

Current Affairs: 12.04.2021

Nomura slashes India's GDP forecast to 12.6% in FY22



The Japanese brokerage company **Nomura** has revised the **GDP forecast of India** in financial year **2021-22 (FY22)** to **12.6 percent** from previous estimate of 13.5 percent, amid rising coronavirus cases and higher inflation. Nomura has pegged the calendar year GDP growth of India as given

below:

- **2020 – (-)6.9%**
- **2021 – 11.5%**
- **2022 – 7.0%**

Airtel Payments Bank Unveils 'Rewards123' Savings Account



The **Airtel Payments Bank** has launched a new savings account called '**Rewards123**' with a special feature under which customers will get certain benefits and value when they transact digitally using the bank account.

The '**Rewards123**' **digital savings account** is designed to offer consistent value, with assured rewards on different types of digital transactions throughout the year.

Key features

- Customers can easily open or upgrade to Rewards123 through the Airtel Thanks app using Video KYC.
- Zero minimum balance, and free Platinum Online Mastercard Debit Card.
- Offers regular benefits throughout the year up to Rs 960.
- Customers can get 'Rewards123' at an annual fee of Rs 299
- Benefits range from certain cashback per month on payments for prepaid recharges, post-paid, broadband, landline, and DTH bill payments, load money benefits and shopping rewards.
- Users will get 1% cashback when they load Rs. 1,000 through UPI in their account. However, a maximum of Rs. 10 per month can be availed under of this benefit.

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launches 'SARTHAQ', the NEP Implementation Plan for School Education

The Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** chaired a high-level meeting on the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** on April 8, 2021. During the meet, the minister unveiled the '**Implementation Plan for School Education**', called "**Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)**". SARTHAQ has been developed

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by the **Department of School Education and Literacy** to assist States and UTs with the goals and objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

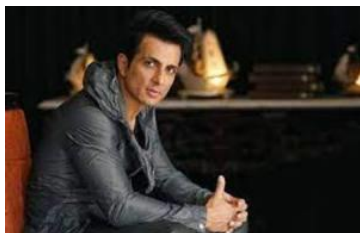
Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra named as next Chief Election Commissioner



The incumbent **Election Commissioner (EC) Sushil Chandra** has been named to become the next **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India**. Chandra will assume charge with effect from **April 13, 2021**. He will replace incumbent CEC, Sunil Arora, who will retire on April 12, 2021. The Election Commission of India consists of three members, namely Chief

Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. The two ECs are **Rajiv Kumar and Sushil Chandra**.

Punjab Government Ropes in Sonu Sood as Brand Ambassador for #Covid19 vaccination drive



The Government of Punjab, led by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, has roped in Bollywood actor and philanthropist **Sonu Sood** as the **brand ambassador for the anti-coronavirus vaccination programme** in the state. It must be remembered that during the nationwide coronavirus-induced lockdown in 2020, Sonu Sood had helped thousands of migrant workers stranded across the country in reaching their home states. This led to him being hailed as a messiah for the migrants.

2021 BAFTA Awards – 74th Edition



The **British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs)** for the year **2021**, has been announced by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. BAFTA 2021 is the 74th edition of the annual award to honour the best national and foreign films of 2020 and early 2021.

Most Nominations

1. American drama “Nomadland” (7)
2. British coming-of-age drama “Rocks” (7)

• Most Awards

1. Nomadland (4)

• List of Winners of BAFTA 2021

- Best Film – Nomadland
- Best Director – Chloe Zhao (Nomadland)

Best Actor in a Leading Role – Anthony Hopkins (The Father as Anthony) Filmmaker Guneet Monga Honored with Second Highest Civilian French Honour



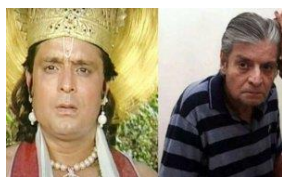
Ace Indian film producer Guneet Monga has been conferred with the second highest French civilian honour called “**Honour of the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres)**”. Guneet will be felicitated in New Delhi on April 13, 2021, by the Ambassador of France in India, on behalf of the French authorities. The honour has previously been awarded to people like Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Bruce Willis. As a producer, Guneet has several critically acclaimed films to her credit, such as *Masaan*, *Lunchbox*, *Peddlers*; Oscar-winning short film documentary “*Period, End of Sentence*”, among others.

Indian-origin Business Tycoon Yusuffali MA Honored with Top Civilian Award in UAE



An Indian-origin businessman **Yusuffali MA** was honored with **Abu Dhabi’s top civilian award**, by **Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan** on April 09, 2021, for his outstanding contribution to Abu Dhabi’s business, industry and support to various philanthropic initiatives. Apart from Yusuffali MA, **11 other individuals** received the honour for their noble and charitable contributions to the community. The 65-year-old Yusuffali, who was born in **Kerala**, is the Chairman and Managing Director of Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group which operates hypermarkets and retail companies in many countries.

Mahabharat-fame Veteran Actor Satish Kaul passes away due to COVID-19 at 74



Veteran actor Satish Kaul, who is known for playing the role of Lord Indra in the mythological TV show **Mahabharat**, has passed away due to coronavirus-related complications. He was 74. Satish Kaul began his acting career in the early ’70s, working in both Hindi and Punjabi films. He has over 300 Punjabi and Hindi films to his credit. Apart from *Mahabharat*, Kaul also worked in Doordarshan series **Vikram Aur Betaal**. His famous films include *Pyaar Toh Hona Hi Tha* and *Aunty No 1*.

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International Day of Human Space Flight: 12 April



The **International Day of Human Space Flight** is celebrated annually on **April 12** to mark the anniversary of the **first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin** on April 12, 1961. The day was proclaimed at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on

April 7, 2011, a few days before the 50th anniversary of the flight. In **Soviet Union**, the day is observed as **International Day of Aviation and Cosmonautics**.