

(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 Indian Express - 24.02.2017



### FOUNDATION DAY (BALMER LAWRIE)

Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd. that has the rare distinction of earning profits continuously year after year for the last 150 years, celebrated its Foundation Day on 1st February 2017. To mark this occasion a function was organised in Swabhumi, Kolkata on 5th February, which was attended by the Board of Directors, Employees and their families, ex-Directors, key Customers and vendors and other distinguished stakeholders. The Foundation Day programme began with Prabal Basu, C&MD, Balmer Lawrie hoisting the Balmer Lawrie flag followed by the national anthem.

Business Standard – 23.02.2017

### Balmer Lawrie News



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### Balmer Lawrie and Co celebrated its foundation day

150 years of commitment and beyond...



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The celebrations included performances by the employees and their children. The highlight of the evening was a dance performance by "Tanushree Shankar Troupe" and musical performance by popular singer Vinod Rathod. As part of the year-long celebrations, Balmer Lawrie organised events and competitions for the employees. Events like Jingle contest, Swachh Karmasthal, Rangoli, Photography, BL's Got Talent and Mr & Ms. BL competitions along with various sports competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation of employees.

Morning India – 21.02.2017

Jansatta – 25.02.2017

## बॉमर लारी का स्थापना दिवस

कोलकाता, 24 फरवरी (जनसत्ता)।

बॉमर लारी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड के 150 वर्ष पूरे हो गए हैं। पिछले एक फरवरी को कंपनी का स्थापना दिवस मनाया गया। इस मौके पर बीते पांच फरवरी को महानगर के स्वभूमि में एक समारोह का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें कंपनी के बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्टर्स, कर्मचारी व उनके परिजन, पूर्व निदेशक, मुख्य ग्राहक व वेंडर समेत अनेक गणमान्य लोग भी मौजूद थे।

बॉमर लारी के चेयरमैन व सीएमडी प्रवाल बसु ने इस मौके पर कंपनी का झंडा फहराया। उसके बाद राष्ट्रगान हुआ। यह जानकारी एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में दी गई है।

## वालमेर लॉरी कंपनी ने मनाया 150 वां स्थापना दिवस



राष्ट्रीय / कोलकाता : वालमेर लॉरी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड ने अपने स्थापना के 150 वां सालगिरा मनाया। कंपनी की ओर से कोलकाता के स्वर्णमि स्थापना दिवस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में कंपनी के चेफ ऑफ इन्फोर्मेशन, अधिकारी व कर्मचारी और उनके परिवार के सदस्यों ने भाग लिया। कंपनी के विलेनटी प्रबल वसु ने इस अवसर पर कर्मियों को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि कर्मियों की टीम भावना से काम करने के कारण ही कंपनी अपने स्थापना काल से ही साल पर साल सुनकर बना रही है। इस अवसर पर कई सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम व खेलकूद सहित अन्य प्रस्तावों की प्रतिक्रियाओं का आयोजन भी किया गया। मौके पर कंपनी के कर्मियों अपने परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों के साथ मौजूद थे।

## IMF sees India growth rebounding to 7.2%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) foresees India's economic growth rebounding to 7.2 per cent next fiscal, up from the projected 6.6 per cent in 2016-17 after demonetisation. In its Article IV consultations report, the contents of which were released in Washington on Wednesday, the IMF said that the post-November 8, 2016 cash shortages and payment disruptions caused by the "currency exchange initiative" had undermined consumption and business activity, posing a new challenge to sustaining the growth momentum. Tailwinds from a favourable monsoon, low oil prices and continued progress in resolving supply-side bottlenecks, as well as robust consumer confidence will support near-term growth as cash shortages ease, IMF added. Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. A staff team visits the country, collects economic and financial information, and discusses with officials the country's economic developments and policies.

*The Hindu Business Line - 23.02.2017*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-gdp-to-grow-at-72-per-cent-next-fiscal-imf/article9555568.ece>

## Disinvestment target: Listing PSUs can fetch government up to Rs 5 tn eventually

Of all the budget targets, the one on disinvestment—Rs 72,500 crore—has widely been targeted as most likely to fail. After all, the government has never got anywhere close to this in the past and in the last few years, actual proceeds have been woefully short of target—in FY15, the government got R37,737 crore versus the R63,425 crore target, it was R42,132 crore vs R69,500 crore in FY16 and R45,500 crore vs R56,500 crore in FY17. Theoretically, the government could get R38,000 crore from the sale of its residual shares in Hindustan Zinc, but there is a legal hitch—so unless that clears up in FY18, pencilling that in is a bad idea. There is R51,600 crore that can be got from the SUUTI sales, but since that has been a low-hanging fruit for several years, it is not clear why that has not been fully sold all these years. The decision to list all profitable PSUs, though, is a big step forward in terms of achieving the target since this includes profitable subsidiaries of Coal India, the Airports Authority of India, Hindustan Aeronautics, ONGC Videsh and Hudco.

*The Financial Express - 22.02.2017*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/disinvestment-target-listing-psus-can-fetch-government-up-to-rs-5-tn-eventually/561567/>

## **Govt optimistic about overshooting Rs.45,500 cr divestment target**

The current fiscal's divestment target of Rs 45,500 crore is likely to be overshoot due to strong equity markets. In alignment with PM Narendra Modi's motto of 'less government, more governance', the finance ministry has recently approved stake sale in two more PSUs. A good response to the most recent divestment proposals has emboldened the Centre's hopes of surpassing the set target for revenue from divestments by a few thousand crores. Gains from a better performing stock market have also translated into higher prices for the government's divestment bids. So far, in the current fiscal, the government has sold stake in four PSUs via the Offer for Sale (OFS) route. In April 2016, an 11.36% stake sale in National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) had filled the government coffers with Rs. 2,716 crore. Another 7% sale in Hindustan Copper, in September 2016, raised Rs. 400 crore. In October 2016, sale of 15% stake in NBCC Ltd had earned the treasury a whopping 2,200 crore. The latest stake sale was in MOIL Ltd (formerly Manganese Ore India Limited).

*The Dollar Business - 21.02.2017*

<https://www.thedollarbusiness.com/news/govt-optimistic-about-overshooting-rs45500-cr-divestment-target/49497>

## **Soon, Aadhaar will work even without a bank a/c**

Your 12-digit Aadhaar number could soon become your single-point payment address. With the upcoming payments bank by IndiaPost, over 112 crore Indians will be able to send and receive money only on the basis of the Aadhaar number; it won't matter whether it is linked to a bank account or not. IndiaPost CEO AP Singh told ET that currently, Aadhaar is not a payment address in itself, but the payments bank, which plans to start operations from September 2017, will change that. The bank, which hopes to cover at least 650 districts of the country in the initial stage, aims to "simplify and universalise" payments systems. "We will bring out a solution to make Aadhaar a payment address, which will work with or without a bank account. That means that people who already have an Aadhaar should be able to receive payment from any source," Singh, who was part of the founding team of Aadhaar as the deputy director general of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), said.

*The Economic Times - 21.02.2017*

<http://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/soon-aadhaar-will-work-even-without-a-bank-a/c/57264679>

## **E-services on single platform**

The government will soon introduce a single mobile platform for citizens to help them access and avail multiple e-services. The plan is to provide and deliver prompt and effective e-services to citizens through a single platform. This will help them avoid visiting multiple websites and downloading multiple mobile applications. The estimated project cost, including one-time development charges and recurring charges, to develop the mobile platform has been pegged at Rs 6.94 crore. The state information and technology department is working on building up the platform. The state wants to take full benefit of the increasing progress of mobile technology by bringing various e-governance services pertaining to citizens, investors and businesses on a single mobile platform. A mobile device provides the flexibility to a person to avail of services in real time. Since the penetration of mobile phones in the state is increasing, providing e-services to citizens through a single platform is expected to

## **CPSEs should follow a transparent promotion policy: DPE Secy**

The country's central public sector enterprises need to align their human resource policies with new challenges and follow a transparent, fair and objective system of promotions, a top official said today. Terming the status of human resources in state-owned enterprises as "disturbing", the Secretary in the Department of Public Enterprises Seema Bahuguna said: "The CPSEs are following a culture of status quo, they are not proactive, they are reactive." They are also more interested in teasing unions instead of really doing fundamental restructuring of their relationships. I find that some CPSEs are still remaining in silos regarding their turfs," she said. She pointed out that even in some of the Navratna and Maharatna PSEs, the HR policies have remained more or less stagnant, adding that the world is changing but somehow our CPSEs have not really come up to the mark. "Our CPSEs have to align themselves with new

improve the ease with which services can be delivered to citizens.

*The Times of India* - 22.02.2017

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/e-services-on-single-platform/articleshow/57283229.cms>

## **ONGC set to create energy giant with control of HPCL**

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will take control of Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL) as part of the government's plan to create an integrated public sector oil entity comparable with big global oil companies like Shell BP and Exxon, top government officials told ET. "It is a very big decision. A Cabinet note will soon be moved. The government of India will transfer its majority shareholding (of 51.11% in HPCL) to ONGC, which will then become the holding company of HPCL," said one of the officials cited above. The move will stop short of a complete merger, which may take longer, but the purpose will be served with this step, said the people cited above. ET was the first to report on February 21 that the government plans to integrate either HPCL or Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd (BPCL) with ONGC in line with the February 1 budget announcement to "create an integrated public sector oil major which will be able to match the performance of international and domestic private sector oil and gas companies."

*The Economic Times* - 27.02.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/ongc-set-to-create-energy-giant-with-control-of-hpcl/articleshow/57363561.cms>

## **Flexibility in next round of oil hunt**

The government plans to come out with the next round of oil and gas block bidding in the first quarter of the next fiscal, giving companies not only pricing and marketing freedoms but also an opportunity to identify the areas for exploration. The next round of bidding will be conducted under an open acreage system that will allow companies to identify the blocks or areas they want to explore, instead of bidding for pre-assigned blocks offered by the government, a senior petroleum ministry official said. Officials said the ministry had hired accounting and consultancy firm PwC to work out the details of the bid document for the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP). The firm would chalk out the details of the size of the area to be offered and the frequency of the bidding process. The oil ministry is working on a suitable regime of incentives for exploration and production (E&P) companies to motivate them to

challenges. They need to focus on developing younger talent, they should have a transparent mechanism of communication with employees.

*The Economic Times* - 20.02.2017

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/cpses-should-follow-a-transparent-promotion-policy-dpsecy/articleshow/57251156.cms>

## **Indian energy giant: Report says ONGC may take over HPCL or BPCL**

The government is planning to create an integrated oil company under an arrangement in which Oil and Natural Gas Corporation may take over either of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation or Bharat Petroleum Corporation, reports The Economic Times. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget speech on February 1 had said the government plans to integrate public sector oil companies to rival big international and domestic private sector oil firms. The government is a majority stakeholder in both, HPCL and BPCL, holding a stake of 51.1 percent in HPCL and 54.9 percent in BPCL. ONGC is unlikely to take over both entities. After the Budget speech, it was widely speculated that government will merge all three entities to create an industry giant. However, the government feels a takeover will be a profitable route, as it leads to divestment gains. Post a takeover, ONGC will be free to partake in all areas of the oil & gas industry: from exploration to refining and distribution.

*Money Control* - 22.02.2017

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/indian-energy-giant-report-says-ongc-may-take-over-hpcl-or-bpcl-8536701.html>

## **India looks to expand energy ties with Myanmar**

India plans to sell refined crude oil products to Myanmar as part of New Delhi's efforts to deepen ties with its eastern neighbour, which is expected to see strong demand for fuels as it builds new roads, factories, utilities and airports. Indian oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan began a five-day trip to Myanmar on Monday, scouting for opportunities in oil exploration, refining and products retailing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to expand ties with the country's eastern neighbours including Myanmar to develop its landlocked northeastern states. Pradhan is also expected to discuss laying fuel and gas pipelines linking India's northeastern states with Myanmar. The Indian oil minister's trip comes months after Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi visited New Delhi, courting investments in sectors left in

increase production. The new system of bidding will be launched once the directorate general of hydrocarbons (DGH) puts in place a national data repository that will contain geological information of all basins and fields in the country.

*The Telegraph* - 24.02.2017

[https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170224/jsp/business/story\\_137438.jsp#.WLAjOIF97IU](https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170224/jsp/business/story_137438.jsp#.WLAjOIF97IU)

### **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board becomes dysfunctional due to lack of replacements for retiring members**

Lack of replacements for the retiring members in the past one and a half years has left Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), the nation's downstream regulator, with just one member, making the board dysfunctional that can potentially delay the latest round of award of rights to build pipeline in eight districts. The board, formed under an Act of 2006, comprises a chairperson, a member (legal) and three other members appointed by the central government. Chairperson S Krishnan retired in August 2015 while three other members—PK Bishnoi, Kiran Kumar Jha and Subhash Chandra Batra (member-legal) —have retired in the past six months. Basudev Mohanty is the only serving member on the board now. The board decides by a majority and its decisions don't become invalid due to any vacancy, according to the Act. But since the quorum requires three members, the board can't meet and decide on anything. "This has impaired the working of the board and created a regulatory vacuum," said a source with direct knowledge of the regulator's functioning.

*The Economic Times* - 23.02.2017

[http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/petroleum-and-natural-gas-regulatory-board-becomes-dysfunctional-due-to-lack-of-replacements-for-retiring-members/articleshow/57301365.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/petroleum-and-natural-gas-regulatory-board-becomes-dysfunctional-due-to-lack-of-replacements-for-retiring-members/articleshow/57301365.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

### **Kolkata-based oil & gas co set to buy LSE-listed firm**

City-based PFH Oil and Gas, promoted by Harsh V Poddar of Poddar group, is in talks with London Stock Exchange (LSE)-listed companies for acquisition to expand its energy business. The Poddar-led firm has won three gas blocks from ministry of petroleum and natural gas last week. It is one of the youngest firms in India and the only firm from east to be allotted these oil and gas blocks by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in this round of auction held on February 16. Out of these three fields, two are in

disarray under nearly 50 years of a military dictatorship. A sweeping electoral victory for Suu Kyi's party in 2015 paved the way for the lifting of US sanctions against Myanmar last year.

*The Times of India* - 20.02.2017

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-looks-to-expand-energy-ties-with-myanmar/articleshow/57253876.cms>

### **Rosneft-Led Consortium Plans To Complete Essar Acquisition Next Month: Report**

A consortium led by Russian oil major Rosneft plans to finally complete its \$12.9 billion acquisition of India's Essar Oil next month, two Russian sources close to the deal told Reuters. Acquiring the refiner will give state-owned oil Rosneft access to India, one of the world's fastest-growing energy markets. The deal was announced to fanfare in October but has still not closed. The sources said the delay was due to the complexity of Essar's structure and financing, not to any issues relating to the buyers, who will buy 98 per cent of Essar. Rosneft is under Western sanctions due to Moscow's role in the Ukraine crisis. The deal, announced during a visit to India by Russian President Vladimir Putin, is now set to be completed on March 15, the two sources said. Rosneft will acquire a 49 per cent share in Essar and another 49 percent will be shared between commodities trader Trafigura and Russian private investment group United Capital Partners (UCP). The deal was structured to avoid the risk of Western sanctions, the chief executive of Russian bank VTB, which is involved in financing the deal, told Reuters last year.

*NDTV Profit* - 21.02.2017

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/energy/article-rosneft-led-consortium-plans-to-complete-essar-acquisition-next-month-report-1661521>

### **Oil companies to bear MDR charges on debit card payments for fuel**

The mess over merchant discount rate (MDR) at fuel stations is close to resolution. State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd have agreed to pay MDR, a fee on card usage at swipe machines, for fuel purchased using debit cards. This means neither the fuel buyer—who used to pay this fee—nor the dealer will have to pay it. Two officials from OMCs who confirmed the development said a notification on the same is

KG basin (Andhra Pradesh) and one in Cambay basin in Gujarat. During the latest auction round, CCEA awarded contracts for 44 fields, mostly smaller fields of ONGC and OIL India. A total of 47 companies submitted their bids for these blocks, out of which four were foreign companies. Poddar, a 29 year MBA from Yale and a graduate of Duke University who came back to Kolkata after over an eight-year stint in the US, told TOI that his plan is to acquire the LSE-listed company and merge it with PFH through which its hydrocarbon firm.

*The Times of India - 22.02.2017*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/kolkata-based-oil-gas-co-set-to-buy-lse-listed-firm/articleshow/57279861.cms>

### **Steel Demand Likely To Improve In Coming Months: Birender Singh**

Steel demand is expected to improve in coming months on the back of increased spending on infrastructure and long-term government policies, Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh has said. "The steel demand has grown 3.3 per cent during April -December 2016. This is expected to improve in the coming months, due to long-term government policies and increase in infrastructure spend," the minister said. India has been a bright spot in global economy, he said, adding that World Steel Association has predicted the steel demand in India will grow at the rate of 5.7 per cent in 2017. The government of India, he said, has provided extensive support to the domestic steel industry by way of various trade remedial measures in recent times, such as minimum import prices (MIP), anti-dumping and safeguard measures and quality control. "The current scenario in the steel sector is well known, and hence the government will take all necessary measures as and when required to support the industry," the minister said.

*Millennium Post - 20.02.2017*

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/steel-demand-likely-to-improve-in-coming-months-birender-singh-215983>

### **'Made in India' steel to get preference in infrastructure projects: Steel secretary Aruna Sharma**

We are not against imports but we have to protect Indian steel against dumping. We will also not take any measure that is not WTO-compliant. Since August 2016, anti-dumping measures have been initiated and now 124 items are covered under it. We are trying to improve the logistics network for movement of both raw material and products. For instance, the cost of transporting fines is the same

likely in a few days. Both spoke on condition of anonymity. "The implementation process is being worked out now. Earlier, the fuel dealers used to be debited with the MDR and then there was a process of reimbursing them. Now, we are going to directly route MDR through the OMCs to the bank," said one of the two officials cited earlier. MDR is a bank fee levied for using debit and credit cards on swipe machines. The fee is 1% on credit card transactions and 0.25-1% on debit card transactions. MDR is levied at the time of purchase, and paid to the bank.

*Mint - 27.02.2017*

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/aPmWZVF0gzS3UhPP2byvUO/Oil-companies-to-bear-merchant-discount-rate-fees-on-debit-c.html>

### **India beats Russia, China to log highest steel output growth in January at 12%**

All top steel-producing countries, including China and India, reported positive growth in steel production in January leading to an overall 7% spike in global steel production to 136.5 million tonne (mt). India recorded the highest growth rate in production at 12%, followed by Russia at 11.6%, China at 7.4% and the US at 6.5%. Japan and Korea also posted positive output growth, figures compiled by the World Steel Association (WSA) revealed. China's production, however, was the highest at 67 mt, followed by Japan at 9 mt, while India's production was at 8.4 mt, the third highest among other nations. The US produced 6.8 mt, Russia 6.1 mt and Korea produced 5.9 mt. "The steel demand is picking up. Prices have also improved. These have led to higher production across the world," an analyst said. In the EU, Germany produced 3.6 mt of steel in January 2017, an increase of 1.2% compared with January 2016.

*The Financial Express - 25.02.2017*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/market/commodities/india-beats-russia-china-to-log-highest-steel-output-growth-in-january-at-12/565821/>

### **'State Leather Industry Produced `13,000 Cr Goods'**

Bengal Commerce and Industry minister Amit Mitra revealed a sharp growth in state's leather industry. The minister pointed out that the state recorded a production of Rs 13,000 crore leather goods in 2015-16. Within this production of Rs 13,000 crore, the amount of exported goods is Rs 7,000 crore in 2015-16. This figures really signify the growth scenario in leather industry, Mitra said, while addressing

as finished products – Rs 400. One solution is transporting it through slurry pipelines. Now, the railways have agreed to give right of way along railway tracks. We have got a map from pellet makers as to where they want to tap the fines both on the east and west coasts. NMDC will construct the slurry pipelines, which will be underground. Transport costs will thus come down to Rs 50 per tonne. Railways are joining hands in this since it is part of their business and they will also provide protection. We are discussing reclassification of iron ore, which is under freight class 165 and shifting it to 145, the same as coal or 145A, which attracts a lower rate.

*The Economic Times - 27.02.2017*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/in-dl-goods/svs/steel/made-in-india-steel-to-get-preference-in-infrastructure-projects-steel-secretary-aruna-sharma/articleshow/57374262.cms>

### **Frequent fliers demand an airfare regulatory body**

A fliers' body has asked the government to set up a separate regulator to monitor seasonal spikes in airfares. The Air Passengers Association of India (APAI), a body formed by frequent air travellers, said it has seen a spike complaints against surge pricing. The trend was mainly observed around long weekends or during emergencies such as weather-induced flight disruptions, its office bearers said. "A recent complainant said a domestic airline charged Rs37,000 for an economy class one-way trip from Goa to Mumbai. This kind of obscene price hikes are not acceptable. The government must set up a separate body to look into such issues," said Sudhakar Reddy, national president with the APAI. But industry experts said capping airfares is unlikely in any free market. "Such demands have surfaced earlier but the civil aviation ministry was unable to bring any relief for passengers," said a senior executive with an aviation think tank requesting anonymity.

*The Hindustan Times - 27.02.2017*

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/frequent-fliers-demand-an-airfare-regulatory-body/story-LX4fBlomuLkeWQAOHEqr00.html>

### **Airfares already heading north for April, May**

Air fares for travel in April and May have started to climb, hinting that people have started to book tickets to fly home, and for short holidays abroad. April and May will see a surge in domestic and

a gathering at the Kolkata edition of India International Leather Fair (IILF) which he inaugurated on Sunday. The minister said that the state government has recorded a steep growth in leather industry. The state has produced goods worth Rs 13,000 crore and is looking forward to reach a target of Rs 15,000 crore within two years. Mitra also mentioned the export component which is Rs 7,000 crore. The main customers of the state's leather products are Europe, South America and Asian countries. A large number of representatives from the buyers' countries have participated in this fair.

*Millennium Post - 26.02.2017*

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/kolkata/state-leather-industry-produced-13000-cr-goods-217214>

### **A new high: Only 25% domestic traffic in India from metros, rest from smaller cities, says study**

Flying in India is no more restricted to metros, according to an analysis of domestic flight bookings seen in November and December last year. The study, conducted by travel portal MakeMyTrip, states about one-fourth of domestic air traffic in India comes from metros and top tier 2 cities, while the rest (76.6%) comes from smaller cities. Metros and top tier-2 cities contribute mainly to traffic on top 15 domestic routes in metro cities namely Mumbai, Delhi, emerging tier-2 cities such as Pune and popular tourist hubs such as Goa, states the study. "The air travel market in India has grown rapidly in one year due to lower airfares, increased seat capacity and expansion of the Indian economy that has resulting in higher disposable incomes. Air travel bookings have expanded beyond top cities, which is reflecting in our findings with almost 76.6% of air traffic coming from outside of the top 15 sectors," said Rajesh Magow, co-founder and chief executive officer (India), MakeMytrip.

*The Hindustan Times - 22.02.2017*

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/a-new-high-only-25-domestic-fliers-in-india-from-metros-rest-from-smaller-cities-study/story-QvvJY1mSNcag7tA1t0gzxM.html>

### **Vizag multi-modal logistics park inaugurated**

Movement of container cargo and other cargo from the port city will get a tremendous boost with the commencement of commercial operations at the multi-modal logistics park

international travel as colleges and schools close for vacation. Cheaper fares on short haul domestic routes, which can be covered in less than an hour, have been mopped up by those who plan their trips in advance. With trains falling out of favour because of the time taken for travel and absence of amenities, a majority of the people who preferred AC III tier and AC II tier coaches have instead, opted for flights. Reservation status of berths on AC coaches of some of the popular trains to Madurai, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram have already reached the waiting list. Only a few seats are left at the rates of Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500 on Chennai-Madurai, Chennai-Kochi, Bengaluru and Chennai-Thiruvananthapuram. Fare on full service carriers has touched Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000. One-way airfares are usually available in the range of Rs 2,800 to Rs 3,500 for a week's advance booking during non-peak season.

*The Times of India - 27.02.2017*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/airfares-already-heading-north-for-april-may/articleshow/57366246.cms>

built at Sheelanagar beside the National Highway by the Container Corporation of India (Concor), according to Divisional Railway Manager Chandralekha Mukherjee, Waltair division. She was speaking in the logistics park on Saturday after inaugurating it. She said operations at the railway siding had begun on Saturday formally. Earlier, two trains were operated on a trial basis during the past 20 days or so. She said the Concor was a big player and the park would offer great facilities to the trade and industry. The Railways on its part would offer all co-operation to the trade, she promised. Concor General Manager Yelvender Yadav said the logistics park was built on 105 acres of swampy land with great difficulty. "We have so far invested Rs. 300 crore or so on the project and in the next phase we will invest Rs. 200 crore.

*The Hindu Business Line - 26.02.2017*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/vizag-multimodal-logistics-park-inaugurated/article9559739.ece>