

(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.)



## Panel to submit fresh MoU norms for CPSEs by August end

A Working Group on MoU guidelines for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) had met on Thursday to finalise its recommendations, an official statement said. The group was set up by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises in May to review and suggest measures to improve the MoU system.

Its mandate is to examine the desirability/possibility of different MoU formats for different sizes and categories of CPSEs including Maharatna and Navratna, examine the issue of the need for all CPSEs to be covered by the MoU, especially in its current format.

The group will also examine the current system of setting targets on five-point scale, examine the issues arising out of the Results Framework Document System of the Ministry/Departments and look into aspects of giving more operational flexibility to CPSEs/Administrative Ministry and the Task Force on MoU in the matter of target setting and performance evaluation.

*The Hindu Business Line - 29.06.2012*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry->

## PSUs must declare financial impact of government directives

In a move that could vindicate UK-based hedge fund TCI's stand on Coal India, the Standing Committee on Finance has suggested a mandatory requirement for state-owned companies to disclose the financial impact of government directives.

The move is prompted by Comptroller and Auditor General's suggestions that some of the government directions to PSUs may have financial bearing on companies and need to be disclosed to ensure greater financial transparency. If adopted, experts say the move will help minimise interference by injecting greater caution among government officials of parent ministries of PSUs and provide more information to investors. The Standing Committee submitted its report on the Companies Bill to the Speaker on June 26. The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) will now draft the amended bill, which is expected to move in the monsoon session of Parliament.

*The Economic Times - 30.06.2012*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/psus-must-declare-financial-impact-of-government->

[and-economy/article3583927.ece](http://www.financialexpress.com/news/no-economic-tsunami-in-india-govt/967338/)

## **No 'economic tsunami' in India: Govt**

Hitting out at global rating firms for downgrading India's credit outlook, Corporate Affairs Minister Veerappa Moily today said there was no "economic tsunami" in the country and they should redesign their assessment parameters.

"Just because last two quarters have not been that good, doesn't mean there is an economic tsunami. There is no economic crisis in the country...Credit rating agencies will need to redesign some of their parameters and confine to economic parameters when rating countries," Moily said on the sidelines of a function organised by industry body Assocham.

"Agencies have been using political parameters too when they should stick to economic parameters only," he added. Moily's comment comes against the backdrop of Standard & Poor's as well as Fitch downgrading India's credit outlook to negative, citing corruption and lack of reforms.

*The Financial Express - 27.06.2012*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/no-economic-tsunami-in-india-govt/967338/>

## **Core sector growth slows to 3.8% in May**

The country's economic prospects seem to be looking up as infrastructure sector grew by 3.8 per cent in May. In April, it had clocked a dismal 2.2 per cent. The infrastructure sector had grown 5.8 per cent in May 2011. The core industries weigh 37.9 per cent weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

According to the data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry, cement and coal production grew 11.3 per cent and eight per cent, respectively, up from (-) 1.2 per cent and 1.3 per cent in May last year.

However, sluggishness was apparent in sectors like crude, oil, natural gas and fertilisers, reflective of a slowing economy. Natural gas and fertiliser output contracted by 10.8 per cent and 15.1 per cent, respectively. Crude oil and petroleum refinery output slowed to 0.5 per cent and 2.9 per cent in May, against 9.8 per cent and 4.5 per cent in May last year.

*The Hindu Business Line - 29.06.2012*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/article3584749.ece>

## **Assocham to petition Manmohan Singh to postpone implementation of new service tax regime to October**

Jittery over the new service tax regime that was

[directives/articleshow/14512984.cms](http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/mkt-situation-not-to-dampen-psu-stake-sale-plan-dod-secy-724325.html)

## **Mkt situation not to dampen PSU stake-sale plan: DoD secy**

The government will move ahead with the stake sale of public sector companies without waiting for further improvement in the stock markets, a senior finance ministry official said today.

"If we have to achieve the target of Rs 30,000 crore this financial year, we cannot wait for the market to improve beyond a point. I think the market has bottomed out," Mohammad Haleem Khan, secretary in the department of disinvestment (DoD), told reporters here.

The DoD has already identified a host of state-owned companies for selling stake to achieve the budgeted target of Rs 30,000 crore in the current fiscal. The companies include Hindustan Copper, SAIL, BHEL, RINL and NALCO, among others.

*Money Control - 29.06.2012*

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/mkt-situation-not-to-dampen-psu-stake-sale-plan-dod-secy-724325.html>

## **India Inc's revenue growth in April-June may be weakest in 6 quarters**

Indian companies' revenue growth in the April-June quarter could be the weakest in the last six quarters due to demand moderation, said Crisil Research.

Given the slowdown in economic activity and gross fixed investments, revenue growth in April-June 2012 (Q1 FY13) is forecast to drop to around 14 per cent from 17.5 per cent in the first quarter FY12.

The revenue growth in Q1 FY13 is expected to be much weaker due to a sharp deceleration in airlines, auto components, commercial vehicles, hotels, metals, organised retail, real estate and textiles.

Crisil Research's analysis is based on the aggregate financial performance of 247 large companies across 26 sectors (excluding banks and oil & gas companies).

*The Hindu Business Line - 26.06.2012*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/article3572736.ece>

## **Govt may amend land purchase laws**

With the aim of tackling illegal transactions and evasion of taxes, the government today said it proposes to amend two laws related to land

rolled out on July 1, the industry plans to petition the Prime Minister to delay the switchover till October. The industry says the Central board of Excise and Customs rolled out the new system on Sunday, barely 10 days after issuing the necessary notifications. "We will be making a representation to the new finance minister to implement the new regime from October," said D S Rawat, secretary general, Assocham.

*The Economic Times - 02.07.2012*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/assocham-to-petition-manmohan-singh-to-postpone-implementation-of-new-service-tax-regime-to-october/articleshow/14577993.cms>

### **Yatra taking over rival Travelguru**

Yatra Online Pvt. Ltd is taking over rival travel and hotel booking site Travelguru.com by acquiring the stake of US-based travel agency Travelocity.com LP in the Mumbai-based company, according to two executives close to the development. Details about the value of the transaction weren't immediately available. Officials of both Yatra and Travelguru didn't respond to phone calls and messages. Travelocity's representatives couldn't immediately be reached for comment. Speculation about the acquisition was doing the rounds of various websites on Friday.

The Travelguru acquisition will make Yatra a dominant player in domestic hotel bookings, a Yatra executive and analysts said. This extension is becoming critical as margins dwindle in the ticketing segment, given stiff competition from rivals such as Makemytrip.com and Cleartrip.com.

*Mint - 29.06.2012*

<http://videos.livemint.com/2012/06/29235813/Yatra-taking-over-rival-Travel.html?h=B>

### **Kailash Chandra Purohit takes over as NPCIL CMD**

Kailash Chandra Purohit, who played a key role in the setting up all of India's new atomic power plants, today assumed charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited. Purohit was Director (Projects) on the NPCIL Board and has the experience in both indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and the Light Water Reactors (LWRs) being set up with international cooperation at Kudankulam.

*Economic Times - 25.06.2012*

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-06-25/news/32409406\\_1\\_power-plants-nuclear-regulator-npcil-cmd](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-06-25/news/32409406_1_power-plants-nuclear-regulator-npcil-cmd)

purchase and transfer. The proposal to bring amendments to the Benami Transactions (Prohibitions of the Right to Recover Property) Act, 1989 and SEZ Act, 2005 was made at a preparatory meeting of National Council for Land Reforms (NLRC). Chairing the meeting, Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh told the non-official members of NLRC that suggestions on the steps taken by the government to bring reforms and related land management issues should be provided in a week's time.

*Financial Express - 26.06.2012*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/govt-may-amend-land-purchase-laws/966982/>

### **Tea exports down 4 per cent in January-March quarter**

Tea exports from India fell by 4 per cent to 43.84 million kg in the first quarter of the current calendar year on account of drop in outbound shipments of the brew from South India, latest Tea Board data said. The country had shipped 45.76 million kg of tea in the January-March period of 2011 calendar year.

Shipments of the brew from South India declined by 17 per cent to 14.43 million kg in January-March 2012 from 17.42 million kg in the year-ago period. Exports from North India, however, rose by 4 per cent to 29.41 million kg as against 28.34 million kg in the review period. In the 2011-12 fiscal, tea exports fell by 11 per cent to 190.95 million kg as compared to 213.79 million kg in the 2010-11 financial year.

*The Economic Times - 26.06.2012*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/tea-exports-down-4-per-cent-in-january-march-quarter/articleshow/14409208.cms>

### **Coal India - Assumption of Charge of Director (Marketing), CIL**

Coal India Ltd has informed BSE that Shri Bipin Kumar Saxena has assumed the charge of Director (Marketing) of Coal India Ltd. w.e.f. June 19, 2012 (forenoon) in pursuance of letter dated June 18, 2012 from Director, Ministry of Coal, Govt. Of India, New Delhi and Office order dated June 19, 2012 issued by Chief Manager (Pers.) EE of Coal India Ltd.

*Moneycontrol - 26.06.2012*

[http://www.moneycontrol.com/stocks/stock\\_market/corp\\_notices.php?autono=566494](http://www.moneycontrol.com/stocks/stock_market/corp_notices.php?autono=566494)

### **Shakti Sinha is new DSIIDC CMD**

Shakti Sinha assumed charge as chairman-cum-managing director of the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corp (DSIIDC). Sinha, an IAS officer of the 1979 batch, took over from Chetan Sanghi, who has moved to Mizoram, a DSIIDC statement said.

*IANS - 26.06.2012*

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/shakti-sinha-dsiidc-cmd-090511078--finance.html>

### **P.P. Upadhyia assumes charge as MRPL MD**

Mr P.P. Upadhyia, Director (Technical) of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd, assumed charge as Managing Director of the company on July 1. Mr Upadhyia took charge from Mr U.K . Basu, who superannuated on June 30.

*Hindu Business Line - 01.07.2012*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/article3591514.ece>

### **Surender Mohan assumes office as CMD of NLC**

Mr B Surender Mohan on Sunday assumed office as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC). Prior to his new role, 56—year—old Mohan was serving as the Mines Director. He replaces, Mr A R Ansari, who has superannuated, Neyveli Lignite Corporation said in a statement.

*Hindu Business Line - 01.07.2012*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/article3591549.ece>

### **Shri A K Jha takes over as Director-Technical at NTPC**

Shri A.K. Jha has taken over as Director Technical, NTPC on Sunday. Shri Jha has more than 35 years of rich and varied experience in Power Sector.

*Millennium Post - 01.07.2012*

*Source - Sarkaritel*