

(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.)

## **Narendra Modi follows Vajpayee's footsteps, to head both government & alliance**

Prime minister-elect Narendra Modi is likely to hold the position of the chairman of National Democratic Alliance (NDA), following the example of Atal Bihari Vajpayee who headed both the government and the ruling coalition.

Top sources in the BJP said NDA's working chairman LK Advani had been told that Modi will have to lead the coalition to ensure smooth functioning of the government and the supporting alliance. Vajpayee, who has been seriously unwell for some years, is still NDA chairman.

*Economic Times - 19.05.2014*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/narendra-modi-follows-vajpayees-footsteps-to-head-both-government-alliance/articleshow/35315551.cms>

## **Cabinet ratifies 4.66% stake sale in BHEL**

*Following the block deal, government stake in BHEL came down to 63.06%*

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) today ratified the decision to sell 4.66% stake in power equipment maker BHEL through block deal route. The decision was ratified by the CCEA headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, sources said.

The Finance Ministry in March had sold 4.66% stake in the state-owned company to Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) for about Rs 1,889 crore. LIC purchased 11.41 crore shares in BHEL at a price of Rs 165.55 apiece through a block deal on the BSE.

Following the block deal, government stake in BHEL came down to 63.06%, from 67.72%. The Empowered Group of Ministers, headed by Finance Minister P Chidambaram, had in February decided on the timing and mode of disinvestment in BHEL.

*Business Standard - 14.05.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cabinet-ratifies-4-66-stake-sale-in-bhel-114051301247\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cabinet-ratifies-4-66-stake-sale-in-bhel-114051301247_1.html)

## **Sebi asks FinMin to consider tax sops for mutual fund**

In a bid to boost the mutual fund industry, market regulator Sebi has requested the Finance Ministry to consider various tax sops and other measures for investors and a final decision in this regard would be taken by the new government. These are part of Sebi's efforts to incentivise and channelise household savings into long-term investment products.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had already approved these measures and has now written to the Finance Ministry about the proposals. The regulator would push for implementation of these measures with the new government, official sources said.

*Money Control - 18.05.2014*

[http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/mf-news/sebi-asks-finmin-to-consider-tax-sops-for-mutual-funds\\_1088260.html](http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/mf-news/sebi-asks-finmin-to-consider-tax-sops-for-mutual-funds_1088260.html)

## **CAG will audit private companies, PPPs having revenue sharing pact with Government**

Regretting that economic progress has thrown up a class of 'rent seekers', Comptroller and Auditor General Shashi Kant Sharma today said the CAG will continue to audit private companies and Private Public Partnership (PPP) projects in cases where revenue sharing with the government is involved.

"Work on telecom audit is already in progress and I am hopeful that our first report would be ready before the year end. A report on gas and oil exploration will be presented to Parliament soon. We will be taking up performance audit of some ongoing PPP projects shortly," he said while speaking at a conference on corporate fraud.

*Economic Times - 13.05.2014*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/cag-will-audit-private-companies-ppps-having-revenue-sharing-pact-with-government/articleshow/35060875.cms>

## **Regulatory failure caused rise in corporate fraud: CBI**

The CBI on Tuesday blamed "collective failure" of regulatory mechanism for the rise in corporate frauds in recent years involving a sum of nearly Rs 29,000 crore.

India has witnessed a marked increase in the number of scams that have surfaced in public and private sectors, said CBI director Ranjit Sinha. "The scale and size of corporate frauds has zoomed in the last 15 years with most cases involving siphoning off funds by promoters, top management and defrauding the lenders or investors," he said.

*Times of India - 14.05.2014*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Regulatory-failure-caused-rise-in-corporate-fraud-CBI/articleshow/35092293.cms>

## **IOC chairman appointment delayed**

Key PSU appointments, including chairman of nation's largest firm Indian Oil Corp (IOC), have been delayed as outgoing Prime Minister Manmohan Singh did not sign any non-urgent file during his last days in office.

As many as 56 files, many of them pertaining to approval for appointments at state firms, were put up to Prime Minister in last 7-10 days but Singh returned them saying they should be considered by the new government under Narendra Modi, sources privy to the development said.

*Times of India - 18.05.2014*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Business/India-Business/IOC-chairman-appointment-delayed/articleshow/35297199.cms>

## **Budget airlines woo biz travellers**

Budget airlines are wooing the business traveller ahead of the launch of two new Indian airlines. GoAir is revamping its business class product, GoBusiness, with more comfortable seating and SpiceJet is offering free flights to companies on the purchase of 6-10 tickets. The aviation industry is highly seasonal with summer and winter peak seasons. All airlines depend on business travellers for regular traffic.

*Business Standard - 13.05.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/budget-airlines-woo-biz-travellers-114051201014\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/budget-airlines-woo-biz-travellers-114051201014_1.html)

## **Privatize PSU banks, change governance structure: RBI panel**

A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) panel set up to review governance of bank boards has suggested that the government should either privatize or merge state-run banks, or design a new governance structure for these banks to allow them to compete better and avoid repeated requests for recapitalization.

The panel suggested privatization or a different governance structure in view of the low productivity and steep erosion in asset quality and "demonstrated un-competitiveness of public sector banks over varying time periods".

*Livemint - 13.05.2014*

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/r2heGpQ6gzudX31VrU7aLI/Change-governance-structure-in-PSU-banks-RBI-panel.html>

## **MoT launches web system for recognition of Travel Trade**

Ministry of Tourism has launched a Web-based Public Delivery System for recognition of the Travel Trade Service Providers. The objective of the system is to ease the process of filing applications by the Travel Trade Service Providers seeking recognition from the Ministry of Tourism and also to bring in transparency in granting the approvals.

The MoT presently approves Inbound Tour Operators; Travel Agents; Domestic Tour Operators; Adventure Tour Operators and Tourist Transporters Operators. The new procedure will accept applications online through a website [www.etraveltradeapproval.nic.in](http://www.etraveltradeapproval.nic.in) from service providers thereby make the process paperless.

*Travel Trends Today - 19.05.2014*

<http://traveltrendstoday.in/news/2014/05/19/mot-launches-web-system-for-recognition-of-travel-trade>

## **SpiceJet announces ticket sale for Tier II cities; price starts at Rs 1,899**

Low cost carrier SpiceJet launches has launched yet another discount fare for direct and connecting flights to North and eastern cities. The three day offer, starting Thursday, will offer all inclusive tickets at as low as Rs 1,899 one way on direct as well as connecting flights, which will be valid for travel between July 1 and September 30.

*Indian Express - 15.05.2014*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/companies/spicejet-announces-ticket-sale-for-tier-ii-cities-price-starts-at-rs-1899/>

## **Domestic airlines like SpiceJet and others try to lock in flyers as AirAsia readies to take off**

Indian carriers have in the past few months brought changes to their pricing strategy, giving customers more advance purchase opportunities and at the same time spiking prices on close-in or spot tickets, setting the ground to give a tough fight to AirAsia which claims to be bringing the lowest fares into the market. Low-fare carrier SpiceJet has led the change. The airline has triggered about seven-eight industry-wide rounds of flash sales so far this year, compared with two or three a year earlier.

*The Economic Times - 16.05.2014*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/domestic-airlines-like-spicejet-and-others-try-to-lock-in-flyers-as-airasia-readies-to-take-off/articleshow/35127259.cms>

## **Qatar Airways launches website for Indian travel trade**

Qatar Airways has launched an exclusive website for Indian travel trade partners. The website is aimed at providing up-to-date information on the company. The site is designed to serve as a unified communication channel for Indian trade to keep them informed and updated about various offers, products, circulars, advisories, policies and news on the latest developments from the airline, as per a release.

*Travel Biz Monitor - 14.05.2014*

<http://www.travelbizmonitor.com/qatar-airways-launches-website-for-indian-travel-trade-23993>

## **SpiceJet joins hands with Visas of the World**

SpiceJet has tied up with Gulf-based Visas of the World to offer its customers seamless visa services for the UAE. Under the pact, the partners together will provide a 30-day visa for AED 290 and 96-hour visa for AED 245 or its equivalent in Indian rupee to its customers, according to the airline's website.

"SpiceJet partners with Visas of the World to help provide seamless visa services for all its customers," it said. It offers services such as personalised assistance with filling of forms by visa experts, appointment scheduling, documentation, visa application submission, convenient payment options and delivery of visa documents. Besides, a dedicated email and call centre support team will also be provided to the visa seeker.

*The Hindu Business Line - 14.05.2014*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/travel/spicejet-joins-hands-with->

## **After SpiceJet, IndiGo offers discounted tickets starting at Rs 1,407**

A day after SpiceJet announced a fresh sale of tickets for tier 2 cities, IndiGo the country's largest airline by passenger market share, has announced its own discounted fare offer. For bookings till May 17th 2014, IndiGo is offering one-way tickets starting at Rs 1,407 for flights on select sectors between July 1 and September 24. Key routes available under the discount offer are Jammu-Srinagar (Rs 1,407), Mumbai-Ahmedabad (Rs 1,880), Chennai-Bengaluru (Rs 1,593), Jaipur-Mumbai (Rs 2,325) and Chennai- Hyderabad (Rs 1,908).

*The Financial Express - 17.05.2014*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/after-spicejet-indigo-offers-discounted-tickets-starting-at-rs-1407/1251697>

## **Qatar Airways sharpens focus on India but IndiGo tie-up seems difficult**

Qatar Airways interest in IndiGo, India's largest domestic airline, reflects the Gulf's carrier's strategic focus and its desire to increase traffic rights in India but an alliance between the two seems unlikely because of varying business models and IndiGo's sound financial position.

*Business Standard - 15.05.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/should-qatar-airways-buy-indigo-114051501308\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/should-qatar-airways-buy-indigo-114051501308_1.html)

## **OMCs may get Rs 11,000 cr more than budgeted subsidy**

The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are slated to receive an additional Rs 11,000 crore of subsidy from the government in addition to the Rs 22,000 crore slated to be given as roll over for the first quarter of the current financial year within a week's time.

According to official sources, the oil marketing companies will receive a total of Rs 33,000 crore of subsidies for the first quarter of the current financial year.

They added that part of the subsidy to the tune of Rs 22,000 crore is rolled over from the last quarter of the last financial year.

Rest of the amount is proposed to be given in the form of "comfort letter" from the ministry of finance. The entire amount will be given within next week before these companies prepare their financial results.

[visas-of-the-world/article6009437.ece?utm\\_source=RSS\\_Feed&utm\\_medium=RSS&utm\\_campaign=RSS\\_Syndication](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/omcs-may-get-rs-11-000-cr-more-than-budgeted-subsidy-114051300932_1.html)

### **Select centres freights up on hike in diesel**

Freight rates for nine-tonne pay load section for select destination improved by Rs 1,000 in the local truck transport market today after the hike in diesel prices.

Transporters raised freights for select centres after diesel rates were raised by over Rupee one.

*Business Standard - 13.05.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/select-centres-freights-up-on-hike-in-diesel-114051300792\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/select-centres-freights-up-on-hike-in-diesel-114051300792_1.html)

*Business Standard - 13.05.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/omcs-may-get-rs-11-000-cr-more-than-budgeted-subsidy-114051300932\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/omcs-may-get-rs-11-000-cr-more-than-budgeted-subsidy-114051300932_1.html)

### **No space for cargo container? Fold it**

Holland Container Innovations has developed a cargo container that can be folded when empty to save on space. Four empty 40-ft containers can be folded and stacked in the place of one standard box helping container terminals and warehouses save space. Holland Container Innovations was established as a spin-off from the Delft University of Technology to market 4FOLD, the foldable containers.

*The Hindu Business Line - 13.05.2014*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/no-space-for-cargocontainer-fold-it/article6005852.ece>