

(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.)

## **CPSE ETF debuts; surges over 10 pct**

Shares of the CPSE Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) rose by over 10 per cent on the first day of trade today. The shares of Goldman Sachs Mutual Fund-CPSE ETF opened the day on a positive note and further gained 10.31 per cent to Rs 19.25, against its issue price of Rs 17.45 at the NSE Nifty.

The CPSE ETF opened at Rs 18 and touched a high of Rs 19.25 so far. More than six crore shares of the company changed hands at the NSE during the morning trade. The CPSE ETF basket consists of shares of 10 PSUs and provides an opportunity for investors to become shareholders of Oil & Natural Gas Corp, GAIL India, Coal India, Indian Oil, Oil India, Power Finance Corp, Rural Electrification Corp, Container Corp, Engineers India and Bharat Electronics.

*The Financial Express - 04.04.2014*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/cpse-etf-debuts-surges-over-10-pct/1238276>

## **Is board evaluation a reality now?**

Self-evaluation of the board, its committees and directors, which is universally seen as a good practice, has now been included in the Indian corporate governance practice.

Section 149 of the Companies Act 2013 has come into force from April 1, 2014, which mandates review of the performance of the chairperson of the company, non-independent directors and the board, by independent directors.

According to the provision of the Act, independent directors will meet separately, at least once in a year, for this purpose. The requirement is applicable to listed companies and some other classes of companies to be specified in the rules to be issued by the government.

*Business Standard - 06.04.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/is-board-evaluation-a-reality-now-114040700008\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/is-board-evaluation-a-reality-now-114040700008_1.html)

## **Franklin Templeton floats India banking & PSU debt fund**

Franklin Templeton Investments (India), one of the largest fund houses in the country, is launching a new open-end income fund called the

## **ETFs of state companies fetch Rs 4,400 crore, beat expectations**

The government has raised around Rs 4,400 crore through the exchanges traded fund (ETF) of bluechip state run companies that closed for subscription on March 21, comfortably beating the Rs 3,000 crore expected from the offer.

CPSE Exchange Traded Fund (CPSE ETF) offer saw active participation from both domestic and foreign institutional investors. The top investors besides LIC are ICICI Bank, Edelweiss Financial Services and Brookdale India ad Value Fund.

*The Economic Times - 01.04.2014*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/market-news/etfs-of-state-companies-fetch-rs-4400-crore-beat-expectations/articleshow/33046529.cms>

## **Outsourced staff in govt depts to get ESI facility**

The state government has written to all department heads for extending the benefits of Employees State Insurance (ESI) and provident fund (PF) facilities to the employees of outsourced agencies by public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies and government departments.

As per the guidelines for manpower hiring agencies, the amount of ESI and PF must be deducted at the time of monthly payment. However, many government departments do not ensure the deduction of the benefits at the time of payments to the outsourced firms, it said.

*Business Standard - 31.03.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/outsourced-staff-in-govt-depts-to-get-esi-facility-114033100515\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/outsourced-staff-in-govt-depts-to-get-esi-facility-114033100515_1.html)

## **Electronic visa scheme: Easy tourist authorisation to boost inbound tourism**

The introduction of electronic visa facility in India could double annual tourist arrivals to

Franklin India Banking & PSU Debt Fund (FIBPDF). The fund seeks to provide regular income through a portfolio of debt and money market instruments consisting predominantly of securities issued by entities such as Banks and public sector undertakings (PSUs). The New Fund Offer (NFO) will be open from April 02 to April 16 during which, units will be available at Rs. 10 per unit.

*Moneyguruindia - 01.04.2014*

<http://www.moneyguruindia.com/article.php?cid=6877&id=3>

## **Air freight markets continue recovery: IATA**

Global air freight markets in February registered 2.9% increase in demand compared to February 2013, according to The International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The first two months of 2014 have seen an overall 3.6% improvement in demand over the previous year. This continues the strengthening in cargo markets which began in the second half of 2013.

"Cargo has had a positive start to the year. There is good cause for measured optimism for the cargo industry's prospects in 2014. The 3.6% growth in demand recorded over the first two months of this year is a significant step up from the 1.4% growth in demand over the whole of 2013," said Tony Tyler, IATA's director general and CEO.

*Myiris - 02.04.2014*

<http://www.myiris.com/newsCentre/storyShow.php?fileR=20140402153128717&dir=2014/04/02>

## **SpiceJet launches one Rupee fare**

SpiceJet has dropped fares again launching Rupee one base fare in a three-day sale offer beginning Tuesday. Travel period for discount offer is from July 1, 2014 to March 28, 2015. However some passengers complained they were unable to purchase one rupee tickets suggesting an extremely low inventory on offer.

*Business Standard - 01.04.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/spicejet-launches-one-rupee-fare-114040100163\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/spicejet-launches-one-rupee-fare-114040100163_1.html)

## **IndiGo announces special fares starting Rs 1,389 inclusive of base fare & fuel surcharge**

Two days after SpiceJetBSE 2.03 % raked up a customer storm and the regulator's ire by announcing Re 1 fares, IndiGo, India's biggest carrier announced its own set of discounts for

over 12 million in the next five years, according to some tourism industry executives. The government last week said electronic tourist authorisation (ETA) would be put in place by the end of 2014. The move is part of a plan to boost inbound tourism, which is expected to grow at 12% in the next one decade, down from the 16 % the country registered over the past five years.

*Economic Times - 01.04.2014*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/nri/visa-and-immigration/electronic-visa-scheme-easy-tourist-authorisation-to-boost-inbound-tourism/articleshow/33041190.cms>

## **Rail tickets could cost more at counters**

Buying a railway ticket at a counter might become costlier. To encourage online ticket sale, the Indian Railways is examining a proposal to levy a 'special fee' on the physical sale of tickets.

Going against the traditional model followed by e-commerce giants, such as Flipkart and Myntra, as well as various airlines that offer discounts online, the railways has chosen a different path. The national transporter will increase the prices at ticket counters to offer 'cheaper' prices online. Senior railway officials, however, did not comment on the quantum of difference between online and offline prices or what would be the gains for the railways.

*Business Standard - 03.04.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rail-tickets-could-cost-more-at-counters-114040300024\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rail-tickets-could-cost-more-at-counters-114040300024_1.html)

## **DGCA asks SpiceJet to stop Re 1 ticket offer**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday ordered low-cost carrier SpiceJet to immediately stop the sale of discounted tickets, calling it "predatory pricing" by the airline an attempt to "deceive the public"

*Hindustan Times - 01.04.2014*

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/dgca-asks-spicejet-to-immediately-stop-re-1-ticket-offer/article1-1203055.aspx>

## **Air India dives lowest in latest air fare war**

On Thursday, the cheapest fares in the ongoing domestic air ticket sale were offered by low-cost carriers Go Air and IndiGo. On Friday, Air India topped the list as it put out cheap fares on 108 domestic flights.

summers. IndiGo on Thursday introduced 90-day out fares starting Rs 1389 inclusive of base fare and fuel surcharge. Under this scheme, tickets to a busy route like Delhi-Mumbai can be bought for a little over Rs 2400. The fares are on select flights and routes.

*The Economic Times - 03.04.2014*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/indigo-announces-special-fares-starting-rs-1389-inclusive-of-base-fare-fuel-surcharge/articleshow/33175096.cms>

### **Amid Fare War, Air Traffic Demand Falls 1.8% in February: IATA**

Despite Indian carriers announcing major reductions in air ticket prices to stay in business, the country saw its air traffic demand fall in February. Global civil aviation body, International Air Transport Association (IATA), in its global air traffic report, attributed the slump in demand to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

*The New Indian Express - 04.04.2014*

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/news/Amid-Fare-War-Air-Traffic-Demand-Falls-1.8-in-February-IATA/2014/04/04/article2147915.ece#.Uz43nPmSy8M>

### **Travelport launches app to monetise ancillary revs of airlines**

Aiming to help airlines better manage services and increase ancillary revenues, distribution services and e-commerce provider Travelport has launched its application Smartpoint in India. The application, which has 110,000 users globally, is at present being tested with 100 travel agents in India.

"The app will help in increasing options for airlines and travel agents to monetise profits by offering consumers more services from a single point like hotels, transport, travel and medical insurance, WiFi etc," InterGlobe Technology Quotient (ITQ) President and CEO Anil Parashar

*Business Standard - 06.04.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/travelport-launches-app-to-monetise-ancillary-revs-of-airlines-114040600142\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/travelport-launches-app-to-monetise-ancillary-revs-of-airlines-114040600142_1.html)

### **Crude oil imports surge on fuel demand ahead of polls**

India's crude oil imports surged 23 per cent in February as demand for fuel rose with electioneering for the Lok Sabha polls picking up. The world's third-biggest crude oil importer bought 16.42 million tons of oil from overseas last

The Air India scheme covers 40 sectors on 108 flights with tickets at a flat rate of Rs 1,499, plus applicable taxes.

*The Times of India - 05.04.2014*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Air-India-dives-lowest-in-latest-air-fare-war/articleshow/33250210.cms>

### **Lower ATF prices unlikely to get airlines out of red for Q4**

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel prices, have fallen by over 6% since January and by about 4% since April 1, which could lead to airlines posting narrower losses for the fourth quarter of FY14.

*The Financial Express - 05.04.2014*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/lower-atf-prices-unlikely-to-get-airlines-out-of-red-for-q4/1238469>

### **Indian lubricants market slow growth on a promising path, Kline report**

The global lubricants market is rapidly changing. Ranking third after the United States and China, India is one of the most important markets. Kline's recently published Opportunities in Lubricants: India Market Analysis is a comprehensive analysis of the Indian lubricants market, focusing on key trends, developments, challenges, business opportunities, and major suppliers.

With a GDP of USD 1,825 billion in 2012, India is the third-largest economy in Asia, after China and Japan. Historically, India has been one of the fastest growing major economies. However, since 2010, the economic growth rate has successively dropped from 9.3% in 2010-2011 to about 5.3% in 2013-2014.

*Rush Lane - 02.04.2014*

<http://www.rushlane.com/indian-lubricants-market-slow-growth-on-a-promising-path-kline-report-12114354.html>

### **Petrol prices reduces by 75 paise/litre**

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has decided to decrease the retail selling price of Petrol by Rs.0.75/litre (excluding state levies) w.e.f midnight of 31st Mar/1st Apr'14. The price of Petrol was last revised upwards by Rs. 0.60/litre (excluding state levies) w.e.f 1st

month, up from 13.37 million tons a year earlier, according to oil ministry data. Refiners see demand for fuel, especially diesel, rising as electioneering picks up for the April-May Lok Sabha polls. Fuel demand in February rose 2.4 per cent to 12.836 million tons. Sales of diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country, were flat at 5.38 million tons, after dipping in the previous two months. Demand for diesel has declined in all but three months of the current financial year.

*The Economic Times - 31.03.2014*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/crude-oil-imports-surge-on-fuel-demand-ahead-of-polls/articleshow/33023712.cms>

### **State-owned ports see rise in cargo volumes**

The volume of cargo handled by India's dozen state-owned ports grew by a modest 1.78% in the year ended 31 March, reversing two consecutive years of decline, mainly on the back of higher coal shipments.

The 12 ports handled a combined 555.50 million tonnes (mt) of various commodities such as crude oil, petroleum products, iron ore, coal, container cargo and fertilizers in fiscal year 2013-14, according to data from Indian Ports Association (IPA), which represents the 12 ports. In 2012-13, these ports loaded 545.79 mt, a drop of 2.58% over the previous year.

*Live Mint - 04.04.2014*

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/pH4vj74YP0auWUDzIXik8H/Stateowned-ports-see-rise-in-cargo-volumes.html>

### **Shipping industry may confront another deluge of overcapacity**

Shipping companies across the globe have been struggling with oversupply of ships and little demand in the last five years. However, a slight pick up on the back of recovery in global trade and economy recently have lifted hopes and freight rates in the shipping industry, but this could soon come under the cloud from rising new ship orders. Over the last six months, there has been a spike in demand for new ships, both in the bulk as well as container shipping industry. This was led by enthusiastic shipping companies in Greece and Norway and depressed shipping vessel prices, according to analysts.

*The Economic Times - 02.04.2014*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-transport/shipping-industry-may-confront-another-deluge-of->

March 2014. Since last price change, there is a declining trend in international prices of MS and the INR-USD exchange rate has also been strengthening. The combined impact of both these factors has resulted in reduction in price of Petrol, the benefit of which is being passed on to consumers through price decrease of Rs 0.75/litre (excluding VAT). With this price revision, RSP at Delhi shall decrease by Rs0.90/litre.

*Sarkaritel.com - 31.03.2014*

<http://www.sarkaritel.com/petrol-prices-reduces-by-75-paisalitre/>

### **Lack of transportation infra straining logistics: Deloitte**

Though India is seen as the second-most attractive logistics market after China, issues such as shortage of skilled manpower, poor adoption of technology, with higher costs and lower profitability, have hampered development in this sector, consulting and financial advisory Deloitte said.

In its report Indian Logistics-Focus on infrastructure creation to sustain and drive growth, Deloitte said, India was a fast-growing economy, with one of the largest consumer markets of automobile, pharmaceuticals, fast-moving consumer goods and retail, which will drive the demand for logistics in the country going ahead.

*Business Standard - 04.04.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/lack-of-transportation-infrastructure-building-stress-on-indian-logistics-sector-deloitte-114040301234\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/lack-of-transportation-infrastructure-building-stress-on-indian-logistics-sector-deloitte-114040301234_1.html)

### **Coal India may stop hiring women under compassionate grounds**

Coal India, the world's biggest coal miner, may stop employing women under compassionate grounds as most of them are illiterate and cannot be deployed for mining purposes. The state-owned company is instead planning to give a lump sum money of Rs36,000 every month to the family of the worker who dies at the mines. "We are in discussions with the unions to implement this scheme in lieu of the existing one because we are looking at reducing the number of female workforce in the company because they cannot be sent to mines or remote locations for coal explorations," a senior CIL official said on condition of anonymity.

*Economic Times - 01.04.2014*

<http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2>

[overcapacity/articleshow/33098336.cms](http://overcapacity/articleshow/33098336.cms)

## **India now only country with legislated CSR**

With the implementation of the new company law from April 1, India has become the only country in the world with legislated corporate social responsibility (CSR) and a spending threshold of up to \$2.5 billion (Rs15,000 crore). The new law mandates that all companies, including foreign firms, with a minimum net worth of Rs 500 crore, turnover of Rs1,000 crore and net profit of at least Rs 5 crore, spend at least two percent of their profit on CSR.

*Business Standard - 03.04.2014*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/india-now-only-country-with-legislated-csr-114040300862\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/india-now-only-country-with-legislated-csr-114040300862_1.html)

## **HAL is most efficient Navaratna**

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has received the honour of the most efficient Navaratna award and also has notched-up the highest ever turnover of Rs 15,180 crores for the FY 2013-14. The figure surpasses the previous year's figure of Rs 14,324 crores. Dr RK Tyagi, Chairman, HAL, said, "We crossed the psychological barrier of Rs. 15,000 crores and the production has been pretty good as we produced 60 aircraft and helicopters, achieved the initial operational clearance (II) of LCA and filed record 209 patents during the year".

*Times of India - 03.04.2014*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/HAL-is-most-efficient-Navaratna/articleshow/33176698.cms>

[014-04-01/news/48767316\\_1\\_underground-mines-cil-mines-compassionate-grounds](http://014-04-01/news/48767316_1_underground-mines-cil-mines-compassionate-grounds)

## **Promoting healthcare comes under CSR ambit: Government**

Activities undertaken by corporates to promote healthcare will be considered as social welfare activity under the new companies law that came into effect this month. Under the Companies Act, 2013, certain class of companies is required to shell out at least 2 per cent of three-year annual average net profit towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. The Corporate Affairs Ministry, which is implementing the Companies Act, has now clarified that promoting healthcare would come under the CSR ambit.

*Economic Times - 06.04.2014*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/promoting-healthcare-comes-under-csr-ambit-government/articleshow/33327798.cms>

## **P Padmanabhan takes over as Managing Director of Numaligarh Refinery Limited**

P Padmanabhan today took over as Managing Director of Numaligarh Refinery Limited succeeding Dipak Chakravorty who retired yesterday. Prior to his appointment, he was the Executive Director (Refineries Co-ordination) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), NRL's holding company with major equity of 61.65 per cent, a NRL release said here.

*Economic Times - 01.04.2014*

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-04-01/news/48767242\\_1\\_numaligarh-refinery-limited-kochi-refinery-nrl](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-04-01/news/48767242_1_numaligarh-refinery-limited-kochi-refinery-nrl)