

BUSINESS NEWS UPDATE

**The Past, The Present and The Future Are Really One-
They Are Today.**

On a hat-trick: Will RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das throw another surprise

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das had stumped the market in the previous two policies -- in August and in October -- first with action and then with words. In August, it was the introduction of an incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR) to take out excess liquidity, which took the markets by surprise. In October, there was no action. Rather, what is known as "open mouth operation", Das' comment that the central bank might conduct open market operations (OMOs) by selling bonds tempered the euphoria in the bond markets after JP Morgan's inclusion of India in its Emerging Market Bond Index. No such OMOs were conducted by the central bank since the October policy. "The RBI had surprised the markets in its October policy by indicating the possibility of OMO (via auction) as a liquidity-absorbing tool. Since then, the RBI hasn't conducted any OMO sales via auction and the pace of screen-based OMO sales has slowed. Indeed,

Source: [Business Standard, Dec 06, 2023](#)

India considers curbing ethanol production to tackle sugar shortages

India is considering curbing ethanol production from sugar cane as the world's largest consumer of the sweetener battles domestic shortages. Authorities are studying a proposal to limit the use of sugar-cane juice to produce the biofuel for the current season, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified as the discussions are private. No final decision has been made, and plans could still change, the people said. The proposal, which would help ease local sugar shortages if approved, sent futures plunging as much as 7.9% in New York on Wednesday, the biggest decline in 10 months. It would also crush any potential for India to import the sweetener. The Food Ministry didn't respond to a request for comment. Poor rainfall harmed sugar-cane crops in India, prompting the world's second-biggest sugar producer to extend restrictions on exports beyond Oct. 31. Limiting ethanol production would keep sugar inventories in India from falling

Source: [Business Standard, Dec 07, 2023](#)

Paytm shares hit 20% lower circuit limit today. Here's why

Shares of One 97 Communications Ltd (Paytm) hit its 20 per cent lower circuit limit in Thursday's trade amid concerns over Paytm's strategy to move away from small ticket size BNPL loans, which analysts said would affect the total loan originations via the platform, as the segment forms over 50 percent of total disbursements. Paytm shares fell 20 percent to hit a lower circuit limit at Rs 650.65 on BSE. The stock later recovered a bit but was still down 17.87 per cent at Rs 668. Paytm, Nomura India said, suggested that it will be scaling down monthly disbursements in its small-ticket 'postpaid' (i.e., pay-later) loan product by 40-50 per cent. According to the Paytm management, this decision has been taken by the company in consultation with its lending partners, taking cognisance of RBI's recent regulatory action of raising risk weights in unsecured retail loans.

Source: [Business Today, Dec 07, 2023](#)

Adani Ports looking to buy Shapoorji Pallonji Group's Gopalpur Ports in Odisha

Adani Ports and SEZ is reportedly in talks with Shapoorji Pallonji Group to acquire its Gopalpur Ports in Odisha for up to Rs 1,100-1,200 crore in equity value. SP Ports Maintenance owns 56 per cent in Gopalpur Ports, while the rest is owned by Orissa Stevedores (OSL). This acquisition is part of the company's string-of-pearls strategy that involves owning facilities in both eastern and western water margins. According to a report in the Economic Times, the due diligence process is currently underway. If this follows through, Gopalpur Ports will be Adani Ports and SEZ's sixth acquisition of a multi-purpose facility in the eastern coast. However, it is unclear if any deal will emerge and materialise from these talks, the report stated, adding that JSW Infrastructure was in talks with the Mistrys for the same asset for Rs 3,000 crore enterprise valuation. The Mistry family was understood

Source: [Business Today, Dec 07, 2023](#)