

(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 seeks nomination for anti-corruption officials in PSEs

The Centre has sought nominations for anti-corruption officials to be appointed in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) against existing and future vacancies. As many as 27 vacancies, most of them falling vacant in next two years, of Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) — who act as distant arm of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) — will be filled up by the Government. The vacancies are at the levels of Joint Secretary and Director.

"It may please be ensured that the officers sponsored should have completed the required 'cooling off' period before they are recommended for a second deputation. "The officers once sponsored are not allowed to withdraw subsequently and it will be the responsibility of the cadre controlling authorities to ensure the release of the officers in the event of their final selection," the Ministry of Personnel said in a letter to all Chief Secretary of State Governments and Union territories administrations.

The Hindu Business Line - 30.10.2013

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/govt-seeks-nomination-for-anticorruption-officials-in-pses/article5290764.ece>

Finance ministry diktat: All profit-making oil companies should declare a minimum dividend of 30%

The finance ministry wants all profit-making oil companies to declare a minimum dividend on equity of 30% as against the present requirement of 20%. Accordingly, instructions have been incorporated in the Budget Circular for 2014-15. Presently, all profit-making Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), which are essentially commercial enterprises, are required to declare a minimum dividend on equity of 20% or a minimum dividend payout of 20% of post-tax profits, whichever is higher, subject to availability of disposable profits in terms of guidelines issued by Department of Expenditure.

Indianpetro - 30.10.2013 (Source - Sarkaritel.com)

Decision on fixed tenure for PSU chiefs after State polls

Senior executives in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) will have to wait till elections are over in five States for implementation of the new measures related to their tenure. The election process will end on December 9. On August 29, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Minister Praful Patel had said that the proposal would be considered by the Government soon. But Business Line has learnt that since some of the reform measures could be considered populist, the Cabinet is now likely to consider the proposal only after the Assembly elections in the five States are over.

The reform proposals include a minimum fixed tenure for the chairman-cum-managing director and extension of service up to two years for extraordinary officials at the level of Deputy General Manager and above. A detailed proposal in this regard has already been cleared by the Group of Ministers headed by Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and is awaiting Cabinet clearance.

The Hindu Business Line - 30.10.2013

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/decision-on-fixed-tenure-for-psu-chiefs-after-state-polls/article5297550.ece>

RBI monetary policy review: Interest rate hiked 0.25 pct, Rajan makes consumer loans costlier

Keeping up an anti-inflationary stance, Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan Tuesday raised the repo rate, or the rate of interest at which banks borrow from it, by 25 basis points to 7.75 per cent. In his second quarter review of the monetary policy for FY14, Rajan, however, cut the marginal standing facility rate for banks to 8.75 per cent. This is the additional window for banks to borrow from the RBI when they exhaust limits under the repo window.

Indian Express - 29.11.2013

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/rbi-monetary-policy-review-raghuram-rajan-hikes-repo-rate-0.25-pct-consumer-loans-set-to-get-costlier/1188633/>

Lead change at PSUs from top

In this era of transparency and customer activism, efficiency of public organisations is key. But how do you emulate private sector efficiencies and a result-driven work culture in organisations, which over the years have prioritised processes, procedures and hierarchy over speed of execution and stakeholders' expectations?

In our work with various public and semi-public organisations, we have seen that often the CMD or CEO wants to bring about change and leave a legacy. But the effort is shackled by a senior team set in their ways and a bureaucracy that thrives on time-consuming, redundant and repetitive tasks.

The Economic Times - 01.11.2013

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/comments-analysis/lead-change-at-psus-from-top/articleshow/25022067.cms>

4 turnaround PSUs including Bharat Coking Coal and NFDC report profits for 3 yrs in a row

Four state-owned firms including Bharat Coking Coal and NFDC that turned-around following the revival packages for sick companies have shown profits for three years in a row, the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises said today. "Four CPSEs - Bharat Coking Coal, National Film Development Corporation, National Project Construction Corporation and SAIL Refractory Unit - have made profits consecutively for three years till 2012-13," BRPSE Chairman Nitish Sengupta said.

Economic Times - 31.10.2013

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-10-31/news/43561190_1_rs-427-crore-2011-12-and-rs-sick-company

LTC scam: RS MP refutes charges against him

Janata Dal (United) MP Anil Sahani, who has been named in a CBI FIR related to fake travel claims scam, today refuted the allegations against him claiming he himself was a victim of the fraud committed by his staff. Speaking to PTI over phone, Sahani, a Rajya Sabha member, said he had come to know that claims have been made against his quota of tickets and he had informed the authorities on March 1 this year.

Business Standard - 02.11.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/politics/ltc-scam-rs-mp-refutes-charges-against-him-113110200433_1.html

Govt. mulls ban of official usage of Gmail, Yahoo

Wary of cyber snooping, the government could ban e-mail services such as Gmail and Yahoo for official communications by December this year in a move to safeguard its critical and sensitive data. The government is expected to route all its official communication through the official website NIC's email service.

The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY) is drafting a policy on e-mail usage for government offices and departments and the policy is almost ready. The department is now taking views from other ministries on it.

The Hindu - 29.10.2013

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-mulls-ban-of-official-usage-of-gmail-yahoo/article5284904.ece>

Public sector banks revise LTA norms in wake of scam

The government has revised norms governing leave travel allowance (LTA) for public sector banks in the aftermath of the leave travel concession (LTC) scandal. Rajiv Takru, secretary department of financial services (DFS), told TOI that the department has issued revised norms for LTC for public sector banks. "We have told them what they can do and what they can't," Takru said.

The Times of India - 02.11.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Public-sector-banks-revise-LTA-norms-in-wake-of-scam/articleshow/25084046.cms>

ATF prices cut, no relief for flyers

Oil PSUs on Thursday reduced aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices by 4.5% but air travellers are unlikely to get any relief from sky high airfares. The price fell from Rs 77,089.4 and Rs 79,716, per kilolitre respectively in Delhi and Mumbai last month, to Rs 73,607.3 and Rs 76035.9 in November. Airline companies, however, say that airfares — which were raised from September due to high ATF prices — will not fall due to the drop in prices. Fares are going to remain high till mid-January and fall due to lean travel season kicking in then.

The Times of India - 01.11.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/ATF-prices-cut-no-relief-for-flyers/articleshow/25026610.cms>

Jet Airways bets on business class again: Increases seats in the premium segment, scraps loss-making domestic flights

Jet Airways, the second-largest domestic airline by passenger volume, is gearing up for the competition from Tata-Singapore Airlines' full-service airline. For one, it is reconfiguring its Boeing 737 fleet to add extra business class seats. Besides, the airline plans to cut down flights on certain loss-making domestic routes.

Business Standard - 29.10.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/jet-airways-bets-on-business-class-again-113102600597_1.html

Japanese agency offers to help Chennai port operations

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has come forward to offer assistance to Chennai Port Trust for improving container movement. The move would help the export-import trade plan better and save on time and cost. Further, the offer assumes significance, coming as it does in the backdrop of Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor project, in which JICA will have a major engagement.

The Hindu - 29.10.2013

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/japanese-agency-offers-to-help-chennai-port-operations/article5282530.ece?homepage=true>

How Allcargo Logistics became a global player

Allcargo Logistics Ltd, a port-based logistics company founded by Shashi Kiran Shetty, is working to become the world's largest LCL (less than a container load) operator by the end of this fiscal year, overtaking Vanguard Logistics Group of the US, according to analysts and company executives. Vanguard has revenue of \$800 million while Allcargo's earnings are at \$750 million. In late September, Allcargo acquired US-based logistics company Econocaribe Consolidators Inc., which has over \$125 million in revenue

Mint - 29.10.2013

<http://www.livemint.com/Specials/lluYS5KvKMm8z975Km4UjO/How-Allcargo-Logistics-became-a-global-player.html>

India ports to benefit from LNG boom

Virtually every port in India is looking to set up liquefied natural gas (LNG) receiving terminals to cash in on the country's efforts to reduce its dependence on traditional and costly fossil fuels and switch to the more efficient, cleaner and eco-friendly option. It is also an indication that locally produced gas—despite the grandiose plans

RailYatri launches mobile alerts

Over 25 million rail passengers can now find useful information regarding their train routes and stations at the click of a button on their smartphones. RailYatri.in has launched a National Railyatri Alert System (NRAS)- an information system that helps passengers find information on their route, train or destination on their internet-enabled phone.

The Times of India - 28.10.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/internet/RailYatri-launches-mobile-alerts/articleshow/24827854.cms>

Germany's Rhenus Group buys 49% stake in Indian logistics firm

German logistics firm Rhenus Group has picked up a 49% stake in Mumbai-based port-based logistics company Western Arya Group for an undisclosed amount, executives of the two companies said on Tuesday, in what could mark the start of consolidation in the Indian logistics industry.

Mint - 29.10.2013

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/HQBldWLPjA6abJ9Nz1fGyI/Germanys-Rhenus-Group-buys-49-stake-in-Indian-logistics-fi.html>

Lack of funding to delay Eastern arm of dedicated freight corridor

The ambitious Dedicated Freight Corridor project is expected to face funding issues for the Eastern arm that runs from Ludhiana to Dankuni. The 1,839 km long Eastern Corridor faces lack of funds as only 1,130 km of the entire arm is funded by the World Bank. The funding from is capped at \$2.725 billion which would barely be sufficient to fund the Phase III.

Business Standard - 30.10.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/lack-of-funding-to-delay-eastern-arm-of-dedicated-freight-corridor-113103000406_1.html

Vizag Port pays dearly for slowdown

The ambitious plans to make it the most preferred port of South Asia notwithstanding, the cargo handled by Visakhapatnam Port is hit hard due to economy slowdown, dislocation due to mechanisation work and a variety of other reasons. Fall in iron ore imports by China, diversion of transshipment cargo to

announced by explorers—may not be enough to meet India's huge appetite for the fuel for use in power plants, fertilizer units, petrochemical plants, automobiles and households.

Mint - 01.11.2013

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/z0IDqfWYOvdS03bYWGEYKJ/India-ports-to-benefit-from-LNG-boom.html>

FTA in goods has mixed impact on India's trade with ASEAN: Survey

A FICCI survey, titled business beyond barriers to ascertain factors impacting trade & investments between India & ASEAN and the effect of India-ASEAN FTA on Indian Industry reveals that half the respondents feel that the FTA in goods has had either no impact on their exports or an adverse impact. This is attributed in partly to the fact that this FTA is restricted to goods where India's manufacturing sector is not able to capitalize and partly due to lower duties offered by ASEAN to China, through the China-ASEAN FTA.

Myiris - 30.10.2013

<http://www.myiris.com/newsCentre/storyShow.php?fileR=20131030175421717&dir=2013/10/30>

India slips to 106th spot in World Prosperity Index

India has slipped by five places to 106th spot, way below neighbouring Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and China in the World Prosperity Index, largely due to poor 'safety and security' environment.

In the 'Prosperity Index' ranking of 142 countries compiled by London-based Legatum Institute, India dropped from 101st position last year, while Norway continues to remain at the top.

Times of India - 31.10.2013

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-10-31/india/43558719_1_world-prosperity-index-legatum-institute-central-african-republic

Paradip after it commissioned single buoy mooring and decommissioning of some of its berths to facilitate modernisation and capacity addition have made the target set by the Ministry of Shipping for this year – 70 million tonnes – a distant dream for Visakhapatnam Port.

The Hindu - 04.11.2013

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/vizag-port-pays-dearly-for-slowdown/article5311679.ece>

India among world economies at risk of climate change impact

India is among the "extreme risk" countries of the world where economic impacts of climate change will be most keenly felt by 2025, according to new research released on Wednesday. Kolkata and Mumbai are among the cities where the economic exposure to the impacts of extreme climate related events will be highest over the next 30 years, the report found.

The Times of India - 30.10.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/global-warming/India-among-world-economies-at-risk-of-climate-change-impact/articleshow/24938473.cms>

LIC gets its first woman MD

Usha Sangwan appointed MD, along with V K Sharma

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Friday got its first female managing director (MD) and another new MD. The government has appointed Usha Sangwan, executive director (corporate communication) at LIC and V K Sharma, MD and chief executive officer of LIC Housing Finance, as the two new MDs. With these two appointments, LIC is set to function at its full strength of four MDs after almost two years. These would be S B Mainak, Sushobhan Sarkar, Sangwan and Sharma.

Business Standard - 02.11.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/lic-gets-its-first-woman-md-113110100942_1.html