

(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.)

Divestment in 6 PSUs by March-end

Encouraged by the recent rally in stocks, the government's department of disinvestment (DoD) is trying to push stake sales in six companies before the end of this financial year (March 31). The next round of divestment would begin with the offer for sale (OFS) of Oil India Ltd (OIL) next week, said a senior DoD official.

The Sensex has topped the 20,000 mark for the first time in two years, gaining a little over 2,800 points or 16.5 per cent since P Chidambaram became finance minister in August. A series of recent moves such as postponement of the General Anti-Avoidance Rules taxes and a loosening of the price control on diesel have helped improve the market sentiment.

"Since the market has improved, the department has also lined up the Nalco (National Aluminium) and Steel Authority of India (SAIL) disinvestment in the current financial year itself," said the official. After OIL, the stake sale in NTPC is slated, for the last week of February.

Business Standard - 22.01.2013

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/divestment-in-6-psus-by-march-end/499590/>

Govt may raise FII holdings in bonds by \$10 bn

The government is likely allow foreign institutional investors (FIIs) to invest up to \$5 billion more each in Indian corporate and government bonds in a move to attract more capital to boost investment and halt the slowdown in the economy. In December, government had raised the overall FII limit in Indian bonds to \$75 billion. The move will help ease the pressure on the government in completing its market borrowings and aid companies to raise more funds through bonds needed for expansion.

Hindustan Times - 22.01.2013

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/WorldEconomy/Govt-may-raise-FII-holdings-in-bonds-by-10-bn/Article1-998322.aspx>

Stung by airlines, travel portals change track

Global low-cost carriers, Ryanair and EasyJet, sell

PSUs may not be allowed to issue tax-free bonds in FY14

The Finance Ministry may not allow state-owned companies to float tax-free bonds in the forthcoming Budget as they have not been utilising the funds raised through these instruments for infrastructure development. Although the primary objective of tax-free bonds is to encourage state-owned companies to invest in long-term infrastructure projects, they are mostly parking the funds in debt instruments to earn interest income.

"Instead of directing the funds raised from tax free bonds towards infrastructure development, public sector companies issuing these bonds park the money into fixed deposits and earn interest," a senior Finance Ministry official told PTI.

NDTV Profit - 20.01.2013

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/banking-finance/article-psus-may-not-be-allowed-to-issue-tax-free-bonds-in-fy14-316524>

Shells Opens Its Largest Grease Plant In China

Royal Dutch Shell PLC (RDSB), a major supplier of lubricants in China, said that it opened the company's largest grease plant in China.

The grease plant, based in Zhuhai, a city in southern China, can produce 30,000 metric tons of grease a year, and can be expanded to 40,000 tons a year, the company said Friday in a news release.

Wall Street journal - 22.01.2013

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20130122-700099.html>

Jet Airways partners with CentrumDirect for Forex

Jet Airways has entered into a partnership with

over 90 per cent of air tickets directly through their own websites. Back home, earlier this month, SpiceJet managed to sell on its own portal nearly 70 per cent of the 1 million discounted tickets it had put up for sale for three days, though buyers complained the site had crashed frequently. Therein resides an important message for online travel agents. In order to protect the wafer-thin profit margins, low-cost airlines will seek to edge them out of business.

Business Standard - 23.01.2013

<http://business-standard.com/taketwo/news/stung-by-airlines-travel-portals-change-track/499670/>

Vizag Port Trust loses its top spot

Having reigned at the numero uno slot for seven consecutive years in the last decade, Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) has been edged out to third position by Gujarat's Kandla Port and Mumbai's Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in cargo handling during the current fiscal. This even as Mumbai Port Trust, which sported a positive 9.63 per cent growth in cargo handling, is now breathing down VPT's neck, going by the latest data from Indian Ports Association.

The Times of India - 18.01.2013

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-01-18/visakhapatnam/36416284_1_vizag-port-visakhapatnam-port-trust-vpts

Rs 3,300-cr contract awarded for Kanpur freight corridor

The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) on Thursday granted its first major contract worth Rs 3,300 crore for construction of 343-km double track line between Kanpur and Khurja. A joint venture of Tata and Spanish firm Aldesa won the contract from among 10 other bidders through an international competitive bidding process.

The Times of India - 25.01.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/Rs-3300-cr-contract-awarded-for-Kanpur-freight-corridor/articleshow/18176134.cms>

Food Corporation of India to set up silos at Kochi, Kozhikode: Oommen Chandy

The Food Corporation of India will set up two 25,000-tonnes storage capacity silos at Kochi and Kozhikode for storage of foodgrains, Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said today. This would be set up in PPP mode with 25 per cent viability gap funding subject to Planning Commission's approval, he told reporters after a high level meeting here.

CentrumDirect, one of India's leading financial services groups, to offer Foreign Exchange Services to guests travelling abroad. Guests may avail themselves of this facility online by providing the necessary details on the airline's Web site www.jetairways.com.

The Hindu Business Line - 17.01.2013

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/jet-airways-partners-with-centrumdirect-for-forex/article4316563.ece?ref=wl_industry-and-economy

Cargo traffic to grow by 4% in 2013-14: Report

After a tepid 2012-13, cargo traffic at major Indian ports are expected to grow by 4% in 2013-14, says the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). "We expect the cargo traffic at major ports to grow by 4% in 2013-14 after falling by an estimated 2.4 per cent in 2012-13.

The Times of India - 23.01.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Cargo-traffic-to-grow-by-4-in-2013-14-Report/articleshow/18150440.cms>

DHL improves shipping of chemical freight

DHL Global Forwarding, the air and ocean freight specialist within Deutsche Post DHL, introduces a new product for the shipment of bulk non-hazardous liquids. Particularly designed for the chemicals and beverages sectors, the DHL Flexitank overcomes the problems associated with ISO tank containers, IBC totes or drums and offers a more cost effective and environmentally friendly means of transporting liquid products. Flexitanks are available globally and customers benefit from DHL's worldwide network.

Logistics Week - 24.01.2013

<http://logisticsweek.com/air/2013/01/dhl-improves-shipping-of-chemical-freight/>

Tatas, Essar race with foreign firms to build freight corridor

After years of planning, the 3,300-km Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) is finally on the horizon, with Indian and global construction companies vying for around Rs 12,000 crore worth of civil works, for two stretches. Among these are not only the Tatas, Essar and IVRCL Infrastructures Projects Ltd, but also Chinese, Russian and Spanish firms.

The Economic Times - 21.01.2013

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/food-corporation-of-india-to-set-up-silos-at-kochi-kozhikode-oommen-chandy/articleshow/18116841.cms>

FDI inflows slump to two-year low at \$1.05 bn

India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows declined to a nearly two-year low of USD 1.05 billion in November 2012, mainly due to global economic uncertainties. In November 2011, the country had attracted FDI worth USD 2.53 billion. For the April-November period 2012-13, the inflows have declined by about 31 per cent to USD 15.84 billion, from USD 22.83 billion in the year-ago period, a senior official in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) told PTI.

The Hindu - 23.01.2013

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/fdi-inflows-slump-to-twoyear-low-at-105-bn/article4336285.ece>

Business Standard - 07.01.2013

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/tatas-essar-raceforeign-firms-to-build-freight-corridor/497998/>

Indian environment is conducive to innovation: Report

The overall environment in India is perceived as being conducive for innovation by business executives from 25 countries across the world, a report says. According to the GE's annual Global Innovation Barometer report, 55 per cent of business executives from the 25 markets regard the Indian environment for innovation as strongly 'innovation conducive'. This puts the country in the 12th position of the country ranking based on this indicator.

The Hindu Business Line - 18.01.2013

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/indian-environment-is-conducive-to-innovation-report/article4319873.ece?ref=wl_opinion