

# FINIy

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## The little things

- \* Food inflation: 6.60% ( for the week ended Dec 8)
- \* Brent crude: \$ 109.94
- WTI crude: \$ 99.41 (Dec. Friday 8)



## Bank Indonesia sells SBI debt

Indonesia's central bank sold its nine-month SBI debt on Thursday at a 5.03858 percent rate, lower than 5.2242 percent in last month's auction, absorbing liquidity more than expected. Bank Indonesia(BI) also sold its nine-month sharia SBI debt at the same rate. It sold 27.29 trillion rupiah (\$3.02 billion) of SBIs and 382 billion rupiah of sharia SBIs.

## SKS Microfinance plans

SKS Microfinance, India's only listed microfinance lender, has announced a de-risking strategy wherein it plans to significantly prune down exposure, over the years, to the microfinance sector that has plunged into crisis over the past year or so. It expects this business, which would largely focus on meeting the needs of existing micro-finance borrowers, to help derisk operations from microfinance. "By March 2013, we expect to bring down our exposure to microfinance in terms of assets to 90% from nearly 100% now.

## ITC's model for brand e-choupal

Now operating in 40,000 villages across 16 states, e-Choupal created an urban-rural transaction highway for agri commodities, credit, insurance, consumer goods and even four-wheelers. The diversified conglomerate valued at over \$30 billion in stock market is building rural manpower skills, a sort of youth employment exchange; advisory business in agri commodities; community driven eco-tourism projects and is even exploring a model for selling fresh fruits and vegetables in the cities.

## Exchange rate is always on RBI

Subbarao said the rupee had depreciated 14 per cent since early August due to inflationary pressures. "We will be coming out with a more definitive statement in the December 16 review meeting," he added. "But as of now our understanding of some amount of rupee depreciation and assessment of oil price has been built into the projection of seven per cent WPI inflation by March 2012. Any revision of this will come out on December 16."

## Vedanta - Cairn India deal

Vedanta Resources Plc completed its long-delayed \$8.7 billion purchase of a majority stake in Cairn Energy Plc's Indian unit, more than a year after the deal was first announced, in a move that turns India-focused Vedanta into a diversified resources group.

## Capital raise for EXIM

The government introduced a bill in Lok Sabha to increase the authorised capital of Exim Bank from Rs 2,000 cr. to Rs 10,000 cr. This will allow the government to infuse the capital in the bank and help the lender to expand its funding activities for the export sector.

## Gold futures rise

Gold prices rose by Rs 51 to Rs 29,600 per 10 grams in futures trade as speculators created fresh positions driven by a firming global trend. Sentiment turned better after gold rose in global markets as mounting concerns that European leaders won't be able to agree on steps to stem the region's debt crisis, increased the demand for a safe haven.

## Citi to cut 4500 jobs

Citigroup chief executive Vikram Pandit has announced 4,500 job cuts worldwide in the coming months as the US financial major seeks to trim costs in a bleak global economic environment. The layoffs equal about 2 per cent of Citi's 267,000-strong workforce.

