

(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

The Statesman  
Kolkata, Friday 10 July 2015

**Balmer Lawrie:** In line with the government's Swachh Bharat campaign, Balmer Lawrie has constructed toilets in two Kolkata schools. Ms Manjusha Bhatnagar, director (HR&CA), inaugurated the toilets. **SNS**

Rajasthan Patrika  
Thursday, 9 July 2015

### स्वच्छ भारत. अभियान के तहत स्कूलों में बने शौचालय

कोलकाता @ पत्रिका . स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के तहत बॉलमेर लॉरि एंड कम्पनी की ओर से दो स्कूलों में शौचालय का निर्माण कराया गया। मुकुन्दपुर के चरण कवि मुकुन्द दास जूनियर हाई स्कूल व टॉलीगंज के मॉल्लारहाट जूनियर हाईस्कूल में शौचालयों का निर्माण किया गया है। बॉलमेर लॉरि की निदेशक मंजूषा भटनागर ने इसका उद्घाटन किया। बॉलमेर लॉरि की ओर से सरकारी स्कूलों में कुल 306 शौचालय बनाए जाएंगे। केवल पश्चिम बंगाल ही नहीं असम, छत्तीसगढ़, हरियाणा, आंध्रप्रदेश शामिल है। जिनमें 196 शौचालय बनाए जा चुके हैं। पश्चिम बंगाल में 42 स्कूलों में कुल 81 शौचालय बनाए जा रहे हैं।

## India set to grow faster than China at 7.5%: IMF

Keeping its projections for India and China unchanged, the International Monetary Fund on Thursday forecast that India will grow a clip faster at 7.5 percent in 2015 and 2016, overtaking a slowing down China. While India's GDP growth would go up from 6.9 percent in 2013 and 7.3 percent in 2014 to 7.5 percent over the next two years, China would slow down from 7.7 percent in 2013 and 7.4 percent in 2014 to 6.8 percent in 2015 and 6.3 percent next year, IMF said. The July update of the April 2015 World Economic Outlook (WEO) predicting a slower growth in emerging markets and a gradual pickup in advanced economies projected global growth at 3.3 percent in 2015, marginally lower than in 2014. In 2016, growth is expected to strengthen to 3.8 percent, the report said attributing the small downward revision to global growth for 2015 to a setback to activity in the first quarter of 2015, mostly in North America. Nevertheless, the underlying drivers for a gradual acceleration in economic activity in advanced economies "easy financial conditions, more neutral fiscal policy in the euro

## India can achieve 8 to 10 per cent growth: Jaitley

Though the global economy is passing through troubled times, India is looked upon as a brighter spot and it will be able to achieve 8 to 10 per cent growth, according to Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley. "When all these initiatives (of the government) get on to the field, then India's aspiration to cross that 8 per cent hub and get on to the 8-10 per cent growth target is not something, which is completely out of sight, something which may be eminently achievable," said Mr. Jaitley here on Sunday while speaking at the NABARD National Symposium on Mitigating Agrarian Distress and Enhancing Farm Income. "Two days ago, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has for this year again lowered the global growth rates. They now anticipate a 3.2-3.3 per cent global growth rate. When we compare ourselves, we may have some opportunity to cheer because even in challenging times, India is being looked upon as a brighter spot. But we also have our own challenges," Mr. Jaitley said. While the country achieved a growth rate 7.3 per cent last year,

area, lower fuel prices, and improving confidence and labour market conditions" remain intact, the report said.

*Business Standard - 09.07.2015*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-set-to-grow-faster-than-china-at-7-5-percent-imf-115070900846\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-set-to-grow-faster-than-china-at-7-5-percent-imf-115070900846_1.html)

## **India's May industrial growth slows to 2.7 percent**

A retarded growth in manufacturing output slowed India's overall industrial production expansion to 2.7 percent for May — against 4.1 percent in April, official data showed on Friday. As per the quick estimates of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO), the growth in manufacturing output fell from 5.1 percent in April and 5.9 percent in May 2014 to 2.2 percent in the month under review.

The manufacturing sector, which has the maximum weightage in the IIP, grew by 3.2 percent between April and May. The mining and electricity output expanded by 2.8 percent and 6 percent respectively. The performance of mining and electricity sectors was subdued in April. The mining sector inched up by 0.6 percent while electricity segment slipped by 0.5 percent in April. The cumulative growth for the first two months of this fiscal was 3 percent. In April, when the overall industrial output had expanded by 4.1 percent, industry saw it as emerging green shoots of economic recovery, especially since the expansion was led by manufacturing.

*Sarkaritel.com - 10.07.2015*

<http://www.sarkaritel.com/indias-factory-output-growth-slows-in-may-192041/>

## **Government aims high, wants to be among top 30 countries in ease of doing business index**

India has set itself the ambitious task of climbing into the top 30 of the World Bank's ease of doing business rankings in three years and is confident of breaking into the top 100 in this year's list, which is to be released soon. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has sought help from the World Bank to achieve this target and held a meeting on Monday to discuss this. "We have started preparing the road map to push India further up the rankings next year," a senior government official said. "The session was conducted to identify what India needs to do more and with timelines after interaction with the stakeholders. The target is to break into the top 30 in the next three years." India was ranked 142nd out of 189 countries - below Sri Lanka and

this year's projection was approximately 8 per cent, he said.

*The Hindu - 12.07.2015*

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/india-can-achieve-8-to-10-per-cent-growth-jaitley/article7414076.ece>

## **Chinese slowdown a risk for Indian economy**

There has been a surge in stock market investments by retail investors, attracted by quick returns. The investors have poured in largely borrowed money. Since 2010, Chinese authorities have eased restrictions on using borrowed money to invest in shares. Retail investors, who account for about 85% of trade in China, made risky investments often bypassing rules, according to analysts. Estimates say that borrowed money helped push the stock market 150% since June last year. Spiralling stock prices worried Chinese authorities, who took steps to stem risky investments and imposed curbs on margin trading, which refers to investing in stocks using borrowed funds. Authorities have also taken steps to prop up the market but with limited success. The government's toughest measures came on June 12, when China's securities regulator announced a new limit on the total amount of margin lending stock brokers could do, while also reiterating the ban on illicit margin trading through mechanisms like umbrella trusts.

*The Times of India - 09.07.2015*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/international-business/Chinese-slowdown-a-risk-for-Indian-economy/articleshow/47996130.cms>

## **Govt initiates stake sale in 8 PSUs, CPSE ETF; looks to mop up Rs 18,000-19,000 cr**

The government looks to raise about Rs 18,000-19,000 crore as it initiated the process of selling minority stake in eight public sector companies as well as a follow-on offer of the CPSE exchange traded fund (ETF). This is in addition to the pool of eight companies – Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), Indian Oil (IOC), NMDC, and BHEL – in which the government may fetch a little over Rs 34,000 crore at current market prices. In all the government has the potential to raise more than Rs 52,000 crore from the pool of 16 companies and the ETF. Last week, the Department of Disinvestment (DoD) floated proposals to appoint financial and legal advisors on stake sale in National Thermal Power Corp (NTPC), Oil

Pakistan- in the World Bank's ease of doing business rankings benchmarked to June 2014.

*The Economic Times - 08.07.2015*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-aims-high-wants-to-be-among-top-30-countries-in-ease-of-doing-business-index/articleshow/47980273.cms>

### **Govt may sell 10% stake in Indian Oil by August**

The government may sell 10% stake in Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) by August as market sentiment on the stock has improved considerably, with stable crude prices and timely receipt of fuel subsidy boosting the financials of the state-run oil retailer. At current market prices, the government could raise about Rs 10,000 crore from the stake sale. Wednesday's closing price of the IOC stock was about Rs 420 on the BSE, 13% more than the when the Narendra Modi government came to power on May 26 last year. After IOC, the government could sell a 3% stake in another fuel retailer, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), to garner about Rs 1,880 crore at current prices. The BPCL share price was Rs 867 on Wednesday, a rise of 56% since May 26 last year. "We expect Indian refineries to improve refining margins as they increase their ability to process complex crude; a stable oil price level will also help remove inventory impact," said Kumar Manish and Alok Deshpande of HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India). Despite missing disinvestment targets in the last five years by a wide margin, the government has set the FY16 target at R69,500 crore, of which R41,000 crore would come from small stake sales in a clutch of public sector undertakings (PSUs).

*The Financial Express - 10.07.2015*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/govt-may-sell-10-stake-in-indian-oil-by-august/98319/>

### **Sebi asks govt to appoint women directors on PSU boards**

To ensure parity between listed PSUs and their private sector peers, regulator Sebi has asked the government to fill all vacancies for women and independent directors at the central public sector enterprises. All listed companies, whether PSUs or from private sector, are required to have at least one woman director on their board, deadline for which expired on March 31, 2015. Along with many private sector companies, quite a few PSUs also failed to meet the deadline and they are liable to pay penalties, which would be minimum at Rs 50,000 for those who ensured compliance by June 30. The stock exchanges are soon expected to make public the names of the entities who have

India (OIL), and Bharat Electronics (BEL) among others.

*The Financial Express - 07.07.2015*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/companies/govt-initiates-stake-sale-in-8-psus-cpse-etf-looks-to-mop-up-r18000-19000-cr-2/96108/>

### **States directed to ensure social security benefits for outsourced staff**

Union Minister for Labour and Employment Bandaru Dattatreya has urged to all the Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors to ensure compliance regarding social security coverage of outsourced staff working in the Government departments, Public Sector Undertakings, State Cooperatives and other bodies. He directed States to convene a meeting of all the Departments and other Public Sector Institutions to ensure that every employee gets social security benefits. The State administration may associate Additional Central Provident Fund Commissioner-in-charge of the State in this regard, the Minister added. In a letter addressed to all the CMs and LGs, the Minister said National Human Rights Commission was also monitoring the implementation as social security is considered as a human right of an individual. It has been observed that various Departments, PSUs, State Cooperatives and other State run bodies are increasingly employing a large number of staff on outsourcing basis. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has reported that a significant number of such employees are not getting any social security benefits.

*The Hindu Business Line - 08.07.2015*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/states-directed-to-ensure-social-security-benefits-for-outsourced-staff/article7395736.ece>

### **Woman director appointment: NSE slaps notices on 80 entities**

On the heels of SEBI nudging the Government to appoint woman director in all public sector entities, the National stock exchange has pulled up the non-compliant listed companies. The country's largest bourse has so far slapped penalty notices on about 80 listed entities for non-compliance with the woman director norm, sources said. These 80 listed entities include about 40 public sector enterprises and public sector banks controlled by the Central Government, it is learnt. SEBI had in September 2014 made the provision of appointment of woman director on the board mandatory with effect from April 1, 2015. NSE is wielding the

been penalised in this regard. The penalties would increase further for the companies which remain in default for longer period. The Sebi rules also require all listed companies to have at least one-third members of their respective boards to be independent directors.

*Money Control - 09.07.2015*

[http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/market-news/sebi-asks-govt-to-appoint-women-directorspsu-boards\\_1867501.html](http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/market-news/sebi-asks-govt-to-appoint-women-directorspsu-boards_1867501.html)

### **Centre may dilute role of chief vigilance officers in public cos**

The role of chief vigilance officers in public sector enterprises could be downgraded soon. The government has begun an exercise to revamp the role of these vigilance officers in the state-run units and has accordingly asked for feedback from the companies. The proposals on the table include clubbing the office of vigilance officers for more than one company and modifying their position in the organisational hierarchy. As of now chief vigilance officers in public sector units report directly to the chief executives since 1999, but the department of personnel and training has asked if this too needs to change. "Whether the post of CVOs is required to continue with the current posts or wishes to upgrade/downgrade or to abolish the posts in view of the workload and requirement of vigilance related matters," an office memorandum issued by the department to the state run companies notes.

*The Indian Express - 08.07.2015*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/busine-ss-others/centre-may-dilute-role-of-chief-vigilance-officers-in-public-cos/>

### **Leather, Textile Exports Likely to Face Fallout of Greece crisis**

Minister of State for Finance, Jayant Sinha on Saturday reiterated the Union government's stance from a possible Greece fallout with the possibility of some volatility in the capital markets in India with marginal impact on the country's economy as a whole. Speaking to Express, Sinha however qualified his statement saying that sectors with high exposure to the European market "will see an impact". Tamil Nadu's vital export industries - Leather and Textiles - fall into this category with the European Union being one of the largest export markets, and any decline in the strength of the Euro will likely see an already unfavourable situation worsen. "If there is indeed an exit from the EU by Greece, as far as India is concerned, we will have to deal with some volatility in the capital market. And certain industries with exports that are quite significant to

stick on the non-compliant entities after SEBI last month took up the matter with the Government regarding filling up posts of woman directors in central public sector enterprises. SEBI is of the view that there should not be any exemptions for CPSEs when it comes to compliance with norms for listed companies.

*The Hindu Business Line - 13.07.2015*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/woman-director-appointment-nse-slaps-notices-on-80-entities/article7413695.ece>

### **Weary, wary of RTI regulars, PSUs drawing up list to block them**

Central public sector companies are trying to identify people who repeatedly use the Right to Information (RT) route to ferret out information from them. Companies are trawling their records about such people and will match data to draw up a checklist. And they plan to use this list to block such requests. The companies claim they have the right to do this, since repeated information sought from them can be pieced together by rivals as price sensitive data. They say this allows rivals in the private sector, even competitors abroad, to draw up strategies to checkmate them. The agency helping them is their umbrella lobby organisation, Standing Committee on Public Enterprises or Scope. U D Choubey, Director General of Scope, said habitual seekers of "irrelevant clarifications" under RTI are affecting the productivity of public sector enterprises.

*The Indian Express - 12.07.2015*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/weary-wary-of-rti-regulars-psus-drawing-up-list-to-block-them/>

### **Crude oil prices down in Asia as Iran deal looms**

Oil prices fell in Asia today as Iran and major western powers said they were closer than ever to a landmark nuclear deal that would lift sanctions and see Tehran's crude exports return to global markets. A forecast by the International Energy Agency (IEA) for slower world oil demand next year was also weighing on the market, analysts said. US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for August delivery was down 86 cents to USD 51.88 and Brent crude tumbled 96 cents to USD 57.77 a barrel in late-morning trade. "We have come a long way. We need to reach a peak and we're very close," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said in Tehran yesterday. "I hope we are finally entering the final phase of these marathon negotiations. I believe it," said French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, who cancelled a trip to Africa to stay at

Europe will be affected," Sinha said. The Eurozone constitutes almost 48 per cent of the Indian textile export market and constitutes 60 per cent of the leather export market. According to industry experts, until recently the online travel agents (OTAs) were largely into flight and train bookings, car rentals and hotel bookings.

*The New Indian Express - 12.07.2015*

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/Leather-Textile-Exports-Likely-to-Face-Fallout-of-Greece-crisis/2015/07/12/article2915548.ece>

### **Indian crude oil basket at 3-month low**

The Indian basket of crude oil prices has fallen to \$56.01 a barrel, its lowest in three months, due to continued concerns over the Greek debt crisis and China's accelerating stock market plunge. The Greek crisis has strengthened the dollar against other currencies, making oil more expensive for non-US buyers. China is the world's second largest consumer of crude oil. Tuesday's extension of talks on Iran's disputed nuclear programme to Friday helped the bearish sentiment. A deal would lead to the lifting of sanctions on Iran's oil exports, allowing the country to sell more crude into an already-oversupplied global market. The Indian basket of crude oil represents the average price of Oman and Dubai sour grade crude and the sweet Brent crude, processed in Indian refineries in the ratio of 72:28. It settled at \$56.01 a barrel on Tuesday, the petroleum ministry said, the lowest since April 10, when global crude rates began recovering from historic lows. Crude oil for August delivery has fallen by 12 per cent so far in July on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for August delivery was trading at \$57.21 a barrel, up 0.6 per cent at London's ICE Futures exchange on Wednesday.

*Business Standard - 08.07.2015*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/indian-crude-oil-basket-at-3-month-low-115070800896\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/indian-crude-oil-basket-at-3-month-low-115070800896_1.html)

### **Tourism has potential to become backbone of Indian economy: Dr Mahesh Sharma**

The Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge), Culture (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation, Dr Mahesh Sharma has said that tourism has the potential to become the backbone of the economy of the country since it is a means to earn foreign exchange, generate employment and create women empowerment. Speaking at the interactive session and the press conference of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) in New Delhi yesterday, he added that the world has become a global village and tourism is a powerful tool to connect our country to the rest of the

the talks in Vienna. Any deal to curb what the West suspects as Iranian efforts to build an atomic bomb will result in the lifting of punishing economic sanctions, allowing the country to resume oil exports. More Iranian oil however will add to a supply glut, which has depressed prices.

*The Hindu Business Line - 13.07.2015*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/crude-oil-prices-update/article7416390.ece>

### **Ruias plan to delist Essar Oil & sell 49% to Rosneft for \$3.2 bn**

The Ruias are planning to delist Essar Oil from the Indian stock markets before selling a 49 per cent stake in the company to Russian oil giant Rosneft for \$3.2 billion (Rs 20,480 crore). Lawyers said the delisting offer price for Essar Oil would have to be closer to Rosneft's valuation of the company or it would lead to a revolt by minority shareholders. "Minority shareholders may not tender shares at a lower valuation if they are aware the company's shares will be sold at a higher price later," said R S Loona, managing partner at Alliance Corporate Lawyers. The Securities and Exchange Board of India withheld Essar Oil's delisting offer last November without assigning a reason. Essar Oil's shareholders had approved the delisting last August. The Ruias hold 90 per cent of Essar Oil's equity. Essar Oil and Rosneft did not comment on how much stake the Ruias would offload after the deal or whether the company would issue fresh shares.

*Business Standard - 10.07.2015*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ruias-plan-to-delist-essar-oil-sell-49-to-rosneft-for-3-2-bn-115071000015\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ruias-plan-to-delist-essar-oil-sell-49-to-rosneft-for-3-2-bn-115071000015_1.html)

### **Travel firms gobble up start-ups to stay on top**

You need not open separate browser windows while for booking tickets and planning the dream holiday you are looking to take shortly. Your usual travel, hotel and car bookings site may be offering an elaborate list of innovative travel solutions you won't even have thought of. As more and more start-ups enter the travel space, the existing big players are gobbling them up or forging partnerships to increase consumer reach and stave off competition. Last month, travel meta-search engine Sky scanner entered into a partnership with travel planner TripHobo to allow users to compare prices of hotels, flight

world. Appreciating the role played by private stakeholders like IATO in promoting tourism in the country, Sharma said that the participation of the private sector should be explored to the maximum possible extent to promote tourism and to meet tourism related targets. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has been playing the role of brand ambassador and promoting India before the world.

*Express Travel World - 09.07.2015*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/travel/la-test-updates-travel/tourism-has-potential-to-become-backbone-of-indian-economy-dr-mahesh-sharma/98055/>

### **Indian Association of Tour Operators asks for cap on maximum air fares for domestic flights**

Pitching for capping of maximum air fares for domestic flights, a tourist operators body, IATO today said that the airlines should not be allowed to charge ticket prices beyond a limit. "The Government must fix an upper limit for domestic air fares. We don't say that they should charge less or equal to their direct operating cost. But the fares should also be not beyond the reach of a common man," Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) president Subhash Goyal said here at a function to announce the dates for the 31st IATO Convention at Indore. Alleging cartelisation by the airlines on this issue, he said that the government needs to check this trend. "A large number of flyers also comprise emergency travellers and they are forced to shell out huge money for last minute travel, especially in the peak seasons. They suffer a lot because of the high fares," he said.

*The Economic Times - 08.07.2015*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/indian-association-of-tour-operators-asks-for-cap-on-maximum-air-fares-for-domestic-flights/articleshow/47989650.cms>

### **Domestic airfares fall with AirAsia and Vistara entry**

Generous deals in domestic airfares are back, this time because of capacity addition by Vistara and AirAsia India and a fall in oil prices, according to analysts. Analysis in key domestic sectors shows decrease is higher in sectors where two new entrants— Vistara and AirAsia India—have added flights, with existing carriers following suit. According to Yatra.com, India's second-largest travel portal, the average domestic fare has come down by about 19% from a year ago. The fall is higher on routes where the two new carriers have

and car rentals along with planning their trips and itineraries on the platform. In April this year, MakeMyTrip acquired travel-guide portal Mygola to help customers plan their trips on their website along with booking tickets. According to industry experts, until recently the online travel agents (OTAs) were largely into flight and train bookings, car rentals and hotel bookings. With start-up acquisitions and tie-ups is allowing them to offer more services and tap more consumers online.

*DNA - 13.07.2015*

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-travel-firms-gobble-up-start-ups-to-stay-on-top-2104043>

### **Globetrotting Modi, e-visas boost tourism**

Narendra Modi has given Indian tourism a booster shot. The PM's record number of international jaunts and ease with selfies, besides other proactive measures, have given a fillip to the tourism industry. Modi's foreign trips — some of them the first ever for an Indian leader — have generated or renewed Indian travellers' interest in the locations he visits. Besides, the PM's push to improve tourist destinations within the country and rolling out e-visas to visitors from more nations has helped boost in-bound arrivals as well. "Travellers are now more confident of visiting places that Modi has visited, such as China, Bhutan and Australia," said Rakshit Desai, India MD, FCM Travel Solutions. With Indians emerging as big globetrotters and spenders on overseas travel, industry pundits estimate that the number of Indians travelling abroad will touch 50 million by 2020 and their spending will cross \$28 billion by then, up from 15 million and \$15 billion in 2013.

*The Times of India - 07.07.2015*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Globetrotting-Modi-e-visas-boost-tourism/articleshow/47966600.cms>

### **Passengers will lose more on air ticket cancellation**

Aviation regulator DGCA is looking into the steep hike in ticket cancellation charges by airlines even as the flyers lobby, Air Passengers Association of India (APAI), said it would approach the anti-competition watchdog on the issue, alleging cartelisation. Three domestic carrier - IndiGo, Jet Airways and SpiceJet have unilaterally revised upward their ticket cancellation fee in the recent past. "We are looking into the hike in ticket cancellation charges by the airlines," DGCA sources said.

started operations. Some analysts said the decline in prices could be on the back of capacity addition, as airlines in India have not reduced fuel surcharge. "The airlines have not reduced fuel surcharge even after the decline in oil prices. Drop in fares, if any, is more limited to specific sectors, depending on the capacity and also loads," said Ajay Prakash, former president of Travel Agents' Federation of India.

*The Economic Times - 13.07.2015*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/domestic-airfares-fall-with-airasia-and-vistara-entry/articleshow/48046936.cms>

### **SpiceJet launches paid extra luggage carrying feature**

SpiceJet on Thursday announced it has launched a new paid extra cabin luggage carrying feature, 'Carry More Onboard', in flights for passengers exceeding luggage beyond the freely allowed 7 kg limit. Passengers can carry bags weighing up to 12 kg on-board, for a fee of Rs.250 per kg for each kg above 7 kg. This product is an option for those passengers who have heavier than 7 kg cabin baggage, SpiceJet said in a statement. It is especially designed for those travellers who have no check-in luggage and do not want to be forced to check in their cabin baggage and then wait for it at baggage claim, the airline added. "Until now, passengers who had heavier than 7 kg carry-on bags were forced to check them in, which benefited neither them nor us. Many of our passengers, especially corporate travellers, told us they would be willing to pay a small fee for the option of carrying slightly heavier bags onboard," said SpiceJet COO Sanjiv Kapoor. However, SpiceJet's existing 7 kg free cabin baggage has remained unchanged.

*Sarkaritel.com - 10.07.2015*

<http://www.sarkaritel.com/spicejet-launches-paid-extra-luggage-carrying-feature-192028/>

### **Cargo handlers may get to opt for market-driven pricing regime**

A shipping ministry-commissioned study by a global consulting firm has suggested a roadmap to migrate existing cargo handlers to a market-driven pricing regime, giving much-needed clarity to the government on how to move forward with the plan without courting controversy. The study by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd has suggested that the most suitable option for the government would be to go for re-bidding of the projects for the market to determine suitable revenue share that can be expected from the

"Cancellation charges, in any case, should not be more than the ticket prices and so the airlines should keep these charges within those limits," they said adding that the airlines need to rationalise such charges. Budget carrier SpiceJet yesterday raised ticket cancellation charges for both domestic as well as international travel. According to the revised fee, airlines would now deduct Rs 1,800 as cancellation fee for a domestic ticket and Rs. 2250 for calling off an international booking.

*Hans India - 06.07.2015*

<http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/2015-07-06/Passengers-will-lose-more-on-air-ticket-cancellation-161630>

### **Hurry, Limited Offer: Book flight ticket, this airline lowers fares by 50%**

Another airline has jumped into the fare-war. While SpiceJet, Jet Airways, AirAsia, IndiGo have been offering discounts in domestic flight tickets, Tigerair announced an interesting offer on its international flight tickets. Tigerair on Tuesday, July 8 lowered its fares by half for a limited period on its Singapore-bound flights from five Indian cities to celebrate the golden jubilee of Singapore's independence and completion of 50 years of bilateral ties. Singapore Airlines holds majority stake in Tigerair, which recently has joined hands with Singapore Tourism Board (STB) to celebrate the twin occasions. According to a press release, Tigerair offers an all-inclusive one-way fare starting at Rs 3,799 for a journey from Chennai while all-inclusive return fare to Singapore will be Rs 7,999, the airline said. These fares, however, varies from city-to-city, depending upon the distance, with the maximum fares under the promotion offer pegged at Rs 5,499 for a Bengaluru-Singapore journey.

*One India - 08.07.2015*

<http://www.oneindia.com/india/hurry-limited-offer-book-flight-ticket-tigerair-lowers-fares-by-50-percent-1800363.html>

### **Free trade warehousing zone, logistic park to come up in city**

City-based Sravan Group, which clocked a turnover of Rs.72 crore during 2014-15, has decided to develop a world-class logistic park and free trade warehousing zone in Visakhapatnam. The logistic park and free trade warehousing zone will be developed keeping in view the efforts to make Visakhapatnam a container hub. "We have decided to make the park and zone operational by 2017 in the city limits," Sravan Group Managing Director G. Sambasiva Rao told The Hindu. The group has

respective projects in a deregulated scenario. The Deloitte study comes at a time when the ministry and the port industry are discussing a potential migration of 16 existing port contracts, some operating from as far back as 1997, from a regulated set-up to a market-driven pricing regime. First, Deloitte says migration should be optional. If the existing terminal operator opts to migrate, the existing revenue share or royalty per container or per tonne of cargo, as the case may be, paid by the private developer to the government-owned port, will be the reserve price for the re-bidding process.

*Mint - 13.07.2015*

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/5X4N77amxuEZfHBzzyES1O/Cargo-handlers-may-get-to-opt-for-market-driven-pricing-regi.html>

### **India's plan to relax cabotage gathers speed**

After months of deliberations, India's shipping ministry has prepared a policy draft that seeks to allow foreign ships to operate along the country's coast—a business that is reserved for Indian-registered ships—following demands from stakeholders such as container shipping lines, terminal operators and state governments. The stakeholders argued that easing the so-called cabotage rule was imperative for the development of coastal shipping and to cut dependence on neighbouring hub ports such as Colombo, Singapore and Dubai to send and receive cargo shipped in steel containers, thus saving time and costs for India's exporters and importers. Cabotage refers to the carriage of goods between two ports in one country by ships registered in that country or so-called national flag ships. But, instead of an omnibus relaxation of the rule, the shipping ministry has proposed selective easing by allowing foreign container carriers to carry export-import (EXIM) containers and empty containers on India's eastern coast between Kolkata and Chennai ports for a three-year period.

*Mint - 10.07.2015*

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/nCYEbWFg9I9oMrZdQs1IeK/Indias-plan-to-relax-cabotage-gathers-speed.html>

set a target to increase its turnover to Rs.90 crore during the current fiscal. The group will also develop a CFS in 100 acres in Pedagantyada mandal for which civil work has already been launched. It will have empty yard, repair yard, warehousing and customs bonding facility for export and import cargo. "We will also develop cold storage facility to explore import of apples and sugar-free chocolates from the United States and Switzerland.

*The Hindu - 10.07.2015*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/free-trade-warehousing-zone-logistic-park-to-come-up-in-city/article7405560.ece?ref=tpnews>

### **Report highlights complexities in port tariff deregulation**

The complexities involved in deregulating rates at 11 of the 12 ports owned by the government has been revealed in a shipping ministry-mandated study by consultant Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd that, while backing a port industry call for market-based pricing of port services, said the process would have the unintended consequence of the government or a competent authority nominated by it setting rates even after the relevant law is amended. "Deregulation of tariff determination would enhance competition, performance improvement and business orientation in the sector and would also encourage investors, and thus the government may move towards market-based tariff determination. For the purpose of internal functioning of the government, it may issue an internal guideline/framework for enabling port trusts to determine port dues," according to the Deloitte study.

*Mint - 11.07.2015*

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/RPwObjjeBGG0AnJcRzT52L/Report-highlights-complexities-in-port-tariff-deregulation.html>