

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

Balmer Lawrie in News

The Telegraph – 08.02.2018

Balmer Lawrie celebrates 152nd Foundation Day



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1st February 2018. To mark this occasion a function was organised at Swabhumi, Kolkata on 4th February, which was attended by the Board of Directors, employees and their families. The function was inaugurated by Mr. Prabal Basu, C&MD, Balmer Lawrie. The programs included performances by the employees and their children. The highlight of the evening was a musical performance by "BL Melodies", a band formed by employees and a performance by the popular singer Jolly Mukherjee. As part of the celebrations, Talent Hunt, Rangoli, Photography and Sit and Draw contests were organized besides an inter-department Football Tournament, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from the employees.

Business Standard – 08.02.2018

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evening was a musical performance by "BL Melodies", a band formed by employees and a performance by the popular singer Jolly Mukherjee. As part of the celebrations, Talent Hunt, Rangoli, Photography and Sit and Draw contests were organized besides an inter-department Football Tournament, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from the employees. During the Foundation Day, the book "The Making of Next" capturing the last 25 years history of Balmer Lawrie was launched. The book has been penned down by two ex-Chairman & Managing Directors of Balmer Lawrie, Mr. Swapan Kumar Mukherjee and Mr. Viren Sinha.

BALMER LAWRIE CELEBRATES 152nd FOUNDATION DAY

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The Indian Express –
09.02.2018

बामर लॉरी ने 152वां स्थापना दिवस मनाया



कोलकाता: बामर लॉरी ने फरवरी के पहले दिन अपना 152वां स्थापना दिवस मनाया। इस अवसर पर स्वभूमि में बीते रविवार एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें बोर्ड निदेशक, कर्मचारी और उनके परिवार शामिल हुए। कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन बामर लॉरी के सी एंड एमडी प्रबल बासु ने

किया। कार्यक्रम में कर्मचारियों और उनके बच्चों ने प्रस्तुति दी। कर्मचारियों द्वारा बनाए बैंड बीएल मेलोडीज द्वारा संगीतमय प्रस्तुति और गायिका जॉली मुखर्जी की प्रस्तुति प्रमुख रहीं। टेलेंट हंट, रंगोली, फोटोग्राफी और बैटें व ड्रा करें जैसी प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन किया गया।

Sanmarg –
10.02.2018

बॉमर लॉरी ने मनाया 152वां स्थापना दिवस

कोलकाता, 7 फरवरी (जनसत्ता)।

बॉमर लॉरी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड ने बीते एक फरवरी को अपना 152वां स्थापना दिवस मनाया। इस मौके पर बीते चार फरवरी को महानगर के स्वभूमि में एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें कंपनी के बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्टर्स, कर्मचारी व उनके परिवार के सदस्य उपस्थित थे। कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन बॉमर लॉरी के चेयरमैन व प्रबंध निदेशक (सीएंडएमडी) प्रबल बासु ने किया। इस मौके पर कर्मचारियों द्वारा तैयार किए गए बैंड 'बीएल मेलोडीज' ने भी कार्यक्रम पेश किया, जिसमें मशहूर गायिका जॉली मुखर्जी ने अपनी प्रस्तुति दी। इसके अलावा प्रतिभा खोज, रंगोली, फोटोग्राफी व सित एंड ड्रा के अलावा इंटर-डिपार्टमेंट फुटबाल टूर्नामेंट का भी आयोजन किया गया। इसमें कर्मचारियों ने उत्साह से हिस्सा लिया। कार्यक्रम में 'द मेकिंग ऑफ नेक्स्ट' नामक पुस्तक का लोकार्पण किया गया, जिसमें बॉमर लॉरी के बीते 25 साल का इतिहास समाहित है। इस पुस्तक को कंपनी के दो पूर्व चेयरमैन व प्रबंध निदेशक स्वपन कुमार मुखर्जी व वीरेन सिन्हा ने लिखा है। यह जानकारी एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में दी गई।

Jansatta –
09.02.2018

New Orders Propel Services Sector Growth to 3-Mth High

A recovery in new orders propelled the services sector to its fastest growth in three months in January, a private survey showed on Monday. Job creation accelerated to the second strongest in more than six and a half years. The Nikkei/IHS Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 51.7 in January from 50.9 in December, above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction. "The recovery across India's service sector continued during January, with growth in output picking up to the joint strongest since June 2017 as underlying demand conditions improved," said Aashna Dodhia, economist at IHS Markit. The volume of new business received by India's services sector companies rose in January, after remaining unchanged in the previous month. The pace of expansion was the fastest since June last year, but below the trend level since the series began in December 2005. "That said, overall performance of the services sector remained weaker than long-run growth trend," Dodhia said. A sister survey last Thursday showed

Inflation Forecast Raises Scope of Rate Hike

The central bank's inflation forecast for the first half of FY19 is as high as 5.6%, pointing perhaps to a likely increase in interest rates if prices were to accelerate faster. "CPI inflation for 2018-19 is estimated in the range of 5.1-5.6% in H1, including diminishing statistical HRA impact of central government employees, and 4.5-4.6% in H2, with risks tilted to the upside," the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its policy statement on Wednesday. A number of factors are helping stoke inflation concerns. These include upside risks to fiscal slippage, the proposed increase in minimum support price (MSP) levels, rising crude oil costs and resurgent global growth. The central bank has expressed a 'need for vigilance' on inflation in the coming months. "If inflation exceeds... forecasts in a sustained manner, a rate increase toward the second half of 2018 may not be ruled out," said Aditi Nayar, principal economist at ratings firm Icmra. Turning to economic expansion, the RBI said that gross value added (GVA) for 2017-18 is projected at 6.6%, down

manufacturing PMI slowed to a three-month low in January.

The Economic Times - 06.02.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F02%2F06&entity=Ar01709&sk=E F218F2B&mode=text>

Public Infrastructure Assets May be Put on Sale Through InvIT Model

A big-bang sale of India's pipelines, railway tracks, power plants and transmission grids could be on the cards through Infrastructure Investment Funds (InvITs). The government hopes this will help company's monetise mature assets and raise funds for fresh investments that could be ploughed into upgrading the country's infrastructure. Finance minister Arun Jaitley's February 1 Budget suggested the use of InvITs to monetise roads by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), but the idea may be expanded to include other assets as well. First notified in 2014, the regulator simplified rules to encourage such investment vehicles last year. India has two listed private-sector InvITs. "Mature assets can be converted into trusts where investors can invest into trust units and the original asset holder gets the money back for making fresh investments," economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg told ET. Public sector companies can pool their assets through these InvITs to raise funds.

The Economic Times - 07.02.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F02%2F07&entity=Ar00806&sk=CA5078E2&mode=text>

Just 4 states cut VAT on petrol, diesel: Dharmendra Pradhan

Just 4 states and one union territory have cut local sales tax or VAT on petrol and diesel since the October 2017 decision of the Centre to reduce excise duty on the two fuels, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said today. As petrol and diesel prices soared to a three-year high, the Centre on October 3, 2017 reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2 per litre each and asked states governments to match it with a cut in VAT. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Pradhan said: "Four state governments and one Union territory have reduced the VAT on petrol and diesel." He did not name the states. BJP rules as many as 19 states in the country. The states which reduced VAT following the October 3, 2017 cut in excise duty were Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. The

from the 6.7% forecast made in its December policy statement. GVA growth for 2018-19 is projected higher at 7.2% overall--in the range of 7.3-7.4% in H1 and 7.1-7.2% in H2 -- with risks evenly balanced.

The Economic Times - 08.02.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F02%2F08&entity=Ar01205&sk=5D181C6F&mode=text>

India Inc spent ₹28k cr on CSR over 3 years

Companies have spent more than Rs 28,000 crore towards social welfare activities in nearly three years of corporate social responsibility (CSR) norms coming into force, latest official data showed. The requirement for certain class of profitable entities to spend a certain amount on CSR works came into effect from April 1, 2014 as part of the new Companies Act. An analysis of data compiled by the corporate affairs ministry showed that a total amount of Rs 28,112 crore has been spent on CSR activities by eligible companies during the period from April 1, 2014 to November 30, 2017. In the current fiscal till November 30, a total of Rs 4,719 crore was spent while the total money shelled out towards CSR works touched a high of Rs 13,828 crore in 2015-16.

The Times of India - 12.02.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2018%2F02%2F12&entity=Ar01306&sk=3F8B00B4&mode=text>

States not ready to put GST on petrol, diesel: FM

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Monday said states are not in favour of bringing petrol and diesel into the GST fold at the moment, indicating that the two auto fuels will see periodic adjustments as the Centre and the state governments keep tweaking tax rates. While GST was rolled out on July 1, real estate as well as crude oil, jet fuel or ATF, natural gas, diesel and petrol were kept out of its purview. This meant that the products continued to attract duties like central excise and VAT. "So far, the mood of states (most of the states) is not in favour of including it (in GST) at the moment. But I am sure as the GST experience moves on, natural gas, real estate — these are areas which are to be brought in and then probably at some stage we will keep trying for

excise duty cut announced on October 3, 2017 was the only time the BJP-led government at the Centre has cut excise duty. In contrast, the government had raised excise duty on nine occasions to take away benefits of sliding international oil prices between late 2014 and January 2016.

The Economic Times - 05.02.2018

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/just-4-states-cut-vat-on-petrol-diesel-dharmendra-pradhan/articleshow/62791588.cms>

Push for cut in crude price

India, the third largest oil consumer, will press for a reduction in global crude prices during meetings with Saudi Arabia and the US later this month. Saudi oil minister Khalid A Al-Falih will visit India on February 23-24, while US energy secretary Rick Perry will be here between February 28 and March 1. "We feel oil prices should be reduced," oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters here. Brent crude has lost around 8 per cent in value since it reached a 4-year high to above \$ 71 per barrel in late January. It was trading at \$ 65.37 on Thursday. Officials said the issue of Saudi Aramco picking up stakes in the West Coast Refinery would also be discussed during the visit of the Saudi minister. Saudi Aramco is exploring opportunities to invest in the refinery to expand its footprint in India. IOC is the lead partner for the refinery project with a 50 per cent stake, while HPCL and BPCL hold 25 per cent stake each. Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi on Thursday.

The Telegraph - 09.02.2018

<https://epaper.telegraphindia.com/detail/166448-164333542.html>

IOC, BPCL keen to buy GAIL India

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday said IOC and BPCL are both keen to acquire gas utility GAIL India Ltd, which as per the extant policy needs to be split by separating gas transportation business from its marketing unit. IOC and BPCL have separately indicated to the Petroleum Ministry their interest in taking over GAIL to add natural gas to their oil refining and marketing business. In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, Pradhan said Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in the 2017-18 Budget unveiled Government's plan to create integrated public sector oil majors "through consolidation, mergers and acquisitions" so as that the merged company has "capacity to bear higher risks, avail

petrol, diesel and potable alcohol," Jaitley said. At a post-Budget meeting organised by industry chamber Ficci, the minister also told industrialists that the corporate tax rate can be brought down to the promised 25% only after all the exemptions have been withdrawn.

The Times of India - 06.02.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2018%2F02%2F06&entity=Ar01302&sk=B755D035&mode=text>

Demand for Diesel, Petrol will Grow 3-fold by 2040, says Panel

Demand for diesel will rise threefold and petrol three-and-a-half times by 2040 in India, an official panel has forecast, allaying fears among industry executives that the push for renewables and electric vehicles (EVs) could dent oil demand. The official panel, constituted in mid-2016 and comprising petroleum and natural gas ministry officials and senior executives of state and private refiners, has finalised a report after studying different scenarios factoring in existing and potential technological and policy changes. The committee has considered three potential scenarios, namely 'trend', 'transition' and 'transformation', according to the report drafted by Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the ministry. The trend scenario or the 'business as usual case' captures the demand situation where coal, oil and natural gas remain the predominant fuel in the economy, with moderate efforts towards fuel switching.

The Economic Times - 07.02.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F02%2F07&entity=Ar00812&sk=2776A8C6&mode=text>

Merger with MRPL should happen at earliest, says HPCL

Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) today said its merger with Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) should happen at the earliest as there exist lot of synergies between them. Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), India's biggest oil and gas producer, last month completed the acquisition of HPCL for Rs 36,915 crore. After this takeover, ONGC has two refining subsidiaries - HPCL and MRPL. HPCL Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Kumar Surana said it makes sense to bring the two companies under one fold. However, no discussion has yet been initiated on the merger, he said, adding that the board of ONGC, HPCL

economies of scale, take higher investment decisions" and is "able to match the performance of international and domestic private companies". "Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) had written to the Ministry for integration with GAIL (India) Limited. However, Government has not taken any decision in this regard," Pradhan said.

Pioneer - 09.02.2018

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/business/ioc-bpcl-keen-to-buy-gail-india.html>

ONGC Videsh-led consortium picks up 10% stake in UAE's Zakum oilfield

A consortium of Indian companies led by state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC)'s overseas arm, ONGC Videsh Ltd, has bought a 10% stake in the UAE's offshore oil and gas field Zakum, as India pursues overseas hydrocarbon assets while oil-rich nations resort to ways of reducing risk and balancing their budget deficits. ONGC Videsh said late on Saturday night that the Indian side will pay a sign-up bonus of \$600 million as part of the deal inked in Abu Dhabi between company executives and UAE officials in the presence of visiting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Abu Dhabi crown prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The deal gives the Indian consortium, which includes Indian Oil Corp. Ltd and Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.'s overseas arm Bharat PetroResources Ltd, access to about two million tonnes of annual share from the field which produces about 400,000 barrels of oil a day. Backed by diplomatic efforts, Indian energy companies have been aggressively pursuing a share in the world's most prolific oil and gas fields. In 2016, Indian Oil, Oil India Ltd and Bharat PetroResources had bought stakes in two assets in Siberia owned by Russia's state-backed PJSC Rosneft Oil Co. for \$3.3 billion.

Mint - 12.02.2018

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/P6BLipGB5Hm20Xcjm2SuKL/ONGCs-OVL-partners-acquire-10-stake-in-Abu-Dhabi-oilfield.html>

Petrol, diesel prices fall for second day as crude oil hits 7-week low

Petrol and diesel prices on February 9 have slumped for the second day on the back of low Brent crude oil price which has now settled below \$65 per barrel after Iran announced to increase its production. The petrol and diesel prices were cut by 2 paise and 4 paise respectively. According to Indian Oil's website, the petrol price in Delhi was

and MRPL would consider such a proposal once discussions and modalities of the merger have been worked out. "I believe that if there is a value (in the merger), it should be created at the earliest," he said. For one, HPCL sells more petroleum product than it produces and bringing MRPLs 15 million tonne a year refinery under the fold would help bridge the shortfall. Also, there can be synergies in crude oil procurement as well as in optimising refinery set-up.

India Today - 10.02.2018

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/merger-with-mrpl-should-happen-at-earliest-says-hpcl-1166097-2018-02-09>

India to seek lower oil rates from Saudi Arabia, US

India will press Saudi Arabia and the US, the world's biggest oil producers, this month for a reduction in oil prices to provide relief to fuel consumers, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Thursday. Saudi Oil Minister Khalid Al-Falih will visit India on February 23-24 while US Energy Secretary Rick Perry would be here between February 28 and March 1, he said. "We feel oil prices should be reduced," the minister said. In meetings with the producers, India, the world's third biggest oil consumer, would make a case for reasonable pricing of crude and reductions from current high levels, he added. Pradhan was replying to questions as to why the government has not reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel in the Union Budget. Asked about former finance Minister P Chidambaram's comments in Rajya Sabha during the Budget debate, he said the government chose to keep the gains arising from falling crude oil prices between late 2014 and early 2016 to provide for funds for free LPG scheme, road and highway construction, education and healthcare.

The Hindu - 09.02.2018

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/india-to-seek-lower-oil-rates-from-saudi-arabia-us/article22693169.ece>

Pilot for home-delivery of diesel likely to start soon

Almost a year after petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan tweeted that the ministry of petroleum and natural was exploring ways for home delivery of motor fuels, a pilot is expected to be started soon as required permissions are in place. The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), which works under the

Rs 73.35 per litre; Kolkata Rs 76.04; Mumbai Rs 81.21; Chennai Rs 76.08, while the diesel price in Delhi was Rs 64.11 per litre; Kolkata Rs 66.78; Mumbai Rs 68.27; Chennai Rs 67.62. The petrol and diesel prices have been surging on the back of rallying crude oil prices, which in the mid-January touched \$70 per barrel mark amid the fears of the production cut by OPEC and non-members led by Russia. However, with Iran announcing to increase its oil production over the next four years, the oil prices began falling. Meanwhile, higher US oil production is also a factor behind the fall. The Brent crude oil price was recorded \$64.81 a barrel, while US WTI crude was down 64 cents, to settle at \$61.15 a barrel, Reuters reported.

The Financial Express - 09.02.2018

<http://www.financialexpress.com/market/commodities/petrol-diesel-prices-fall-for-second-day-as-crude-oil-hits-7-week-low/1059251/>

Steel production rises 5.3%, consumption up 5.4% in FY18 till Jan: Govt

India's finished steel production during April to January period of the current financial year (2017-18) rose by 5.3 per cent to 88.592 million tonnes (mt) while country's consumption grew by 5.4 per cent to 72.497 mt in the same period, a Steel Ministry report said. During the ten months period of 2017-18, India's finished steel export was up by 40.2 per cent to 8.222 mt over same period of 2016-17 and imports in the period stood at 6.432 mt, by 5.5 per cent over corresponding period of previous fiscal. "Production for sale of total finished steel at 88.592 mt, registered a growth of 5.3 per cent during April-January 2017-18 over same period of last year. India's consumption of total finished steel saw a growth of 5.4 per cent in April-January 2017-18 (to 72.497 mt) over same period of last year, under the influence of rising production for sale and imports," said the report of the ministry's Joint Plant Committee's (JPC). Steel Authority of India (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), Tata Steel Ltd (TSL), Essar, JSW Ltd and Jindal Steel (JSWL) and Power Ltd (JSPL) together produced 51.717 mt of finished steel for sale during the first ten months of the current fiscal, which was a growth of nine per cent over same period of last year.

Millennium Post - 11.02.2018

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/steel-production-rises-5-3-consumption-up-5-4-in-fy18-till-jan-govt-118021100562_1.html

department of industrial policy and promotion, has given permission to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to undertake the trial. "We expect to start (home delivery) soon as it (PESO) has given a very select licence for a particular location," said IOC chairman Sanjiv Singh. The largest fuel retailer of the country is leading the project on behalf of other two oil marketing companies (OMCs) — Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation. PESO has given clearance to conduct a pilot at one location for home delivery of diesel only. "We have still not decided the location though. However based on the feedback (post the pilot being conducted), we will proceed further," added Singh. Diesel is considered less hazardous than petrol once taken out of the licenced area for dispensing fuel into motor vehicles.

The Financial Express - 09.02.2018

<http://www.financialexpress.com/economy/pilot-for-home-delivery-of-diesel-likely-to-start-soon/1058965/>

Rising airport expansion costs may drive up plane ticket prices: IATA

The "skyrocketing" costs of expanding airport infrastructure must be controlled to keep flight tickets affordable, the boss of airline industry group IATA warned on Monday. Alexandre de Juniac called for more modest developments to keep construction costs down and avoid landing customers with higher prices which would hit demand. De Juniac cited the proposed 14 billion pound (\$19.8 billion) cost of a third runway at London's Heathrow Airport and the construction of a fifth terminal at Changi Airport in Singapore as prime examples of vastly expensive projects. "The cost of infrastructure is skyrocketing," he told reporters ahead of the Singapore Air show this week. "When we look at the numbers of Heathrow for the third runway, we are very, very, very worried. Even the numbers for T5 in Singapore are very high," he added, without disclosing a figure for Changi Airport's expansion. The city-state's plans for its hub airport include a new development due to open next year featuring a 40 metre high indoor waterfall, and a fifth terminal slated for 2030.

Millennium Post - 06.02.2018

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/rising-airport-expansion-costs-may-drive-up-plane-ticket-prices-iata-283504>

Centre aims to double foreign tourist arrivals in 3 years: Alphons

The Centre aims to double the number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTA) to 20 million in the next three years, Union Tourism Minister KJ Alphons on Sunday said at an investment meet here. All stakeholders must work hard to achieve the target, the minister said. "We have earned \$27 billion in the last financial year but we are not happy with these figures. "We want the figures to increase dramatically," Alphons said here during a session on tourism and wellness on the concluding day of the Global Investors Summit-Advantage Assam. He also urged the domestic tourists to visit different parts of the country as "Indians must see India". "Last year, more than 23 million Indians went abroad and there is nothing wrong with that but at the same time, we must also adopt the policy of 'Let's see India'," the minister said. The tourism ministry is committed to creating an environment that is conducive for the visitors and appoint global ambassadors for promoting tourist circuits and sites, he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to creating a 'New India' and "the country today thinks, looks, sounds and acts differently", Alphons added.

The Hindu Business Line - 06.02.2018

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/centre-aims-to-double-foreign-tourist-arrivals-in-3-years-alphons/article22651529.ece>

Warburg Pincus-backed Company to Acquire Innovative Logistics

Stellar Value Chain Solutions, a logistics company backed by global private equity firm Warburg Pincus, is acquiring Innovative Logistics Services in an all-cash deal worth a tad less than Rs. 100 crore, said two people with knowledge of the deal. Innovative Logistics, based in Kolkata, will support Stellar's foray and growth into express logistics, apart from adding more than 100 customers and bolstering its network in eastern India. Anshuman Singh, founder of Stellar, confirmed the deal but said he wouldn't be able to elaborate because due diligence is currently on. Singh is widely credited with building the logistics backend and network of Kishore Biyani's Future Group. The conglomerate's logistics arm recently made its debut in the stock markets. Innovative Logistics' managing director Mohan Jha, too, confirmed the deal. "I have known Anshuman for the past 12 years. We are a profitable company but needed a partner for the next phase of growth," Jha said, explaining the decision to sell.

Government looks to EVs, hyperloop & personal rapid transit to move freight, cut costs

The government is mulling using new models of transportation like electric vehicles, hyperloop and personal rapid transit to reduce logistical bottlenecks and high costs faced by trade and boost exports. The commerce ministry plans to evaluate the suitability of these new technologies for freight transport to bring down the costs to less than 10% of the gross domestic product (GDP) by 2022. India's logistics and transportation costs are as high as 14.4% of GDP compared with China's 8%. "These are upcoming technologies and we need to know their potential and impact," said an official in the know of the development. While certain routes for hyperloop, which is a mode of transportation in vacuum, have been proposed in the US, Europe and India, personal rapid transit (PRT) is already in place in London and South Korea. Electric vehicles are in use in many countries including China, the US, Europe, Brazil, Canada and India. If found suitable, they could become part of the mega integrated logistics plan that the commerce department has been drawing up. For domestic cargo, the plan is to identify 10 key corridors of 500 km or more with the maximum domestic freight density across all modes of transport.

The Economic Times - 12.02.2018

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-looks-to-evs-hyperloop-personal-rapid-transit-to-move-freight-cut-costs/articleshow/62878750.cms>

A Dubai-based port operator has its sights set on building out India's logistics network

India is set to experience massive shipping industry growth, so Dubai-based port operator DP World is looking into ways to get involved in logistics and transport infrastructure in the country. Speaking to CNBC at the World Government Summit over the weekend in Dubai, DP World CEO Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem said he was optimistic about India's shipping industry. "India is going to be the biggest growth. We feel it. And there are many initiatives by the Indian prime minister to basically increase production the ease of doing business, the financial systems, all that means there is going to be growth," he added. Although the ease of doing business in India is improving and things are getting done faster, Bin Sulayem said infrastructure is still a problem — it takes a long time to move cargo into the city. That problem is exacerbated by the state of trucking in the country. "The problem is

The Economic Times - 07.02.2018
<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F02%2F07&entity=Ar01809&sk=6B276556&mode=text>

Traffic increases at major Indian ports by 4.58%

Major Indian ports registered a growth of 4.58% for the period between April 2017 and January 2018 as compared to 3.64% growth registered between April-December 2017. The 12 major ports put together handled 560.97 Million Tonnes (MT) of cargo during these ten months of FY2018 as against 536.41 MT handled during the corresponding period of last year. The eight ports of Kolkata (including Haldia), Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Cochin, New Mangalore, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Deendayal Port (former Kandla Port) have registered positive growth in traffic, as per statistics the shared by Ministry of Shipping. Once again, the highest cargo traffic growth was registered by Cochin Port at 18.36%, followed by Paradip at 16.01%, Kolkata (including Haldia) at 13.47%, New Mangalore at 7.37% and JNPT at 5.95%. Mumbai Port, which earlier used to witness traffic growth registered a dip. Commodity-wise percentage share of Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants was highest with 33.74%, followed by container at 19.70% share. Whereas, thermal and steam coal had 13.72% share of cargo share.

DNA - 08.02.2018

<http://www.dnaindia.com/business/report-traffic-increases-at-major-indian-ports-by-458-2582709>

Power Grid appointment

Siddhartha Sen, ED, has assumed charge as head of the region of Eastern Region-II of POWERGRID consequent to superannuation of Bharat Bhushan, ED. Before this, Sen was heading the national transmission control centre in Manesar. Sen earlier served the region as GM (projects) and GM (O&M). Sen has a vast experience of 38 years in the field of power sector.

The Times of India - 09.02.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2018%2F02%2F09&entity=Ar01912&sk=56ADF355&mode=text>

trucking is difficult in India. So we are looking at waterways, rivers, transportation. That will simplify the operations that we have," he said.

Yahoo Finance - 12.02.2018

<https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/dubai-based-port-operator-sights-023300935.html>

Damodar Valley Corporation new chairman

Prabir Kumar Mukhopadhyay, member-secretary, DVC has assumed the additional charge of chairman, DVC from February 2. Mukhopadhyay joined DVC as member secretary from October 27, 2014. He also held the additional charge of member (finance), DVC with effect from October 28, 2014 for 32 months. Prior to joining DVC, he was posted as director (production) in Braithwaite & Co Ltd. in Kolkata and also served in different capabilities in BHEL and rose to the level of DGM. He also served as GM (marketing) in Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited.

The Times of India - 09.02.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2018%2F02%2F09&entity=Ar01912&sk=56ADF355&mode=text>