

(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.)

PSU dividends only solace in government accounts

The central government's accounts woefully fell short of its targets on the revenue side in the first five months of the current financial year. Surprisingly, its non-tax revenue showed quite a good contribution to the Centre's kitty. This is despite the fact that sale of spectrum has not yielded any revenue to the government so far, against about Rs 41,000 crore targeted in the budget. Non-tax revenue stood at Rs 68,786 crore during April-August of 2013-14, constituting 39.9% of Rs 1,72,252 crore pegged for the entire year. At this point of time, this category had yielded the government 29% of the Budget Estimate in 2012-13.

Business Standard - 21.10.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/psu-dividends-only-solace-in-government-accounts-113102100182_1.html

Divestment target looks stiff as CIL, IOC stake sales get postponed

This year's PSU stake sale programme seems to be getting perilously back-loaded. With the administrative ministries of two PSUs — Coal India and Indian Oil Corporation — expressing serious reservations, divestment in these companies is now likely only in January-March quarter as against the earlier plan of hitting the market in the current quarter. These divestments are estimated to fetch close to R13,000 crore at current market prices.

Financial Express - 24.10.2013

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/divestment-target-looks-stiff-as-cil-ioc-stake-sales-get-postponed/1186395>

Markets week ahead: RBI policy, derivative expiry in focus

The week ahead would see the markets react to the RBI policy on Tuesday as we head into a derivative expiry on Thursday. The markets continued to "flirt" with 3 year highs as Sensex hit a roadblock at 21000, while the Nifty succumbed to profit booking at 6250. The Nifty ended the week down 0.71 per cent after hitting a 3 year

Cash-rich PSUs may be a good bet for long-term investors

Experts are recommending shares of public sector undertakings (PSUs) with a medium to long-term view. This is despite the fact that these shares have been poor performers in the past three years. Experts argue that attractive valuations, recent reform initiatives by the government and a possible macro-economic recovery have made these shares worthy for long-term investors. "Investors should take stock-specific approach and pick only quality companies in this space with a medium to long-term perspective," says Nitin Jain, head of capital markets (individual client group), Edelweiss Broking.

The Economic Times - 23.10.2013

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/stocks-in-news/cash-rich-psus-may-be-a-good-bet-for-long-term-investors/articleshow/24559225.cms>

IFC eyes \$400-mn equity investment in India

For IFC, India has emerged as the second largest market in Asia, after China, for direct equity investments

International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of World Bank, continues to be bullish on India, and might invest \$400 million in equity deals in FY14 in India, IFC's South Asia Director Serge Devieux told Business Standard in an exclusive interview.

Business Standard - 24.10.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/ifc-eyes-400-mn-equity-investment-in-india-113102400015_1.html

Top execs await poll-bound govt to make a move

GoM headed by FM had cleared a proposal to extend service of executives for up to 2 years even if they attain age of superannuation, provided they have a good track record

The run-up to next year's general elections might see some of the top executives of government-run companies getting unlucky.

high at 6252, while the high beta "bank Nifty" ended the week with gains of 1.4 per cent.

NDTV Profit - 27.10.2013

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/market/article-markets-week-ahead-rbi-policy-derivative-expiry-in-focus-370575>

Petronas Lubricants International to set up first blending plant in India

Petronas Lubricants International, the lubricants manufacturing and marketing arm of Malaysia's national oil and gas company PETRONAS, announced \$50 million investment in an lubricant oil blending plant, its first in India. The company has signed a joint land lease agreement with Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) for a lubricant blending plant of 60 kilo tonnes per annum (KTA) capacity in Patalganga area near Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The Economic Times - 21.10.2013

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/energy/oil-gas/petronas-lubricants-international-to-set-up-first-blending-plant-in-india/articleshow/24494728.cms>

Indian aviation suffers losses after charter ban

After aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) refused to allow private charter flights to fly outside India from August, the situation was exploited by foreign private charters, leading to losses worth several crores of rupees for Indian tourism and business. There was an increase in over 30% of foreign private charters coming into the country, claim a body of private charters operators.

DNA - 27.10.2013

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-indian-aviation-suffers-losses-after-charter-ban-1909401>

Tata-Singapore Airlines aviation venture gets FIPB nod without any riders

The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has approved Tata group's proposal to set up a full service airline in partnership with Singapore Airlines, paving the runway for the high-profile aviation venture to take to the skies in the months ahead. "It (Tata-SIA proposal) has been cleared," Economic Affairs Secretary Arvind Mayaram told reporters on Thursday after a meeting of the FIPB, the inter-ministerial panel for approving Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals which he heads, in Delhi.

The Economic Times - 25.10.2013

And, the period could become the best in the lives of those waiting in the wings.

Business Standard - 23.10.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/top-execs-await-poll-bound-govt-to-make-a-move-113102200886_1.html

Govt may scrap five years-20 aircraft rule for carriers to fly abroad

Tata SIA Airline, AirAsia India and GoAir may become the first beneficiaries of amendment in the 5/20 rule of civil aviation. Multiple sources said today that in a note which the civil aviation ministry is preparing for consideration of the Union cabinet, it is likely that the five year mandatory domestic operations rule may be scrapped altogether.

First Post - 21.10.2013

<http://www.firstpost.com/business/govt-may-scrap-five-years-20-aircraft-rule-for-carriers-to-fly-abroad-1185127.html>

Privatization of six major airports likely ahead of Lok Sabha polls

Civil aviation ministry is hopeful of completing the process of privatizing six major airports, including those at Chennai and Kolkata, within a time frame and ahead of the 2014 general elections. The ministry's move to hand over these airports, developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), through public-private partnership in the next 2-3 months to private parties suffered a setback with the sale of bid documents for Chennai and Lucknow airports being postponed by several weeks.

Times of India - 21.10.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Privatization-of-six-major-airports-likely-ahead-of-Lok-Sabha-polls/articleshow/24495681.cms>

India's domestic air traffic grows by 4% in September 2013

Domestic air traffic in India grew by over four per cent in the lean month of September, with Air India gaining strength in its market share and load factor than before, the PTI reported. All six Indian airlines together carried almost 457 lakh passengers between January and September as against 438 lakh during the same period in 2012, thereby registering a growth of 4.23 per cent, according to air traffic data released by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Travel Biz Monitor - 21.10.2013

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/tata-singapore-airlines-aviation-venture-gets-fipb-nod-without-any-riders/articleshow/24678894.cms>

International airline traffic beats domestic growth

The number of people flying between India and international destinations increased 10% in the first eight months of 2013, reinforcing a trend seen in 2012, even as the number of people flying between Indian cities rose only 2.54%, reflecting an increase in the number of flights to and from India. There are foreign airlines operating more than 1,734 flights per week to 25 Indian airports. These flights are expected to increase from October end, when the winter schedule starts.

Live Mint - 22.10.2013

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/95aM4EcmxJ0dXhdYCO9sxl/International-airline-traffic-beats-domestic-growth.html>

Kandla port takes over failed container terminal from ABG

Kandla port in Gujarat, India's biggest state-owned cargo handler by volume, has taken over a failed container terminal from ABG Infralogistics Ltd after depositing a security amount worth Rs.110 crore as lender's dues with the registrar of the Ahmedabad high court where the case was decided recently.

Mint - 23.10.2013

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/BlzkRGLyKBpTN2S4XnJHK/Kandla-port-takes-over-failed-container-terminal-from-ABG.html>

<http://www.travelbizmonitor.com/indias-domestic-air-traffic-grows-by-4-in-september-2013-22057>

Rain brings port operations to crawl

Cargo handling operations in at least eight berths have been hit at the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) due to the incessant rains over the last 72 hours. Ships docked at the port have neither been able to load or unload cargo, resulting in heavy losses for vessel operators.

The Times of India - 27.10.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/Rain-brings-port-operations-to-crawl/articleshow/24777311.cms>

Shri Gireesh Pradhan takes oath as Chairperson , CERC

Union Minister of State for Power (I/C) Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan as Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) in Delhi today. Previously, Shri Pradhan worked as Secretary in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. He has also served as Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary, and Special Secretary in the Ministry of Power.

Press Information Bureau of India - 22.10.2013

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=100161>