

(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

Balmer Lawrie

Balmer Lawrie & Company Ltd has informed BSE that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on May 29, 2013, inter alia, to consider and take on record the audited financial results of the Company on a standalone basis along with Audited Consolidated Financial Results for the financial year ended March 31, 2013. Further, the Board of Directors may also consider recommending a dividend on the Equity Share Capital of the Company for the financial year ended as on that date.

Money Control - 17.05.2013

http://www.moneycontrol.com/stocks/stock_market/corp_notices.php?autono=672233

PSUs agree to invest more

Top public sector units today committed themselves to investing about 80 per cent of their savings to bolster industrial growth. At an investment review meeting with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) today, the CEOs of top PSUs committed themselves to an increased capital expenditure (Capex) plan. This is the second investment meeting of the PSU chiefs with the PMO.

The PMO today directed about two dozen PSUs, including ONGC, GAIL, NTPC and Bhel, to invest the targeted Rs 1.42 crore in capex in this fiscal or else pay higher dividends. "CPSEs (central public sector enterprises) have been asked to adhere to their commitments of investment and take steps so that the respective targets are fulfilled, particularly for the first two quarters of the current fiscal," a PMO official said. "Those which fail to achieve the target will have to pay higher dividend during the period so that the idle funds can be used elsewhere to ensure growth and job creation."

The Telegraph - 13.05.2013

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1130514/jsp/business/story_16895855.jsp#.UZHxCx6LTxU0

Vigilance cells for PSUs

Offering greater room for public intervention in the conduct of public sector undertakings and key offices, the Department of Industries is gearing up to set up vigilance cells in all PSUs and offices under its ambit. The decision to constitute independent vigilance cells is part of a bid to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the PSUs and other offices. The government has already issued orders for constituting the cells

Invest excess funds or pay more dividends: PMO to PSUs

Prime Minister's Office on Monday asked state-run companies to invest their excess funds or pay higher dividend, repeating a warning that helped achieve some progress last year. The stern message came at the meeting of heads of cash-rich central public sector enterprises with Pulok Chatterji, principal secretary to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, sources told ET.

In 2012-13 the big central public sector enterprises had cash and bank balances of over Rs 1.62 lakh crore with Coal India and ONGC accounting for more than a third of the total. The other cash rich companies are SAIL, BNHEL, NTPC and NMDC. The government has fixed a Rs 141,912 crores capacity expansion target for the current year for 23 state run companies, the prime minister's office said in a statement. The amount has been broken up into quarterly targets to ensure that companies meet the target.

The Economic Times - 14.05.2013

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/invest-excess-funds-or-pay-more-dividends-pmo-to-psus/articleshow/20041061.cms>

Govt to kick-start divestment in June; NHPC, IOC in line

As the government gears up to meet its Rs 40,000-crore divestment target for this year, a slew of public issues are set to hit the stock markets from June onwards. The government's divestment drive is likely to kick-off from June with issues from PSUs such as ITDC, National Fertilisers Limited, State Trading Corporation and MMTC set to hit the market. These

with adequate powers to crack down on corruption and nepotism.

One of the main advantages of the cells is that complaints and petitions regarding departmental irregularities which prima facie do not amount to criminal misconduct as defined in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, framed to tackle corruption in government agencies and public businesses will be entrusted with the vigilance cells.

The cell in each unit will investigate the complaints and submit reports.

The Hindu - 15.05.2013

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/vigilance-cells-for-psus/article4715219.ece>

GoM gives nod for three-year fixed tenure for PSU heads

In a move to give stable tenure to PSU heads, a Group of Ministers (GoM) has approved a minimum tenure of three years for chairman of state-owned firms, irrespective of their superannuation age.

Currently, all directors as well as chairman of public sector enterprises compulsorily retire on reaching the superannuation age of 60 years. This meant that some would have only a very limited time on the board to shape policies. "The GoM, headed by Finance Minister P Chidambaram, has approved a fixed tenure of 3 years for Chairman and Managing Directors of PSU," a top official said.

The recommendation of the GoM will now go the Cabinet for approval, he added. This means that someone like Sudhir Vasudeva who was appointed Chairman and Managing Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) in October 2011 at the age of 58 years, would continue at head of India's most profit-making firm well past his retirement age in February 2014.

Economic Times - 16.05.2013

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-05-16/news/39310437_1_cpse-psu-heads-gom

PSUs need more professionalism: CAG

The Comptroller and Audit General (CAG) report, tabled in the Assembly for financial year 2012, has rapped the public sector undertakings and has pointed out numerous deficiencies in its functioning. Of 64 working PSUs, 37 earned a profit of Rs 493.36 crore while 25 incurred losses of Rs 14, 504.02 crore. The report findings reveal

companies have to meet Sebi's requirement of a minimum 10-percent public float before August 8, 2013.

Loss-making PSUs that are listed are likely to be delisted because according to the government's divestment policy, only PSUs that have been making profit for three years can be listed. And since these companies have to also meet Sebi's norms, they are likely to be delisted. The department of divestment has also floated a Cabinet note for an 11.36-percent divestment in the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) via the offer-for-sale route as well as divestment in Indian Oil along with Coal India and Hindustan Copper.

Money Control - 14.05.2013

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/cnbc-tv18-comments/govt-to-kick-start-divestmentjune-nhpc-iocline_871147.html

Govt to set up public sector land management committee

The government plans to set up a Committee for the creation of a data-bank of unutilised land currently in possession with Central PSEs (CPSEs). The plan to set up the "Public Sector Land Management Committee", under the Chairmanship of Secretary of Department of Urban Development, is aimed at making the unutilised land of a CPSE available to another in need for capacity building, a source in the government said.

The government's plan to set up the data-bank is likely to come up in the next meeting of the Cabinet for approval, the source said, adding a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Urban Development would be appointed as the Member Secretary of the Committee. "With the setting up of the Committee, if a CPSE needs a portion of land, currently belonging to another CPSE, it can directly approach to the Committee for the same. There would be room for barter as well. This will make things easier for all," he said.

Economic Times - 14.05.2013

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-05-14/news/39256156_1_cpse-unutilised-land-committee

Autonomy to Public Sector Enterprises

The endeavour of the Government is to make Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) autonomous board managed companies. Under Articles of Association, the Board of Directors of CPSEs enjoy autonomy in respect of recruitment, promotion and other service conditions of below board level employees.

the state transport corporations and Tangedco made heavy losses. The report has called for greater professionalism and accountability in the functioning of PSUs.

Deccan Chronicle - 16.05.2013

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/130516/news-current-affairs/article/psus-need-more-professionalism-cag>

GoM on PSU reforms to meet on 22 May

The panel of ministers on reforms in public sector enterprises will have its second meeting on 22 May, sources said. The Group of Ministers (GoM) in its first meeting on 23 April is believed to have agreed on a slew of reform proposals for the public sector units (PSUs).

Sources said the panel discussed the need for having a clear distinction between procedural lapses and deliberate misuse of powers by key management personnel before seeking the intervention of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Mint - 19.05.2013

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/3XWJ3afOwuKmKGYer5fX60/GoM-on-PSU-reforms-to-meet-on-22-May.html>

Employment in PSU be not denied on ground of conviction: Delhi High Court

Employment in a public sector organization shall not be denied to a job-seeker on the ground of conviction in a criminal case unless offences have an element of "moral turpitude", the Delhi High Court has said.

A bench of justices Pradeep Nandrajog and V Kameswar Rao said an inference should not be drawn about the antecedent and character of a job-seeker on the basis of his conviction in a criminal case.

"The law declared was that every conviction for an offence would not require an inference to be drawn that the antecedent and character of the wrong doer is of a kind that public employment has to be denied," the court said.

The Economic Times - 17.05.2013

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/jobs/employment-in-psu-be-not-denied-on-ground-of-conviction-delhi-high-court/articleshow/20109173.cms>

The Board of Directors of a CPSE exercises delegated powers subject to board policy guidelines issued by Government has granted enhanced powers to the Boards of the profit making enterprises under various schemes like 'Maharatna', 'Navratna' and 'Miniratna'.

Press Information Bureau, Govt. of India -

16.05.2013

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=96030>

Manmohan Singh urges trade unions to work together

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has urged trade unions and industry captains to work together to drive India's slowing economy out of the woods after conceding that 'growth is not what we would like it to be.'

Referring to the government's recent decisions to boost investment and improve business sentiment, the prime minister said that there is a need for the central and state governments to work in partnership with the industry and trade unions to strengthen the country's economy by removing bottlenecks that hamper new industrial activity.

Economic Times - 18.05.2013

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-05-18/news/39354675_1_trade-unions-india-inc-indian-labour-conference

ONGC may sell stakes to Shell

India's largest exploration company, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), is in the process of selling stakes of some deep-water blocks to global energy giant Royal Dutch Shell.

ONGC owns 56 deep-water blocks at present. "Selling stakes in some of the deep water oil and gas blocks to Shell is part of a larger tie up that ONGC is working out with this Anglo Dutch multinational energy firm, already having a huge presence in India," a senior ONGC official said.

The strategic partnership being stitched between the two energy majors at present would involve billions of dollars' worth of investments in the oil and gas sector. Besides exploration and production (E&P), the two may jointly invest into oil refining, LNG and also the marketing of petroleum products in India.

Hindustan Times - 19.05.2013

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/WorldEconomy/ONGC-may-sell-stakes-to-Shell/Article1-1062736.aspx>

Increase in Customs duty on polymers to help domestic producers

Indian government raised customs duty on polymers to 7.5% from 5% effective 9th May 2013 in response to the industry's long standing demands. This includes polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), poly vinyl chloride (PVC), polystyrene (PS) and ethyl vinyl acetate (EVA). Since the raw materials needed to produce these polymers such as naphtha and ethylene still attract a 5% duty, the rise in customs duty on polymers would help improve the producers' margins.

"We note that India is currently a net importer of PE, PVC but a net exporter of PP, PS and we estimate that medium to long term demand growth will keep India in deficit for most chemicals. Strong domestic demand will also allow higher duties to be passed on to downstream converters, and eventually almost entirely to end users, in our view," mentioned a note from Goldman Sachs.

Economic Times - 10.05.2013

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-05-10/news/39169104_1_customs-duty-finolex-industries-indian-oil

After IndiGo, Jet Airways to charge for seat selection

The charge for pre-selection of seats has now extended to international flights of full service Indian carriers as well. Jet Airways have started charging for advance reservation of seats in economy class on all international routes operated by Boeing 737 aircraft from early May.

Economic Times - 14.05.2013

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/after-indigo-jet-airways-to-charge-for-seat-selection/articleshow/20041984.cms>

58% Indian tourists prefer bookings through travel agents: MasterCard Survey

According to the latest MasterCard Consumer Purchasing Priority Survey travel agents play a big role in clinching deals. Out of 805 respondents, 58 per cent opted to go to a travel agent for making bookings. The Survey interviewed respondents in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai - who talked about their travel habits and preferences. Respondents were in the age group of 18-64 years. The report stated that due to low disposable income, Indian consumers now prefer travelling to domestic leisure hotspots for holidays

Govt mulls putting cap on preferred seats on airlines

The recent 'unbundling' of some services such as seat preferences or meals on board might be helping airlines to earn a lot of ancillary revenue, but the government is considering whether it could limit the number of 'preferred seats' on sale on each flight.

The government has been prompted to step in just days after it announced unbundling of these services following reports that some airlines were charging for a very large number of seats, with one of them even imposing fees for the 'congested' middle seat, official sources said.

Economic Times - 19.05.2013

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/govt-mulls-putting-cap-on-preferred-seats-on-airlines/articleshow/20133778.cms>

All's fare in airline pricing

First, the reality check. The excitement over Civil Aviation Minister Ajit Singh permitting scheduled airlines to unbundle certain services and charge passengers additional fees for them is overdone. In fact, Singh's announcement does not represent a significant policy liberalisation as many would like it to be projected. That's because most of the services that he listed are already "unbundled" - payment for in-flight meals, check-in baggage, sporting and musical equipment, using the lounge and so on.

Business Standard - 13.05.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/all-s-fare-in-airline-pricing-113051300873_1.html

MakeMyTrip launches 'Last Minute Hotel Deals'

MakeMyTrip launched its latest product 'Last Minute Hotel Deals' at a press conference in Mumbai yesterday. The company is the official travel partner of the movie, Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani and unveiled a movie-centric Television Commercial (TVC) highlighting convenience of hotel booking on MakeMyTrip website. The event was attended by actor Ranbir Kapoor and Deep Kalra, CEO & Founder, MakeMyTrip.

Travel Biz Monitor - 14.05.2013

over international destinations

Travel Biz monitor - 13.05.2013

<http://www.travelbizmonitor.com/58-indian-tourists-prefer-bookings-through-travel-agents-mastercard-survey-20341>

Soon, flyers won't get long credit period from agents

Air travellers buying tickets from travel agents will no longer get long credit periods — something that used to be the agents' USP over travel portals and airline websites where payments have to be made instantly. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has decided to reduce the payment cycle of agents to airlines from the current fortnightly to a weekly basis from July 1. This means, agents will have to sell tickets for cash or ask for payment within a day or two.

The Times of India - 20.05.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Soon-flyers-wont-get-long-credit-period-from-agents/articleshow/20145387.cms>

LTA to be tax exempt only for domestic travel

Tax exemption on leave travel allowance or LTA can be claimed only on domestic travel and cannot be clubbed with an overseas journey. If an air ticket comprises Indian and overseas components, no exemption will be provided either on the entire cost or on partial Indian travel.

Times of India - 15.05.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/LTA-to-be-tax-exempt-only-for-domestic-travel/articleshow/20058652.cms>

Major ports capacity addition "distant dream": Panel

Concerned over slow pace of capacity addition by 12 major ports, a Parliamentary panel has said plans to increase their capacity to 1,229.24 million tonnes (MT) by 2017 appears to be a "distant dream". Major capacity addition has been done by private ports and the capacity addition by major ports is not as much, the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has said in its report.

The Hindu Business Line - 19.05.2013

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/major-ports-capacity-addition-distant-dream-panel/article4729920.ece>

<http://www.travelbizmonitor.com/makemytrip-launches-last-minute-hotel-deals-20361>

InterGlobe Tech launches hotel booking engine for travel agents

InterGlobe Technology Quotient has launched a platform, Travelport Rooms and More, in the Indian market. This will help travel agents in India to offer 'efficient and evolved' booking services for hotels, the company said. Travelport Rooms and More is a web-based hotel price comparison and booking engine. InterGlobe Technology Quotient (ITQ) is the official distributor of Travelport Galileo in India and Sri Lanka.

The Hindu Business Line - 17.03.2013

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/interglobe-tech-launches-booking-engine-for-travel-agents/article4724617.ece>

Indians don't trust Indians with their adventure: Survey

While desi travellers have been bitten by the adventure tourism bug, most don't trust Indian companies or operators when it comes to high-risk activities, a survey conducted by an online travel portal has revealed.

The Times of India - 16.05.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Indians-dont-trust-Indians-with-their-adventure-Survey/articleshow/20077590.cms>

Cochin entity to become first govt shipyard to get listed

The global shipbuilding industry may not be in a good shape, but with business for Cochin Shipyard looking up, the government is likely to divest a 10 per cent stake in the company. This would be the first disinvestment in the sector. The company is expected to take a decision at its next board meeting, to be held in June. In 2011, the government had planned to go for divestment, but did not go ahead, pending expansion of the shipyard. The government plans to raise Rs 54,000 crore through divestment this year, nearly doubling the FY13 target of Rs 30,000 crore.

Business Standard - 17.05.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cochin-entity-to-become-first-govt-shipyard-to-get-listed-113051700014_1.html