trade: Challenges and Opportunities' business forum. Underlining the wide range of initiatives and thrust of India's trade foreign policy, Singh called on the manufacturers and exporters to diversify and be part of the regional multi-lateral trade pacts to boost shipments of their products globally. Singh also reiterated the government's target of further increasing shipments of merchandise and services as there are plenty of opportunities to do so. "The trade policy aims to increase the share of Indian exports in world markets to 3.5 per cent by 2019-2020, doubling it in five years," Singh said.

First Post - 26.09.2015

<http://www.firstpost.com/business/india-aims-to-double-global-exports-to-around-900-billion-in-five-years-2446234.html>

S&P cuts 2015 crude oil price forecasts

Standard & Poor's has cut its price forecasts for Brent and US crude oil and the credit rating agency said the revision indicated that it would take longer for prices to recover. S&P cut its 2015 forecast for Brent to \$50 and for US crude to \$45 a barrel, both down by \$5 from its previous forecast. For 2016, S&P sees Brent at \$55 and WTI prices at \$50 a barrel. More than 10 major international financial institutions have cut their oil price forecasts over the last month citing weak market fundamentals and the recent slowdown in the Chinese economy. S&P said there had not been a significant decline in oil production even though many US exploration and production companies have cut spending and prices are below many companies' production costs. "New wells drilled in the fourth quarter of 2014 continue to support production, and producers have shifted capital to their most productive and profitable wells," S&P said in a note published on Thursday. The agency also said many producers with lower credit ratings had above-market hedges in place in 2015, making it economically feasible for them to continue drilling.

The Economic Times - 25.09.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/commodities/sp-cuts-2015-crude-oil-price-forecasts/articleshow/49104069.cms>

Lanka oil hub talks gather momentum

India plans to set up its first overseas petroleum hub, along with a refinery and power plant, in

Oil prices dropped in Asian trading hours on Monday despite a fall in US drilling activity for the fourth straight week, with analysts pointing to a poor economic growth outlook as the main reason for low crude prices. China's August industrial profits dropped 8.8 per cent from the same month last year, and January to August industry profits were down 1.9 per cent. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is likely to revise downwards its estimates for global economic growth due to slower growth in emerging economies, IMF head Christine Lagarde said in a newspaper interview. Brent crude futures were down almost 1 per cent or 45 cents, at \$48.15 per barrel at 0334 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures were also about 1 per cent lower or 43 cents at \$45.27 a barrel. Crude futures are now down more than 10 per cent since the end of August. Ratings agency S&P had cut its Brent and WTI forecasts for this year last week by \$5 to \$50 per barrel and \$45 per barrel, respectively, and said it saw 2016 prices at \$55 for Brent and \$50 for WTI.

The Hindu Business Line - 28.09.2015

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/crude-oil-falls-on-slowng-global-economic-growth-outlook/article7697558.ece>

CSR spend: How public and private sectors fared

Even though state-run companies had a five-year head start with respect to setting aside funds for corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, they lagged behind their private sector peers in terms of the efficiency of spending on such efforts. Public sector companies spent only 66.7% of what they had to spend in the year ended 31 March while private companies spent 82% of the prescribed spend in the first year of mandatory CSR spending, according to showed data compiled by NextGen, a CSR management firm. Under Companies Act of 2013, both public and private companies had to set aside 2% of their net profits. Earlier, public companies needed to set aside anywhere between 0.5% to 5% of net profits based on the profits of the company, according to the 2010 CSR guidelines issued by department of public enterprises.

Mint - 25.09.2015

http://www.livemint.com/Specials/PiwwOfqACWA_rNyQX45THwJ/CSR-spend-How-public-and-private-sectors-fared.html

Portal to review tour operators

Although Internet has revolutionised the way one travels, reviews, and referrals play a key role in arriving at a decision while charting out a travel itinerary. Till now, there were not many options to

Sri Lanka. The move is expected to spur Indian investment in the island nation. A delegation of oil and power ministry officials along with representatives of Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC will soon visit Sri Lanka to push through the much-delayed project. The two nations want the project to start before the signing of the Indo-Lanka Economic and Technological Agreement, expected in May-June 2016. During Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Shriyan Wickremesinghe's visit to New Delhi earlier this month, both sides discussed the setting up of Trincomalee oil tank facility in a joint venture along with an oil refinery by Indian companies and a thermal power plant. State-run Indian Oil Corporation is keen on a refinery having a capacity of 6 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) in Lanka, its first such overseas project. At present, Sri Lanka has a single refinery of 2.5mtpa capacity, with demand for petroleum products double the capacity.

The Telegraph - 28.09.2015

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150928/jsp/business/story_44895.jsp#.VgjQyNKqqko

50% of India's travel to be online by 2020: Ixigo

India's online travel segment is heating up. It's simplifying the lives of Indian travellers through innovative travel planning, research and social products by offering them better options. These travel portals are now a one-stop-shop for all travel queries and bookings. Most studies concur that by 2020 close to 40% of all travel related transactions could be online. It could go as high as 50%. The current growth is driven by Tier II and Tier III cities. The activity is doubling every 6 months. Emerging markets like Surat, Bhopal and Patna are growing like never before. While Tier I cities have reached a fairly good adoption rate, the current growth from these cities are primarily from cheaper smartphones. It's the options online offers people. It's the primary mode of long distance travel. In terms of budget accommodation, even in the Tier I cities, the demand is coming from Tier II and Tier III cities.

Business Insider - 22.09.2015

<http://www.businessinsider.in/50-of-Indias-travel-to-beonline-by-2020-Ixigo/articleshow/49060256.cms>

Ministry of Tourism launches several new initiatives on World Tourism Day

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mahesh Sharma said that low cost medical facilities are India's strength and we must take advantage of the

gauge tour operators. A city-based organisation of tour operators has now stepped in to fill the vacuum. Besides helping travellers in the decision-making process, the tour review portal (www.mytourreview.com), being launched by the Association of Tourism and Trade Organisations India (ATTOI), will also act as a medium to safeguard the interests of good tour operators. "This portal is a start-up and will function as a reliable source of reviews by travellers for those who look for personalised and experiential holidays," president of ATTOI P.K. Anish Kumar says. Mushrooming of tour operators, travel websites and portals, lack of licensing norms and wealth of information available online have affected the business of tour operations. ATTOI, he says, wants to bring reliable tour operators closer to clients and enhance their business opportunities.

The Hindu - 26.09.2015

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/portal-to-review-tour-operators/article7691349.ece>

Fliers soar by 19% amid concerns of rising airfares

People may be complaining about high airline fares but latest statistics show more people are flying with 18.66 per cent rise in number of fliers in August compared to the same month last year. The latest figures released by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) showed that 67.6 lakh people flew last month, compared to 56.97 lakh in August last year and 67.45 lakh in July this year. The rise in numbers could be attributed to the around 20-25 per cent decrease in ticket fares during same period last year following drop in jet fuel prices. Altogether this year, domestic airlines carried 523.55 lakh people in the first eight month of this year as against 433.24 lakh during the corresponding period of previous year, registering a growth of 20.84 per cent. SpiceJet, which was in the woods almost throughout last year, has continued its impressive show this month too with a 92.1 per cent seat occupancy. Rivals were way behind with the closest being Air Pegasus, which started its operations in April this year, with 83.7 per cent seat occupancy.

Deccan Herald - 23.09.2015

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/502333/fliers-soar-19-amid-concerns.html>

Logistics corridor likely in few years

India is looking to enhance the efficiency of logistic movement by road and to reduce the cost involved

same for the purpose of promoting tourism. It is for this reason that the Government took the important decision of setting up the Medical and Wellness Tourism Promotion Board. The Board will have a corpus fund of Rs 2 crore initially, the Minister disclosed. Dr Mahesh Sharma said that the AYUSH facilities will be promoted along with regular medical facilities. Dr Mahesh Sharma also announced that Discover India fares of Air India. Under the scheme, a tourist can discover India in one or two weeks at a reasonable travel cost. A Tourist can buy 5 coupons for Rs 32,500 (15 days validity) or 10 coupons for Rs 60,000 (30 days validity) for exciting Indian destinations, serviced by Air India & Alliance Air without worrying about ticket price fluctuation. In another initiative, Air India will introduce Incredible Air India holiday packages from 1st December, 2015.

Business Standard - 27.09.2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/ministry-of-tourism-launches-several-new-initiatives-on-world-tourism-day-115092700535_1.html

SpiceJet plans domestic freighter service

SpiceJet is exploring dedicated cargo operations to tap the growing e-commerce business in India. The airline operates 36 planes, including a mix of Boeing 737s, Bombardier Q-400s and Airbus A319 passenger aircraft, and, like other domestic airlines, it carries cargo in the belly of these aircraft. SpiceJet is yet to finalise an aircraft for the freight service and planning is in a preliminary stage. "A lot of ideas are being considered, but there is nothing more to say at this point," SpiceJet Chief Operating Officer Sanjiv Kapoor said in a text message response to a query. Sources said SpiceJet's cargo uplift and yields have improved as a result of growth in domestic e-commerce business. Domestic air freight volume grew 18 per cent in 2014-2015 and airlines carried 9.8 lakh tonne cargo in the year ended March. Blue Dart is the only scheduled cargo airline in India with five Boeing 757 planes and is a market leader in air freight segment.

Business Standard - 25.09.2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/spicejet-plans-domestic-freighter-service-115092500660_1.html

Ports now busier, hint at an economic revival

in transporting goods in the next couple of years. The highways ministry is starting a massive exercise to diagnose the deficiencies in the infrastructure and system, and also to come out with solutions including seamless movement of big carriers/ trailers on the highways that connect 6-7 major ports such as JNPT in Mumbai, Kandla and Haldea besides key manufacturing hubs. The exercise gains importance considering the fact that while trucks in India cover around 300 kms a day, in BRICS countries on an average they travel more than 500 kms. "As it takes more time and the cost involved is also very high, even items produced in India at cheaper rate can't compete with imported products," said a government source. NHA will undertake the new exercise named Logistics Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP), which is financed by the World Bank. "This will also support the initiative of make in India initiative by improving 'Move in India' and improve India's Logistics Performance Index (LPI)," a government source said.

The Times of India - 22.09.2015

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Logistics-corridor-likely-in-few-years/articleshow/49053340.cms>

Port sector feels pangs of slowdown

Weak economic revival, global trade impacting port traffic: Our analysis of traffic at major ports, Adani Ports and Gujarat Pipavav (GPP), that cumulatively account for around 70% of India's port volumes, suggests a slowdown in port traffic growth in 1H CY15, as weaker-than-expected domestic revival has impacted nonoil-non-gold imports while weak global growth continues to impact exports growth. The sector witnessed a tepid 3.9% y-o-y growth in 1H CY15. After registering a robust 11% y-o-y (year on year) growth during 9MFY15, container traffic has slowed down to just 3% y-o-y in 1H CY15 owing to the weak EXIM trade. Our economics team has recently cut its growth estimates for non-oil-non-gold imports as well as for exports (ex-services). Besides, we believe that with containerisation already >50%, the scope for its rapid expansion going forward is limited. Consequently, we cut our estimates for container traffic growth for the sector from 9.5% CAGR (compound annual growth rate) in FY15-19 to 7.1% now.

The Financial Express - 28.09.2015

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/markets/indian-markets/port-sector-update-port-sector-feels-pangs-of-slowdown/142313/>

After six years of lull (2008-14), the port sector has registered remarkable revival sending clear signals of how country's economy is reviving. In the past one year, there has been significant increase in the handling of cargo by the country's 12 major ports and these ports have registered higher profit. This has huge importance considering the fact that around 95% of India's trading by volume and 70% by value is done through maritime transport. According to government records, the year on year increase in volumes of cargo handled at these ports between April and August increased from 555 million metric tonnes (MMTs) in 2014 to 581 MMTs this year. Similarly, operating income increased from Rs 9,162 crore to Rs 9,962 crore. During 2008-14 period, the operating profit margin of major ports declined from 43% to 28% and even the market share of major ports fell from 72% to 57%. He added that government is targeting a net profit of Rs 2,500 crore from the 12 major ports in the next two years.

The Times of India - 24.09.2015

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Ports-now-busier-hint-at-an-economic-revival/articleshow/49083576.cms>

Govt drops plan to give more autonomy to state-run ports

Central government will change existing laws governing ports to make them more profitable and efficient, the shipping minister said on Wednesday, putting on hold a plan to turn them into corporate entities under pressure from trade unions and political parties. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley earlier this year announced a plan to corporatise ports, widely seen as an attempt to raise revenues by listing them. Nitin Gadkari said the government has moved to amend existing laws to make the ports' management more independent and professional so that they can be efficient and bring down turnaround times of ships at the 12 major ports in the country. The government's failure to move forward on the port corporatisation plan follows a similar retreat on efforts to ease land acquisition laws to build roads and ports. A longstanding plan to harmonise taxes across all of India's 29 states by April 2016 is also now in question as opposition groups seeks to block the reform agenda.

The Financial Express 23.09.2015

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/govt-drops-plan-to-give-more-autonomy-to-state-run-ports/140335/>