

(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.)

Govt borrowings may come down this year

Mr R. Gopalan, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, today hinted that government borrowings are likely to come down this year. Answering a question on the

liquidity issue, on the sidelines of the Reserve Bank of India's board meeting here, Mr Gopalan said: "We are trying to see if we can reduce borrowings. I think there is some scope for reduction this year." Higher government borrowings from the domestic market crowd out the private sector from the market, while greater reliance on external debt worsens the country's balance of payments position. If the government implements its strategy to reduce borrowings, it will benefit India Inc.

A couple of months ago, the then Finance Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, said the government's net borrowing for 2012-13 is estimated at Rs 4.79 lakh crore. This, along with cash management bills of about Rs 90,000 crore, works out to around Rs 5.69 lakh crore. This is higher than in 2011-12, when the net borrowing programme was estimated at Rs 3.58 lakh crore.

The Hindu Business Line - 05.07.2012

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/economy/article3606021.ece?ref=wl_opinion

6.5% growth reflects India's resilience: Moily

GDP growth of 6.5 per cent reflects the country's economic strength, and not its weakness, the Union Minister for Corporate Affairs, Mr M. Veerappa Moily, asserted today. He said the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, was working to remove the negative sentiments created by the General Anti Avoidance Rules (GAAR) and once the fine-tuning is done, "FII money would start flowing."

The Hindu Business Line - 02.07.2012

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/economy/article3594629.ece>

Finance ministry cover for PSU insurance 'cartel'

At a time when the Competition Commission of India has come down hard on 11 cement companies for what it termed "price collusion" and cartelisation, the finance ministry has asked the four government-owned general insurance companies to "avoid any competition" among them. A finance ministry letter addressed to the chairmen and managing directors of these companies in May this year said, "All PSU insurers shall necessarily share the data concerning premium, claims, etc, with respect to major accounts and ensure that there is no competition between them in any corporate/group account."

If an account lies with one of these insurers, then at the time of renewal, the other three insurers will not quote a price lower than that insurer's, to ensure the client is retained. The letter warned that "any deviation from this instruction will be viewed seriously." Following this, the four state-owned non-life insurers — National Insurance Co, Oriental Insurance Co, New India Assurance and United India Insurance — have quietly adopted a strategy of "joint consultation" before underwriting any big risks.

Business Standard - 05.07.2012

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/finance-ministry-cover-for-psu-insurance-cartel/479441/>

M&A rush in India's online travel space

Within days of online travel company Yatra Online Pvt Ltd acquiring Travelguru to strengthen its position in the hotels and holiday business, a top official from the Nasdaq-listed market leader MakeMyTrip Ltd said merger and acquisition (M&A) was high on its agenda. "We are looking for such opportunities to expand our product portfolio and to add new technology," Keyur Joshi, chief operating officer of MakeMyTrip.com, told Business Standard.

Business Standard - 04.07.2012

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/ma-rush-in-indias-online-travel-space/479315/>

MakeMyTrip aiming 30% growth in revenues in FY13

Nasdaq-listed travel services provider MakeMytrip today said it is looking at 32% growth in revenues at nearly Rs 560 rpt 560 crore in the current fiscal on account of new initiatives for expansion. "We are aiming at a growth between 30-32% for FY13 on account of the initiatives for both organic and inorganic expansion," MakeMytrip Founder and CEO Deep Kalra told PTI.

Business Standard - 04.07.2012

<http://business-standard.com/india/news/makemytrip-aiming-30-growth-in-revenues-in-fy13/177432/on>

Domestic tourist volume registers double digit growth in 2011

Despite slowdown in global economy, the tourism sector in India has seen a positive revival with 851 million domestic tourists visits (DTVs) and 19.5 million foreign tourism visit (FTVs) recorded in 2011. Though the DTVs continued to grow at a double digit rate in 2011, the growth in FTVs moderated to 8.85 per cent after recording an impressive growth of 24.6 per cent in 2010, a Tourism Ministry release said here today.

The Economic Times - 03.07.2012

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/services/travel/domestic-tourist-volume-registers-double-digit-growth-in-2011/articleshow/14653827.cms>

How to meet the supply chain challenge

The logistics and supply chain management industry in India has been receiving greater attention in the last few years. Yet, in spite of its huge potential, the sector's growth has not kept pace with India's wider economy and this is a threat to our future competitiveness. The acceleration in industrial production and changes in consumption patterns have resulted in a high demand for basic and specialised logistics management, both at the local, and cross-border levels.

The Hindu Business Line - 06.07.2012

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/article3610114.ece>

Tea councils to check export quality

Stakeholders in tea are planning to form groups to vet the quality of exports, which have fallen in the January-March period. Two such groups — called councils, with one for North India and another for the South — is being set up by the Tea Board.

Global air traffic shows downward trend: IATA

Global air traffic showed a general downward trend in May in tow with the deteriorating global economic condition, with Indian domestic traffic recording a meagre year-on-year rise of 0.1 per cent, indicating a slowing demand. According to May results of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Indian domestic traffic rose just 0.1 per cent year-over-year, but fell 2.7 per cent compared to April.

Business Standard - 03.07.2012

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/global-air-traffic-shows-downward-trend-iata/27720/>

DHL Group to invest Rs 2,100 cr in India

Global logistics major DHL group plans to invest close to €300 million (nearly Rs 2,100 crore) in the coming years in India, according to Mr Malcolm Monteiro, CEO-South Asia, DHL Express.

DHL Express that holds a majority stake in Blue Dart Express has no plans to merge both entities and the latter would remain a separate brand, he said.

The Hindu Business Line - 04.07.2012

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/article3601337.ece?ref=wl_opinion

Kochi port invites bids to set up port-user complex

The port management has now invited bids for setting up a port user complex on 0.90 hectares to be leased out for a 30-year period. The land is being leased out on an upfront premium basis for setting up the proposed complex, close to the Ernakulam wharf.

The Hindu Business Line - 02.07.2012

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/article3595028.ece?homepage=true&ref=wl_home

Shyamal Bhattacharya takes over as Director (Operations) at OVL

Shyamal Bhattacharya has taken over as the Director (Operations), at ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC). Bhattacharya, a geoscientist, has held various key positions

The councils will be formed in the next three to six months and include exporters, producers, traders, warehouse owners and representatives of the Tea Board. "This council will inspect every export consignment and tea warehousing facilities and standards prescribed by law. Members will also be registered," said M.G.V.K.Bhanu, chairman of the Tea Board, on the sidelines of the 117th annual general meeting of the Calcutta Tea Traders Association (CTTA).

The Telegraph - 02.07.2012

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120703/jsp/business/story_15684274.jsp

during his postings at different locations across the country in ONGC, the company said in a statement." A graduate in Petroleum Engineering from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, Bhattacharya has more than three decades of diversified experience in reservoir engineering, reservoir simulation, water flooding, increased oil recovery (IOR) & enhanced oil recovery (EOR) techniques and reservoir operations," it said.

Economic Times - 05.07.2012

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-07-05/news/32551615_1_oil-recovery-ovl-ongc-videsh