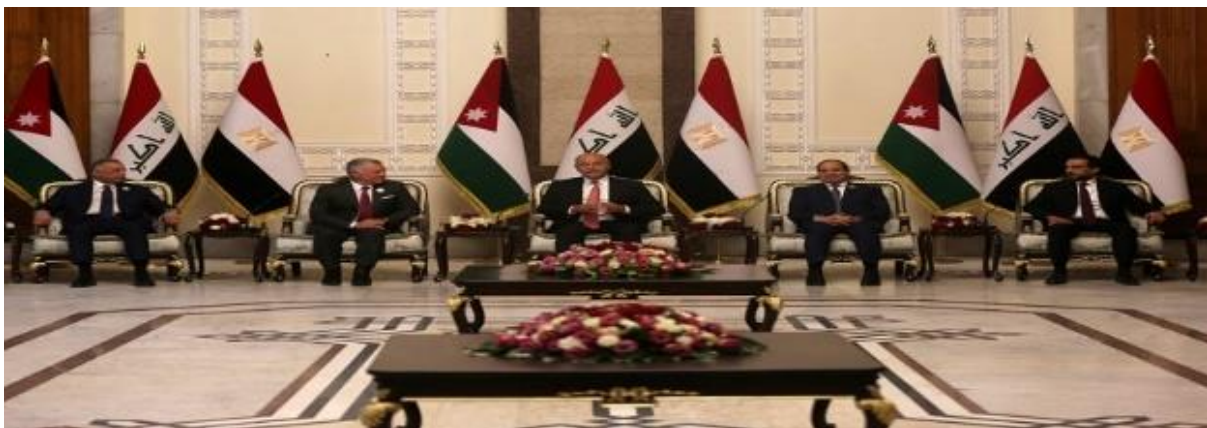


## 2nd-biggest dam starts making power



The first two generating units of the world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam were officially turned on Monday in southwestern China. The Baihetan Dam on Jinsha river, a tributary of the Yangtze, is part of Chinese efforts to curb surging fossil fuel demand by building more hydropower capacity at a time when dams have fallen out of favour in other countries due to environmental complaints. Built by the China Three Gorges Corporation - operator of the world's largest hydropower plant in the world, the Three Gorges Dam - the Baihetan is located on the border between the southwestern provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan.

## Iraq, Egypt and Jordan hold summit



Egypt, Jordan and Iraq agreed to bolster security and economic cooperation at a tripartite summit that saw an Egyptian head of state visit Iraq for the first time in three decades. The visits by Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah II came as Iraq seeks to move closer to Arab allies of the United States in the Middle East.

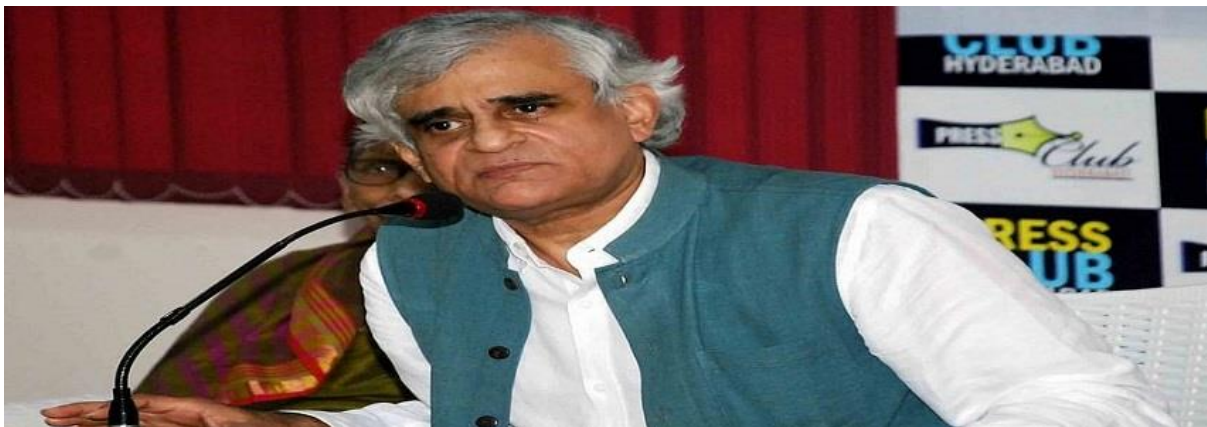
Iraq is also seeking to establish itself as a mediator between Arab countries and Iran, after reportedly hosting talks in April between Tehran and Riyadh.

## Ukraine, U.S. launch Black Sea drills



Ukraine and the United States launched joint naval exercises in the Black Sea in a show of Western cooperation with Kiev as it faces off with Russia. The Sea Breeze drills — which have taken place 21 times since 1997 — will involve some 5,000 military personnel from more than 30 countries. The exercises will last two weeks and involve around 30 ships, including the missile destroyer USS Ross.

## P. Sainath selected for 2021 Fukuoka Grand Prize



Noted journalist P. Sainath has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021. Mr. Sainath will receive the 'Grand Prize' of the Fukuoka Prize while the Academic Prize and the Prize for Arts and Culture will go to Kishimoto Mio of Japan and filmmaker Prabda Yoon of Thailand, respectively. The Secretariat noted Sainath's work for creating a new form of knowledge through his writings and commentaries on rural India and for "promoting civil cooperation".

The Fukuoka Prize is given annually to distinguished people to foster and increase awareness of Asian cultures, and to create a broad framework of exchange and mutual learning among the Asian people. The Grand Prize has earlier been awarded to Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh, historian Romila Thapar, and sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan. Eleven Indians have received the Fukuoka Prize so far.

## 'CoWIN's open-source version to be provided to 50 nations'



India will soon provide an open-source version of its CoWIN application to nearly 50 countries from Central Asia, Africa and Latin America that have indicated an interest in the technology, R.S. Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority (NHA) and Chairman of the technical committee that oversees the CoWin platform, said at the second Public Health Summit 2021 organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

CoWIN is an extension of an electronic vaccine intelligence network, eVIN, which is used to collect real-time feedback of the vaccination programmes. It is a cloud-based IT solution for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating COVID-19 vaccination in the country.

## Nuclear-capable Agni-P missile test-fired



A new-generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile, Agni-P (Prime) was successfully test-fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Agni-P is a new-generation advanced variant of Agni class of missiles. It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km.

The Agni class of missiles are the mainstay of India's nuclear launch capability which also includes the Prithvi short-range ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and fighter aircraft. The longest of the Agni series, Agni-V, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km, has already been tested several times and validated for induction.



### Umesh Sinha to stay on as Dy. Election Commissioner



The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension for Umesh Sinha, retired IAS officer as Deputy Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India on contract basis for another year up to July, 2022. Mr Sinha is a former U.P. cadre IAS officer who has been with the Election Commission of India for several years. The government re-employed him after he superannuated from the service.

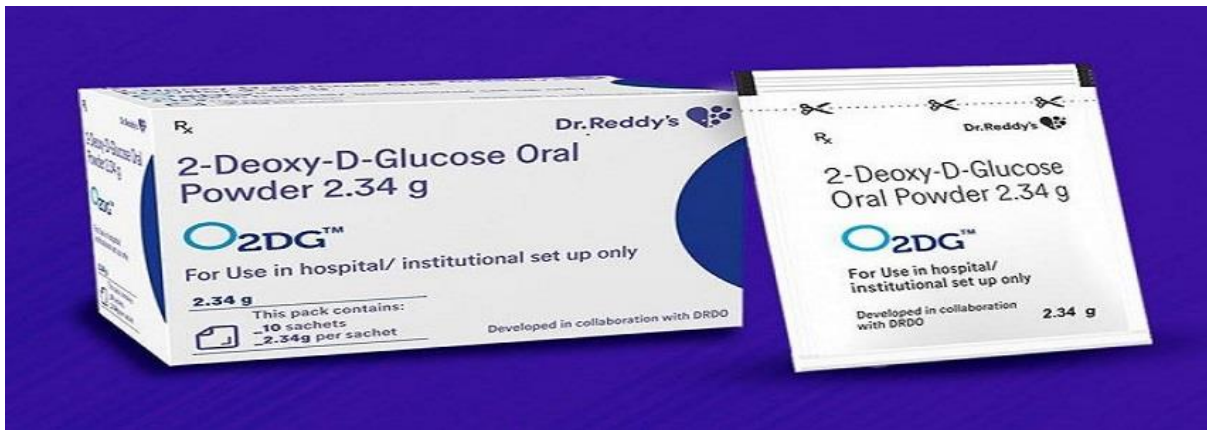
### A-G Venugopal gets one more extension



The Union government has extended the tenure of Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal by a year. He will continue as the government's top law officer till June 30, 2022. This is the second time the Centre has extended his tenure. Mr. Venugopal, who was appointed Attorney-General in July 2017, received his first extension in 2020.

Mr. Venugopal would be at the helm of the government's legal defence in several sensitive cases pending in the Supreme Court, which includes the challenge to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the withdrawal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

## Dr. Reddy's announces commercial launch of 2-DG



Drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has announced the commercial launch of 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG), an oral drug for use as an adjunct therapy for hospitalised COVID-19 patients. The maximum retail price is Rs. 990 per sachet. It will be made available at a subsidised rate to government institutions. Dr. Reddy's said it will be supplying the product to major government as well as private hospitals across the country.

## India has reported 40,845 cases of mucormycosis so far: Minister



India has so far reported 40,845 cases of mucormycosis during the second wave of the pandemic, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said while chairing the 29th meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 by videoconference. A total of 31,344 of the cases were rhinocerebral in nature, Mr. Vardhan said. Fatalities due to the infection stood at 3,129. While 34,940 patients had COVID-19 (85.5%), 26,187 (about 64.11%) had diabetes as a co-morbidity and 21,523 (52.69%) of those infected were on steroids.

### **Govt. unveils stimulus of Rs. 6.28 lakh crore**



To help revival of the economy battered by COVID-19, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a slew of measures to stimulate growth, exports and employment as well as provide relief to COVID-affected sectors. Ms. Sitharaman announced an expansion of the existing Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by Rs. 1.5 lakh crore.

She also announced a new Rs. 7,500 crore scheme for loans up to Rs. 1.25 lakh to small borrowers through micro-finance institutions.

She also unveiled a fresh loan guarantee facility of Rs. 1.1 lakh crore for healthcare investments in non-metropolitan areas and sectors such as tourism.

A separate Rs. 23,220 crore has been allocated for public health with a focus on paediatric care, which will also be utilised for increasing ICU beds, oxygen supply and augmenting medical care professionals for the short term by recruiting final year students and interns.

Indirect support for exports worth Rs. 1.21 lakh crore over the next five years, free one-month visas for five lakh tourists, and new seed varieties for farmers were also included in the package.

The existing sop to spur employment, where the government bears EPF contributions for new employees earning less than Rs. 15,000 a month for two years, has been extended till March 31, 2022.

### **SAT stays SEBI order on Franklin Templeton**



The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) stayed a SEBI order that had barred Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) from unveiling new debt schemes for two years and had asked the fund house to refund a little over Rs. 512 crore. Terming the refund amount 'excessive,' SAT asked the company to deposit Rs. 250 crore in an escrow account within three weeks.



### **Confident divestment target of Rs. 1.75-lakh crore will be met: CEA**



Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian has expressed confidence that the Rs. 1.75-lakh crore disinvestment target of this fiscal will be achieved, with a good part coming from the proposed IPO of insurance behemoth LIC and privatisation of Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL).

### **Rahi strikes gold with a superb display**



Asian Games gold medallist Rahi Sarnobat unleashed her best performance to outclass a strong field and win the 25-metre sports pistol gold with a thumping margin in the shooting World Cup . She shot 39 in the final, one short of the world record to beat Mathilde Lamolle of France by eight points for the gold.

## **T20 WC in UAE and Oman, confirms BCCI**



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to host the T20 World Cup in October-November in the UAE and Oman. BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal confirmed that the decision was taken because of an expected surge in the COVID-19 cases all over India. On June 1, the ICC had asked the BCCI to confirm the venue within four weeks. The 16-team event is likely to be played from Oct. 17 to Nov. 14. The eight-team qualification stage is set to be staged in Muscat, the capital city of Oman.

## **Deepika ranked No.1 after Paris exploits**



Ace archer Deepika Kumari, who won three gold medals in the World Cup Stage-3 in Paris, jumped to the number one spot in recurve women's individual world rankings. In the latest rankings issued by World Archery, the Tokyo Olympic-bound Deepika gathered 90 points from the Paris event to total 263.7 and climbed two places to the top position. Deepika was nearly 38 points clear of second-placed Frenchwoman Lisa Barbelin.

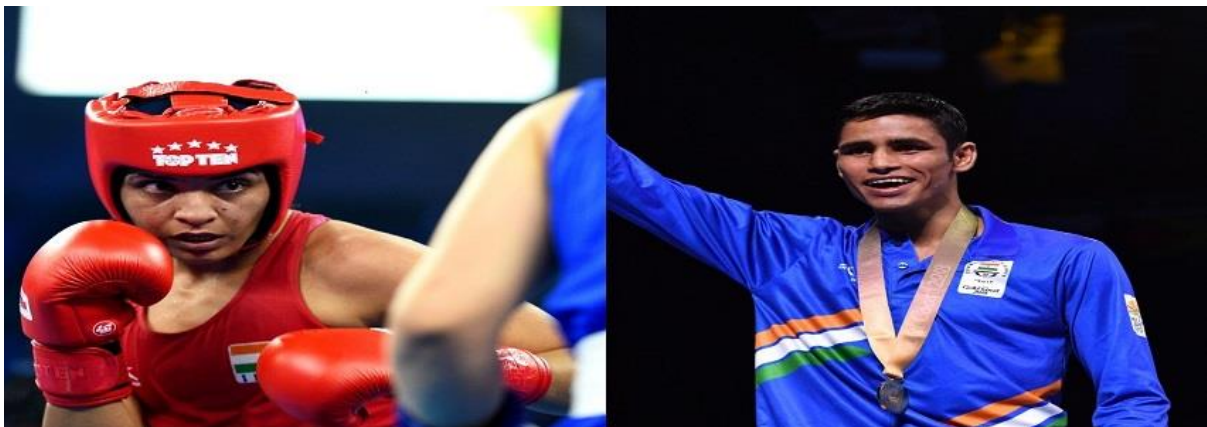


## Cricket: S. Africa levels series



South Africa rebounded from a hammering in the first encounter of the five-match T20 International series to defeat the West Indies by 16 runs in the second fixture. Defending a modest total of 166 for seven, George Linde and Tabraiz Shamsi combined for three vital wickets in eight economical overs to limit the home side to 150 for nine. It leaves the series locked 1-1 going into the third match.

## Simranjit and Solanki nominated for Arjuna



Tokyo Olympics-bound Simranjit Kaur, Commonwealth Games gold medallist Gaurav Solanki and World championship silver winner Sonia Chahal have been nominated for the Arjuna Award by the Boxing Federation of India. Simranjit (60kg) is a 2018 Worlds bronze winner and is among the four Indian women boxers who have qualified for the Olympics. Solanki (57kg) had won his CWG gold in the 2018 edition. While Chahal (57kg) claimed her world silver in the same year. She is also a former national champion.

### **Chess: Sensational display by Arjun**



With a stupendous display of grit and focus, Arjun Erigaisi made history in the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour by becoming the first Indian to gatecrash into the quarterfinals of the Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess tournament. Arjun, the lowest-rated player, came up with a terrific display on the final day of the preliminaries by proving equal to Wesley So, Peter Svidler, Saleh Salem, Magnus Carlsen and Anish Giri.