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Balmer Lawrie in News

Sakaal

पडघेवासींना मिळणार मुबलक पाणी
पनवेलचे भाजप आमदार प्रशांत ठाकूर यांच्या हस्ते जलकुंभाचे उद्घाटन



तळोजा, सा. ६ (बातामोदार) : पडघे ग्रामपंचायत, रोटरी क्लब पनवेल इंडस्ट्रियल टाऊन यांनी बामर लॉरी कंपनीच्या मदतीने पडघे येथे बांधलेल्या जलकुंभाचे उद्घाटन आमदार प्रशांत ठाकूर आणि बामरचे सीएमडी प्रबाल बासू यांच्या हस्ते झाले. रोटरी क्लबच्या पुढाकारामुळे हे शक्य झाले. या जलकुंभाची क्षमता तीन लाख लिटर आहे. यामुळे पडघे गावातील १० हजार ग्रामस्थांचा पिण्याच्या पाण्याचा प्रस्न सुटणार आहे. बामर लॉरीच्या डायरेक्टर एचआर आणि सीए मंजूषा भटनागर, डी. गिरीश गुणे, पटविकाम अधिकारी डी. एन. तेटगुरे, कंपनीचे सीओओआयपी बी. चक्रवर्ती, रिजनल एचआर हेड विजय रायमाने, हेड ऑपरेशन आर. एस. फटेल, रोटरीचे प्रोजेक्ट चेअरमन प्रकाश शृंगारपुरे, ट्रस्ट

चेअरमन सुधीर कांडपिके, राजेंद्र ठाकरे, सैफुद्दीन खोरा आदि मान्यवरांची विशेष उपस्थिती

पनवेल : पडघे गावातील नवा जलकुंभ.

Lokmat

पडघे जलकुंभाचे उद्घाटन

पनवेल - रोटरी क्लब ऑफ पनवेल इंडस्ट्रीअल टाऊन व तळोजा येथील बामर लॉरी कंपनी यांच्या सहकार्याने तळोजा एमआयडीसी पडघे येथे नव्याने बांधण्यात आलेल्या १ लाख ५० हजार लिटर इतकी साठवण क्षमता असलेल्या जलकुंभाचे आमदार प्रशांत ठाकूर यांच्या हस्ते शुक्रवारी लोकार्पण करण्यात आले.

Lok Drishi

पडघे ग्रामस्थांसाठी उंच जलकुंभाची उभारणी

पनवेल (प्रतिनिधी) - ग्रामपंचायत पडघे, रोटरी क्लब पनवेल इंडस्ट्रियल टाऊन यांनी बामर लॉरी कंपनीच्या आर्थिक सहकार्याने पडघे येथे उभारलेल्या उंच जलकुंभाचा उद्घाटन सोहळा आ. प्रशांत ठाकूर आणि बामर लॉरी क कंपनीचे सीएमडी प्रबाल बासू यांच्या हस्ते पार पडला.

या कार्यक्रमात बामर लॉरी कंपनीच्या डायरेक्टर एचआर आणि सीए मंजूषा भटनागर, पीडीडी डॉ. गिरीश गुणे, गट विकास अधिकारी डी.एन. तेटगुरे हे सान्माननीय अतिथी म्हणून उपस्थित होते. तर बामर लॉरी क कंपनीचे सीओओआयपी बी. चक्रवर्ती, रिजनल एचआर हेड विजय रायमाने, हेड ऑपरेशन आर.एस. फटेल, उद्योगपती रामदास शेवाळे, माजी सरपंच बाबुचोठ भोईर, नाथा गोपाळ म्हात्रे, नारायणशेठ भोईर, विष्णूशेठ जोशी, कृष्णाशेठ पाटील, पांडुरंग भोईर तर रोटरीच्या वरिष्ठ प्रोजेक्ट चेअरमन प्रकाश शृंगारपुरे, ट्रस्ट चेअरमन सुधीर कांडपिके, राजेंद्र ठाकरे, सैफुद्दीन खोरा आदि मान्यवरांची विशेष उपस्थिती



लभती होती.

आपल्या मार्गदर्शनपर भाषणात आ.प्रशांत ठाकूर पुढे म्हणाले की, ग्रामस्थांना शुद्ध पिण्याचे पाणी मिळावे व पडघे ग्रामस्थांची पाण्याची गरज भागविण्यासाठी बामर लॉरी कंपनी आणि रोटरी क्लब पनवेल इंडस्ट्रियल टाऊनने पुढाकार घेतला. आपण उभे रहात असताना समाजाला उभे करण्याचं महत्त्वपूर्ण काम रोटरी करते, अशाच प्रकारची अनेक सामाजिक कामे रोटरी क्लबच्या माध्यमातून उभी राहिली आहेत.

रोटरी कर्णबधीर मुत्सद्दी निवासी शाळा नवीन पनवेलमध्ये उद्घाटन सोहळा १८ मार्च रोजी आहे, त्याला सर्वांनी उपस्थित राहण्याचे आवाहन केले. आ. प्रशांत ठाकूर पुढे म्हणाले,

सामाजिक समस्या सोडविण्यासाठी रोटरी धावून जाते, पोलिसांो निर्मूलनाचे महान कार्य रोटरीने केले. डॉ. गिरीश गुणेसारखे सेवादात्री आपल्या स्वयंसेवक जीवनाने वेळ वेळ काढून रोटरीच्या माध्यमातून प्रबंध काम करीत आहेत. लोकांना

सेवा देण्याचे काम रोटरी करते असे प्रतिपादन करून रोटरीचे हे सेवाभावी कार्य यापुढेही असेच अखंडपणे चालू राहो अशा शुभेच्छा त्यांनी व्यक्त केल्या.

आज महाराष्ट्रात पाण्याचे दुर्मिळ आहे, काही ठिकाणी १५ दिवसातून एकदा पाणी येतं. पाण्याचं महत्त्व ओळखून पनवेल तालुक्यातील सर्व नद्या आपण प्रवाहित करू या, त्या पाण्याचा उपयोग पिण्यां व्यतिरिक्त इतर कामासाठी करू या, आणि अशाच प्रकारच्या समाजनिमुख उपक्रमांसाठी वाच्यार भेटू या अशा सदिखा आ. प्रशांत ठाकूर यांनी व्यक्त केल्या.

पनवेल परिसरातील शाळा सुधारण्यासाठी कपण्यांनी सढळ हस्ते मद्दत करावी. उंच जलकुंभासाठी बामर लॉरी कंपनीने ६९ लाखाची मदत केली.

बामर लॉरी कंपनीने परिसराच्या सर्वांगीण विकासासाठी सहकार्याचा हात सदैव पुढे करावा : आमदार प्रशांत ठाकूर

प्रऊन यांनी बामर लॉरी कंपनीच्या मासिक सहकार्याने पडघे येथे भारण्यात आलेल्या उंच जलकुंभाचा उद्घाटन सोहळा आ. प्रशांत ठाकूर आणि बामर लॉरी कंपनीचे सीएमडी प्रबाल बासू यांच्या शुभहस्ते पार पडला त्या सगळी आमदार महोदय बोलत होते.

कार्यक्रमाला बामर लॉरी कंपनीच्या डायरेक्टर एचआर आणि सीए मंजूषा भटनागर, पीडीजी डॉ. गिरीश गुणे, गट विकास अधिकारी डी.एन. तेतुरे हे सन्माननीय अतिथी म्हणून उपस्थित होते. तर बामर लॉरी कंपनीचे सीओओ आयपी बी. बक्रवती, रिजनल एचआर हेड विजय रायमाने, हेड ऑपरेशन आर.एस. मटेल, उद्योगपती रामदास शेवाळे,



माजी सरपंच बाबुशेट भोईर, नाथा गोपाळ म्हात्रे, नारायणशेट भोईर, विष्णूशेट जोशी, कृष्णाशेट पाटील, पांडुरंग भोईर तर रोटीच्या वतिने प्रोजेक्ट चेअरमन प्रकाश शृंगासुरे, ट्रस्ट चेअरमन सुधीर कांडपिळे, राजेंद्र ठाकरे, सैफुद्दीन खोरा आदि मान्यवरांची विशेष उपस्थिती लाभली होती.

आपल्या मार्गदर्शनपर भाषणात आमदार प्रशांत ठाकूर पुढे म्हणाले की, ग्रामस्थांना शुध्द पिण्याचे पाणी मिळावे म्हणून परमेश्वराने पाऊस पाडून आपले योगदान दिले आहे. पडघे ग्रामस्थांची पाण्याची गरज भागविण्यासाठी बामर लॉरी कंपनी आणि रोटी क्लब पनवेल इंडस्ट्रियल टाऊनने पुढाकार घेतला त्याबद्दल त्यांचे मनःपूर्वक आभार. आपण उभं रहात असताना समाजाला उभं करण्याचं महत्त्वपूर्ण काम रोटी करते, अशाच प्रकारची अनेक सामाजिक कामे रोटी क्लबच्या माध्यमातून उभी राहिली आहेत. रोटी कर्णबधीर मुलांची निवासी शाळा नवीन पनवेलमध्ये उभारण्यात आली असून त्याचा उद्घाटन सोहळा १८ मार्च रोजी आहे, त्याला सर्वांनी उपस्थित राहण्याचे आवाहन केले.

आ. प्रशांत ठाकूर पुढे म्हणाले, सामाजिक समस्या सोडविण्यासाठी रोटी घावून जाते, पोलिओ निर्मूलनाचं महान

या उंच जलकुंभाची क्षमता ३ लाख लिटर्स असून पडघे गावातील १० हजार ग्रामस्थांना याचा लाभ होणार आहे.

कार्य रोटीने केले. डॉ. गिरीश गुणेंसारखे सेवान्वृत्ती आपल्या व्यस्त जीवनातून वेळात वेळ काढून रोटीच्या माध्यमातून प्रचंड काम करीत आहेत. लोकांना सेवा देण्याचे काम रोटी करते असे प्रतिपादन करून रोटीचे हे सेवाभावी कार्य यापुढेही असेच अखंडपणे चालू राहो अशा शुभेच्छा त्यांनी व्यक्त केल्या.

आज महाराष्ट्रात पाण्याचे दुर्मिळ आहे, काही ठिकाणी १५ दिवसातून एकदा पाणी येतं. पाण्याचं महत्त्व ओळखून पनवेल तालुक्यातील सर्व नद्या आपण प्रवाहित करू या, त्या पाण्याचा उपयोग पिण्या व्यतिरिक्त इतर कामासाठी करू या, आणि अशाच प्रकारच्या समाजाभिमुख उपक्रमांसाठी वारंवार भेटू या अशा सदिच्छा आ. प्रशांत ठाकूर यांनी व्यक्त केल्या.

पनवेल परिसरातील शाळा सुधारण्यासाठी कंपन्यांनी सढळ हस्ते मदत करावी. उंच जलकुंभासाठी बामर लॉरी कंपनीने ६५ लाखांची मदत केली. भविष्यात या कंपनीला त्याच्या अनेक पट फायदा होईल. कंपनीची भरभराट ईल असा विश्वास व्यक्त करून आजच्या समारंभाच्या निमित्ताने बामर लॉरी कंपनीच्या माध्यमातून दीर्घतंभ सारखं दर्शन काम पडघे गावात उभे राहिले आहे. आम्ही जिथे जिथे जावू तेथे आपले राजदुत बनून आपल्या या सामाजिक कार्याचा जाणिवपूर्वक उद्देख करू असा विश्वास आमदार प्रशांत ठाकूर यांनी याप्रसंगी व्यक्त केला.

प्रारंभी पडघे ग्रामपंचायतीचे प्रशासक शैलेश तांडेल यांनी उपस्थित मान्यवरांचे स्वागत केले. बामर लॉरी कंपनीचे रिजनल एचआरहेड विजय रायमाने आपल्या प्रास्ताविकात म्हणाले अशाच एका कार्यक्रमात लोकनेते व्झेठ ठाकूर यांनी गावासाठी काहिती करा असे आवाहन केले होते. त्यावेळी कंपनीने २५ लाख ताबडतोब मंजूर ले त्यानंतर ग्रामपंचायत पडघे यांची पाण्याची अडचण लक्षात घेऊन रोटीच्या सहकार्याने ६० लाखाचा निधी मंजूर ला. आज त्याचे उद्घाटन होत आहे. याबद्दल आनंद व्यक्त केला.

बामर लॉरी कंपनीचे सीएमडी प्रबाल बासू यांनी आपल्या अभ्यासपूर्ण भाषणात, कंपनीने आतापर्यंत केलेल्या सामाजिक कार्याची थोडक्यात माहिती देऊन सामाजिक बांधिलकीच्या जाणिवेतून कंपनी नेहमी परिसराच्या सर्वांगीण विकासासाठी कटिबध्द राहील असा विश्वास व्यक्त केला.

पीडीजी डॉ. गिरीश गुणे यांनी जागतिक स्तरावर रोटीचे सामाजिक कार्य कसे चालते याची झलक थोडक्यात स्पष्ट करून पोलिओ निर्मूलनात आपण यशस्वी झालो त्यामध्ये रोटीचे बहुमोल योगदान असल्याचे नमुद केले. रोटी क्लब पनवेल इंडस्ट्रियल टाऊनने बामर लॉरी कंपनीच्या सहयोगाचे पडघे परिसराची तहान भागविण्याचे मोठे काम केले आहे. याबद्दल क्लबचे अभिनंदन करून भावी वाटचालीसाठी शुभेच्छा दिल्या.

ट्रस्टचे चेअरमन सुधीर कांडपिळे यांनी मान्यवरांचे स्वागत करून रोटीच्या कामाची माहिती दिली. क्लबचे हाकेबाज अध्यक्ष अरविंद सावळेकर यांनी उंच जलकुंभ उभारणीत बहुमोल सहकार्य करणाऱ्या सर्वांबद्दल कृतज्ञता व्यक्त करून सर्वांचे मनःपूर्वक आभार मानले.

या उद्घाटन समारंभाला बामर लॉरी कंपनीचे अधिकारी, रोटीचे पदाधिकारी आणि सभासद तसेच पडघे परिसरातील ग्रामस्थ मोठ्या संख्येने उपस्थित होते.

Growth prospects positive for Indian economy as reforms gain traction: Dun & Bradstreet report

Growth prospects remain positive for the Indian economy, with the government strongly accelerating its reform announcements, a Dun & Bradstreet report says. According to the research firm, reform announcements are gaining momentum and growth prospects remain positive despite the fact that the Indian economy is at a crucial juncture amid an investment lull and weak exports. "The real estate Bill, the new Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy, the Bill to amend the Companies Act and the proposed introduction of the bankruptcy code bear testimony that the government is well focused on reviving the investment climate and improving ease of doing business scenario in India," Dun & Bradstreet India Senior Economist Arun Singh said. As per the report, the growth prospects of the Indian economy for 2016-17 would be highly dependent on domestic drivers of growth with very little support seeping in from the global market.

The Economic Times - 21.03.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/growth-prospects-positive-for-indian-economy-as-reforms-gain-traction-dun-bradstreet-report/articleshow/51493304.cms>

Double-digit growth difficult but reforms can get results: Jaitley

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday conceded that double-digit growth in the current global environment would prove difficult for India, but said if pending reforms were addressed, it would have the necessary economic impact. "In the current global environment, realistically speaking, it is extremely difficult to achieve double digit growth," Jaitley told the opening session of India Today Conclave here. But he said it was important to aim higher and continue with reforms to get the desired results. The finance minister said agriculture has the maximum potential to grow in India. He didn't just mean pure farm incomes, but included in it what comes out of the rural economy like milk production. "Some of the states have seen huge amount of growth in agriculture." As regards reforms, he specifically listed the proposed pan-India goods and services tax (GST) regime right up front and said but for one party all the rest were supporting it, alluding to the Congress party.

Business Standard - 17.03.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/double-digit-growth-difficult-but-reforms-can-get-results-jaitley-116031700240_1.html

Government to seek outsider help for strategic stake sale

The National Institution for Transforming India, or NITI Aayog, is planning to get experts and agencies from outside the government to frame the criteria for strategic sale in assets. Confirming the plans, a senior officer said the government would finalise the framework for the strategic sale after consulting with experts. In the current financial year (2015-16, or FY16) - which ends with this month - strategic sales could not take off, despite a Budget Estimate (FY15) of Rs 28,500 crore. The officer said the NITI Aayog, the Union government's primary think tank which has been given the job of identifying public sector units (PSUs) for strategic sales, held its first meeting on it recently. Some PSUs were discussed during the meeting. However, a decision was taken to widen the scope of consultations, which would mean involving subject and domain experts before finalising proposals.

Business Standard - 21.03.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/government-to-seek-outsider-help-for-strategic-stake-sale-116032100009_1.html

Disinvestment dept. to market PSUs among investors in Japan, US

Encouraged by the 'good' response from foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in the latest offers for sales in Concor and NTPC, the disinvestment department is strategizing to aggressively market PSUs among investors in countries such as Japan and US, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi has created a positive buzz about opportunities in India. An action plan is being readied to increase engagement with select top investors of these countries in one-to-one as well as group interactions to showcase the opportunities in various sectors such as infrastructure, metals and oil & gas, sources told FE. To improve ease of doing business, the department may designate a nodal officer, who could be contacted by investors directly for company specific queries. Currently, they have to route such queries through merchant bankers.

The Financial Express - 16.03.2016

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/disinvestment-dept-to-market-psus-among-investors-in-japan-us/226105/>

CPSUs must take steps to meet 20% procurement from MSMEs: Govt

The government has reiterated that all central public sector units have to take proactive measures to achieve the target of 20 per cent annual procurement from micro, small and medium enterprises. The MSME ministry said that so far 38 central public sector units (CPSUs) have achieved the target. "The CPSUs have to take proactive action to achieve targets of 20 per cent annual procurement from micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) including 4 per cent from MSMEs owned by SC/STs," an official statement quoting MSME Minister Kalraj Mishra said. Recently, the minister has chaired a meeting to review the implementation of public procurement from MSMEs. The 20 per cent annual procurement policy was made mandatory by the government from April 2015 with a view to promote MSMEs and start-ups in the country. In the meeting, Mishra mentioned that a SC/ST hub has been set up to promote the development of SC/ST entrepreneurs.

Business Standard - 19.03.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cpsus-must-take-steps-to-meet-20-procurement-from-msmes-govt-116031800811_1.html

India's exports fall for 15th month in February, by 5.66 percent

With the continuing global slowdown and fall in global commodity prices, India's merchandise exports declined 5.66 percent in February in dollar terms over the same month year ago, with no let-up in the last 15 months, an official statement said on Tuesday. Exports in January had declined by 13.6 percent. "Exports during February 2016 valued at \$20.73 billion (Rs.1,41,515.41 crore) which was 5.66 percent lower than the level of \$21.98 billion (Rs.1,36,379.94 crore) during February 2015," said the commerce ministry statement. In the first 11 months (April-February) of this fiscal, cumulative export value plunged 16.73 percent to \$238 billion (Rs.15,56,576.47 crore) from \$286 billion (Rs.17,46,265.60 crore) in like period year ago. Similarly, imports declined 5.03 percent to \$27.28 billion in February this year from \$28.72 billion in same month year ago.

Business Standard - 15.03.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-s-exports-fall-for-15th-month-in-february-by-5-66-percent-116031501433_1.html

Almost 76% of CSR amount spent by corporates: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley

Corporate Social Responsibility activities have turned out to be a successful experiment as over 75 per cent amount has been spent in 2014-15, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said today, telling corporates that they could also contribute to Prime Minister's Relief Fund for use during natural calamities. Replying to supplementaries, he said CSR amounts cannot be spent for any political activity and if any amount is spent in that manner, it cannot be a legitimate CSR activity. "It is a successful experiment which has started because in the first year over 75 per cent of the amount under CSR has been spent," Jaitley said during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha. "During 2014-15, the first year for CSR, the 2 per cent profits of 460 companies comes to around Rs 8,347.47 crore, of which 75.92 per cent has been spent for CSR activity during the year," he said.

The Economic Times - 15.03.2016

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-15/news/71543214_1_csr-spending-schedule-vii-csr-money

Oil prices fall 2% as oversupply lingers, economic slowdown looms

Oil prices fell around 2 percent on Tuesday, extending losses from the previous session as concerns took hold that a six-week recovery may have petered out due to ongoing oversupply. The drops came after the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said that global demand for its crude would be less than previously thought in 2016 as supply from rivals proves more resilient to low prices, increasing the excess supply in the market this year. OPEC expects global demand for its crude to average 31.52 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2016, down 90,000 bpd from last month's forecast. The group said it pumped 32.28 million bpd in February, down about 175,000 bpd from January, mainly due to outages in Iraq and Nigeria

The Economic Times - 15.03.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/commodities/news/oil-prices-fall-2-as-oversupply-lingers-economic-slowdown-looms/articleshow/51403889.cms>

Oil price decline may lead to ONGC, Oil India ratings downgrade: Moody's

Moody's Investors Service retained the ratings of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India (OIL), and said a further sharp fall in global oil prices may result in a downgrade in the future. "The confirmation of ONGC's Baa1 domestic currency issuer rating and Baa2 foreign currency issuer rating reflect the low impact of declining oil prices on the company's cash flows, because ONGC benefits from a lowering of fuel subsidies, a reduction in taxes, and improved contributions from its downstream business," according to a Moody's Investors Service report. It has retained OIL's rating as well, citing the same reasons. The ratings agency noted that both ONGC and OIL have strong liquidity position, with cash positions of Rs.160 billion and Rs.88 billion, respectively, as of March 31, 2015. "Moody's notes that OIL can tap into other sources of liquidity on its balance sheet. For example, its investments in listed entities are currently valued at Rs.80 billion," according to the report.

The Hindu - 17.03.2016

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/oil-price-decline-may-lead-to-ongc-oil-india-ratings-downgrade-moodys/article8366488.ece>

Steel price rise not sustainable without growth in demand

Then disconnect between physical volume and gross value added became more apparent with the release of IIP data. Industrial output in January is down by 1.5% compared to same month last year which pulls down the cumulative growth in industrial production during April to January period to only 2.7%. That manufacturing is still reeling under shrinking order position reflected in a negative 2.8% growth in the sector during the month. The steel-intensive capital goods sector continues to display a fluctuating trend by showing a massive negative fall of more than 20% in the month. Among the other sub-segments under manufacturing, furniture and fabricated metals have performed reasonably better than electrical machinery and component that went down by more than 50%. The manufacturing of motor vehicles has grown by 3.7%, while other transport equipment were almost at the same level as last year. The below normal industrial growth at the beginning of the current year must reflect on the performance of some of the prominent components of industrial production in the next month.

The Financial Express - 15.03.2016

Rosneft ties up long-term supply pacts with ONGC

Russia may snatch away Iran's key customers of crude oil in India as Rosneft ties up long-term supply pacts with Indian refiners that would help secure an attractive market for Russia at a time producers are fiercely competing in the face of excess supply. Rosneft has entered into preliminary agreement with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to explore supplying long-term crude oil and feedstock to the latter's refinery. ONGC's unit Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemical Ltd (MRPL) manages a 15 million tonne refinery in southern India. Rosneft has another agreement with Essar Oil to supply 10 million tonne per annum (mtpa) of crude oil and feedstock to its refinery in Gujarat, India's second largest with a capacity of 20 mtpa. The supply is expected to begin this year. Interestingly, in beginning to supply crude to these refineries, Russia may end up replacing much of Iranian supply to India as both Essar and MRPL have been heavy importers of crude from the West Asian nation.

The Economic Times - 18.03.2016

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/rosneft-ties-up-long-term-supply-pacts-with-ongc/articleshow/51449871.cms>

Govt plans new steel import duty to prevent hawala transactions

Fearing that the high minimum import price (MIP) imposed on steel items may lead to illegal "hawala" transactions, in turn fuelling an inflow of black money, the commerce ministry has written to the finance ministry to seize the price differential between MIP and the actual import price. On 5 February, the government announced the MIP for 173 steel products in a bid to curb the dumping of cheap steel by countries such as China, Russia, Japan and South Korea. However, since the MIP is higher than the import price of steel, it is apprehended that bulk importers may over-invoice imports and transfer the price differential to India through the hawala route. A commerce ministry official, on condition of anonymity, said that since the actual import price remains the same even after the imposition of MIP, the ministry has written to the revenue department suggesting the levy of an additional duty equivalent to the price differential on steel importers.

Mint - 15.03.2016

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/UOSXZ4CDwtH6NPt25qwprM/Govt-plans-new-steel-import-duty-to-prevent-hawala-transacti.html>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/markets/commodities/steel-price-rise-not-sustainable-without-growth-in-demand/225567/>

'Net driving travel, hospitality growth in small towns too'

Deepening growth of Internet penetration is fuelling growth of the travel and hospitality sector not only in big cities but also from smaller towns in India and only those firms which utilise technology will emerge as leaders in future, according to a report. As per the 'India Travel & Hospitality Technology Landscape 2016' by Ficci and RezNext, large demand for supply from budget hotels has led to the rise of hotel aggregators, with the sudden spike in business attracting investments, "some as large as USD 100 million". "The rampant internet penetration has transformed the way travel and hotels operate. Interestingly, mobile boom in bookings is not just restricted to the elite lot in metros. There is evidence to the contrary that a large share of e-commerce transaction are from tier II and III cities," the report said. The report, which was released today.

Moneycontrol - 18.03.2016

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/net-driving-travel-hospitality-growthsmall-towns-too_5939061.html

India Aviation Report says country to become third largest aviation market by 2020

The country is likely to become the third largest aviation market by 2020, claimed a report published on Thursday, the second day of the India Aviation Exhibition and Conference. The report, called "India Aviation Report", has been prepared by KPMG and Ficci. It claimed that with 81 million trips, India's domestic aviation market grew over 20.3 per cent in 2015 — the highest ever growth rate recorded in the world. "In January 2016, the passenger growth was 22 per cent. Some people attribute this growth to fall in crude prices, but no other country in the world has achieved this kind of growth during the period," said R N Choubey, secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, at the launch event. According to the report, the Indian civil aviation sector has exhibited tremendous resilience to the global economic slowdown and ranks ninth in the global civil aviation market.

Business Standard - 18.03.2016

<http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/india-aviation->

As online hotel bookings see high growth, travel portals attract top dollar

The fight for a larger pie of the rapidly growing online hotel booking space is set to get bigger. Two leading domestic online travel portals- MakeMyTrip and Ibibo- have raised a sizeable \$430 million (Rs 2,900 crore) in the current quarter. The three digit growth in hotel bookings seen by the travel portals in recent quarters has only made them want more. While Indian ecommerce has attracted investment worth billions of dollars, such numbers in the online travel booking space is not common at least in the domestic market. Ibibo last month secured an investment of \$250 million from Naspers, the South African Internet and media company which is one of its main shareholders along with Chinese internet firm Tencent. The money will be used to expand presence in the hotel segment, focus on innovations and have more users download its app on their smart phones.

Business Standard - 15.03.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/as-online-hotel-bookings-see-high-growth-travel-portals-attract-top-dollar-116031500346_1.html

Domestic aviation market grew 20% in 2015: report

With 81 million trips, India's domestic aviation market grew 20.3 per cent in calendar 2015, compared to the previous year, according to the FICCI-KPMG India Aviation Report. The report, which was released by Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju on the second day of the India Aviation Show 2016 here on Thursday, also predicted that India is on its way to become the third largest aviation market by 2020. Among the growth drivers are increasing disposable incomes, fall in prices of aircraft turbine fuel, increase in tourism and visa reforms. The passenger traffic on international routes increased 6.5 per cent during the period. In comparison, international passenger throughput at Indian airports grew 7.7 per cent. There was 17.1 per cent growth in the total passenger throughput for FY2015-16 till January, at 184 million.

The Hindu Business Line - 18.03.2016

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/domestic-aviation-market-grew-20-in-2015-ficcikpmg-report/article8364563.ece>

[report-says-country-to-become-third-largest-aviation-market-by-2020-116031700265_1.html](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/aviation-market-by-2020-116031700265_1.html)

Cess to boost regional flights may push up air fares

A cess of Rs 8,000 on each domestic flight could be the alternative to the aviation ministry's proposed 2% surcharge on flight tickets to fund regional connectivity. This charge will reportedly be levied on airlines, who in turn will pass it on to passengers pushing up the cost of flying by up to Rs 100 per person. Coupled with Union Budget 2016-17 raising excise duty on jet fuel, operating cost for airlines could rise by up to 5% and lead to a similar hike in fares. Sources say the aviation ministry is planning this levy after ministers like Arun Jaitley, Piyush Goyal and Rajiv Pratap Rudy rejected their plan to have a 2% surcharge on air tickets. The ministry wanted to levy this on all those flying to metros, big cities and abroad to raise viability gap funding (VGF) to cross-subsidise regional flights by capping their fares at Rs 2,500 per hour of flying.

The Times of India - 21.03.2016

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Cess-to-boost-regional-flights-may-push-up-air-fares/articleshow/51486586.cms>

Govt relaxes cabotage rules for transshipment ports

Government has relaxed cabotage restrictions for ports which transship at least 50% of the container handled by them. The cabotage relaxation will enable shipping lines to consolidate EXIM and empty containers at transshipment ports in India for onward transportation to destination ports by main shipping lines. With the cabotage relaxation, foreign vessels can also transport EXIM and empty containers from any port in India to transshipment port and vice versa, in addition to Indian vessels. The spare capacity of the foreign flag ships which could not be utilised earlier due to cabotage restrictions will now be gainfully utilised enabling them to offer competitive container slot rates to exporters and importers leading to competition led efficiency in container transportation and lower logistic costs for the shippers.

Business Standard - 17.03.2016

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-relaxes-cabotage-rules-for-transshipment-ports-116031700655_1.html