

| Publication – The Economic Times | Date - June 1, 2011 |
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| Page No. 13 | Edition – New Delhi |

Heard on the Street

Punj Lloyd's Stellar Q4 Show Takes Street by Surprise

Shares of Punj Lloyd surged 18% on Tuesday to ₹68.15 after the company's fourth quarter results beat Street expectations. It reported a consolidated net profit of ₹18 crore in the quarter as against a net loss of ₹02 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Prior to the upmove, the stock has been an underperformer as0 penalty damages and litigations forced investors to offload the stock. The stock has fallen 50% so far in 2011, while the benchmark indices

dropped 11% during the same period. Analysts continue to remain cautious about Punj Lloyd's prospects and say the company needs to post good results for the next two-three quarters with improvement in its net margin to 4-5% for the view to change. The main concern has been the company's inability to execute overseas projects within the stipulated period, increasing costs and affecting margins.

Contributed by Harish Rao