

(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.)

Balmer Lawrie in News

BUSINESS INDIA ♦ THE MAGAZINE OF THE CORPORATE WORLD

Drive-in health camp

Balmer Lawrie, a mini-ratna PSU, has launched a unique CSR initiative through its Greases & Lubricants division in Kolkata last fortnight. The company has decided to conduct free health check-up camps for 50,000 drivers across the country. In the first phase, it plans to cover 10,000 drivers in the eastern region.

"It has been our constant endeavour to leverage our CSR efforts to improve the quality of life of the communities, especially the disadvantaged groups, in and around the company's work locations across India. This year-long health camp project has been undertaken, keeping in mind the association of the company with the drivers' community through the Balmerol brand of greases and lubricants," says **Viren Sinha**, chairman & managing director,



Balmer Lawrie. Last year, the company had distributed 20,000 water backpacks in the desert region and water stressed zones of the country, as part of its CSR activity. ♦

Business India – August 4-17, 2014 (Section "People" on pg 104)

Comply with Sebi norms or get delisted: Jaitley tells PSUs

Making it clear that PSUs should comply with the minimum public holding norm as mandated by Sebi, finance minister Arun Jaitley on Tuesday said listed PSUs which cannot follow the norm should get themselves delisted. "If it (PSU) is listed company, then whatever are the guidelines issued from time to time by the listing authority, which is Sebi, they will have to follow," he told the

Govt planning new ETF with SUUTI, PSU stakes

While last year the Centre raised about Rs 5,600 crore by sale of a chunk of its shares in Axis Bank held through SUUTI, it is eyeing a mop-up of Rs 6,500 crore this year by launching an exchange-traded fund (ETF) based on a basket of its equities in some private and government firms. Sources familiar with the matter told FE that the finance

Rajya Sabha. Currently PSUs need to maintain public shareholding of 10%.

"...If they (Sebi) say 25% (minimum public holding) that will be a different set of guideline. If any PSU wants to avoid that it has to get itself delisted... If a PSU decides to get listed, then it is bound by the listing law," Jaitley said. In June Sebi board had decided that all listed PSUs should achieve a minimum public shareholding of 25% within three years.

The decision, aimed at ensuring uniformity among listed entities irrespective of their promoters, would also help the government raise close to Rs. 60,000 crore from the sale of shares in around 36 listed PSUs where the public shareholding is less than 25%. Under current norms, government undertakings should have at least 10% public shareholding whereas for non-PSU firms the minimum level is 25%.

Hindustan Times - 12.08.2014

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/comply-with-sebi-norms-or-get-delisted-jaitley-tells-psus/article1-1251382.aspx>

Government to award port projects worth Rs 4,575 crore under public-private- partnership

The government has identified projects for augmenting capacity by 67 million tonnes at five major ports under the PPP mode by March, entailing an investment of Rs 4,575 crore. The capacity of the country's 12 major ports - Kandla, Mumbai, JNPT, Marmugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Ennore, V O Chidambarnar, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata stood at about 700 MT as on March 31 this year.

"Seven projects entailing an investment of Rs 4,575 crore have been identified for award under the public-private- partnership (PPP) mode at five major ports in the country during the current fiscal," a Shipping Ministry official said. These include dry port at Chennai port, development of liquid terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, development of liquid terminal and operation of container terminal at Kandla Port, storage of bulk cement at Mumbai port and development of iron ore and multi-cargo berths at Paradip Port, Odisha. "These projects would entail capacity augmentation of 66.95 MT," the official said. Forty-four projects worth Rs 30,221 crore are already under implementation under the PPP mode in the ports sector.

The Economic Times - 15.08.2014

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-08-15/news/52846106_1_ports-seven-projects-jnpt

ministry is evaluating the option of asking an investment banker to launch a closed-ended ETF on its behalf. The proposed fund will invest in stocks of Axis Bank, Larsen and Toubro (L&T) and ITC (two other private companies where the government holds shares through SUUTI) and a clutch of central PSUs, the sources said.

A final decision on the plan is yet to be taken by finance minister Arun Jaitley. If the plan materialises, the government would end up raising more than the budgeted R 5,000 crore from sale of its shares in companies held through SUUTI in FY15. Last year's sale of 9% in Axis Bank was through the offer-for-sale route and selling SUUTI stakes in this manner again was also under consideration, the sources said. They, however, indicated that there were 'some concerns' regarding the use of this route and ETF looked a better alternative.

The Financial Express - 18.08.2014

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/govt-planning-new-etf-with-suuti-psu-stakes/1280238>

PSUs are back in reckoning among B-school graduates: Survey

Business school graduates are now increasingly preferring to work in public sector undertakings over private entities owing to a plethora of factors including job security and lucrative salaries besides generous perks and special allowances, according a recent survey. "More and more pass-outs from business schools are flocking to topline public sector companies due to job security, improving prospects of firms and headwinds faced by the private sector, especially those in highly leveraged sectors like telecom, real estate, power and other infrastructure," an ASSOCHAM paper 'PSUs back in reckoning' said.

It observed that with improved Sixth Pay Commission salaries and announcement of the next Pay Commission, due to give its report in 2016, government jobs had become attractive and more lucrative.

The study found that Indian students are opting for public sector jobs over private sector because of fatter financial packages with banking and public sector undertakings becoming a major attraction on campuses today.

Zee News - 16.08.2014

http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/companies/psus-are-back-in-reckoning-among-b-school-graduates-survey_106219.html

RBI, Cabinet Secy scrutinising appointments of PSB chiefs

Close on the heels of Syndicate Bank Chairman's arrest for alleged graft, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said government will deal with PSU lenders sternly and is scrutinising recent appointments of bank heads.

"Time has come to be strict with PSU banks. I have urged the Cabinet Secretary and the RBI Governor to examine recent appointments in public sector banks," he told reporters here.

The CBI had recently written to the Finance Ministry alleging "irregularities" in appointments of chiefs of PSU banks, following which Jaitley called for a closer scrutiny of recent appointments.

Syndicate Bank Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) S K Jain was arrested earlier this month for allegedly receiving a bribe of Rs 50 lakh to enhance credit limits of a company.

A panel headed by RBI Governor selects PSU bank chiefs. Applications are processed by the Cabinet Secretary and placed before the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) for its final approval.

Moneycontrol - 14.08.2014

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/rbi-cabinet-secy-scrutinising-appointmentspsb-chiefs_1156718.html

Railways to launch next generation e-ticketing system on Wednesday

Painful experiences of booking train ticket through IRCTC website is going to be over now as railways will launch the next generation e-ticketing system on Wednesday to make the whole process much faster and easier. Railway minister Sadananda Gowda will launch the next generation e-ticketing system on 13 August by clicking the new revamped IRCTC ticketing website. Besides, Gowda will launch a series of IT (Information and Technology) initiatives in the rail sector including e-demand and e-division module of freight services, mobile application for train enquiry and Go India Smart card.

With the launch of next generation e-ticketing system, the ticket booking capacity through the website would enhance to 7200 tickets per minute in the peak hours as against present 2000, said a senior railway ministry official. Ticket booking was sometime getting slow due to overload and traffic congestion. "The website has been revamped at an estimated cost of Rs180 crore and as a result the next generation e-ticketing system is much faster and it can take traffic load during peak hours," said the official.

New norms soon for PSU bank directors; CMD post to be split

The Centre is moving swiftly to clean up the appointments to state-run bank boards and unveil fresh guidelines to revamp the system of senior-level appointments which have come under intense scrutiny after the alleged Syndicate Bank bribery scandal. Stung by the alleged Syndicate Bank bribery scandal, the government has decided to split the post of the chairman and managing director. The chairman would be a reputed person from the industry or a professional while the MD would have a fixed term of three years, which would be extendable by two more years.

A new set of guidelines is also expected to be announced shortly for appointment of independent directors on bank boards. It has been proposed to make the boards free of any political interference and induct reputed professionals such as economists, management professionals and other experts. TOI was the first to report on Aug 6 about the appointment of politicians, TV anchors and petrol pump owners and others on bank boards.

Times of India - 18.08.2014

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/New-norms-soon-for-PSU-bank-directors-CMD-post-to-be-split/articleshow/40353924.cms>

Indian Railways launches Go-India Smart Card for cashless travel

In a major initiative to improve railway interface, Indian Railways has launched five improved IT-enabled platforms both in passenger facilitation and freight transportation areas. Developed by Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), these new platforms were launched by Sadananda Gowda, Minister for Railways, Government of India. The most significant of the five new platforms was the launch of Go-India Smart Card, which is a pan-India smart card to enable passengers to pay for tickets for long distance reserved, unreserved and suburban journeys. It can be used at nominated UTS (Unreserved Ticketing System) counters and automatic ticket vending machines for unreserved tickets and nominated PRS (Passenger Reservation System) counters for reserved tickets. Initially, the project will be implemented on two sectors, New Delhi-Howrah; and New Delhi- Mumbai on a pilot basis.

The event also witnessed the official launch of New Generation e-Ticketing System (NGeT) which would be able to deliver an estimated 7,200 tickets per minute. The 'state-of-the-art,

Currently there are about 4.5 lakh e-tickets booked on an average through the IRCTC website which can go upto 6 lakh during the peak period.

Live Mint - 12.08.2014

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/pBVLzAOaIGLqYyyWRO7KKL/Railways-to-launch-next-generation-eticketing-system-on-Wed.html>

Tourism industry in India still lagging far behind

An important element of the Narendra Modi philosophy of branding has to do with tourism. But with less than 7 million foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) and a lowly 65th rank in travel and tourism competitiveness index of the World Economic Forum, the Modi government has an onerous task on hand to position India as a destination of choice for the world's major spending tourists.

How difficult the task is would be apparent should we take a look at the figure of FTAs in Asian countries during 2013. In a recent reply to a question raised in the Lok Sabha, the government revealed that the country ranked at a lowly number 14th among the Asian nations in terms of foreign tourist arrivals. Compare India's 6.96 million foreign tourists with 55.69 million of China's and India's pathetic performance on tourism can be seen.

DNA - 13.08.2014

<http://www.dnaindia.com/analysis/column-tourism-industry-in-india-still-lagging-far-behind-2010292>

Plan to allow authorized agents to issue rail tickets

The Railway Board has proposed to extend its computerised passenger reservation system (PRS)-cum-unreserved ticketing system (UTS) facility to authorised ticketing agents. Named Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK), the facility has been restricted to railway ticket service agents (RTSA) and rail travel agents who have a clean track record for the past five years.

In an August 8, 2014 circular, the Board has asked zonal railways to select the licensees who will have to put up an office with all required infrastructure on par with railway PRS centres. The Railways will provide the licensee with computer terminals, ticket printers, modems among other things, while the licensee will have to hire two data/communication channels between his location and the nearest computerised PRS centre.

The Hindu 14.08.2014

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil->

hi-performance platform, according to CRIS, will also be able to manage and handle 1.20 lakh concurrent users without impacting the performance of the site.

Hospitality Biz India - 15.08.2014

<http://www.hospitalitybizindia.com/detailNews.aspx?aid=19968&sid=1>

SpiceJet Joins Fare War, Tickets from Rs. 1,947

SpiceJet has announced a special promotional scheme on tickets booked till 23:59 hours tonight. This limited period offer is valid for travel between September 1, 2014, and December, 15, 2014. Fares under the Independence Day special offer start from an all-inclusive Rs. 1,947. It is applicable only on SpiceJet's domestic network. SpiceJet said that inventory under this sale is limited and is available on first-come-first-served basis. The fares under this sale are non-refundable, it added.

SpiceJet's rival AirAsia India, the latest entrant in domestic air space, has lowered its fares by 20 per cent for a limited period on all its flights. The discounted ticket scheme was launched on Tuesday for a six-day period (till August 17) and offers customers 20 per cent discount on tickets across categories for flights from Bengaluru to Chennai, Kochi and Goa and vice versa, AirAsia India said in a release here.

NDTV Profit - 14.08.2014

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/corporates/article-spicejet-joins-fare-war-tickets-from-rs-1-947-640586>

Oil marketing companies to get Rs 11,000 crore subsidy in Q1

The government will pay fuel retailers Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL) Rs 11,000 crore in subsidy for the first quarter. Fuel retailers sell diesel, domestic LPG and kerosene at government controlled rates which are below market price. The loss they thus incur is made good through cash subsidy from the government and upstream firms like ONGC.

For April-June the government has sanctioned Rs 11,000 crore subsidy, an official said in the national capital. Of this, IOC will get Rs 6,076 crore, BPCL Rs 2,407 crore and HPCL Rs 2,517 crore. During April-June, the three fuel retailers cumulatively lost Rs 28,690.74 crore on the three fuel. Of this, the upstream firms ONGC, Oil India (OIL) and GAIL have been asked to meet Rs 15,546.65 crore or 54 per cent of the under-recovery or revenue loss.

Business Today - 11.08.2014

[nadu/plan-to-allow-authorized-agents-to-issue-rail-tickets/article6314250.ece?ref=sliderNews](http://nadu.plan-to-allow-authorized-agents-to-issue-rail-tickets/article6314250.ece?ref=sliderNews)

SCOPE releases compendium on CSR

Mr Thawaar Chand Gehlot, Union minister for social justice and empowerment, today released the "SCOPE Compendium on CSR Contribution by CPSEs" and complimented SCOPE and CPSEs for bringing out this monumental document. He also hailed the enormous contribution of public sector towards corporate social responsibility (CSR) and urged them to contribute more and more towards social justice and empowerment for inclusive growth of the country.

The Statesman - 11.08.2014

<http://www.thestatesman.net/news/70801-SCOPE-releases-compendium-on-CSR.html>

<http://businesstoday.intoday.in/story/oil-retailers-indian-oil-bharat-petroleum-hindustan-q1-subsidy/1/209085.html>

Shri P K Sinha selected as MD, OMDC Limited

PSEB has recommended the name of Shri P K Sinha, Director (P&P), OMDC for the post of Managing Director, OMDC Limited at a PESB meeting held on August 11, 2014.

<http://pesb.gov.in/recommendation/Recommendation-11082014.pdf>