

(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 – 21.06.2018

### Balmer Lawrie launched its Logistics Apprenticeship Programme

Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., a Mini Ratna Category - I PSE under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOPNG) launched a Logistics Apprenticeship Programme for 42 candidates as a part of GOI's "Skill India" initiative. The



candidates will undergo apprenticeship training in Kolkata and Chennai in the optional trade - Field Executive (Customs Clearance) for 15 months. The apprenticeship training is in line with the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, an initiative of GOI to improve the employability skills of youth in India. Balmer Lawrie has partnered with Qness Corp Ltd. to provide a 3 month Basic Training Programme. Subsequently, candidates will be trained on the job in the Company's Logistics business unit for 12 months.

Business Standard – 21.06.2018

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### BALMER LAWRIE LAUNCHED ITS LOGISTICS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

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The Indian  
Express –  
23.06.2018

Prabhat Khabar – 21.06.2018



## बॉमर लारी की लाजिस्टिक प्रशिक्षु कार्यशाला

**कोलकाता.** भारत सरकार के पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत मिनी रत्न कंपनी बॉमर लारी की ओर से एक लाजिस्टिक अप्रेंटिस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया. यह कार्यक्रम केंद्र सरकार की कौशल भारत योजना के तहत आयोजित किया गया. इसमें करीब 42 लाजिस्टिक प्रशिक्षुओं ने भाग लिया. यह कार्यशाला कोलकाता व चेन्नई में आयोजित की गयी, जिसमें क्षेत्रीय अधिकारियों को प्रशिक्षण की व्यवस्था थी. इसके लिए बॉमर लारी ने क्वीस कार्प लिमिटेड के साथ संयुक्त रूप से तीन माह तक प्रशिक्षण दिया गया. इसके बाद प्रशिक्षुओं को कंपनी की लाजिस्टिक इकाई में 12 महीनों के लिए ऑन द जॉब ट्रेनिंग भी प्रदान की जाएगी. इसका उद्देश्य लाजिस्टिक क्षेत्र को और भी प्रभावी बनाना है.

Morning India – 22.06.2018



## Balmer Lawrie launches its Logistics Apprenticeship Programme

**KOLKATA:** Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., a Mini Ratna Category - I PSE under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOPNG) launched a Logistics Apprenticeship Programme for 42 candidates as a part of GOI's 'Skill India' initiative. The candidates will undergo apprenticeship training in Kolkata and Chennai in the optional trade - Field Executive (Customs Clearance) for 15 months. The apprenticeship training is in line with the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, an initiative of GOI to improve the employability skills of youth in India. Balmer Lawrie has partnered with Qess Corp Ltd. to provide a 3 month Basic Training Programme. Subsequently, candidates will be trained on the job in the Company's Logistics Business unit for 12 months. The entire curriculum has been developed by the Logistics Sector Skill Council (LSC). Post completion of the 15 month apprenticeship programme, the apprentices will be eligible for obtaining GIH cards under Section 7 of Customs Act, 1962, which is highly valued in the Logistics domain.

Jansatta – 22.06.2018

## बामर लारी का नया प्रोग्राम

कोलकाता, 20 जून (जनसत्ता)।

बामर लारी एंड कंपनी लिमिटेड ने लाजिस्टिक्स एप्रेंटिशिप प्रोग्राम शुरू किया है। कंपनी की एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के मुताबिक, स्किल इंडिया अभियान के तहत 42 उम्मीदवारों को लेकर यह प्रोग्राम शुरू किया गया है। इसके तहत कोलकाता और चेन्नई में 15 माह की ट्रेनिंग प्रदान की जाएगी। बताया गया है कि तीन महीने की बेसिक ट्रेनिंग प्रोग्राम के बाद कंपनी की बिजनेस यूनिट में 12 महीने की ट्रेनिंग होगी। यह ट्रेनिंग पूरी करने पर सेक्शन 7 के तहत जी/एच कार्ड मिलेगा।

Millennium Post – 23.06.2018



On the occasion of the 4th International Day of Yoga, Balmer Lawrie organized a yoga workshop at the Corporate Office in Kolkata for promoting yoga and its benefits. Employees along with Director (HR & CA) A Ratna Sekhar, attended the workshop

Morning India –  
23.06.2018



On the occasion of the 4th International Yoga Day, Balmer Lawrie organized a yoga workshop at the Corporate Office in Kolkata for promoting yoga and its benefits. Employees along with A Ratna Sekhar, Director [HR & CA] attended the workshop. Similar yoga sessions were also organized across all Balmer Lawrie units and offices.

## **GDP growth will reach 10% by fourth quarter of FY 19: Piyush Goyal**

The government is hopeful of achieving double-digit gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the country by the fourth quarter of the ongoing financial year, Railway and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. Responding to a query at the Growth Net conclave here on how India proposed to go much faster than the current 7 per cent growth rate, Goyal, who also has temporary charge of the Finance Ministry, said his optimism on the 10 per cent GDP growth was based on the revival of domestic demand and the dynamism of a society that has become "aspirational". "I see double digit growth happening by the fourth quarter of this year. There is a demand optic in the country and this growth will be driven by a society that has become very aspirational," he said. There is one caveat to this... when this country decides to do business honestly, we will have 10 per cent GDP growth," he added. Noting that the NDA government was committed to being an enabler of growth, Goyal said its focus had been providing on providing political and macroeconomic stability.

*Business Standard - 19.06.2018*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/gdp-growth-will-reach-10-by-fourth-quarter-of-fy-19-piyush-goyal-118061800343\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/gdp-growth-will-reach-10-by-fourth-quarter-of-fy-19-piyush-goyal-118061800343_1.html)

## **India fastest growing major economy, trend to stay for some years: Jaitley**

Union Minister Arun Jaitley has said that 7.7 per cent economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2017-18 'firmly' established India as the fastest growing major economy in the world and the trend is likely to continue for some years. Taking a dig at the critics of the government, Jaitley said that India's GDP has not declined by 2 per cent on account of demonetisation and GST implementation, nor will it India live in poverty as predicted by former finance minister. "With structural reforms like demonetisation, the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax and the enforcement of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, we had two challenging quarters. Those who predicted a 2 per cent decline in GDP growth have been conclusively proved wrong," he said in a Facebook post. "A distinguished predecessor of mine feared that he may have to live his future in poverty. We have enabled every Indian to be a part of the world's fastest growing economy. The future looks much brighter than the past. This trend is likely to continue for some years, he said.

*Millennium Post - 19.06.2018*

## **India has potential to become a \$10 tn economy by 2030: Official**

India has the potential to become a \$10 trillion economy by 2030, a top government official said on Tuesday. According to Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance: "It is a plausible aspiration for India to become a \$10 trillion economy by 2030." Garg who was addressing the "6th Growth Net Summit" organised by Ananta Centre, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Smadja in New Delhi said a "sustained" average growth of 8 per cent coupled with an assumed devaluation of Indian rupee vis-à-vis US dollar at Re one per year would likely take India to the stated target. On fiscal management, he said the fiscal situation will not be allowed to deteriorate even though this is an election year. Besides, he said that India would shortly achieve the targeted three per cent fiscal deficit level and that it will be more permanent and sustainable in nature. In terms of macros, Garg said that tax to GDP ratio has improved from 10 per cent to 11.6 per cent, and fresh private capital investment is likely as capacity utilisation has increased.

*The Economic Times - 21.06.2018*

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/india-has-potential-to-become-a-10-tn-economy-by-2030-official/64657968>

## **Govt sees good start to divestment plan in FY19**

The government on Friday suggested that its disinvestment programme had got off to a successful start during the current financial year with the initial public offer by railway consultancy firm RITES getting over 67 times subscribed, while the second tranche of the Bharat 22 exchange traded fund was also oversubscribed. In a statement, the finance ministry said the Bharat-22 ETF garnered subscription of Rs 12,500 crore, against the offer of Rs 8,400 crore. Similarly, the RITES issue had received bids for 169 crore shares, against the 2.5 crore on offer. Exchange trade funds or ETFs are like mutual fund schemes, but comprise a basket of stocks. Through the Bharat-22 ETF, comprising shares of 22 companies, the government had targeted to mop up Rs 6,000 crore with a green-shoe option of another Rs 2,400 crore. The government had on June 19 launched the follow-on fund offer (FFO) of Bharat-22 ETF, which is managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund. In case of RITES, the railway PSU, the category set aside for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) was subscribed 71 times, while that for non-

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/india-fastest-growing-major-economy-trend-to-stay-for-some-years-jaitley-305108>

### **India to root for rational oil rates**

India will pitch for "reasonable" pricing of crude oil that balances the interest of producers and consumers at the meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna later this week. Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters he would be putting across to Opec and non-Opec producers at Vienna that crude price should be regulated and pricing should be "reasonable and responsible". "Whenever we have met Opec members these days, we have emphasised on the issue that global crude prices should be rational and should be able to meet global demand," Pradhan said. "We don't want crude prices to be at \$25 a barrel, but now it is going beyond reach. Why is it going beyond \$55-60?" he asked. Pradhan is scheduled to visit Vienna on Friday to participate in the Opec international seminar and will discuss these key issues with Opec secretary-general Sanusi Barkindo and ministers from the 13-nation cartel. Opec and non-Opec countries are also expected to decide on extending the output cuts, which, along with the geopolitical tensions in West Asia, have helped push up crude prices.

*The Telegraph - 19.06.2018*

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/india-to-root-for-rational-oil-rates-238679>

### **Arun Jaitley hints at no cut in excise on oil, asks citizens to pay taxes honestly**

Union Minister Arun Jaitley on Monday urged citizens to pay their due share of taxes "honestly" to reduce dependence on oil as a revenue source, and virtually ruled out any cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel saying it could prove to be counter-productive. While salaried class pay their due share of taxes, Jaitley said "most other sections" have to improve their tax payment record, which is keeping India "far from being a tax-compliant society". "My earnest appeal, therefore, to political leaders and opinion makers ...would be that evasion in the non-oil tax category must be stopped and, if people pay their taxes honestly, the high dependence on oil products for taxation eventually comes down. In the medium and long run, upsetting the fiscal maths can prove counter-productive," Jaitley said. In a Facebook post titled "The Economy and the

institutional investors was subscribed nearly 195 times.

*The Times of India - 23.06.2018*

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2018%2F06%2F23&entity=Ar01905&sk=F677BE14&mode=text>

### **Oil prices have become unsustainably high: Dharmendra Pradhan**

Crude oil prices have become unsustainably high, hurting India's fiscal balance and development plan, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan told a gathering of ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Wednesday, and asked them to step in to rein in prices. "While we are not in favour of prices as low as \$30 per barrel, we also do not support the prevailing high price which dent our fiscal balance and undermine our development process. They also cause undue hardships, particularly to those at the bottom of the pyramid in developing and least developed countries," Pradhan told OPEC representatives who have gathered in Vienna this week to negotiate a deal to boost their oil output that can eventually help check prices. Crude oil prices have risen 60% in a year to about \$75 a barrel due to a combination of factors including healthy demand, supply cut by key producing countries, including members of OPEC and Russia, a sharp drop in Venezuela's output and US decision to sanction Iran.

*The Economic Times - 21.06.2018*

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/oil-prices-have-become-unsustainably-high-dharmendra-pradhan/articleshow/64667319.cms>

### **OPEC, non-OPEC oil producers to jointly boost oil output**

OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers on Saturday agreed to jointly increase oil production. The meeting between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers including Russia decided to stick to 100 per cent conformity of the oil production cap set in the meeting in 2016 in which the agreement to cut oil output by a total of 1.8 million barrels per day has been reached, Xinhua news agency reported. The oil producers have reduced the production more than required in the past months. According to the statement of meeting, oil producers will "strive to adhere to the overall conformity level, voluntarily adjusted to 100 per cent". The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) did not give the details of how it would split the production increase, even without giving directly the amount of oil

Markets Reward Structural Reforms and Fiscal Prudence', Jaitley said in last four years, central government's tax-GDP ratio has improved from 10 per cent to 11.5 per cent. Almost half of this, 0.72 per cent of GDP, accounts for an increase in non-oil tax-GDP ratio.

*The Times of India* - 19.06.2018

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/arun-jaitley-hints-at-no-cut-in-excise-on-oil-asks-citizens-to-pay-taxes-honestly/articleshow/64632584.cms>

## Higher Opec output may ease fuel rates

Opec's decision to pump up volumes is expected to ease fuel prices and lift pressure on government math, giving the Centre flexibility to continue with social sector spending into next year's general elections. Energy ministers from the cartel of 14 oil exporting countries, which accounted for 38% of global supplies in 2017, on Friday decided to raise output by a million barrels per day to reduce prices and fill possible supply gaps from reduced shipments from US sanctions-hit Iran and falling Venezuelan production. Agency reports quoting analysts, however, said only a third of the production hike target may flow into the market due to capacity constraints faced by major producers such as Iraq and Iran. In such a case, it won't be enough to hold back prices if shipments from Iran and Venezuela shrink further. That could limit the benefit for India, which imports 80% of oil. Opec had decided to cut production in 2016-end to boost prices by ending a supply glut that had pulled down prices to \$28/barrel from \$110 in 2013-14. The production cut deal helped push up prices to the \$60/barrel range.

*The Times of India* - 23.06.2018

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIKM%2F2018%2F06%2F23&entity=Ar02005&sk=42E17E78&mode=text>

## No pure GST on petrol, diesel; 28% tax plus VAT on anvil under GST

A peak tax rate of 28 per cent plus states levying some amount of local sales tax or VAT on petrol and diesel is likely to be the tax structure when the two auto fuels are covered under the GST regime, a top government official said. The peak GST rate plus VAT will be equal to the present tax incidence, which is made up of excise duty, levied by the central government, and VAT charged by the states. But before the two fuels are put under GST, the Centre has to decide if it is willing to let go of the about Rs 20,000 crore of input tax credit it currently pockets by keeping petrol, diesel, natural gas, jet fuel and crude oil out of the Goods

production increase. The agreement would be implemented in July. The oil producers gathering in Vienna showed some flexibility in oil production policy, according to Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih.

*The Financial Express* - 25.06.2018

<https://www.financialexpress.com/market/commodities/opec-non-opec-oil-producers-to-jointly-boost-oil-output/1217746/>

## Opec offers expenditure elbow room

The Narendra Modi-government seems to have got some reprieve from oil cartel Opec's agreement to marginally increase crude oil output, which is expected to push down prices in the coming weeks. "This would provide some relief to the government as there would be little pressure to cut the excise duty and it can go ahead with the social sector spending ahead of the election year," analysts said. The recent rally in global crude prices had spiked India's oil imports by 49 per cent to \$115 billion in May compared with \$76 billion a year ago. The supply increase is likely to be in the range of 600,000-800,000 barrels per day (bpd) because only some producers such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates will be able to raise the output. Also, this would meet the shortfall in global supply created by the curbs on Iran following the US sanctions. Brent crude settled up \$2.50, or 3.4 per cent, to \$75.55 a barrel after the Opec decision. But analysts expect the prices to reverse their upward trend in the coming days. Officials in state-owned firms said they expected the prices to soften and come down to a comfortable range.

*The Telegraph* - 25.06.2018

[https://epaper.telegraphindia.com/textview\\_197292\\_164153373\\_4\\_1\\_8\\_25-06-2018\\_71\\_1.html](https://epaper.telegraphindia.com/textview_197292_164153373_4_1_8_25-06-2018_71_1.html)

## Crude oil production drops 3 pc in May

India's crude oil production dropped 3 per cent to just over 3 million tonnes in May on the back of dip in output from fields operated by state-owned ONGC. Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) produced 1.84 million tonnes of crude oil in May as compared to 1.93 million tonnes in the same period last year, an official statement said here. The firm's output in April-May dipped 4.3 per cent to 3.62 million tonnes. This resulted to a drop in the country's oil production to 5.9 million tonnes from 6.03 million tonnes in April-May of 2017. Natural gas output dropped 1.4 per cent to 2,768 billion cubic meters in May as private sector firms like Reliance Industries

and Services Tax (GST) regime that came into force from July 1, 2017, the official said. "There is no pure GST on petrol and diesel anywhere in the world and so in India too it will have to be a combination of GST and VAT," said the official, who is closely involved with the GST implementation. The timing of including petro products in GST will be a political call which centre and states have to take collectively, he said.

*The Economic Times - 21.06.2018*

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/no-pure-gst-on-petrol-diesel-28-tax-plus-vat-on-anvil-under-gst/articleshow/64661583.cms>

### **May finished steel exports dip 33%; imports grow 11%**

India's export of finished steel fell by 33 per cent to 4.30 lakh tonne (LT) in May this year, according to official data. The country had exported 6.42 LT finished steel in May last year, the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) said in a report. JPC, under the Ministry of Steel, is the only institution that collects and maintains data on the Indian steel and iron sector. "Exports stood at 0.43 MT (million tonne) in May 2018, down by 33 per cent over May 2017 and was down by 23 per cent over April 2018," the JPC report said. In contrast, the imports grew by 11 per cent to 6.20 LT in May, from 5.58 LT in the year-ago-period, it said. The production of finished steel last month stood at 10.547 MT, up 6.7 per cent, as against 9.886 MT in May 2017. The report further said that India's consumption of total finished steel last month rose by 8.6 per cent to 8.330 MT from 7.668 MT during the same month in 2017. Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh had earlier said that India should cut down its dependence on special steel product imports through value addition and form JVs (joint ventures) with global leaders for technological know-how.

*Millennium Post - 22.06.2018*

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/may-finished-steel-exports-dip-33-imports-grow-11-305630>

### **Cleartrip acquires Saudi travel company**

Online travel aggregator Cleartrip has acquired Saudi Arabia-based Flyin, engaged in a similar business, for an undisclosed amount to capitalise on the growing shift to online travel in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region. The combined company will have over 60 per cent market share throughout West Asia and improved profitability because of better economics and larger scale of operations, Cleartrip said in a statement. The company, however, did not give the financial details of the acquisition. The

produced less. Oil refineries, however, produced 6.8 per cent more fuel at 22.24 million tonnes in May with private sector units of Reliance and Nayara Energy operating at over 100 per cent capacity, the statement added.

*Business Standard - 21.06.2018*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/crude-oil-production-drops-3-pc-in-may-118062101001\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/crude-oil-production-drops-3-pc-in-may-118062101001_1.html)

### **Domestic air passenger traffic flies 16% higher in May**

India's domestic air passenger traffic rose by 16.53 per cent in May, official data showed on Tuesday. According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), 1.18 crore (118.56 lakh) passengers were ferried by the domestic airlines during the month under review from 1.01 crore (101.74 lakh) reported during the corresponding month of 2017. On a sequential basis, the traffic grew by around three per cent. It had risen to 115.13 lakh in April 2018, while in March it had grown to 115.80 lakh.

As per the data furnished by the DGCA, the passenger traffic during the January-May 2018 period grew by over 22 per cent. "Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-May 2018 were 571.58 lakh as against 465.87 lakh during the corresponding period of previous year thereby registering a growth of 22.69 per cent," the DGCA said in its monthly domestic traffic report. The data disclosed that low-cost carrier SpiceJet had the highest passenger load factor (PLF) -- a measure of capacity utilisation of the airline -- at 94.8 per cent during May.

*Millennium Post - 20.06.2018*

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/domestic-air-passenger-traffic-flies-16-higher-in-may-305291>

### **IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoAir hike excess baggage charges for domestic flyers**

Carrying over 15 kg check-in baggage on domestic flights will now cost more. Private airlines have started raising both pre-booking charges for excess baggage as well as the fees that needs to be paid at airports by those who have not pre-booked the same. Air India is now the only airline on which domestic economy flyers can take up to 25 kg of check-in baggage free of charge. Low cost carriers (LCC) IndiGo, SpiceJet and GoAir are now charging Rs 400 per

transaction will enable both companies to leverage technology, talent and business intelligence to strengthen their travel offerings. Cleartrip founder and CEO Stuart Crighton said, "Having established a strong position in India with our world-class products, we are pushing ahead with our ambitious expansion plans in the MENA market, and together with Flyin, we have reached a major milestone in our journey." The transaction, the largest in the travel space in the MENA region, will offer Cleartrip a wider outreach and a larger client base in an adjacent market.

*The Telegraph - 22.06.2018*

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/cleartrip-acquires-saudi-travel-company-239370>

### **Major ports' cargo traffic share hits 58%: Report**

The share of country's cargo traffic handled by top 12 major ports is on increase and has reached 58 per cent in 2017-18, a government report said today. On the contrary, traffic handled by about 200 minor ports, either on the control of the state governments or private players, has been on the decline from 2014-15. Earlier, a parliamentary panel expressed concern over minor ports eating into the share of major ports. "The share of major ports in traffic handled, which declined continuously up to 2014-15, is increasing since then. The share of major ports in traffic handled was 55 per cent in 2014-15 and increased to 58 per cent in 2017-18," the Ministry of Shipping said in a report today. The report said the market share of major ports, which was 61 per cent in 2010-11, declined to 55 per cent in 2014-15 but on the back of initiatives by the government has been on rise. The market share of major ports was recorded at 57 per cent in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and reached 58 per cent at the end of the last fiscal, it said. On the contrary the share of major ports was recorded at 57 per cent in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and reached 58 per cent at the end of the last fiscal, it said.

*Business Standard - 22.06.2018*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/major-ports-cargo-traffic-share-hits-58-report-118062100833\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/major-ports-cargo-traffic-share-hits-58-report-118062100833_1.html)

### **Govt plans to introduce direct delivery scheme at inland container depots**

Buoyed by the success of the direct port delivery (DPD) scheme introduced at seaports, the Government proposes to implement a similar

kg for each kilo beyond the allowed 15 kg from domestic passengers at airports who have not pre-booked excess baggage. IndiGo hiked pre-booked excess baggage charges on its domestic flights by one-third or 33% from Friday. IndiGo's charges for pre-booking 5, 10, 15 and 30 kg (beyond the free 15 kg) on its domestic routes will now be Rs 1,900; Rs 3,800; Rs 5,700 and Rs 11,400, respectively. Last August, IndiGo had set its pre-booking charges for 5, 10, 15 and 30 kg (beyond the free 15 kg) at Rs 1,425; Rs 2,850; Rs 4,275 and Rs 8,550, respectively.

*The Times of India - 24.06.2018*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/indigo-spicejet-goair-hike-excess-baggage-charges-for-domestic-flyers/articleshow/64709714.cms>

### **Trying to make Iran's Chabahar port operational by 2019: India**

India is trying to make the strategic Chabahar Port in Iran operational by 2019, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Gadkari was on a two-day visit to Tajikistan to represent India at a global conference on "International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development". "...India is trying to make Chabahar Port in Iran operational by 2019... opening up of the Chabahar Port would make the CIS countries more accessible," the shipping minister said in a statement here on Friday. Gadkari was addressing the Indian Community at the inauguration of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre at the Indian Embassy in Dushanbe. The statement said the minister also spoke at length about the efforts and initiatives taken by the NDA government in the last four years, and about the massive work being done in the infrastructure sector, with national highways being built at an unprecedented pace of 28km/day. "India's image and respect has grown across the world in the last four years and our rankings have improved globally on various parameters like ease of doing business, cleanliness etc.," the statement said quoting Gadkari.

*Millennium Post - 25.06.2018*

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/trying-to-make-irans-chabahar-port-operational-by-2019-india-305818>

### **Cochin Port eyes relaxation of cabotage law**

The Cochin Port Trust is betting big on cabotage law relaxation to enhance container trans-shipment volumes through Vallarpadam

concept at inland container depots (ICDs) or dry ports to cut time and costs for cargo imported in containers. Under DPD, import containers are delivered directly to pre-approved clients at the port instead of waiting at a container freight station (CFS) located outside for clearance, which reduces cargo dwell time and costs for shippers. DPD was first implemented in the Jawaharlal Nehru Port, India's biggest container gateway, and later extended to all the gateway ports, including Chennai Port and privately-run Mundra port. "Going by the success of DPD at JNPT and encouraging figures at other gateway ports, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), intends to implement a similar concept at ICDs under the name 'Direct Inland Delivery' or DID," Pranab Kumar Das, special secretary and member, CBIC, wrote in a June 18 communication to Chief Commissioners of Customs. BusinessLine has reviewed a copy of the communication.

*The Hindu Business Line - 25.06.2018*

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/govt-plans-to-introduce-direct-delivery-scheme-at-inland-container-depots/article24247641.ece>

## **Railway connectivity to ports gets a leg up! Projects worth Rs 18,795 crore under implementation**

Aimed at bringing down logistics costs by providing rail connectivity to ports, Indian Port Rail Corporation along with other agencies are implementing projects worth Rs 18,795 crore, the government has said. IPRCL, a joint venture between major ports and Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL), as a dedicated SPV is developing railways as a mode of transport in the port sector under the government's ambitious initiative Sagarmala – a flagship programme for port led-development in the country. "More than 50 per cent of the rail connectivity projects identified under Sagarmala are under implementation through various agencies such as IPRCL," Ministry of Shipping has said in its latest report. As many as 70 rail connectivity projects for 4,247 km length were identified to be implemented at a cost of about Rs 46,728 crore, the report said. Of the 70 identified projects, 27 projects are currently under implementation for 1,967 km at a cost of about Rs 18,795 crore, it said. Thirteen projects having a length of 426 km have already been completed at a cost of Rs 2,592 crore, as per the report.

*The Financial Express - 25.06.2018*

<https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/railways/railway-connectivity-to-ports-gets-a-leg-up-projects-worth-rs-18795-crore-under-implementation/1218153/>

Terminal as well as coastal cargo business. At present, the trans-shipment volume at ICTT stands at 6 per cent out of the over five lakh TEUs container cargo and this is expected to go up 12 per cent in the current fiscal with the easing of the cabotage law restrictions, said AV Ramana, Chairman of the port. To cash in on the emerging situation, the port has held two rounds of discussions with the Cochin Steamer Agents Association and the terminal operator DP World on how to make use of the cabotage relaxation effectively to increase the trans-shipment cargoes and coastal shipping movement. "The Prime Minister's dream to make a trans-shipment hub in India itself will soon be a reality with all these initiatives," he said, while addressing the 40th annual general meeting of the Cochin Steamer Agents Association. Later, on the side-lines of the function, he told BusinessLine that the port is looking at a new liner service to the US that would help the exim trade, and in turn, increase the trans-shipment at Kochi.

*The Hindu Business Line - 25.06.2018*

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/cochin-port-eyes-relaxation-of-cabotage-law/article24247449.ece>

## **Logistics player Blue Dart opens aviation hub in Chennai**

Blue Dart, a leading logistics services provider and a subsidiary of Deutsche Post DHL Group, has launched an aviation hub in Chennai. The new facility will also house the headquarters of Blue Dart Aviation, India's only commercial cargo airline, which has a dedicated fleet of six B757-200 freighters and a capacity of 500 tonnes every night, operating across 73 flight sectors daily. The hub boasts of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security-approved security screening with its own X-Ray machines, equipment and dedicated manpower, said a company press release. The hub is located at the Blue Dart Aviation Terminal at Chennai's old international airport with both air and land side access. It is equipped to carry out in-house engineering line maintenance for its fleet of aircraft, and has regulatory approval for security screening. It also has dedicated manpower and parking space for its own freighters. Charles Brewer, CEO, DHL eCommerce, said in the release: "We see immense potential in India across many fast-growing industries such as e-commerce, banking and financial services, automotive, pharmaceuticals and more.

*The Hindu Business Line - 19.06.2018*

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/logistics-player-blue-dart-opens-aviation-hub-in-chennai/article24195407.ece>



## **EPFO nod likely soon for minimum ₹2k EPS pension**

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is expected to soon give its go-ahead to the proposal of doubling monthly pension for EPS subscribers to ₹2,000. This would benefit at least 40 lakh subscribers and cost the Centre a minimum ₹3,000 crore per annum. The issue, though not listed on the agenda for the upcoming central board of trustees' meeting of EPFO on June 26, is likely to be tabled after permission from the labour minister, who is the chairman of the board. The Union Cabinet had in 2014 approved a minimum pension of ₹1,000 a month for a year and later extended it till perpetuity in 2015. The differential cost of ₹813 crore per annum to pay the minimum pension is borne by the Centre and going forward this could more than double if the pension amount is increased two-fold for all subscribers currently getting less than ₹2,000 a month. Another issue that can come up for consideration of the board includes giving EPFO subscribers the option to increase their investments in equity beyond 15%. This would, however, require the finance ministry to notify the new investment pattern for EPFO.

*The Economic Times - 25.06.2018*

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETKM%2F2018%2F06%2F25&entity=Ar01111&sk=ABCD3B6&mode=text>

## **Nag Nath Thakur takes over as NCL Director (Finance)**

Nag Nath Thakur assumed the charge as Director (Finance) of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) on Tuesday. With a diversified experience of more than 32 years, Thakur was working as General Manager (Finance) in Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) before assuming the charge. Thakur is succeeding P S R K Sastry, who superannuated in May 2018. After completing ICWA in year 1986, Thakur started his career in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) in the same year. Thakur worked in BCCL up to 2012 after which he was posted in Central Coalfields Limited (CCL). During his stint at Piparwar Area of CCL, Thakur spearheaded several cost cutting initiatives which lead to an exponential rise in profit of Piparwar Area. This in turn also resulted in CCL registering historical profit figures.

*Millennium Post - 20.06.2018*

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/epaper/kolkata/2018-06-20/kolkata20june2018>