

<b>Daily Economic News Summary: 18 April 2019</b>
---

**1. Adani Urges Govt To Give 'Fair Go' For Australian Coal Mine Project**

**Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))**

Indian energy giant Adani has urged the Australian government to give its controversial coal mine project "a fair go" and indicated that the opposition party would not derail the proposed billion dollar project if it comes to power. Gautam Adani-led Adani Group entered Australia in 2010 with the purchase of the greenfield Carmichael coal mine in the Galilee Basin in central Queensland, and the Abbot Point port near Bowen in the north.

**2. Reliance Retail In Talks To Buy Loss-Making Toy Store Chain Hamleys**

**Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))**

C.banner International, the Chinese owner of toy store chain Hamleys, is said to be in the final stage of talks with Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail to sell the centuries-old British company. In 2015, C.banner International had paid \$153 million for Hamleys, and since then the toy retailer has witnessed declining sales and valuations amid intense competition from online stores. The loss-making firm was finally put on the block in October last year. If the talks succeed, Reliance Retail will be the fourth owner of the iconic chain in the past 15 years. Reliance already has a master franchise agreement with Hamleys for the Indian market, and has 80 stores in 32 cities across the country.

**3. Jet Airways Lenders 'Reasonably Hopeful' Of Getting Successful Bids For Grounded Cash-Strapped Airline**

**Source: Firstpost ([Link](#))**

Lenders to India's Jet Airways Ltd said on 18 April they are "reasonably hopeful" that the bidding process for the grounded airline will end successfully. Jet Airways, once India's largest private airline, on 17 April evening halted all flight operations indefinitely after lenders led by State Bank of India declined to extend more funds to keep it going. The carrier, saddled with roughly \$1.2 billion of bank debt, has been teetering for weeks after failing to receive a stop-gap loan of about \$217 million from its lenders, as part of a rescue deal agreed in late March. At its peak, Jet operated over 120 planes and well over 600 daily flights. The airline, which has

roughly 16,000 employees, has in recent weeks been forced to cancel hundreds of flights and to halt all flights out of India as funds dried up.

#### **4. Reliance Eyes Higher Valuation For Refining Arm In Likely Aramco Deal**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has sought a higher valuation for its refining and petrochemicals business as it considers selling a minority stake to Saudi Arabia's state energy group, Saudi Aramco, said two officials directly aware of the development, requesting anonymity. On 17 April, The Times of India reported that Saudi Aramco is in talks with RIL to buy up to a 25% stake in its refining and petrochemicals business. A minority stake sale could fetch \$10-15 billion, valuing the business at \$60 billion, the report added. The petrochemical and refining business contributes 75% to RIL's operating profit.

#### **5. Birla Estates Launches Residential Realty Project**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Birla Estates Pvt. Ltd, part of BK Birla Group, has ventured into residential property development with its first project launch in Kalyan, in suburban Mumbai. With a focus on premium housing projects, the firm also plans to build homes in Pune, Bengaluru and the National Capital Region (NCR), said a top company executive. The Kalyan project, Birla Vanya, which has one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments priced between ₹43 lakh and ₹1.2 crore, was launched in April. It has sold over 400 of the 530 units in Phase I within three days of its launch. It will start its next project in Bengaluru spread across eight acres in the IT suburb of Whitefield.

#### **6. Reliance To Sell Six Very Large Ethane Carriers To Japan Firm**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

Reliance Industries (RIL) on 17 April said it has signed a binding definitive agreement with Japan's Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL) and an unnamed strategic minority investor to sell its stakes in firms that own RIL's fleet of very large ethane carriers (VLECs). The VLECs are currently owned by RIL's Singapore-incorporated 100% subsidiary Reliance Ethane Holding Pte (REHPL) through six limited liability companies which are special purpose vehicles. RIL did not reveal financial details of the deal. "Transaction closing is subject to regulatory approvals. Post-closing, SPVs shall be jointly controlled by REHPL and MOL," RIL said in a statement. MOL is the operator of the six VLECs.

## **7. Flip-Flop: Government Withdraws Fiat Banning Llps In Manufacturing**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) on 17 April withdrew the office memorandum (OM), which directed that companies whose business includes manufacturing and allied activities can't be incorporated as liability partnerships (LLPs). It may, however, revisit the plan, while being sensitive to the concerns expressed by a section of the industry. "Manufacturing and allied activities were restricted in LLPs vide OM No CRC/LLP/e-Forms dated March 6, 2019. This OM invoking the restriction regarding manufacturing and allied activities has been withdrawn with immediate effect," MCA said.