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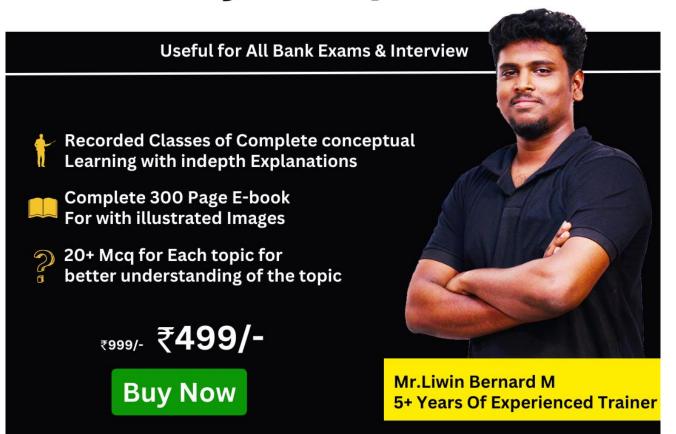






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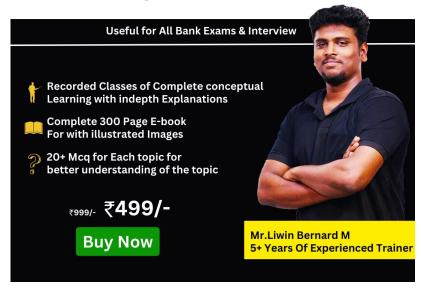
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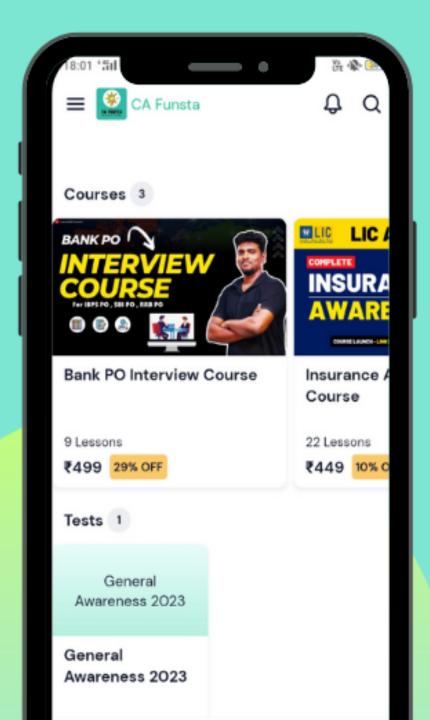
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## **Important Days**



#### When is UN Disarmament Week celebrated in 2023?

- A) October 1 to 7
- B) October 8 to 14
- C) October 15 to 21
- D) October 24 to 30
- E) November 1 to 7

**Answer** D) October 24 to 30







## **Important Days**



- UN Disarmament Week, celebrated on October 24 to 30, 2023
- On October 24 —the same day the United Nations (UN) was established in 1945 Disarmament Week commences. It was after the United Nations General Assembly had a special session on disarmament in 1978 that Disarmament Week was first observed.
- In 1995, the General Assembly extended an invitation to a wide range of nations, nongovernmental organisations, and other international bodies to actively participate in Disarmament Week
- The United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) was established in 1952.



## **Important Days**



#### **Explanation**

#### **Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023**

- Global Media and Information Literacy Week (24-31 October)
- 2023 Theme: Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces: A Collective Global Agenda
- The Global MIL Week 2023 focuses on digital spaces and gives the opportunity to explore paths for strengthening multilateral cooperation with digital platforms and other stakeholders
- In 2021, the UN General Assembly decided to commemorate Media and Information Literacy (MIL) week, citing the need for the dissemination of factual, timely, targeted, clear, accessible, multilingual and science-based information.



## **RANKING**



#### According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which city topped the list for having the worst air quality in India?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Chennai
- D) Bangalore
- E) Meerut

Answer E) Meerut



## **RANKING**



- Meerut topped the list of cities with the worst air quality in India, according to the daily bulletin released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- It had an air quality index (AQI) of 382, falling in the category of "very poor".
- The bulletin gives the AQI on the basis of 24-hour-average of 229 Indian cities as of 4 pm on October 23.
- There are six AQI categories: Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe.
- Each of these categories is decided based on the ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts (known as health breakpoints).
- According to the AQI scale, the air quality check between 0 and 50 is "good", 51 and 100
  "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401
  and 450 "severe".



## **RANKING**



#### **Explanation**

#### Air pollution: List of 10 Indian cities with worst air quality

- 1. Meerut 382
- 2. Greater Noida 299
- 3. Bharatpur 280
- 4. Bundi 268
- 5. Karnal 266
- 6. Delhi 263
- 7. Bahadurgarh 262
- 8. Faridabad 256
- 9. Jalgaon 255
- 10. Manesar 248

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Who is the partner of HMD Global in launching the smartphone financing solution, HMD Easy Pay?

- A) Apple Inc.
- B) Google LLC
- C) DMI Finance
- D) Samsung Electronics
- E) Microsoft Corporation

Answer
C) DMI Finance







- HMD Global, the maker of Nokia phones, on Wednesday launched HMD Easy Pay, a smartphone financing solution created in partnership with **DMI Finance**, to provide accessible and user-friendly smartphone financing options.
- This affordability programme will offer a seamless and user-friendly experience while providing a host of internal benefits and features, the company said, adding that it will be a pure digital application process with an instant approval, with end-to-end completion taking only minutes
- The HMD Easy Pay covers a variety of Nokia smartphone models costing ₹8,000 and above, including the Nokia G42 128/256GB, Nokia C32, Nokia C22, and Nokia C12 Pro, offering options to suit diverse customer preferences



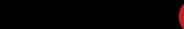


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# What recent move by the Reserve Bank of India aims to strengthen governance in private sector banks and foreign banks?

- A) Mandating the appointment of non-executive directors
- B) Requiring annual financial audits
- C) Implementing stricter capital reserve requirements
- D) Mandating at least two wholetime directors (WTDs)
- E) Revising the interest rates on savings accounts

Answer
D) Mandating at least two wholetime directors (WTDs)





- In a move to strengthen governance in private sector banks and foreign banks, the Reserve Bank of India has mandated at least two wholetime directors (WTDs) in these banks.
- Those who do not meet the requirement need to submit the names for RBI's approval within four months.
- Banks need prior RBI approval for the appointment of WTDs.
- The regulator also asked banks to establish an effective senior management team to navigate ongoing and emerging challenges, given the growing complexities of the banking sector.
- The number of WTDs should be decided by the board of the bank by taking into account factors such as the size of operations, business complexity and other relevant aspects.
- Those banks which do not already have the enabling provisions regarding the appointment of WTDs in their Articles of Association may first seek necessary approvals under Section 35B(1)(a) of the Act ibid, expeditiously, so as to be in a position to comply with the requirements under these instructions
- Payments banks and local area banks are kept out of the minimum WTD requirements.







With which company did IndusInd Bank collaborate to provide digital inward remittance services to non-resident Indians (NRIs) in the US?

- A) PayPal
- B) Western Union
- C) MoneyGram
- D) Viamericas Corporation
- E) Ria Money Transfer

Answer **D) Viamericas Corporation** 







- **IndusInd Bank** has entered into a collaboration with **Viamericas Corporation** to offer **non**resident Indians (NRIs) in the US digital inward remittance services on the 'Indus Fast Remit' platform.
- The service will offer competitive exchange rates on remittances to India.
- NRIs can initiate remittance transactions using the auto debit payment mode (automated clearing house - ACH) through their overseas bank accounts on the Fast Remit platform. Viamericas Corporation will leverage its existing Vostro relationship with IndusInd Bank to credit beneficiary accounts in India, utilising the RBI's RDA scheme.
- The digital remittance platform assures customers transparency of payment status, the exact INR amount to be received by the beneficiary, and the expected delivery time





#### **Titbits**

#### **IndusInd Bank**

Hq: Pune, Maharashtra

CEO: Sumant Kathpalia

Tagline: We make You Feel Richer, We Care DilSe





How much is the policy-based loan approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for India, specifically for sub-programme 2 of the Sustainable Urban Development and Service Delivery **Programme?** 

- A) \$200 million
- B) \$300 million
- C) \$400 million
- D) \$500 million
- E) \$600 million

Answer C) \$400 million





- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$400-million policy-based loan to India
  for sub-programme 2 of the Sustainable Urban Development and Service Delivery
  Programme.
- The programme aims to support the government's reform agenda for improving the quality
  of urban life through the creation of high-quality infrastructure, assured public services, and
  efficient governance systems.
- While sub-programme 1, approved in 2021, established national-level policies and guidelines
  to improve urban services, sub-programme 2 is supporting investment planning and reform
  actions at the state and urban local body (ULB) levels.
- The programme also envisages integrated reforms to control urban sprawls and foster systemic and planned urbanisation by enhancing the entire ecosystem of legal, regulatory, and institutional reforms along with capacity building of ULBs and community awareness.
- Specifically, ULBs will promote modernisation of building bylaws, land pooling, urban agglomeration, and comprehensive urban mobility planning through transit-oriented development to help cities become well-planned centres of economic growth.





#### **Titbits**

#### **Asian Development Bank**

Member Countries: 68

Founded Year: 1966

Headquarters: Manila, Philippines

Head: Masatsugu Asakawa



## **ACQUISTIONS AND MERGERS**



What percentage of shares did the GMR Group acquire from Malaysia Airports Holding Berhad (MAHB) in GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL)?

- A) 5%
- B) 8%
- C) 10%
- D) 11%
- E) 15%

**Answer** D) 11%





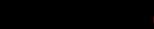
## **ACQUISTIONS AND MERGERS**



#### **Explanation**

- GMR Airports Limited (GAL) and its affiliated companies, together known as the GMR Group, acquired 11 per cent of the shares of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) from Malaysia Airports Holding Berhad (MAHB) and its subsidiary MAHB (Mauritius) **Private Limited (MAMPL).**
- The acquisition is valued at \$100 million (Rs 750 crore).
- Post the acquisition, GMR's stake in GHIAL will increase to 74 per cent from 63 per cent.
- The transaction is expected to conclude within 135 days.
- The involvement of MAHB, an original shareholder, is acknowledged for its early support in airport development.

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## **APPOINTMENTS**



#### Who has taken charge as the Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces)?

- A) Admiral Sunil Lanba
- B) General Bipin Rawat
- C) Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair
- D) Major General VK Singh
- E) Rear Admiral Karambir Singh

**Answer** C) Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair





## **APPOINTMENTS**



#### **Explanation**

- Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair assumed the appointment of Director General Hospital Services
   (Armed Forces) in the office of DGAFMS becoming the first woman to hold the position on
   promotion to the rank of Air Marshal.
- Prior to this appointment, the Air Officer was tenanting the appointment of Principal Medical Officer (PMO) at HQ Training Command (Air Force), Bangaluru.
- She is the first and only woman Principal Medical Officer of Western Air Command and Training Command.
- For her meritorious service she has been awarded the AOC-in-C (WAC) and CAS
  Commendations as well as the Vishisht Seva Medal by the President of India. Three
  generations of her family have served in the IAF over the last seven decades.

•





What is the name of the space start-up that unveiled the indigenously built Vikram-1 rocket for satellite delivery to low earth orbit?

- A) SpaceX
- B) Blue Origin
- C) ISRO
- D) Skyroot Aerospace
- E) Rocket Lab

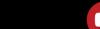
Answer D) Skyroot Aerospace







- Space start-up **Skyroot Aerospace** unveiled its **indigenously built Vikram-1 rocket which is** expected to deliver satellites to low earth orbit early next year.
- Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh also inaugurated 'The MAX-Q Campus', the new headquarters of the start-up at the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park at Mamidipally in South Hyderabad.
- Vikram-1 is a multi-stage launch vehicle with a capacity to place around 300 kg payloads in Low Earth Orbit.
- It is an all-carbon-fibre-bodied rocket that can place multiple satellites into orbit and features 3D-printed liquid engines.
- Planned to be launched in early 2024, Vikram-I will be Skyroot's second rocket, after the successful launch of the Vikram-S rocket on November 18 last year.





- Skyroot's new headquarters houses integrated design, manufacturing and testing facilities for building space launch vehicles, and design space for the 300-member strong workforce.
- The unveiling of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle on the same day as the company's new headquarters inauguration is a moment of great pride, said Bharath Daka, Co-Founder and COO of Skyroot.





#### **Titbits**

#### **Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**

Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana Head: Pawan Kumar Chandana





What is the estimated cost of incorporating the Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project in Uttarakhand under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)?

- A) ₹1,200 crore
- B) ₹1,800 crore
- C) ₹2,000 crore
- D) ₹2,584 crore
- E) ₹3,000 crore

Answer D) ₹2,584 crore





- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the incorporation of Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project in Uttarakhand under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP), at an estimated cost of ₹2,584 crore.
- The project envisages the construction of a dam near near Jamrani village on the Gola river, a tributary of river Ganga, in Uttarakhand's Nainital district.
- Once constructed, the dam will feed the existing Gola barrage with its 40.5 km canal and a 244-km long canal system, which was completed in 1981.
- the CentrE would contribute ₹1,557.18 crore towards the project, aiming for completion by March 2028.
- The project will see setting up of two feeder canals, refurbishing 207 km of existing canals, and introducing 278 km of solid field channels.
- On the energy front, the dam is expected to generate 14 MW of hydropower and deliver 42.70 million cubic meters of potable water to over 10.65 lakh residents in Haldwani and its vicinities.





- A substantial part of the irrigation benefits of the project would flow to the neighbouring state of Uttar Pradesh, and cost or benefit sharing between the two states will be done as per a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2017.
- However, drinking water and power benefits shall be available entirely to Uttarakhand, according to an official release.
- The PMKSY, initiated in 2015-16 to improve farm water accessibility and foster sustainable water conservation methods, has a projected outlay of ₹93,068.56 crore until 2026.
- As a component of PMKSY, the accelerated irrigation benefits programme (AIBP) aims to foster irrigation potential through large-scale projects.
- To date, 53 projects have been finalized under PMKSY-AIBP, leading to additional irrigation across 25.14 lakh ha.
- With the Jamrani Dam project's inclusion, the number of projects post the inception of PMKSY 2.0 in 2021-22 reaches seven.





#### Union Cabinet approves NPK fertiliser subsidy for 2023-24 rabi season

- The Union Cabinet approved a ₹22,303-crore subsidy for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers and the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) rates for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK) fertilisers for the 2023-24 Rabi season amid rising international prices.
- In the previous rabi season, the cabinet approved a ₹51,875 crore NBS subsidy, including support for indigenous fertilizer (SSP) through a freight subsidy.
- The subsidy on P&K fertilizers will be based on approved rates to ensure adequate availability and affordable prices for farmers
- Firstly, it will ensure P&K fertilizers are available to farmers at affordable prices during the ongoing Rabi season that began this month.
- Secondly, it rationalizes the subsidy on P&K fertilizers, ensuring effective and efficient use of government resources.
- Farmers will get nitrogen fertiliser at a subsidised rate of ₹47.02 a kg, phosphorus fertiliser at ₹20.82 a kg, and potassium fertiliser at ₹2.38 a kg.





#### Union Cabinet approves NPK fertiliser subsidy for 2023-24 rabi season

- The government had allocated a subsidy of ₹38,000 crore for the 2023-24 kharif season that ended in September.
- The NBS scheme, which governs the subsidy on P&K fertilizers, has been instrumental in ensuring the availability of essential nutrients to farmers at subsidized prices since 1 April 2010.
- During the rabi and kharif seasons, the government makes 25 grades of P&K fertilizers available to farmers at subsidised prices through fertilizer manufacturers or importers.
- In the 2023-24 budget the government had allocated ₹1.75 trillion for fertiliser subsidies and spent 55% of it in the first five months. In 2022-23 the fertilizer subsidy surged to a recordhigh of ₹2.55 lakh crore.

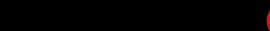




#### Union Cabinet approves India-Japan partnership on improving semiconductor supply chain

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of a
  Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed in July, 2023 between the Ministry of Electronics
  and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade
  and Industry of Japan on Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership.
- The MoC intends to strengthen cooperation between India and Japan towards enhancement
  of semiconductor supply chain, recognizing the importance of semiconductor for the
  advancement of industries and digital technologies.
- The MoC shall come into effect from the date of signature of the Parties and shall be remain in force for a period of five years.
- Both G2G and B2B bilateral Cooperation on opportunities to advance resilient semiconductor supply chain and leverage complementary strengths.
- MoC envisages improved collaboration leading to employment opportunities in the field of IT

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#### Where was the IFFCO's Nano DAP (Liquid) plant inaugurated by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah?

- A) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- B) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- C) Kolkata, West Bengal
- D) Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- E) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**Answer** D) Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat







- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated IFFCO's Nano DAP (Liquid) Plant at Kalol in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya and many other dignitaries were present on this occasion.





Which event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, will Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Sh. Piyush Goyal be attending?

- A) World Economic Forum
- B) G20 Summit
- C) 7th 'Future Investment Initiative'
- D) OPEC Conference
- E) Middle East Economic Summit

**Answer** 

C) 7th 'Future Investment Initiative'





- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, Sh. Piyush Goyal will be attending the 7th Edition of Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 24th to 25th October 2023.
- During the course of the event, the Minister would meet Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) dignitaries including the Energy Minister of KSA, His Royal Highness (HRH) Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Salman Al-Saud; Commerce Minister, His Excellency (H.E.) Majid bin Abdullah AlKassabi; Investment Minister, H.E. Khalid A. Al Falih; Industry and Mineral Resources Minister, H.E. Bandar bin Ibrahim AlKhorayef; and Governor Public Investment Fund (PIF), H.E. Yassir Rummayyan among others.
- Shri Piyush Goyal will co-chair a conclave session on the theme "From Risk to Opportunity:
   Strategies for Emerging Economies in the New Industrial Policy Era" along with the KSA
   Investment Minister.





- FII Institute is a global nonprofit foundation, launched by KSA. It aims to gather Government
  and business leaders from around the world to discuss new pathways for investment with
  the goal to create a global "Impact On Humanity". Its four areas of focus are Artificial
  Intelligence (AI) & Robotics, Education, Healthcare, and Sustainability.
- Theme for the 7th Edition of FII is "The New Compass" that focuses on the New Global Order.
- The event is expected to witness participation from world's leading investors, business leaders, policymakers, inventors, and explorers. In subsequent meetings, the attendees will come together to deliberate and discover the new markets and navigate new frontiers of economic growth and prosperity.
- KSA is one of India's most important strategic partners. The trade between both countries
  reached an all-time high of USD 52.75 billion in FY 2022-23. Cooperation between the two
  countries can also be witnessed with the establishment of India-Saudi Arabia Strategic
  Partnership Council (SPC).





- Established in 2019, it aims to enhance the relationship between the two countries and has two main pillars: the 'Committee on Political, Security, Social, and Cultural Cooperation' and the 'Committee on Economy and Investments'. India is the fourth country with which Riyadh has formed such a partnership, after the UK, France, and China.
- In September 2023, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and KSA Crown Prince, HRH Mohammed Bin Salman Al Saud co-chaired the first summit-level meeting of SPC.
- The meeting focused on critical areas such as energy security, trade and investment, defence and security, healthcare and food security. The Prime Minister envisions cooperation between the two large and fast-growing economies of the world as this mutual cooperation is important for peace and stability in the entire region.



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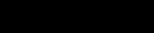


How many feature films and non-feature films are scheduled to be screened under the Indian Panorama section of IFFI-Goa this year?

- A) 15 feature films and 10 non-feature films
- B) 20 feature films and 15 non-feature films
- C) 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films
- D) 30 feature films and 25 non-feature films
- E) 35 feature films and 30 non-feature films

Answer
C) 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films







- As many as 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films have been selected for Indian Panorama section of the upcoming 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- This year's IFFI will be held from 20th to 28th of November in Goa.
- The feature films to be showcased include Aattam in Malayalam language, Bengali film Ardhangini, Hindi Film Dhai Aakhar and Kannada film Kantara.
- While non- feature films include 1947: Brexit India in English, Baasan in Hindi and Utsavmurti
  in Marathi language.
- 'Aattam will be the Opening Feature Film while 'Andro Dreams in Manipuri language will be the Opening Non-Feature Film.
- The aim of the Indian Panorama, organized by the National Film Development Corporation is to select the feature and non-feature films of cinematic, thematic and aesthetic excellence in accordance with the conditions and procedures in the said regulations of Indian Panorama.



#### **QUICK RECALL**



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#### **QUICK RECALL**



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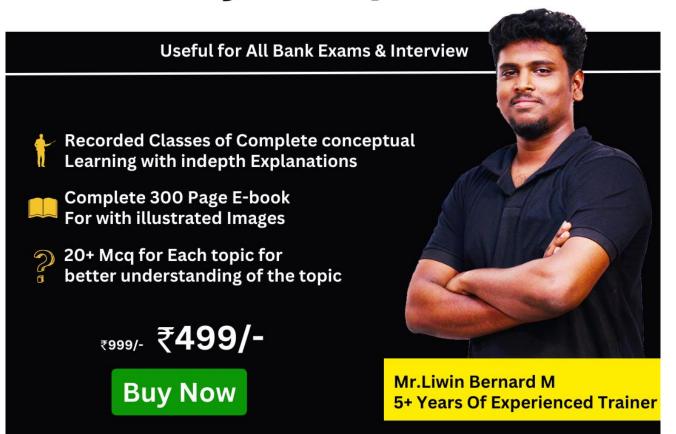






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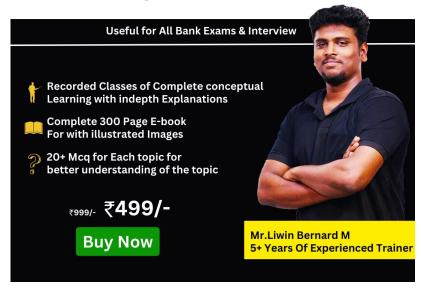
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