



THE COMMERCE SOCIETY
SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE



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STOCK MARKET

01

01 NIFTY AND SENSEX ACHIEVE ALL TIME HIGH

In a remarkable milestone for the Indian stock market, the Nifty and Sensex indices achieved unprecedented highs in September 2023. On September 11, the Nifty crossed the historic 20,000-mark, while the Sensex peaked at 67,771.05 on September 14. This surge is propelled by India's robust economic growth, projected at over 7% for 2023-24, elevating corporate earnings and stock values. The Reserve Bank of India's strategic maintenance of low interest rates fosters increased corporate borrowing and investment. Additionally, foreign investors, drawn by India's growth potential and appealing valuations, injected over ₹1 lakh crore into the market in the initial eight months of 2023. Notable sectors driving this ascent include Banking and Financial Services, Information Technology, Telecom, Metals, and Infrastructure. The record highs signal confidence in India's economic fundamentals, promising to stimulate further investment and consumption, heralding a positive outlook for the nation's financial landscape.

02 GAMING INDUSTRY TURMOIL: DELTA CORP

The Indian government's recent imposition of a 28% tax on gaming companies has rattled the online gaming sector, with notable repercussions witnessed in companies like Delta Corp. Since the tax announcement, Delta Corp's shares have nosedived by almost 50%, further compounded by a formidable Rs. 16,822 crore tax liability notice from the income tax department. This levy, encompassing gross revenue from in-game purchases and advertising, disproportionately burdens smaller gaming entities, potentially triggering industry consolidation. The ramifications extend to the Nifty and Sensex,

projecting a negative impact marked by reduced profitability, diminished investment, and heightened competition among gaming companies. Delta Corp, a significant player in India's gaming realm, anticipates lowered profitability, potential demand decline, and increased market rivalry. While this tax presents immediate challenges, its long-term consequences may reshape the sector towards stronger and more competitive entities. Presently, the outlook for Delta Corp and the gaming industry suggests a discernibly adverse impact.

03 G20 SUMMIT BOOSTS INDIAN RAIL AND ENGINEERING STOCKS

The G20 summit held in India in September 2023 had a discernible positive impact on the Indian stock market, particularly influencing shares of railway and engineering companies. The global event served as a testament to international confidence in the Indian economy, attracting substantial attention from global investors. This translated into increased inflows in the stock market, propelling stock prices.

Railway companies, including Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), Titagarh Wagons Limited, and Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), experienced notable gains. The Indian government's commitment to substantial investment in railway infrastructure development in the coming years contributed to this surge.

Similarly, engineering companies like Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T), Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Thermax Limited, and Siemens India Limited also witnessed positive momentum. The government's plans for extensive infrastructure development, encompassing roads, bridges, ports, and airports, positioned engineering firms favourably.

GEOPOLITICAL NEWS

01 UNLOCKING INDIA'S GEOPOLITICAL POTENTIAL: IMEC PAVES THE WAY TO HARNESS CHINA'S INFLUENCE

The forthcoming corridor's exact route is pending finalisation during discussions among stakeholders over the next two months. However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) disclosed during the G20 leaders' meeting has outlined its general path. The corridor is set to traverse India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Europe. This ambitious proposal also encompasses the development of a novel railway system spanning the Arabian Peninsula, featuring accompanying infrastructure such as electrical cables and digital connectivity, as well as pipelines for the transportation of clean hydrogen. This extensive network holds great promise for enhancing trade and connectivity across multiple continents while promoting cleaner energy solutions.

02 GGV CAPITAL ANNOUNCES SPLIT FROM CHINA VENTURES AMID RISING GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS

GGV Capital, a major U.S. venture capital firm, has unveiled ambitious plans to restructure its operations into two separate entities. This strategic decision comes in response to the escalating political pressure on American companies to curtail their investments in Chinese technology firms. Following a similar precedent set by Sequoia Capital in June, GGV Capital is taking a bold step by dividing its business, with its Singapore arm, exclusively focused on investments in China,

expected to complete the separation by the first quarter of 2022. This significant move underscores the intricate challenges faced by businesses as they navigate complex U.S.-China relations while striving to maintain global investment strategies.

03 UKRAINE CONFLICT ESCALATION LOOMS: US AND ALLIES CONSIDER SUPPLYING LONGER-RANGE MISSILES

US President Joe Biden is reportedly reconsidering the provision of longer-range missiles to Ukraine, in response to Ukraine's requests for missiles capable of striking deeper into Russian territory, targeting vital military installations and supply depots. While the US has previously supplied guided multiple launch rocket systems, the potential shift towards providing longer-range missiles could bring about significant changes in the conflict dynamics. These advanced missiles would bolster Ukraine's ability to disrupt Russian military operations and logistics, increasing the pressure on Russia. However, this move also raises concerns about potential escalation and the possibility of Russian retaliation, further complicating the already delicate situation in Eastern Europe. Observers are closely monitoring any decision on supplying longer-range missiles for its potential impact on the Ukraine-Russia conflict and broader international relations.

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

01 INTERNATIONALISATION OF INDIA'S FINANCE SYSTEM

The inclusion of **Indian bonds in JPMorgan's emerging-market index** is a pivotal step towards India's international recognition and access to vital capital for growth. This move promises increased demand for the Indian rupee, potentially buffering against depreciation. Lower borrowing costs can fuel essential infrastructure projects, while heightened liquidity may foster more efficient trading conditions. However, the inclusion may also entail heightened vulnerability to global market fluctuations, as India becomes subject to shifts in sentiment, economic conditions, and policies in major economies, influencing bond prices and yields. This development will be effective from June 28, 2024. India's weight of 10 per cent will be staggered over 10 months, leading to passive inflows of \$22 billion. The actual flows though may be higher, contingent on market dynamics and active flows.

02 L&T BAGS RS 7,000-CRORE UNDERGROUND ROAD PROJECT CONTRACT

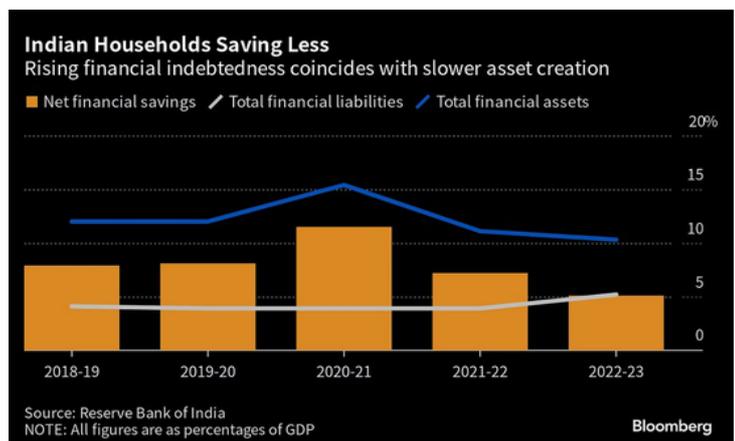
Engineering and construction conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has bagged a mega order worth over Rs 7,000 crore to design and construct an underground road tunnel. The project was won by heavy civil infrastructure business vertical of L&T Construction from Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA). The contract is for design and construction of an underground road tunnel between Orange Gate, Eastern Free Way to Marine Drive coastal road in Mumbai. The scope of work for the project comprises design and construction of twin road tunnels using tunnel boring machines (TBMs), connecting these tunnels to the existing elevated

Eastern Freeway at Orange Gate near its southern terminal through transition ramps and to Marine Drive in Mumbai. The project is expected to be completed in 54 months.



03 HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS FALL TO 16-YEAR LOW, BORROWING RISES

Net financial savings of households is at the lowest in the decade, reaching 5.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in Financial Year 2023 (FY23) compared to 7.2 per cent in FY22, RBI data. Financial liabilities also remained notably high at 37.6 percent of GDP in FY23 compared to 36.9 per cent in FY22. Rising debt payments are eroding the spending power of Indian households and threatening to choke off the funds that fuel the fastest-growing major economy.



01 INDIAN NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

In India, nanotechnology research has been flourishing, with scientists actively exploring its diverse applications, particularly in materials science and healthcare. In the realm of materials science, nanotechnology has enabled the development of advanced materials with extraordinary properties, such as super-strong and lightweight composites. In healthcare, nanotech innovations have paved the way for targeted drug delivery systems, early disease detection, and highly sensitive diagnostic tools. These advancements hold the potential to revolutionize industries and improve the quality of life for millions, making nanotechnology a focal point of scientific exploration and innovation in India.

02 AI COULD SUPPORT CURATING CANCER

Mehr-un-Nisa Kitchlew, the founder of RÖZ, a pioneering breast cancer detection startup that clinched The Microsoft Epic Challenge 2022 in Pakistan, emphasized the profound impact of artificial intelligence (AI) in the early detection and prevention of cancer. According to Kitchlew, while human experts can provide valuable insights when examining medical scans, AI's true prowess shines in discerning subtle nuances that might elude the naked eye. Kitchlew stressed the invaluable role played by well-trained AI algorithms in these scenarios, where their ability to detect even the most minute irregularities significantly enhances diagnostic accuracy.

03 THE KC VALLEY KARNATAKA PROJECT (A BOOM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)

A recent evaluation conducted by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has unveiled the outcomes of the KC Valley project. Led by L.N. Rao of the Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST) at IISc, this study, published on June 15, highlights the project's significant contributions to sustainable freshwater management and wastewater treatment. The research identifies four major favorable results achieved by the project: Firstly, a remarkable tenfold enhancement in daily groundwater replenishment rates. Secondly, a substantial increase in groundwater levels ranging from 58% to 73%. Thirdly, notable enhancements in groundwater quality. Lastly, a marked improvement in agricultural productivity.



01 UAE EMERGES AS FOURTH LARGEST INVESTOR IN INDIA IN FY23

According to figures issued by the government on Friday, the eight major sectors of India's economy increased their output by 12.1% on an annual basis in August. On an annual basis, the percentage was 8.4% in July. In August 2023 compared to the same month the previous year, "the production of all Eight Core Industries (namely, Cement, Coal, Crude Oil, Electricity, Fertilisers, Natural Gas, Refinery Products and Steel) saw positive growth. The output growth for the eight sectors was similarly lower, at 7.7% from April to August 2023–2024 compared to 10% the previous year. Compared to the same month last year, August saw a 10.9 percent increase in steel production.

03 GOVT'S GROSS DEBT RISES 2.2% QOQ TO RS 159.53 LAKH CR IN Q1

In April through June of this fiscal year, the government's overall gross debt climbed by 2.2% on a quarterly basis to Rs 159.53 lakh crore. At the end of March, the liabilities totaled Rs 156.08 lakh crore. In Q1 2023–24, this represented a 2.2% quarter-over-quarter growth. The Public Debt Management report for the April-June 2023 quarter states that public debt constituted 89.5% of all gross liabilities during the quarter. The residual maturity of almost 26.6% of the outstanding dated securities was less than five years.

02 GOVT HAS ALLOCATED RS 100 CR FOR ASPIRATIONAL BLOCKS PROGRAMME THIS FISCAL

The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), which aims to improve governance at the block level in order to improve citizens' quality of life, has been given Rs 100 crore by the government for this fiscal year. In 500 aspirational blocks spread throughout 329 districts nationwide, ABP is being used. On January 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the national initiative. 160 blocks of the 112 aspirational districts comprise the 500 aspirational blocks. Uttar Pradesh has the maximum number of blocks (68) under this programme followed by Bihar (61).



METaverse

01 Senco Gold & Diamonds Debuts 'Sencoverse' Virtual Showroom in the Metaverse

Indian jewelry retailer Senco Gold & Diamonds has taken a step into the metaverse with the launch of its inaugural virtual showroom, named Sencoverse. The platform's primary objective is to provide customers with an exceptionally tailored and effortless shopping experience by rendering the brand's exquisite jewelry in the virtual realm. Accessible from anywhere, customers simply need to visit the platform and provide basic information.



Within Sencoverse, users can enjoy a comprehensive 360-degree view of jewelry pieces, engage with interactive features for close-up examinations of intricate details, and even utilize a try-on feature to virtually wear and experience the jewelry. This innovative move represents a convergence of the digital world and traditional retail, redefining the jewelry shopping experience.

02 China's Ministry of Industry to Develop Standards for the Metaverse

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) is taking steps to establish itself as a global standards-setter for the metaverse sector. They announced plans to create a working group to develop standards for the metaverse, a shared virtual online world. MIIT identified the metaverse as one of nine emerging tech sectors requiring standardized regulations. The move aims to address challenges in the industry, including a lack of clear definitions and rampant speculation. MIIT sees the metaverse as a catalyst for innovative business models, new opportunities, and digital economy growth, emphasizing the importance of standardization and guidance for its healthy development.



METaverse

03 VENTURE CATALYSTS REALIZES OVER 4.2X RETURNS WITH PARTIAL EXIT FROM METAVERSE SKILL TECH COMPANY CUSMAT

Venture Catalysts, an early-stage investment firm, has made a partial exit from its portfolio company Cusmat Technologies, an immersive skilling platform for industrial workforces. Venture Catalysts first invested in Cusmat's seed round in 2020 and exited in the company's \$3.5 million Series A round in February 2023. The partial exit resulted in over 4.2x returns, with an extended internal rate of return (XIRR) of over 60%. It highlights the potential of the metaverse for industrial training and education. Cusmat's Series A round was also notable for its strong lineup of investors, including Arkam Ventures, Unitus, Better Capital, We Founder Circle, 9Unicorns, and MapMyIndia. This shows that investors are bullish on Cusmat's mission to revolutionize industrial training and education through the metaverse. Venture Catalysts' exit from Cusmat is a positive sign for the Indian startup ecosystem.



01 QUANTS UNLOCKED

Q1. Two full tanks, one shaped like a cylinder and the other like a cone, contain jet fuel. The cylindrical tank holds 500 litres more than the conical tank. After 200 litres of fuel has been pumped out from each tank the cylindrical tank contains twice the amount of fuel in the conical tank. How many litres of fuel did the cylindrical tank have when it was full?

Ans.1200

Q2. Arvind Singh purchased a 40 seater bus. He started his services on route number 2 (from Mahu Naka to Dewas Naka with route length of 50 km). His profit (P) from the bus depends upon the number of passengers over a certain minimum number of passengers 'n' and upon the distance travelled by bus. His profit is Rs.3600 with 29 passengers in the bus for a journey of 36 km and Rs.6300 with 36 passengers in the bus for a journey of 42 km. What is the minimum number of passengers are required so that he will not suffer any loss.

Ans. 15

Q3. What is the number of whole numbers formed on the screen of a calculator which can be recognised as numbers with (unique) correct digits when they are read inverted? The greatest number that can be formed on the screen of the calculator is 999999.

Ans. 100843

02 DIY CORNER

Q1. In a row of persons, the position of Saket from the left side of the row is 27th and position of Saket from the right side of the row is 34th. Find the total number of students in the row?

1. 60
2. 61
3. 62
4. 59

Q2. Sowmya Krishnan walked 20 m towards the north. Then she turned right and walks 30 m. Then she turns right and walks 35 m. Then she turns left and walks 15 m. Finally she turns left and walks 15 m. In which direction and how many meters is she from the starting position?

- A. 15 m West
- B. 30 m East
- C. 30 m West
- D. 45 m East

Q3. Rita told Mani, "The girl I met yesterday at the beach was the youngest daughter of the brother-in-law of my friend's mother." How is the girl related to Rita's friend?

1. Cousin
2. Daughter
3. Friend
4. Aunt

Q4. A dice is numbered from 1 to 6 in different ways. If 1 is adjacent to 2, 3 and 5, then which of the following statements is necessarily true?

- A. 1 is adjacent to 4
- B. 2 is adjacent to 5
- C. 1 is adjacent to 6
- D. 4 is adjacent to 6

RESOURCE GUIDE

03 STATIC GK

Treaty Of Tordesillas

Treaty of Tordesillas was signed in 1494 between Portugal and Spain. The key signatories were King John II of Portugal and King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. The treaty aimed to divide the newly discovered lands outside Europe between the two countries along a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands (off the coast of West Africa).

Montreux Convention

Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits is an international treaty signed in 1936. It regulates the transit of naval warships through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits, which connect the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea

McMahon Line

The McMahon Line is a boundary line that was proposed by British colonial administrator Sir Henry McMahon in 1914 as part of the Shimla Accord, a treaty between the British government, Tibet, and China. This line defines the eastern border of the region known as Arunachal Pradesh in India.



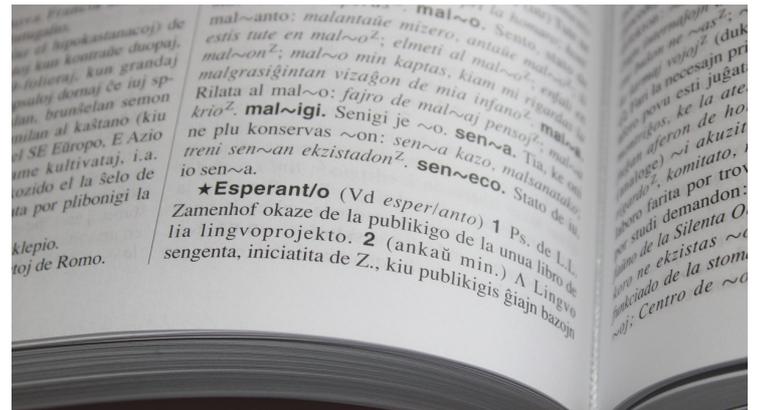
04 VOCAB-O-PEDIA

Quantitative Easing (QE)

Quantitative Easing is an unconventional monetary policy tool used by central banks to stimulate the economy when traditional monetary policy measures, like lowering interest rates, have become ineffective. In QE, central banks purchase financial assets, usually government securities, from the open market. By doing so, they inject a large amount of money into the financial system, aiming to lower long-term interest rates, encourage lending, and boost economic activity. QE is often employed during times of economic recession or when deflation is a concern.

Laffer Curve

The Laffer Curve is an economic concept that illustrates the relationship between tax rates and government tax revenue. It suggests that there is an optimal tax rate at which government revenue is maximized. The curve, which is usually depicted as an inverted U-shape, implies that as tax rates increase from very low levels, tax revenue also increases. However, beyond a certain point, higher tax rates can discourage economic activity, leading to reduced taxable income, and thus, lower tax revenue.



MOVIE RECOMMENDATION

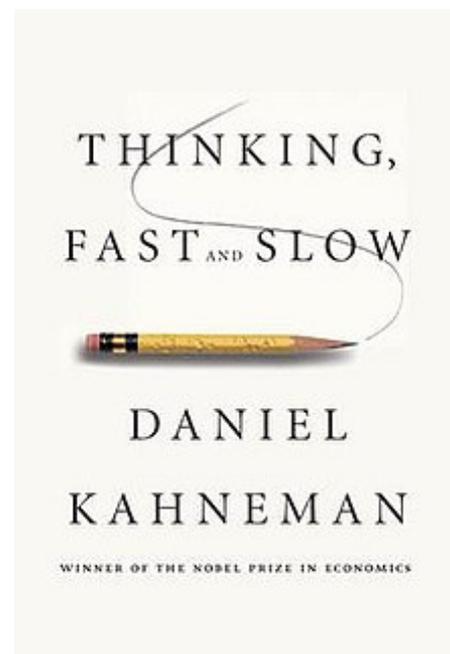
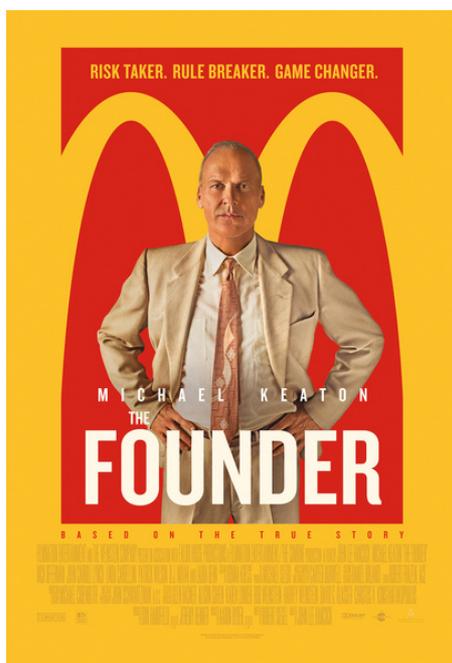
THE FOUNDER (2016)

This biographical drama film tells the story of Ray Kroc, a salesman who turned McDonald's into one of the biggest fast food chains in the world. The film follows Kroc's journey from a struggling salesman to a successful businessman, and it explores the ethics of business success. The Founder is a great movie for commerce students because it provides insights into the different aspects of business, such as sales, marketing, and operations. It also shows how important it is to be innovative and to think outside the box. The film's exploration of the dark side of American capitalism is particularly relevant for commerce. It shows how businesses can be used to exploit workers and consumers, and it highlights the importance of ethics in business. The Founder also reminds students that business success is not always the result of hard work and innovation. Sometimes, it can be achieved through ruthlessness and manipulation.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THINKING, FAST AND SLOW BY DANIEL KAHNEMAN

Thinking, Fast and Slow is a complex book, but it is also very accessible. Kahneman uses clear and simple language to explain complex concepts, and he provides numerous examples from real life to illustrate his points. The book is full of practical advice for business professionals. For example, Kahneman explains how to avoid anchoring bias, which is the tendency to rely too heavily on the first piece of information that we receive. He also explains how to overcome confirmation bias, which is the tendency to seek out information that confirms our existing beliefs. Thinking, Fast and Slow is a valuable resource for commerce students who want to learn how to make better decisions. It is a book that can be read and reread, and it will continue to provide insights long after students graduate from school.



VOCABULARY

Here are 10 challenging vocabulary words along with their meanings and examples.

Hapless-Unlucky, unfortunate

Example: the hapless victims of the disaster

Aloof-Distant physically or emotionally, reserved, indifferent, not friendly or forthcoming, not interested.

Example: they were courteous but faintly aloof

Acerbic-(especially of a comment or style of speaking) sharp, forthright, sarcastic, critical or caustic.

Example: His style is acerbic, his humour disquiets, his directness can shock.

Impassive-Not having or not showing feeling or emotion. (don't confuse with antonym of "passive")

Example: He was ashen-faced but impassive as the verdicts were brought in.

Inimical-tending to obstruct or harm.

Example: the policy was inimical to Britain's real interests

Hegemony-Dominance, authority, influence by one country over others socially, culturally, economically, etc.

Example: Germany was united under Prussian hegemony after 1871

Insidious-proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with very harmful effects

Example: sexual harassment is a serious and insidious problem

Impecunious-Having little or no money; poor

Example: Superb presents can be had here though not by the impecunious.

Ameliorate-make (something bad or unsatisfactory) better; to improve; make better or more bearable

Example:the reform did much to ameliorate living standards

Trite-(of a remark or idea) lacking originality or freshness; dull on account of overuse.

Example: Children need to be aware of the real world, not force-fed trite fairytales

MYTH BUSTERS

01 MYTH: ACTIVE TRADING ALWAYS OUTPERFORMS PASSIVE INVESTING

Numerous studies reveal that, over the long term, actively managed funds often fail to consistently beat passive index funds. Factors like fees and market unpredictability contribute to this debunking.

02 MYTH: REAL ESTATE IS ALWAYS A SAFE INVESTMENT

While real estate can be lucrative, it's not foolproof. Economic downturns and regional market fluctuations can lead to significant losses. Diversifying one's investment portfolio beyond real estate is crucial for mitigating risks.

03 MYTH: FINANCIAL EDUCATION GUARANTEES WEALTH

Knowledge alone doesn't ensure financial success. Behavioral factors like discipline, risk management, and adaptability play pivotal roles. Practical application of financial knowledge is essential for wealth accumulation.



Thank you for reading!

**Hope you enjoyed the content.
Stay tuned for the next edition!**