

(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.)

BL in News

The Telegraph

20 October, 2014

Happenings

BalmerLawrie joins Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



BalmerLawrie & Co. Ltd., a Miniratna I Company joined the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Employees in various units / establishments across India took the Swachhta Pledge on 2nd October, and a mass cleanliness drive was conducted in the surrounding areas. Offices and factories were cleaned and tree plantation programs were also organized. On the same day foundation stone was laid for toilets in government schools by the C&MD and Directors in the northern, eastern and western regions of the country

Business Standard

14 October, 2014

TENDER CARE

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conducted in the surrounding areas. Offices and factories were cleaned and tree plantation programs were also organized. On the same day foundation stone was laid for toilets in government schools by the C&MD and Directors in the northern, eastern and western regions of the country. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Company plans to construct more than 20 toilets in government schools across the country.

CSR: Health, sanitation to be priority areas for Central PSUs

The Central Public Sector Enterprises as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) will have to give priority to safe drinking water for all, provision of toilets particularly for girls, health and sanitation, among others. The Ministry for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has issued fresh guidelines on CSR and sustainability for CPSEs based on the New Companies Act. These companies have now been allowed to take up CSR activities anywhere in the country.

However, the guidelines are stricter than those given in the Companies Act regarding provisions related with spending norms. The Ministry's guidelines say that if a company fails to spend the prescribed amount, the Board will report and specify the reasons for failing to do so. It further

Govt makes CSR spending mandatory for public sector companies

Coming out with revised guidelines, the government has made it mandatory for all profit-making central public sector companies to spend money on CSR activities. Besides, these enterprises cannot include money spent on sustainable development efforts under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) ambit. The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has come out with the revised guidelines following the new Companies Act making social welfare spending compulsory for certain class of profitable corporates mandatory.

In comparison with provisions under the Companies Act, 2013, the latest DPE norms are more strict since it would be applicable on all profit-making central public sector enterprises.

states that the unspent CSR amount in a particular year would not lapse, "It would instead be carried forward to the next year for utilisation for the purpose for which it was allocated."

The Hindu Business Line - 24.10.2014

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/csr-health-sanitation-to-be-priority-areas-for-central-psus/article6530808.ece>

Government mulls fixing tenures of top management in PSUs to revamp sector

The Narendra Modi government is readying a reform blueprint to revitalise public sector companies with measures, including listing such enterprises on stock exchanges, fixing tenures for the top management and increasing accountability for their boards to instil efficiency. The government has dusted off the three-year old S K Roongta committee report on reforming central public sector units, which had not been implemented by the previous regime. "A fresh Cabinet note has been floated," a government official familiar with the move told ET.

The panel headed by former Steel Authority of India chairman had submitted its report to the Planning Commission during the previous United Progressive Alliance government. After unshackling diesel prices from state control and opening up coal mining to the private sector, the government is keen to continue the momentum of reforms. Besides big-bang steps, attention is also being given to nuts-and-bolts measures. More efficient and goal-oriented managements of state-run companies with significant surplus funds can help kick-start the investment cycle.

The Economic Times - 27.10.2014

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-mulls-fixing-tenures-of-top-management-in-psus-to-revamp-sector/articleshow/44944083.cms>

PSU workers may be allowed to participate in decision-making process

After announcing several labour reforms last week, the Narendra Modi government is considering allowing workers to participate in board decision of state-run firms such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Coal India, NTPC, Indian Oil Corporation and BHEL. The policy proposal, an initiative of the labour ministry, is expected to be initially confined to state-run enterprises, but its scope could be enlarged later to include private firms, government and industry officials said.

"The labour ministry is expected to initiate consultations with all stakeholders, including representatives of industry and labour unions from

As per the companies law, certain class of entities are required to shell out at least two per cent of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR activities.

Business Standard - 26.10.2014

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/govt-makes-csr-spending-mandatory-for-public-sector-companies-114102600149_1.html

Timeline issued to fill up CPSE board posts

To ensure timely board-level appointments in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), the government has issued a detailed timeline on the process of such approvals. Expressing concern over the delay in filling up board-level vacancies in CPSEs, a directive from the department of personnel & training has asked all ministries to adhere to the prescribed timeline. The Public Enterprises Selection Board has been told to initiate the process for filling up board-level vacancies at least a year prior to the date of vacancy.

The ministry concerned must inform PESB about the vacancies on time, the order says. PESB, on its part, has to complete the selection process and send its recommendations to the ministry at least six months before a post falls vacant. In the next step, the ministry will have to forward the PESB recommendation with vigilance profile of the selected individuals to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). This has to be done within 10 days from the receipt of PESB recommendation. CVC will have two months to complete the vigilance clearance process and send to the ministry concerned.

Business Standard - 25.10.2014

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/timeline-issued-to-fill-up-cpse-board-posts-114102400872_1.html

Deregulation to help PSUs recover

Diesel in Delhi will now cost Rs 55.60 a litre from 58.97 per litre, a decrease of Rs 3.37 a litre. In Mumbai, the diesel price cut comes to Rs 3.72 a litre and will cost Rs 63.54 a litre. In Kolkata, the price cut comes to Rs 3.51 per litre and in Chennai to Rs 3.65 a litre. The process to deregulate diesel price was started by the UPA-2 government. On January 17, 2013, the Cabinet allowed a monthly increase of 40-50 paise per litre in diesel price till under-recovery on it was completely exhausted. In recent days, there has been a sharp fall in international crude oil prices, which resulted in over-recovery in diesel sale for PSU oil marketing companies.

Monday," a source with direct knowledge of the development said. A similar proposal was initiated 34 years ago in the form of "the Participation of Workers in Management Bill", which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in May 1990, but was put on the backburner by various governments because the industry vehemently opposed it, sources said. Blue chip public sector companies such as ONGC, NTPC and IOC are still against the move while their respective administrative ministries are in-principle in favour of allowing workers' participation in management of the company, sources said.

Economic Times - 20.10.2014

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-10-20/news/55236549_1_labour-ministry-psu-workers-trade-unions

India's Oil Demand Rises Nearly 3 Per Cent in September

India's oil consumption rose nearly 3 per cent in September while diesel sales fell for the second time this fiscal year. Consumption of oil products in September at 12.3 million tonnes was 2.9 per cent higher than 11.95 million tonnes a year ago, data from the Petroleum Ministry showed. Total sale of diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country, fell to 4.899 million tonnes during the month from 4.908 million tonnes in September 2013. This is the second drop in diesel sales this fiscal year.

In April, sales had dipped to 5.929 million tonnes when compared with 6.152 million tonnes in the same month last year. Last fiscal year, diesel demand dipped for the first time in more than a decade as monthly price hikes and increased power generation clipped consumption.

NDTV Profit - 21.10.2014

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/industries/article-indias-oil-demand-rises-nearly-3-per-cent-in-september-682717>

IRCTC Flight Booking

Recently the IRCTC Flight Booking was announced and the flights ticket can be booked from the IRCTC official website. The IRCTC has strong users base of over 3.6 Crore and its increasing. To take the full advantages of this users base and to provide the one place to book the both train ticket and flight tickets this service was started. The official website of IRCTC provides the options to book both train tickets and air tickets. Now the users of the IRCTC can logon to the portal and book the Flight Tickets. To book the Flight tickets online through IRCTC flight booking engine you have to visit the official website at <http://www.air.irctc.co.in/> and you will find the interface for searching the flights.

The government used this as an opportunity to bring the long-pending reform in the oil sector. However, under-recoveries continue on kerosene and LPG. In the case of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG, the under-recoveries for the second fortnight of October 2014 will be Rs 31.22 per litre (Rs 32.67 per litre last month) and Rs 404.64 per cylinder (Rs 427.82 per cylinder last month). State-owned fuel retailers IOC, BPCL and HPCL are losing about Rs 139 crore a day on the sale of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG.

Deccan Chronicle - 19.10.2014

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/141019/nation-current-affairs/article/deregulation-help-psus-recover>

Right pricing petrol & diesel

Fuel pricing has been the bugbear of many a government in India. Though de-licensing of oil refining and marketing, and decontrol of products such as naphtha, fuel oil, lubricants and aviation turbine fuel were one of the first accomplishments of the reform process in the early 1990s, freeing the pricing for transportation fuels — petrol and diesel — remained a challenge.

Last week's decision by the Centre to deregulate diesel prices has to be seen in this context. For the first time since the short-lived experiment in 2002 when petrol and diesel prices were freed for a short period, oil companies will have the freedom to manage retail price of diesel on their own and adjust it at periodic intervals to reflect market levels. Petrol prices were deregulated in June 2010 but fortnightly revisions have been a reality only since January 2013.

The Hindu - 27.10.2014

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/ri-ght-pricing-petrol-diesel/article6533469.ece>

IRCTC Now Lets You Pay for Rail Tickets in Instalments

The Indian Railways and Citibank have partnered to offer IRCTC website users the ability to pay ticket fares in monthly instalments (EMIs). The service was rolled-out at the time of writing. Notably, the IRCTC ticket EMI service is only available for Citibank credit card subscribers. While the tie-up is a welcome one for Citibank card holders, it doesn't represent a very large step forward, as credit card-issuing banks offer zero percent EMI schemes on a large variety of purchases.

To avail the service, IRCTC users will need to click on the EMI option on the payment screen, instead of credit card, debit card, cash card,

Now you should select the options to book either domestic or international flights. IRCTC website has options to book domestic as well as international tickets. Now you can search the flights and select the flight to book. Finally you can make the payment and your air ticket will be generated. Email and SMS alerts will also be sent to your email and mobile number respectively.

News Track India - 26.10.2014

<http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2014/10/26/4-IRCTC-Flight-Booking.html>

Indian railways launches official Android app for e-ticketing

With an eye on the growing usage of mobile applications, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched its official Android app 'IRCTC Connect' that would allow passengers to book railway tickets. The app can be used for various other services like checking reservation status, train schedules, train routes, ticket availability, ticket cancellation, booking history and recent history among others.

The App is available for free download on Google Play India. The 12MB IRCTC Connect is compatible on phones running Android 4.1 and above. The IRCTC service website says, "The wait is over!! You deserved, we developed." "Enjoy the never before experience just by swipe and shuffle, select and book", it has added.

Zee News - 13.10.2014

http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/technology/indian-railways-launches-official-android-app-for-e-ticketing_109951.html

Earning from tourism up by 4.6%: Union Tourism Minister Shripad Yasso Naik

The foreign exchange earnings from tourism has gone up by 4.6 percent in comparison with the last year, Union Tourism Minister Shripad Yasso Naik said here today hoping that measures like tourist visa on arrival and electronic travel authorisation would considerably contribute to the earnings. "Foreign exchange earnings from tourism during January to August 2014 was \$12.739 billion with a growth of 4.6 per cent compared to the corresponding period in 2013," Naik said at a function here.

The Economic Times - 13.10.2014

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/travel/earning-from-tourism-up-by-4-6-union-tourism-minister-shripad-yasso-naik/articleshow/44800242.cms>

Government mulls fund to encourage cargo transportation by ships

and net banking. Users will then need to select Citibank from the dropdown, feed in their Citibank credit card details and authorise the payment of the entire ticket fare. Users can then pay back Citibank in monthly instalments. We expect more banks will sign up to offer the service.

NDTV - 20.10.2014

<http://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/news/irctc-now-lets-you-pay-for-rail-tickets-in-instalments-609524>

Airlines extend discounted fares post festive season

In order to boost sales in a slower period post Diwali, budget carrier SpiceJet and full service carrier Jet Airways on Tuesday announced discounts on fares for travel between November 1 and December 15. The fares, however, will depend on flight and date of travel, the airline said in a release. Tickets can be booked between October 21 and October 26 for travel between the periods mentioned above.

The sale applies for economy class travel in Jet Airways and for the entire domestic network of SpiceJet and Jet. Taking a cue, airlines like IndiGo, Air India too are offering discounted fares on certain routes during the same travel period. Discounts are valid for popular sectors such as Goa, Bangalore, Chennai, Kochi.

DNA - 22.10.2014

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-airlines-extend-discounted-fares-post-festive-season-2028190>

MakeMyTrip wins World Travel Award for India's Leading Online Travel Agency

MakeMyTrip.com has won the World Travel Award 2014 in the India's Leading Online Travel Agency category. The award was given at the World Travel Awards Asia & Australasia Gala Ceremony 2014 at The Oberoi, New Delhi, as per a release. Rajesh Magow, Co-founder and CEO - India, MakeMyTrip.com, said, "It is a huge honour to be recognised at a global travel and tourism industry forum..."

TravelBizMonitor - 20.10.2014

<http://www.travelbizmonitor.com/makemytrip-wins-world-travel-award-for-indias-leading-online-travel-agency-25567>

Tour operators

Never mind the ticketing portals; it's still the

Inspired by Europe, India wants to make cargo movement greener and cheaper. The shipping ministry proposes to set up a fund, on the lines of the European Union's Marco Polo programme, to offer incentives for sustainable freight transport. The objective is to get cargo off trucks and trains and carry them on ships plying along the coast. Although India has a 7,517 km coastline, only 15 per cent of the country's local freight is moved along the coast, compared with 43 per cent in the European Union. The Indian Railways carried 532.44 million tonnes of freight in the six months ended September 30, an increase of 4.2 per cent from a year earlier, according to the government.

The cargo transported by rail includes coal, iron ore, cement and foodgrain, carried by more than 7,000 freight trains every day. The Narendra Modi government will soon finalise the policy to incentivise coastal shipping. The shipping ministry will start off with a subsidy of Rs 200 crore to be used over the next two years to encourage traders to use coastal shipping.

The Economic Times - 23.10.2014

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-10-23/news/55358809_1_hazardous-cargo-coastal-shipping-indian-railways

Railway rake in 10.59% more earnings from freight traffic

The Indian Railways generated a whopping Rs. 48062.07 crore of revenue earnings from commodity-wise freight traffic during April-September 2014 as compared to Rs. 43457.78 crore during the corresponding period last year, registering an increase of 10.59 per cent. During the said period, Railways carried 532.44 million tonnes of commodity-wise freight traffic, compared to 511 million tonnes carried during the corresponding period last year, an increase of 4.20 per cent.

The Times of India - 20.10.2014

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Railway-rake-in-10-59-more-earnings-from-freight-traffic/articleshow/44890729.cms>

India's 12 big ports see first signs of revival in cargo growth

At the half way stage of the current fiscal year that began in April, the 12 ports owned by the Indian government loaded 288.48 million tonnes (mt) of various cargo, 4.2% more than the 276.85 mt handled during the same period last year.

Mint - 17.10.2014

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/jqDn7icnoQe3dcNTV31XdL/Indias-12-big-ports-see-first-signs-of-revival-in-cargo-gro.html>

Ved Prakash selected as CMD, MMTC

tour operators travellers prefer when it comes to booking a trip. A survey, Half Time 2014 – New Trends to Tell You Where India's Consumer is Headed by The Nielsen Company, says that almost half of the vacations respondents took were planned by tour operators. Around 42 per cent of those who travelled for leisure, excluding family functions and weddings, say they gone on such planned tours. These tours continue to score highly because many consumers believe they give good value for money and are convenient.

When it comes to domestic travel, almost half (46 per cent) of those travelling with their families are aged between 25 and 35 years. Leisure travel is more frequent amongst those aged between 26 and 30 years. Ninety-five percent of this age group say they travel once in six months or more for personal reasons. On the subject of promotions, travellers seem to favour instant gratification.

The Hindu Business Line - 23.10.2014

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/features/brandline/tour-operators/article6527754.ece?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=RSS_Syndication

Ports traffic increase by 4%

Barring Kolkata Port and New Mangalore Port, all the 10 major ports posted a marginal increase in cargo traffic for the first six months of the current financial year. All these ports put together handled 288.48 million tonnes of cargo against 276.86 million tonnes for the corresponding period last year, marking an increase of 4.2 per cent, according to a data released by the Indian Ports Association. Mormugao led the pack by posting 22.25 per cent growth, followed by Kamarajar Port (15.56 per cent) and V.O. Chidambaranar Port (11.52 per cent).

The Hindu - 13.10.2014

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/ports-traffic-increase-by-4/article6497392.ece>

T K Chand selected as CMD, NALCO Ltd

PESB has recommended the name of Shri T K Chand, Director (Commercial), RINL, for the post of CMD, NALCO Limited at a PESB meeting held on October 15, 2014. Total 11 persons were interviewed for the same.

PESB - 15.10.2014

<http://pesb.gov.in/recommendation/Recommendation-15102014.pdf>

Gautham Roy appointed as MD of

Ved Prakash, Director (Marketing), MMTC, has been selected for the post of Chairman and Managing Director, MMTC Limited at a Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) meeting held on October 16, 2014.

PESB - 16.10.2014

<http://pesb.gov.in/recommendation/Recommendation-16102014.pdf>

Chennai Petroleum Corp

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd has informed BSE that Shri Gautham Roy, Executive Director, Indian Oil Corporation Limited has been appointed as Managing Director, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited in terms of letter dated October 09, 2014, received from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. Shri Gautham Roy has assumed the charge as Managing Director, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited effective October 14, 2014.

Moneycontrol - 14.10.2014

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/announcements/gautham-roy-appoints-as-mdchennai-petroleum-corp_1202912.html