

(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.)

## THE TELEGRAPH

Calcutta - Wednesday - 11 July 2012

### INDIAN CUSTOMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BALMER LAWRIE CFS KOLKATA CONDUCTED A TREE PLANTATION DRIVE.

100 saplings were planted within Balmer Lawrie CFS premises on an occasion. Plantation of the saplings was lead by Mr. M L Meena, Addl. Commissioner of Customs, Mr. K C Surendran, General Manager [Logistics Services], Mr. R K Murthy General Manager [Oprns] – Logistics Infrastructure – both of Balmer Lawrie, Mr. H V Umre – Dy. Commissioner of Customs and Mr. S Katihar – Asst. Commissioner of Customs. Other prominent members of the export-import fraternity also took active part in the drive.

#### Land rule silence stills big projects

At least three large public-sector projects with a total investment of Rs 14,600 crore are stuck because the Mamata Banerjee government has not published the rules to free up land.

The projects are NTPC Ltd's 1,600MW plant at Burdwan's Katwa, Balmer Lawrie's logistics hub at Dankuni in Hooghly, and Power Grid Corporation's 765kV substation near Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri.

In April, the government passed the West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 2012, to allow industrial establishments to hold land above the ceiling of 24.8 acres as mentioned in the West Bengal Land Reforms Act, 1955. The amendment also exempted more industries from the land-ceiling rule.

Three months on, nobody in the government – apparently oblivious to the delay's impact on projects awaiting the "14Y clearance" for buying ceiling-excess land – has any clue about when the rules will be made public.

"Normally, the process should not take more than a month and a half. We don't know why it is taking so long," said a source, adding that the draft notification of rules that the government started working on earlier this month now lies with the judicial department for vetting.

#### PSU incentives to employees for beating deadline

The government may allow state-run firms to offer incentives to employees for executing projects ahead of schedule, a move that will not only provide much-needed thrust to a slowing economy but also tackle the problem of cost overruns. "If we give incentives to the staff involved in the projects, both time and cost overruns can be curtailed," said a government official, requesting anonymity. As per the proposal, the government may allow state-run firms to offer up to 20% of salary as bonus if the project is completed before schedule.

"This is not the final number, and we are looking to set up slabs, like 10% of salary if it's completed on time, amongst other options," the official said. There is a cost overrun of Rs 1.43 lakh crore, which is 19.5% of the original cost, in projects being implemented by the state-run companies, says a report by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation. Some projects get delayed in spite of all requisite clearances due to issues such as contract-related problems. According to official estimates, out of 571 projects costing above Rs 150 crore, 258 are delayed, and 31 have been sanctioned without any commissioning schedule.

*The Telegraph - 13.07.2012*

[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120714/jsp/front/page/story\\_15727905.jsp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120714/jsp/front/page/story_15727905.jsp)

### **Monitoring mechanism to be set up for public-private partnership projects**

With an aim of ensuring timely completion of projects undertaken in public-private partnership mode, the government today decided to set up an institutional mechanism to oversee contract performance effectively.

The Institutional Mechanism for Monitoring of PPP Projects, cleared by the Union Cabinet, will have two-tier system -- Projects Monitoring Unit (PMU) and Performance Review Unit (PRU).

The proposal of the Planning Commission was approved at a time when an increasing reliance is being placed on PPP projects across many wings of the government. "It has become necessary to adopt a well-defined institutional structure for overseeing contract performance effectively," an official statement said.

*Business Standard - 12.07.2012*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/monitoring-mechanism-to-be-setfor-ppp-projects/31283/>

### **Sebi asks top 500 firms to provide e-voting facility from October**

To widen the participation of shareholders in company decisions, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) yesterday asked top 500 listed firms to provide e-voting facility to their shareholders from October onwards.

The regulator said it had been the endeavour of the government to provide wider participation of shareholders in decisions of companies through electronic voting (e-voting) process. Former finance minister Pranab Mukherjee, in his Budget for 2012-13, had also advocated for e-voting facilities, besides existing process for shareholder voting. Sebi said in order to widen the participation in important proposals it had been decided to 'mandate' the listed companies to enable the e-voting facility also to their shareholders, in respect of those businesses which are transacted through postal ballot of listed companies.

*Business Standard - 15.07.2012*

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/sebi-asks-top-500-firms-to-provide-e-voting-facilityoctober/480415/>

*The Economic Times - 12.07.2012*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/psu-incentives-to-employees-for-beating-deadline/articleshow/14831302.cms>

### **Government plans to revive five PSUs through fund induction of Rs 4575 crore**

Plans to nurse back five PSUs at a total investment of Rs 4,575 crore are under active consideration of the government which will also revive Lucknow-based Scooters India without inducting any strategic partner.

Old-time blue chip PSUs - HMT Ltd, HMT Bearings, HMT Watches, newsprint maker NEPA, Nagaland Pulp and Paper will be revived through induction of funds by the government. The proposals to revive these PSUs are under different stages of approval, according to a statement from the Department of Heavy Industry. The maximum investment of Rs 1,292 crore has been planned for the NEPA Ltd, followed by HMT Watches - Rs 1,500 crore, HMT Ltd -Rs 992 crore and Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company -Rs 679 crore and HMT Bearings Rs 112 crore.

*Economic Times - 10.07.2012*

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-07-10/news/32618732\\_1\\_nagaland-pulp-hmt-bearings-psus](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-07-10/news/32618732_1_nagaland-pulp-hmt-bearings-psus)

### **Tea Board allocates Rs 300 cr for small growers in 12th Plan**

The Tea Board has finalised schemes at an outlay of Rs 2,550 crore during the 12th Plan. "In this, two new schemes have been added at an outlay of Rs 350 crore - one to promote small grower development and the other to implement regulatory measures. The balance Rs 2,200 crore will be on continuing the five schemes of the previous Plan," the Tea Board member, Dr S. Ramu, told Business Line.

"The revised outlay for the existing schemes entails Rs 800 crore for Plantations Development, Rs 500 crore for Quality Upgradation and Product Diversification, Rs 400 crore for Market Promotion, Rs 300 crore for Human Resources Development and Rs 200 crore for Research and Development," he said. Under the new schemes, Rs 300 crore is for tea small grower development.

*The Hindu Business Line - 10.07.2012*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/agri-biz/article3624612.ece>

## Tea production down 11.5% in Jan-May

There has been an 11.5 per cent decline in tea production in India during the January-May 2012 period. According to a crop survey conducted by the Tea Board of India, tea production during the January-May period is down by 28 million kg, as compared with the same period last year.

The decline in production is due primarily to unfavourable weather conditions. The drop in production is visible across all the tea growing regions in North and South India except Cachar, said a press statement issued by the Indian Tea Association (ITA). In May 2012, the North Indian crop was down by 2 million kg while that of South India was down by 1.6 million kg.

*The Hindu Business Line - 13.07.2012*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/agri-biz/article3635249.ece>

## Thomas Cook partners with Expedia to offer visa services

Thomas Cook's (India) business division Thomas Cook Visa & Passport Services has tied up with online travel company Expedia India to provide a range of visa assistance services to its customers in the country.

"Thomas Cook India's partnership with Expedia India is yet another initiative in addressing customer needs via our travel expertise and innovative product-service range," Thomas Cook (India) Managing Director Madhavan Menon said in a statement. "Our unique visa services portfolio is an ideal fit with Expedia India's online offering and we are delighted to partner with them," Menon said.

*Zee News - 10.07.2012*

[http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/companies/thomas-cook-partners-with-expedia-to-offer-visa-services\\_55477.html](http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/companies/thomas-cook-partners-with-expedia-to-offer-visa-services_55477.html)

## Travel management group Egencia adds seven new countries to Its global alliance

Egencia, the world's fifth largest travel management company, has expanded the Egencia Global Alliance to include strategic partnerships with leading travel management companies (TMCs) in Russia, Ukraine, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and Sri Lanka. Currently, the Egencia Global Alliance (EGA) comprises partnerships in 34 countries, establishing a presence in 54 countries globally.

*News Track India - 13.07.2012*

<http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2012/07/13/26-Travel-management-group-Egencia-adds-seven-new-countries-to-Its-global-alliance>

## Tea Board cuts foreign flab

The Tea Board has decided to close its offices in London, Moscow and Dubai. The offices were set up to promote Indian tea. However, it has been found that only 30 per cent of the expenditure incurred by these offices were for promotion, while the rest were administrative expenses such as salary, loss in exchange and bank charges.

The offices in Hamburg (Germany) and New York have been closed earlier. Following a KPMG report, which evaluated the schemes under the Eleventh Plan of the Tea Board, the members agreed that overseas promotion would be undertaken from its headquarters in Calcutta.

*The Telegraph - 16.07.2012*

[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120716/jsp/business/story\\_15733143.jsp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120716/jsp/business/story_15733143.jsp)

## Indian online travel agencies confident about customer security

Online travel company Cleartrip Travel Services Pvt. Ltd's ad server was infected last month with a malicious code that could have allowed criminals access to personal information from the customer's computer. The code was removed immediately after the company was informed about the breach by Web security company Websense Inc. No harm was done as the code was removed before it could become fully active, according to Cleartrip.

The attack came three months after the company started its much-touted, one-touch booking facility, which allows users to store their credit card information with Cleartrip.

*Mint - 11.07.2012*

<http://videos.livemint.com/2012/07/10200633/Indian-online-travel-agencies.html?type=tp>

## Incredible India attracts 4.32 lakh foreigners in June

Continuing the growth trajectory, the Incredible India campaign has attracted 4.32 lakh foreigners in June this year as compared to 4.12 lakh in same period last year registering a 4.8 per cent increase. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism also recorded a robust growth of 19.2 per cent during this period as the exchequer earned Rs 6485 crore compared to Rs 5440 crore in the corresponding period last year, according to Tourism Ministry data.

*Business Standard - 10.07.2012*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/incredible-india>

[alliance.html](#)

## **Concor may soon be a Navaratna**

The Indian Railways may finally loosen its grip and delegate work to the heads of its public sector units, such as Container Corporation (Concor), Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation, Indian Railway Finance Corporation, Railtel, RITES, Ircon, and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation.

The Department of Public Enterprises has invited applications from non-railway service employees for the post of Chairman and Managing Director. The post, at present, is held by the Railway Board members. This move will pave the way for more financial and administrative freedom for these PSUs as the post of their Chairman is at present held by the Railway Board members.

*The Hindu Business Line - 12.07.2012*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/article3635211.ece>

## **JN Port needs to handle more containers to stay in top league**

In 2011, an estimated 561.5 million TEUs were handled at world ports out of which the top 30 container ports listed by Containerisation International, London, handled 58 per cent.

Compared with 2010, the growth rate is estimated at 8.4 per cent. Chinese ports continued to post strong performance in 2011 with 10 Chinese ports finding places among the 30 top ports. Six of them posted double-digit rates of growth in their throughputs, which contributed to the Chinese share of the top 30 league rising from 42 per cent in 2007 to 46 per cent in 2011. By 2015, Chinese ports' share is likely to rise to 50 per cent.

*The Hindu Business Line - 15.07.2012*

[http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/article3642817.ece?ref=wl\\_industry-and-economy](http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/article3642817.ece?ref=wl_industry-and-economy)

## **NTPC receives top honours as a Best Employer and a Great Place to Work**

NTPC has been ranked as the Third Best Employer in the country and first among the PSUs by a survey of Great Places to Work in association with Economic Times for the year 2012. NTPC has also been ranked first among the large organisations and in the Manufacturing sector categories as a Best Place to Work For. NTPC JV - NSPCL has also been ranked amongst the top 20 (with employees below 1000 category) and 3rd in the

[india-attracts-432-lakh-foreigners-in-june/30435/](#)

## **Inefficiencies, poor infrastructure plague logistics sector**

India's ranking slipped to 46th in the 2012 World Bank's Logistics Performance Index, which measures logistics efficiency and is now recognised globally. Five years ago, India was ranked 39. The drop in ranking is a matter of concern for the country, which is expecting a lot of foreign investment across sectors that require an efficient logistics system.

Better overall logistics performance and trade facilitation are strongly associated with trade expansion, export diversification, attractiveness to foreign direct investment and economic growth, says the World Bank.

*The Hindu Business Line - 15.07.2012*

[http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/article3642816.ece?ref=wl\\_industry-and-economy](http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/article3642816.ece?ref=wl_industry-and-economy)

## **Govt to modify CSR spending clause in Cos Bill: Moily**

Government today said it will modify the provision in Companies Bill regarding two per cent CSR spending to ensure that corporates earmark funds for such activities, but will not make it mandatory.

"Yes...It (the proposed modification) will make CSR spending more focused," Corporate Affairs Minister Veerappa Moily said when asked whether the government has accepted the parliamentary panel's suggestion to modify the CSR norm. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, headed by BJP leader Yashwant Sinha, had suggested that Clause 135(5) of the Bill be modified by substituting the words 'shall make every endeavour to ensure' with the words 'shall ensure'.

*Economic Times - 11.07.2012*

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-07-11/news/32633202\\_1\\_csr-spending-csr-activities-companies-bill](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-07-11/news/32633202_1_csr-spending-csr-activities-companies-bill)

## **Trivedi appointed Director (Mktg.), MMTC Ltd**

MMTC Ltd has appointed Anand Trivedi as Director (Marketing).

## **MRPL MD given additional charge**

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) informed BSE that Mr P.P. Upadhyay, Managing Director, MRPL has been entrusted with additional charge of Director (Technical) by the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

manufacturing category.

*ET NOW - 14.07.2012*

**Bagra gets extension as CMD NALCO**

Shri B L Bagra, Director, Finance, NALCO who is having the additional charge of CMD has been granted extension for more 3 months.