

(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.)

Chidambaram seeks higher dividend from PSUs this year

Finance minister P Chidambaram on Friday told heads of large state-owned companies that the government will not accept less dividend than what it received during the last financial year.

"Dividend payments by PSUs will not be less than last year's. In no case will we accept dividend less than last year's," he told reporters after meeting heads of blue-chip PSUs such as Oil & Natural Gas Corp, Indian Oil, Gail India, Steel Authority of India, NTPC and Coal India.

The government is seeking to keep its fiscal deficit within the budgetary target of 4.8 per cent of GDP. Higher dividend from PSUs would make up part of the shortfall from disinvestment and lower receipts in other heads of accounts due to slowing economic growth.

Times of India - 18.10.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Chidambaram-seeks-higher-dividend-from-PSUs-this-year/articleshow/24338859.cms>

Excess PSU funds to be used for infrastructure development

The government is considering a plan to use surplus cash with state-run firms for infrastructure development. The National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council or NMCC has suggested that such money be parked in the National Investment Fund (NIF) and used for this purpose.

Economic Times - 16.10.2013

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-10-16/news/43107180_1_nmcc-capital-expenditure-national-investment-fund

CBI mulls option of closing Coalgate case against Kumar Mangalam Birla

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's strong defence of the allocation of Talabira II coal block to Hindalco has created uncertainty about the fate of CBI's investigation into the matter, with many

FM seeks PSUs' help to boost economy

Facing twin problems of slow economic growth and lack of fiscal space, Finance Minister P Chidambaram on Friday asked heads of public sector units (PSUs) to meet their capital expenditure plans, pegged at around Rs 1.4 lakh crore for 23 major enterprises in 2013-14, to spur the subdued activity in the economy. And, to meet their commitment on dividends.

The minister met the chairmen of a host of blue-chip PSUs, such as Oil & Natural Gas Corporation, Indian Oil, GAIL India, Steel Authority of India, NTPC and Coal India.

After the meeting, he told reporters, "Most of the PSUs will achieve their capex plan. Some half a dozen might not. We will revisit those cases in January." Most chairmen assured the minister of meeting the capex target for the current year.

Business Standard - 19.10.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/fm-seeks-psus-help-to-boost-economy-113101800698_1.html

Current Account Deficit to fall below 3.8% this fiscal: Montek Singh Ahluwalia

Current Account Deficit is likely to be lower than the projection of 3.8 per cent of the GDP and India will be in a better position to neutralise the impact of the tapering of monetary stimulus by the US Fed, Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia has said.

Economic Times - 21.10.2013

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/current-account-deficit-to-fall-below-3-8-this-fiscal-montek-singh-ahluwalia/articleshow/24434694.cms>

India gears up to launch interest rate futures - sources

India plans to launch trading of government bond futures within the next two months as part of efforts to deepen its financial markets, according to several sources involved in the

feeling that it may turn out to be still-born. Sources in the agency acknowledged that with the PM owning up the controversial allocation, they were in a bind.

Times of India - 21.10.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/CBI-mulls-option-of-closing-Coalgate-case-against-Kumar-Mangalam-Birla/articleshow/24451069.cms>

Govt mulls new corporation for overseas buyouts, fund mop up

The government is mulling a new corporation, to be set up by pooling the funds from cash-rich public sector enterprises, for acquiring overseas assets as well as raising money abroad. The proposal comes at a time when India is looking to attract more overseas investments into infrastructure to boost economic growth, which has turned sluggish in recent times.

Business Standard - 07.10.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-mulls-new-corporation-for-overseas-buyouts-fund-mop-up-113100700495_1.html

Govt to overhaul PSU's performance related pay system: Srcs

The government is set to change certain parameters of performance related pay for public sector units (PSUs). Sources tell CNBC-TV18 that weightage will now be given to the profitability of the company going forward.

Money Control - 09.10.2013

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/cnbc-tv18-comments/govt-to-overhaul-psus-performance-related-pay-system-srcs_966654.html

Three oil PSUs move SC for modification of Aadhaar order

Three oil PSUs have moved the Supreme Court seeking modification of its earlier order that Aadhaar card is not mandatory and no person should suffer for want of it in getting benefits of government schemes. IOCL, BPCL and HPCL would mention the matter for urgent hearing before a bench of Chief Justice P Sathasivam and Justice Ranjan Gogoi which has already listed a similar plea of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) for consideration on October 8.

Moneycontrol - 06.10.2013

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/economy/three-oil-psus-move-sc-for-modification-aadhaar-order_964399.html

discussions with the central bank. These interest rate futures would help banks and financial firms in Asia's third-largest economy assess expectations for borrowing costs and hedge the risks of rate changes to their bond portfolios.

Reuters - 18.10.2013

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/10/18/india-bonds-futures-idINDEE99H05920131018>

Reserve 3 per cent government jobs for disabled: Supreme Court to Centre, states

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Centre and state governments to provide three per cent job reservation to disabled persons in their departments, companies and PSUs observing that it is an "alarming reality" that they are unemployed due to social and practical barriers

NDTV - 09.10.2013

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/reserve-3-per-cent-government-jobs-for-disabled-supreme-court-to-centre-states-429707>

PSUs may find difficult to utilize funds that they raise overseas

The government's plan to allow some state-run financial institutions to sell quasi-sovereign bonds in overseas markets to finance its current account deficit and stem the depreciation of the Indian rupee may backfire as these entities may not be able to fully deploy the high-cost funds.

Mint - 03.10.2013

<http://www.livemint.com/Money/LIUtVhscmXrFUKKiZHSuDN/PSUs-may-find-difficult-to-utilize-funds-that-they-raise-ove.html>

Domestic air travel rises 13% in September

Indians have again taken to the skies for domestic travel. After witnessing constant fall in the past three years, September 2013 saw 45.5 lakh domestic flyers — up 13.4% from last September's figure of 40.2 lakh. This is the second consecutive month of growth after August 2013's robust 20.4% increase over the same month last year.

Times of India - 21.10.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Domestic-air-travel-rises-13-in-September/articleshow/24455039.cms>

DHL Express to hike rates by nearly 10% in India from Jan

Logistics services provider DHL Express today said it will hike prices by an average 9.9 percent for Indian customers from 2014 to counter impact of inflation and weakness in the rupee against the US dollar. "In India, the average price increase for Time Definite International products will be 9.9 per cent," the company said in a statement.

Money Control - 30.09.2013

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/dhl-express-to-hike-rates-by-nearly-10indiajan_960305.html

Rising shipping volumes bring cheer, but not many expect uptrend to last

The troubled shipping industry in India finally has something to cheer about, although the uptrend is likely to be shortlived. Shipment volumes, driven by an increase in iron ore import by China and economic recovery in the US and Europe, saw a slight uptick in September.

The Economic Times - 03.10.2013

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-10-03/news/42664814_1_iron-ore-and-coal-essar-shipping-sea-transportation-business

Karnataka plans new port at Honnavar for Rs 600 cr

The Karnataka government proposes to develop a new port under the public private partnership (PPP) model at a cost of Rs 600 crore at Honnavar. The government will lay the foundation stone for the port during the second week of November, 2013.

Business Standard - 10.10.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/karnataka-plans-new-port-at-honnavar-for-rs-600-cr-113100901155_1.html

In a first for a PSU, IOC buys 1 mn barrels of crude from Sterling Oil's Nigerian fields

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), India's largest public-sector oil refiner, has purchased one million barrels of Brent crude from Sterling Oil (Seepco)'s Nigerian fields, top officials said. This is for the first time that an Indian public sector company has purchased OKWuibome crude oil from Nigerian fields owned by Indian corporate Sandesara Group.

Business Standard - 15.10.2013

How Mundra became India's largest port

When the Gujarat government awarded permission to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (then Gujarat Adani Port Ltd) to develop and operate Mundra port as an all-weather harbour, private multi-cargo ports in India were not popular. Traditionally, ports controlled by the Central government, known as major ports, were the leaders in handling cargo, and the others were known as minor ports.

Mint - 02.10.2013

<http://www.livemint.com/Specials/h195vk4107hi2yq61JrWNM/How-Mundra-became-Indias-largest-port.html>

Major port cargo rises over 2% for Apr-Sept 2013

Cargo handled at India's 12 major ports rose 2.3% in the first half of current financial year helped by a whopping 44% jump in power-grade coal imports. The state-controlled ports handled 277 million tonne (MT) of cargo against 270 MT during the same period last fiscal.

Business Standard - 11.10.2013

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/major-port-cargo-rises-over-2-for-apr-sept-2013-113100900925_1.html

ONGC in pact with Finland's Chempolis for ethanol production

India's state-run explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC) and Finland's Chempolis Ltd, a green technology specialist, on Tuesday signed a preliminary collaborative pact for the production of the bio-fuel ethanol, officials of both sides said.

Livemint - 15.10.2013

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/ZtDVZp5QnNVmNRYWFOLvBJ/ONGC-in-pact-with-Finlands-Chempolis-for-ethanol-production.html>

Arundhati Bhattacharya, first woman to head SBI

Arundhati Bhattacharya, who took over as the new chairperson of the State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday, is the first woman to be appointed to the top job at the country's largest lender. She succeeds Pratip Chaudhuri who retired on September 30.

The Hindu - 07.10.2013

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/arundhati-bhattacharya-first-woman-to-head-sbi/article5210836.ece>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/in-a-first-for-a-psu-ioc-buys-1-mn-barrels-of-crude-from-sterling-oil-s-nigerian-fields-113101400667_1.html

B Ashok to be next IOC chairman

Government's headhunter on Wednesday chose an insider as the next head of Indian Oil Corporation. B Ashok, executive director (ED) in charge of retail sales, will succeed RS Butola as chairman of the country's biggest refiner and fuel retailer.

Times of India - 10.10.2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/B-Ashok-to-be-next-IOC-chairman/articleshow/23850214.cms>

Top Appointments

Ms Manjusha Bhatnagar, currently GM in MRPL, has been named as the new Director (HR and CA) in Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited (BLC). The PESB recommended her name on October 4, 2013, after interviewing 11 candidates including some from ONGC, Coal India etc.

Indian Public Sector - 04.10.2013

<http://www.indiapublicsector.com/p/top-appointments.html>