

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

Balmer Lawrie in News

Observance of National Safety Week at Balmer Lawrie

KOLKATA : The 46th National Safety Week was observed from 04 to 10 March, 2017 at all the units and establishments of Balmer Lawrie. The observance of the week commenced with employees taking the safety pledge followed by C&MD's Message. A series of events like spot the hazard, quiz, extempore, safety skit, essay and slogan writing, were organized for the employees. A training on Defensive Driving was also conducted for Balmer Lawrie officials at the Corporate Office by Hubert Ebner (India) Pvt. Ltd.



The company achieved zero Lost Time Injury (LTI) during 2016-17 across all the manufacturing and service businesses which is a significant milestone in the history of the company. To take the

safety journey forward, the 10 Golden Safety Rules adopted by the company were inaugurated during the closing ceremony of the Safety Week by Shri S SKhuntia, Director (Finance).

The Morning
India –
17.03.2017

Jansatta -17.03.2017

बॉमर लॉरी में राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सप्ताह

कोलकाता, 16 मार्च (जनसत्ता)।

बॉमर लॉरी की सभी इकाइयों में बीते दिनों 46 वां राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सप्ताह मनाया गया। यह जानकारी संस्था की ओर से जारी एक प्रेस विज्ञापन में दी गई। विज्ञापन में बताया गया कि सीएडएमडी के संदेश के बाद सभी कर्मचारियों और अधिकारियों ने सुरक्षा की शपथ ग्रहण की। कंपनी के कॉर्पोरेट दफ्तर में सुरक्षित ड्राइविंग के लिए प्रशिक्षण का भी आयोजन किया गया। सूत्रों ने बताया कि वर्ष 2016-17 के दौरान सभी उत्पादक और सेवा प्रतिष्ठानों में शत प्रतिशत काम हुआ और जीरो टाइम लास्ट इंजरी (एलटीआइ) दर्ज की गई। यह कंपनी के इतिहास में एक रिकार्ड है। निदेशक (वित्त) एस सुकांत ने समापन समारोह में 10 गोल्डन सेफ्टी सुरक्षा नियम के पालन पर जोर दिया।

Prabhat Khabar – 17.03.2017

बामर लॉरी में सुरक्षा सप्ताह

कोलकाता. बामर लॉरी में 46वां राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सप्ताह का आयोजन किया गया. कर्मचारियों ने सुरक्षा की शपथ ली और उसके बाद कंपनी के चेयरमैन व प्रबंध निदेशक ने अपना संदेश दिया. कार्यक्रम के दौरान विभिन्न प्रकार के क्विज, सेफ्टी स्किट, लेख व स्लोगन लेख जैसे कार्यक्रम आयोजित किये गये. हुबर्ट एबनर (इंडिया) प्राइवेट लिमिटेड की ओर से कंपनियों के अधिकारियों को डिफेंस ड्राइविंग के बारे में प्रशिक्षण दिया गया. 2016-17 के दौरान कंपनी की सभी उत्पादन व सर्विस यूनिट में ज़िरो लोस्ट टाइम इंज्युरी (एलटीआइ) की उपलब्धि हासिल की है. समापन समारोह के दौरान कंपनी के निदेशक (वित्त) केके खूंतिया ने 10 गोल्डन सेफ्टी रूल्स का अपनाने की घोषणा की.

Awamin News –
17.03.2017



Aajkaal – 18.03.2017

নিরাপত্তা সপ্তাহ বামার লরিতে

আজকালের প্রতিবেদন

জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা সপ্তাহ পালন করল বামার লরি। প্রতিষ্ঠানের সব অফিসে। সংস্থার কর্মীদের এ ব্যাপারে আরও সচেতন করা হয়। সে জন্য নানা প্রতিযোগিতার আয়োজন করা হয়েছিল। এর মধ্যে ছিল কুইজ, তাৎক্ষণিক বক্তৃতা, প্রবন্ধ, শ্লোগান লেখা। নিরাপত্তা সপ্তাহ পালন উপলক্ষে কলকাতার অফিসে সংস্থার অধিকর্তা (অর্থ) এস এস খুন্সিয়া 'নিরাপদ থাকার ১০টি সোনালা নিয়ম'-এর উদ্বোধন করেন। ২০১৬-১৭ সালে কোনও কর্মী হওয়ার ফলে (লস্ট টাইম ইনজুরি) সংস্থার উৎপাদনে প্রভাব শূন্যতে নামিয়ে আনা গেছে।

Sanmarg – 18.03.2017

बामर लॉरी में राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सप्ताह

कोलकाता: बामर लॉरी एंड कंपनी लि. के सभी यूनिटों व प्रतिष्ठानों में 46 वां राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सप्ताह का पालन 4-10 मार्च तक किया गया। इस अवसर पर चैयरमैन व प्रबंध निदेशक के संदेश के साथ कर्मचारियों ने सुरक्षा की शपथ ली। समापन समारोह में कोलकाता स्थित कार्पोरेट कार्यालय में निदेशक (वित्त) एसएस खुन्सिया ने सुरक्षा यात्रा को जारी रखने की दिशा में सुरक्षा के 10 गोल्डन रूल्स की शुरुआत की। वर्ष 2016-17 के दौरान कंपनी में 'जीरो लॉस्ट टाइम इंजुरी' दर्ज हुई जो कंपनी के इतिहास में महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है। सुरक्षा सप्ताह के दौरान कर्मचारियों के लिए क्विज, लेख, नारा लिखो प्रतियोगिता आदि का आयोजन किया गया।

Modi magic mesmerises market

Both the stock and currency markets touched new levels during the day's trade - the Nifty touched a record high, and the Sensex and the rupee ended the day at the highest level in almost two years. The victory by Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party in India's most populous state, announced on Saturday, strengthens his claim to a second term in national elections in 2019. It also reignites investors' faith in him after a radical decision to scrap high-value banknotes in November raised deep concerns about economic growth. The Nifty's record high of 9122.75 points on Tuesday, the first trading session since the results were announced, surpassed its previous peak of 9119.20 on March 4, 2015. The 50-share index opened higher at 9091.65, hit a high of 9122.75, and closed at 9087, marking a gain of 1.71 per cent or 152.45 points. The finish surpassed its previous record of 8996.25 on March 3, 2015. On the BSE, the Sensex opened higher at 29437.23 and hit an intra-day peak of 29561.93 to settle up 496.40 points, or 1.71 per cent, at 29442.63 - a level last seen on March 5, 2015.

The Telegraph - 15.03.2017

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170315/jsp/business/story_140666.jsp#.WMu2oYF97IU

Strong Indian economy, strong rupee

The Indian rupee hit a 16-month high against the US dollar on Wednesday, ahead of the US Federal Reserve's decision on interest rates. The chart compares the rupee-dollar exchange rate with the broad nominal trade weighted US Dollar Index, taken from the Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, Missouri. This broad currency index includes the euro area, Canada, Japan, Mexico, China, the UK, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Brazil, Switzerland, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia, India, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Sweden, Argentina, Venezuela, Chile and Colombia. The chart, therefore, shows how the USD-INR has performed versus a broad basket of currencies. The chart shows two things: one, the sharp fall in the value of rupee last December—that is as it should be, because the strength of the broad Dollar Index should mean a weaker rupee. But then there was a sharp recovery in rupee on the basis of a slightly weaker dollar. And very recently, rupee has strengthened in spite of a stronger broad Dollar Index.

Mint - 15.03.2017

<http://www.livemint.com/Money/LwpUFKI30aAib8hIAg6wQM/Strong-Indian-economy-strong-rupee.html>

Indian economy to pick up once impact of note ban fades: IMF

India's economic growth is expected to pick up once the effects of cash shortages linked to the currency exchange initiative fade, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8 had announced scrapping of old Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes, pulling out 86 per cent of the total currency in circulation. Noting that India's fiscal deficit is expected to continue narrowing in the near-term, the IMF in its note titled 'Global Prospects and Policy Challenges' said, "Further subsidy reduction and tax reforms, including a robust design and full implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), are necessary to attain medium-term fiscal consolidation plans." It further observed that in some emerging economies like China and India reducing excessive corporate leverage and improving bank's balance sheets or adopting more prudent risk-management practices, including to reduce currency and maturity balance sheet mismatches, will help reduce vulnerabilities to global financial conditions, possible capital outflows, and sharp currency movements.

The Economic Times - 15.03.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indian-economy-to-pick-up-once-impact-of-note-ban-fades-imf/articleshow/57655845.cms>

July 1 date with GST looks set as council clears all bills

The GST Council on Thursday paved the way for rolling out the new tax regime from July, clearing all legislations required for one of the most ambitious reform measures since Independence. The council, which met in the national capital, approved the state GST (SGST) and the union territory GST (UTGST) bills. The bills will now have to be cleared by Parliament and state assemblies. "We will try and do that expeditiously," finance minister Arun Jaitley said after Thursday's meeting of the council, which has representatives from all states. Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia said a July rollout now looked feasible. The GST Council has approved rules and regulations on registration, payments, refund, invoice and returns, but these may require minor corrections, Jaitley said. The council will meet again on March 31 to approve regulations on composition, valuation, input tax credit and transitions. The government is expected to seek cabinet approval for the central GST (CGST), integrated GST (IGST), UTGST and compensation bills next week and hopes to get it approved by Parliament in the ongoing Budget session.

The Times of India - 17.03.2017

Exports in fine form

Exports posted a double-digit growth of 17.48 per cent in February, fuelling hopes of achieving the target of \$270 billion this fiscal. Continuing its positive growth for six months in a row, exports stood at \$24.49 billion in February compared with \$22.11 billion in January, according to commerce ministry data. The trade deficit widened to \$8.89 billion in February as imports expanded 21.76 per cent to \$33.38 billion. The trade deficit stood at \$9.84 billion in January and \$6.57 billion in February last year. Aditi Nayar, principal economist with Icria, said, "The surge in trade deficit in February 2017 relative to February 2016 was led by the expansion in oil and gold imports, which neutralised the impact of the surprisingly steep increase in engineering exports." "Non-oil merchandise exports expanded a high of 16.5 per cent, boosted by a 47.3 per cent surge in the export of engineering goods. The sustainability of this trend will crucially affect the outlook for export growth in the coming months," she added.

The Telegraph - 16.03.2017

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170316/jsp/business/story_140821.jsp#.WMu6q4F97IU

Sick PSU units must get reasonable revival chances: Parliamentary panel

A Parliamentary panel has suggested the government to tread with caution in strategic divestment and shutting down sick public sector units and also asked it to provide reasonable and financially prudent chances for their revival. In its report, the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry said it is always prudent to keep in mind that Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are also meant to serve certain larger social causes. Citing example of the 100 per cent disinvestment of Hindustan Newsprint Ltd (HNL), it said the decision was taken despite the dissent of the Department of Heavy Industries. "Taking this case as a cue, the committee recommends that the Niti Aayog shall be asked to take a more holistic view in case of decisions regarding CPSEs that may be perceived to have a chance of progressing well with a little help. "This is based on the considered opinion of the committee that CPSEs are still relevant and they may be allowed reasonable and financially prudent chances to revive and restructure," the report said.

The Economic Times - 17.03.2017

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/july-1-date-with-gst-looks-set-as-council-clears-all-bills/articleshow/57679268.cms>

Policy pill for crude output

The country aims to double its crude oil production to 155 million tonnes with the new oil and gas exploration policy. The increase in output will help to meet the surge in domestic demand with India seen to surpass China as the largest consumer by 2022. The Open Acreage Licensing Policy will give companies pricing and marketing freedom as well as give them the flexibility to carve out their areas for exploration. The new policy is part of the strategy to make India an investor-friendly destination and achieve the target of doubling oil production to 150-155 million tonnes by 2022 from 80 million tonnes at present, petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said. India's demand for oil will outpace China by 2022. The country overtook Japan as the world's third-largest crude oil consumer in 2016 behind the US and China, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has said in a report. As China moves away from an infrastructure-led growth strategy to services and a consumer-led development structure over the next decade, its energy demand is expected to take a backseat.

The Telegraph - 14.03.2017

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170314/jsp/business/story_140463.jsp#.WMqDkIF97IV

Iran leapfrogs Iraq as India's 2nd oil supplier in February: Trade data

India's oil imports from Iran rose nearly 17 per cent in February from a month earlier as refiners received less crude from key Opec producers Saudi Arabia and Iraq after an Opec deal to cut output, shipping data showed on Monday. The jump meant Iran replaced regional rival Iraq as India's second-biggest oil supplier - a role Tehran used to occupy before Western sanctions were imposed against it over the country's disputed nuclear programme. While Saudi Arabia remained the biggest oil supplier to India, ship tracking data and a report compiled by Thomson Reuters Oil Research and Forecasts showed imports from Iran rose to 647,000 barrels per day (bpd) in February. That was 16.7 per cent more than January, and almost trebled from February 2016. The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) pledged to curb production by about 1.2 million bpd from Jan 1, the first cut in eight years, in a move designed to boost prices and drain a supply glut. Iran, Libya and Nigeria were, however, granted exemptions from the deal.

Business Standard - 13.03.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/sick-psu-units-must-get-reasonable-revival-chances-parliamentary-panel/articleshow/57675791.cms>

ONGC, HPCL merger talks at ministerial level

State-owned oil major ONGC has said the preliminary discussion for its acquisition of India's third-biggest fuel retailer HPCL has started and is going on at the ministerial level. "The talks are going on at ministerial level. We have not discussed it at the ONGC board. The petroleum ministry wants this to happen because if integration takes place, there will be value creation," ONGC Director (onshore) Ved Prakash Mahawar told PTI here. Asked about reports on valuation of the deal between ONGC and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), he said, "These are only guesses. So far, no discussion has taken place at our board meeting." Mahawar stressed that merger and acquisitions are strategic decisions of the company and the talks for acquiring HPCL are at a preliminary stage at present. Asked specifically if any proposal has been prepared to discuss the issue by the ONGC Board, he said, "We have not talked about it yet."

The Hindu Business Line - 16.03.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/ongc-hpcl-merger-talks-at-ministerial-level/article9585169.ece>

India imports petrol, diesel from China

India has perhaps for the first time imported petrol and diesel from China as the world's third largest oil consumer looks at diversifying its sources of fuel. India imported 18,000 tonnes of petrol and 39,000 tonnes of diesel in the first nine months of the current fiscal, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha. Traditionally, Singapore and the UAE have been its biggest sources of petrol and diesel. "Although overall production of petrol and diesel is in excess of domestic consumption, due to specific product requirements, some quantity of petrol and diesel are imported," he said. Pradhan said India had not imported any petrol or diesel from China in last four years. During April-December 2016, India produced 27.1 million tonnes of petrol against a consumption of 17.96 million tonnes. In case of diesel, the production stood at 76.55 million tonnes in comparison to 57.24 million tonnes. India imported 8,20,000 tonnes of diesel and 4,76,000 tonnes of petrol in April-December, he said.

The Economic Times - 15.03.2017

http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/iran-leapfrogs-iraq-as-india-s-2nd-oil-supplier-in-february-trade-data-117031300263_1.html

IOC gets nod to cut stake in Lubrizol

Indian Oil Corporation would have access to the latest additive technology after diluting a 24 per cent stake in Lubrizol India Pvt Ltd to Lubrizol Corporation, USA for an undisclosed sum. The cabinet today gave its approval for the state-owned refiner to sell part of its stake in the company. IOC held 50 per cent stake in Lubrizol, prior to the selloff. "The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today gave its in-principle approval to permit IOC to sell a 24 per cent equity in one of its joint venture companies, Lubrizol India Private Limited (LIPL) to Lubrizol Corporation, USA (LC), the other joint venture partner," a government statement said. According to company officials, Lubrizol Corp - which will hold 76 per cent in Lubrizol India post IOC stake sale - is expected to bring the latest technology, which will benefit Indian Oil. "The sale will enable IOC to have long term association with its joint venture partner and ... Lubrizol India Pvt Ltd (LIPL) to have access to the latest global additive technologies developed by Lubrizol Corporation, USA," the statement said.

The Telegraph - 16.03.2017

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170316/jsp/business/story_140815.jsp#.WMu3IYF97IU

2nd round of oil field auction in 2017-18: Pradhan

Buoyed by the success of first round, the government plans to offer more discovered oil and gas fields of state-owned ONGC and OIL in the next auction during new fiscal beginning April 1, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said today. It is also looking at giving incentives for enhanced and improved oil recovery schemes to help reverse the declining trend in output from ageing fields. "We have just had a very successful round (of auction of) Discovered Small Fields (DSF). We are preparing ourselves for DSF-II and it will be launched very soon," he said at a workshop on EOR schemes. Talking to reporters later, he said the DSF-II will comprise of idling discoveries of Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd and the auction would be held sometime in 2017-18 fiscal. "They (ONGC and OIL) have to be accountable. Government had given them the fields on nomination basis but that doesn't mean you will hold these fields for ever," he said at the workshop.

DNA - 15.03.2017

<http://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/india-imports-petrol-diesel-from-china/57653127>

OilMin moves Cabinet to get RIL, ONGC pricing freedom

In a boost to firms like Reliance Industries and ONGC, the oil ministry has moved a proposal to the Cabinet for allowing pricing freedom for natural gas produced from coal seams. The ministry has proposed to the Cabinet that coal-bed methane (CBM) gas producers be given pricing freedom and allowed to price the fuel at market rates, sources privy to the development said. This will help operators quickly put in production the CBM blocks they hold and reverse the trend of investors relinquishing coal-seam blocks due to viability issues of current pricing. Of the 33 CBM bearing blocks awarded so far in four auction rounds and on a nomination basis, gas is being produced from only four. The proposal put to the Cabinet is for allowing CBM operators to sell the gas at market rate determined through an arms-length process, they said, adding that operators are also proposed to be allowed marketing freedom.

The Times of India - 14.03.2017

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/oilmin-moves-cabinet-to-get-ril-ongc-pricing-freedom/articleshow/57628997.cms>

Govt working on policy to incentivise enhanced oil recovery, says Pradhan

The government is considering a policy for promoting and incentivising Enhanced Oil Recovery techniques to increase crude oil production from domestic discoveries. Speaking at the workshop on Enhanced Oil Recovery conducted by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, "Fiscal incentive should not be the only reason for adopting EOR technologies, the government will come out with a policy for Enhanced Oil Recovery after consultations with the industry." Pradhan also said that these techniques will be instrumental in lowering India's crude oil dependence by 10 per cent by 2022. Industry representatives BusinessLine spoke to said that proposals before the government suggest a royalty and cess exemption on crude oil produced through EOR from off-shore discoveries.

The Hindu Business Line - 16.03.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/govt-working-on-policy-to->

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-2nd-round-of-oil-field-auction-in-2017-18-pradhan-2354037>

Castrol India Launches New Engine Oil For Cruiser Motorcycles

Indian oil and lubricants manufacturer Castrol has launched a new engine oil named as Castrol Power1 Cruise, specially designed for four-stroke cruiser/tourer motorcycles. In an official statement, the company informed that the motor oil is especially recommended for Cruiser motorcycles such as Royal Enfield, Bajaj and other motorcycles in the same segment. The Power Sustain Technology of Castrol Power1 Cruise keeps the heat and friction in check which leads to sustained power delivery, providing On-Demand Acceleration. The newly launched Castrol Power1 Cruise engine oil is suitable for all four stroke carburetted or fuel-injected motorcycles requiring SAE 15W-50 4T viscometric. The Castrol Power1 Cruise is the latest addition to the premium Castrol Power1 range which is used in racing bikes across the world including MotoGP. The Power1 Cruise engine oil is available in 2.5litre pack at an introductory price of Rs 999.

Drive Spark - 17.03.2017

<http://www.drivespark.com/two-wheelers/2017/castrol-india-launches-new-engine-oil-cruiser-motorcycles/slider-pf65051-021206.html>

Steel exports jump 78% in April-February: Minister

Steel exports have surged by 78 per cent in the April-February period of 2016-17 financial year, Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh said on Friday. The minister also said that there has been 39 per cent decline in imports of the alloy and there was a case for lifting of anti-dumping duty on steel products. The past three years have been quite challenging for the steel industry, Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh said and added that the government intervened strategically to provide policy and regulatory support from time to time which has given desired results. There has been "improvement in capacity utilisation to over 78 per cent, reduction in imports by 39 per cent and significant increase in exports by 78 per cent in the 11 months of current financial year," he said. At present, the steel industry in India is at a crucial juncture in its journey of growth, he said, adding that inter-ministerial consultation is going on for maximising use of Indian-made steel in key projects.

Millennium Post - 18.03.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/pradhan/article9585786.ece>

Steel prices to strengthen by ₹2,000/tonne in April

Steel prices are set to go up by ₹2,000 a tonne to ₹40,000 from April on the back of a revival in demand and rise in iron ore and coal prices. In fact, the prices have already risen by ₹300-500 a tonne in the past one week. Steel demand is picking up slowly after suffering for the last four months following the government decision to demonetise high-value currency as part of its fight against black money. Large steel-consuming sectors such as real estate and infrastructure were the worst affected as a major portion of their business is driven by cash transactions. However, the government's increased spending in social and infrastructure projects has pulled these sectors from the slump faster than expected. "We have already hiked prices by ₹300-500 a tonne in the last one week on rising demand and that will cover the rising cost.

The Hindu Business Line - 17.03.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/steel-prices-to-strengthen-by-2000tonne-in-april/article9589762.ece>

Travel cos: Brick & mortar stores reap profits

Online travel agency Musafir has decided to launch its first offline agency this year with the intention of having a hybrid model. With 14 stores in the GCC region, Musafir wants to emulate a similar model in the Indian market. The Mumbai-based travel agency felt that while it is easy to achieve scale in its online model, having a brick & mortar presence will assure profitability in the long run. Today, most online travel agencies are used for ticketing purposes but when it comes to booking holidays, which comprises the bulk of the travel business, it is offline agencies which continue to dominate. For instance, global travel management company FCM Travel Solutions entered the country with its brick & mortar stores under Flight Shop in 2014 by acquiring a local company. Today, it is mulling having an online presence but going offline has helped it get profitable for a couple of its stores. "When one looks at the travel industry, the established players with significant offline operations are profitable whereas the OTAs are yet to achieve break-even.

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/steel-exports-jump-78-in-april-february-minister-220459>

Domestic air passenger traffic in India rises 16% in February: DGCA

India's domestic air passenger traffic rose by 15.77 per cent in February, official data showed on Saturday. According to data furnished by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), domestic air passenger traffic had increased to 86.55 lakh from 74.76 lakh during the corresponding month last year. "Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-February 2017 were 182.34 lakh as against 151.31 lakh during the corresponding period of previous year thereby registering a growth of 20.51 per cent," the DGCA said in its statistical analysis. In January, the passenger traffic zoomed up by 25.13 per cent to 95.79 lakh. The data showed that low-cost carrier (LCC) SpiceJet had the highest passenger load factor (PLF) during the month under review at 93.7 per cent. In terms of PLF, SpiceJet was followed by budget passenger carriers GoAir at 90.9 per cent, AirAsia at 88.1 per cent and IndiGo at 87.7 per cent. According to the data, SpiceJet led the industry with 81.1 per cent punctuality rate at four major airports of Bengaluru, New Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

New Indian Express - 18.03.2017

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2017/mar/18/domestic-air-passenger-traffic-in-india-rises-16-in-february-dgca-1582892.html>

Aviation to become part of multi-modal logistics hubs: Nitin Gadkari

Aviation sector will now be a part of multi-modal logistics hubs in India to promote holistic logistics solutions, union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday. At present highways, ports, inland waterways and railways are part of the planned multi-modal logistics hubs in India. The new plan projects the logistics sector to grow to \$ 360 billion by 2032 from the present \$ 115 billion. "Integrated approach for logistics is the priority of the government. Airports will be part of multi-modal logistics hubs. Our government is setting up 400 regional airports and they will have pre-cooling cold storages among other logistics solutions," Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Minister Gadkari said here. Development of integrated logistics solutions will be part of the Prime Minister's Flagship 'Make in India' programme, he said at a curtain-raiser event on India's first Integrated Transport and Logistic Summit on May 3-5, 2017.

The New Indian Express - 15.03.2017

The Hindu Business Line - 14.03.2017

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/travel-cos-brick-mortar-stores-reap-profits/article9582291.ece>

Proposal to cap airfares

A parliamentary panel has asked the government to look at capping airfares and control the "artificially created exorbitant prices in the Gulf sector". The suggestion comes amid persisting concerns among certain quarters that airlines are levying high fares, especially during the festive season. The aviation ministry should consider fixing an upper limit for every sector, especially in the economy class of airfares, the panel has said. "We are a developing country and many of the pricing mechanisms applicable to the developed countries may not suit the Indian people and Indian conditions," it added. The parliamentary standing committee on transport, tourism and culture has made the recommendation in its report tabled in Parliament last week. The report is on the demand for grants (2017-18) of the civil aviation ministry. While there have been demands for capping airfares earlier as well, the ministry has been maintaining that air ticket prices are not controlled by it and depends on the market forces of demand and supply.

The Telegraph - 20.03.2017

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170320/jsp/business/story_141568.jsp#.WM-mzIF97IU

GST likely to reduce the demand for smaller warehouses

While the roll out of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime from July 1 is expected to bring in consolidation in the warehousing space, logistics players also feel it might do away with the need to have smaller warehouses in smaller cities. There will be requirement for fewer, but larger warehouses, they say. Demand for larger warehouses will go up. E-commerce, automotive, consumer electronics, pharmaceuticals, FMCG players will — post GST application — own or lease larger warehouses at prime locations such as Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, according to Apollo LogiSolutions. PSS Prasad, President, Apollo LogiSolutions, said owners and manufacturers with warehouses (owned or leased) in multiple States will own or lease large warehouses as per business requirements to avoid duplication of taxes.

The Hindu Business Line - 18.03.2017

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/aviation-to-become-part-of-multi-modal-logistics-hubs-nitin-gadkari-4570376/>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/gst-likely-to-reduce-the-demand-for-smaller-warehouses/article9589727.ece>