DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 27 OCTOBER 2021

1. At Rs 18,300 crore, India Inc's Biggest IPO By Paytm May Launch Between

November 8 to 10

Source: Money Control (Link)

The biggest initial public offer in the history of the Indian capital markets by Paytm is poised for a post-Diwali launch between 8th November to 10th November, multiple industry sources with knowledge of the matter told Moneycontrol. Moneycontrol had earlier reported that the fintech major had increased the issue size from Rs 16,600 crores to Rs 18,300 crores. "The RHP (red herring prospectus) has been filed with the RoC (Registrar of companies) and the plan as of now is to launch the offer between 8th to 10th November," said one of the persons cited above

2. Winter session from November 29: Two crucial financial Bills on agenda Source: Financial Express (Link)

The government will likely introduce two crucial financial sector Bills, including the one to privatise state-run banks, in the winter session of Parliament, which is expected to be held between November 29 and December 23. Another Bill to amend the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act, 2013, could also be introduced. This will enable the separation of the National Pension System Trust (NPS) from the PFRDA and hike the foreign direct investment limit in the pension sector from 49% to 74%. Sources said the government may introduce Bills to amend or repeal the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980 (Nationalisation Acts) to facilitate the proposed privatisation of state-run banks. At present, the voting rights cap of 10% for a non-government shareholder irrespective of his stake is a hindrance for the privatisation of public sector banks, the sources said.

3. Vistara, Lufthansa enter frequent flyer partnership Source: Money Control (Link)

Air carrier Vistara announced a reciprocal partnership for its frequent flyer program, Club Vistara (CV), with Lufthansa's Miles & More frequent flyer program. The partnership agreement comes into effect on October 27. Vistara, a joint venture of Tata group and Singapore Airlines, said that the partnership would enable Club Vistara members to earn and redeem CV Points on flights operated and marketed by Lufthansa, covering an extensive network of nearly 200 destinations across the world. Reciprocally, Miles & More members will be able to earn and redeem miles on flights operated by Vistara, it added.

4. RIL-bp launch their first co-branded petrol pump in Navi Mumbai Source: Money Control (Link)

Reliance Industries (RIL) and bp's fuel and mobility joint venture, Reliance BP Mobility (RBML) launched its first Jio-bp branded Mobility Station (basically a fuel pump) at Navde, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra on Tuesday. A statement from RIL said the existing network of over 1,400 fuel pumps will be rebranded as Jio-bp. These Jio-bp Mobility Stations will bring together a range of services for consumers— including fuels with additives (RIL is calling them additivised fuels), electric vehicle charging, refreshments and food. These outlets also plan to offer more low-carbon solutions over time. "Instead of regular fuel, Jio-bp Mobility Stations across the country will offer additivised fuel at no extra cost. The fuel offering will contain internationally developed 'ACTIVE' technology, which forms a protective layer on critical engine parts to help keep the engines clean," the RIL statement said.

5. Adani group weighs investment in Sri Lanka's renewable energy sector: Official Source: Livemint (Link)

The Adani group, which recently sealed a deal with Sri Lanka to develop and run the strategic Colombo Port's Western Container Terminal, is also exploring the possibility of investing in the island nation's energy and wind sector, a senior official from the state-owned Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) said on Tuesday. The comments came a day after Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani called on Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa here, weeks after his company inked a deal with the state-owned Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) to develop and run the strategic Colombo Port's Western Container Terminal (WCT).

6. Covaxin emergency use: WHO seeks 'additional clarifications' from Bharat Biotech Source: Livemint (Link)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that additional clarifications from manufacturer are needed to conduct a final Emergency Use Listing (EUL) risk-benefit assessment for global use of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin. The technical advisory group will now meet on November 3 for a final assessment. "The @WHO independent Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met today & asked for additional clarifications from the manufacturer @BharatBiotech to conduct a final EUL risk-benefit assessment for global use of #Covaxin. It will reconvene for the final assessment on Wednesday, 3 November if data is received soon," WHO chief scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan said in a tweet.