

(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 e-mailed on every Monday.)

## News on Balmer Lawrie

Telegraph 01-05-2013

### BALMER LAWRIE'S CONTAINER FREIGHT STATION AT CHENNAI WINS THE "CONTAINER FREIGHT STATION OF THE YEAR" AWARD

Balmer Lawrie's Container Freight Station at Chennai won the "Container Freight Station of the Year" Award, given away by Gateway Media, in recognition of demonstrating highest productivity; low turnaround time and achieving environmental and safety certifications during the year 2011-12. The award also recognizes the active role of the company in making investments to add further capacities during the year. The Gateway Awards are instituted to recognise and showcase outstanding achievements and exceptional accomplishments of individuals and organizations in the Indian maritime industry. The awards also promote best practices, innovation and motivation. Mr. Ananda Sengupta, COO [Logistics Infrastructure] received the award on behalf of the Company in a function held on April 18, 2013 at Hotel Vivanta by Taj - President, Mumbai.



*The Telegraph – 01.05.2013*

## Govt may ask divestment dept to look into 30 PSUs listing

The Department of Disinvestment may be asked to consider listing as many as 30 additional Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in three years.

Meanwhile, the Government is also likely to allow cash-rich, Government-owned companies to buy small stakes in other smaller Government-owned enterprises, in order to help them fulfil mandatory minimum public shareholding norms.

The move regarding the listing of companies was contained in a note circulated to the Group of Ministers (GoM) which is examining public sector enterprise reforms, a senior Government official said. This group, headed by the Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, held its first meeting on April 23.

The panel of Experts on CPSUs' reforms, headed by former SAIL Chairman S.K. Roongta, had recommended that at least thirty 30 CPSEs should be listed in the next three years, going up to 50 in the next five years.

*The Hindu Business Line - 29.04.2013*

## Panel suggests case-to-case basis for raising retirement age in sick PSUs

The Committee of Secretaries (CoS) has suggested that the decision on raising retirement age of employees to 60 years in sick PSUs should be taken up on a case-to-case basis. The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE), set up in 2004 as an advisory body to the government on reviving sick PSUs, had recommended to the Department of Public Enterprises for raising the retirement age of employees of loss-making PSUs.

In 17 sick PSUs, for which the government has approved the revival package, the superannuation age is 58 at present. Recently a meeting of CoS, headed by Cabinet Secretary Ajit Kumar Seth, took place on the issue. "The Cabinet Secretary has said it may not be appropriate to prescribe general policy for all 17 CPSEs as the revival packages for these units have been sanctioned by the government after examination on a case-to-case basis and taking into account the financial position and turnaround plan of the concerned PSU," an official told PTI.

*The Hindu Business Line - 01.05.2013*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/stock-markets/govt-may-ask-divestment-dept-to-look-into-30-psus-listing/article4667243.ece>

## **Govt clears ETF for public units to push disinvestment**

The Cabinet Thursday approved the setting up of a CPSE Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) which is expected to speed up disinvestment programme, check volatility in share price movement and encourage retail participation. "(The ETF) comprise CPSE stocks (from amongst the listed CPSE stocks). Each stock would have a fixed weightage in the basket," an official statement said. The proposal was cleared by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by the Prime Minister.

*Zee News - 02.05.2013*

[http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/finance/govt-clears-etf-for-public-units-to-push-disinvestment\\_75421.html/govt-clears-etf-for-public-units-to-push-disinvestment\\_75421.html](http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/finance/govt-clears-etf-for-public-units-to-push-disinvestment_75421.html/govt-clears-etf-for-public-units-to-push-disinvestment_75421.html)

## **Government policies key to manufacturing competitiveness: Deloitte**

Government policies can either make or break a nation's manufacturing sector, confirms a new report Manufacturing for Growth, based on views of over 70 global executives interviewed for a new report, from the World Economic Forum (WEF) prepared by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited. The three-volume report, finds that executives around the world crave government policies that simplify taxes and protect free and fair trade - along with stronger energy and infrastructure policies and more focused education and workforce frameworks.

*Domain -B - 03.05.2013*

[http://www.domain-b.com/economy/worldconomy/20130503\\_tim\\_hanley.html](http://www.domain-b.com/economy/worldconomy/20130503_tim_hanley.html)

## **India story on investment is just starting out: Chidambaram**

With government liberalising FDI norms and setting up a system to speed up mega projects, Finance Minister P Chidambaram today said India story of investment is "just starting out". Addressing the First Business Session of ADB Annual Meeting here, he said many projects are plagued by "last mile" bottlenecks in fuel supply, environment clearance, forest clearance, and land acquisition and a Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI) has been set up to fast track the projects.

"We have permitted FDI in areas such as multi-

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/panel-suggests-casetocase-basis-for-raising-retirement-age-in-sick-psus/article4673980.ece>

## **Scope for 8% growth in next 3 years, says Chidambaram**

Finance Minister P. Chidambaram is hopeful of the country achieving eight per cent plus growth by 2015-16, riding on factors such as a young workforce, skill development and world class infrastructure. Addressing the India Day event during annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) here, Chidambaram said, "India's potential growth rate is eight per cent and we cannot afford to become complacent and sit back. We are a mature and vibrant democracy. We have taken effective steps to address economic slowdown and fiscal stress in the past few months."

*The Hindu Business Line - 03.05.2013*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/scope-for-8-growth-in-next-3-years-says-chidambaram/article4679885.ece>

## **PSUs may get to park surplus funds in T-Bills, private mutual funds**

Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) may be allowed to park their 'temporary' cash surplus in Treasury bills and private sector debt mutual funds. In addition, they could also be permitted to invite competitive bids to park such funds with banks. These moves will help CPSEs earn more on their surplus funds which, in turn, will help their profitability. CPSEs have over Rs 2 lakh crore cash surplus, but there is no official estimate of how much of this is temporary cash surplus.

*The Hindu Business Line - 29.04.2013*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/psus-may-get-to-park-surplus-funds-in-tbills-private-mutual-funds/article4667345.ece>

## **Cash pile of major PSUs like CIL, ONGC and others at Rs 1.62 lakh cr in 2012-13**

India's 17 major public sector entities including CIL, ONGC, NMDC and OIL had over Rs 1.62 lakh crore in cash reserves during 2012-13, Parliament was informed today. Among these central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), Coal India Ltd (CIL) had the maximum cash and bank balance at Rs 43,776 crore, followed by ONGC (Rs 22,450 crore), NMDC (Rs 17,230 crore) and NTPC (Rs 16,185 crore).

The 17 major CPSEs had a cash and bank balance of Rs 1,62,338 crore, said Minister of

brand retail, power exchanges, aviation and broadcasting," he said, adding "As I am fond of saying, India's story on investment is just starting out". The CCI has cleared several mega major projects, including those in the oil and natural gas sectors, which were stuck due to various regulatory clearances.

*Moneycontrol - 06.05.2013*

[http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/commodities/india-storyinvestment-is-just-starting-out-chidambaram\\_864909.html](http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/commodities/india-storyinvestment-is-just-starting-out-chidambaram_864909.html)

### **RBI pegs 5.7% growth for current fiscal**

The central bank expects inflation to hover broadly around the 5.5 per cent. Projecting a modest pick-up in economic activity in the coming months, Reserve Bank on Friday pegged the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate for the current fiscal at 5.7 per cent, significantly lower than the Finance Ministry's forecast of 6.1 to 6.7 per cent.

*The Hindu - 03.05.2013*

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/rbi-pegs-57-growth-for-current-fiscal/article4680058.ece>

### **Flexi-pricing here: your air travel may now cost more**

The aviation ministry has decided to allow airlines to unbundle charges so that seat preference, meals, snacks, drinks (except drinking water), and the use of lounges, check-in baggage and the carriage of sports equipment and musical instruments— everything may be priced separately.

*The Hindustan Times - 29.04.2013*

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/News-Feed/SectorsAviation/Flexi-pricing-here-your-air-travel-may-now-cost-more/Article1-1052376.aspx>

### **Global airline sector profit likely to be at \$7.5 billion in 2013: IATA**

Global airline sector profit is likely to grow to \$7.5 billion this year, with Asia Pacific and Middle East based airlines dominating the international passenger market and leading the way in terms of improved operating margins, according to IATA data.

*NDTV Profit - 29.04.2013*

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/industries/article-global-airline-sector-profit-likely-to-be-at-7-5-billion-in-2013-iata-321539>

### **India one of top travel destinations: Survey**

Owing to its rich culture and heritage, India is one

State for Finance Namo Narain Meena in written reply in Lok Sabha.

Cash and bank balance of OIL was Rs 11,770 crore while that of SAIL was Rs 13,207 crore. Economic Times - 03.05.2013

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-05-03/news/39009603\\_1\\_coal-india-ltd-cpses-central-public-sector-enterprises](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-05-03/news/39009603_1_coal-india-ltd-cpses-central-public-sector-enterprises)

### **Travellers intend to increase budgets by average of 5%: Report**

Global cross-border tourism is thriving and travellers intend to increase budgets for their next trip by an average of five per cent with some holiday makers even suggesting that they would more than double what they spent on their previous trip, says a new report.

*The Economic Times - 29.04.2013*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/services/travel/travellers-intend-to-increase-budgets-by-average-of-5-report/articleshow/19778557.cms>

### **Etihad Adds New Wind Beneath Jet's Wings**

The combination of Abu Dhabi's flag carrier and one of India's largest airlines by market share will shake up India's domestic aviation sector—and the outbound Indian air travel market, too. Etihad Airways last week agreed to pay \$380 million for a 24% stake in Jet Airways.

*The Wall Street Journal - 29.04.2013*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323528404578452450651344048.html>

### **ixigo.com Launches India's First Road Travel App**

ixigo.com, India's leading travel planning & search engine has launched an innovative mobile app - "On the Way!" that allows road travellers to access relevant information on all useful and interesting stoppages along their route. This first-of-its-kind location-based app has been launched for Android smartphones and can be downloaded from the Google Play Store.

*IT News Online - 30.04.2013*

<http://www.itnewsonline.com/showbwstory.php?storyid=9356>

### **Travel industry welcomes Govt.'s 'Group Landing Permits' decision**

Travel and tourism industry has welcomed the

of the top tourism destinations in Asia, a survey by CNN has said. The study, 'CNN Consumer Connect Travel and Tourism 2013', has positioned India as the region's fourth fastest growing tourism destination and the third most attractive business for investment opportunities, after China and Hong Kong.

*Business Standard - 01.05.2013*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-one-of-top-travel-destinations-survey-113050100382\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-one-of-top-travel-destinations-survey-113050100382_1.html)

### **Travel portals like Makemytrip, Hotels.com, Goibibo now offering hotel bookings**

A new TV commercial shows a man lying on a hospital bed after being stabbed in the back by a hotel: it didn't deliver on the promises it had made. The surgeon advises him to try an online hotel-booking portal. In another ad, IPL cricketers are seen promoting hotel bookings through a travel portal. After years of advertising the lowest possible fares, online travel sites like Makemytrip, Hotels.com, Goibibo and Yatra are talking hotels. It is a business which has remained largely untapped all these years, as Indian travelers preferred to book hotels over the phone or when they arrived at their destination, despite the convenience of the Internet.

*The Economic Times - 03.05.2013*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/services/travel/travel-portals-like-makemytrip-hotels-com-goibibo-now-offering-hotel-bookings/articleshow/19850489.cms>

Union government's decision to allow collective landing permits to groups comprising four or more travellers. The industry termed the decision as progressive and one which is bound to reflect positively on the Inbound Tourism in the country. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), considering the requests from both Ministry of Tourism (MoT), as well as travel trade associations in the country, recently decided to ease the visa procedures and allow collective landing permits for groups arriving in the country by air or sea and sponsored by approved travel agents

*Travel Biz Monitor - 02.05.2013*

<http://www.travelbizmonitor.com/travel-industry-welcomes-govts-group-landing-permits-decision-20234>

### **Shipping Corp may go Air India way: Par panel**

Cautioning the country's largest ocean carrier SCI that financial "(mis)management" may lead it to the "Air India way", a Parliamentary panel has asked the state-owned company to have a re-look at its fleet acquisition plans.

"The Committee fears that SCI may go Air India way in the case of financial (mis)management... SCI may need to have a re-look at its fleet acquisition orders already placed with a view to save it from falling into deep troubles," the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture said.

*Economic Times - 05.05.2013*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/transportation/shipping/-/transport/shipping-corp-may-go-air-india-way-par-panel/articleshow/19893561.cms>