Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was in intensive care in a hospital in Omsk, Russia on August 20, 2020. According to a spokeswoman, Navalny fell ill on a flight from Tomsk to Moscow on August 17, 2020. He was taken to a hospital in Omsk after experiencing symptoms of poisoning. The hospital said he had tested positive for the Novichok nerve agent.

Air fares to go up
Govt to charge higher aviation security fee from Sept 1
Making an at-risk flight

The Civil Aviation Ministry has decided to charge higher aviation security fee (ASC) from domestic as well as international flights, spotting an increase from Rs 50 to Rs 150, from September 1, senior government officials said on Saturday.

The reason, he explained, was that those who would provide jobs in the AP districts would be better off

AP patients pick Hyderabad hospitals for Covid treatment
Hundreds of patients from AP districts throng corporate hospitals

The AP government has been focusing on corporate hospitals in Hyderabad as a way to improve the quality of healthcare services in the state. The government has identified several corporate hospitals in Hyderabad as referral centres for COVID-19 patients.

RUSSIA OPPOSITION LEADER

In a recent interview, the opposition leader Alexei Navalny accused the Russian government of using chemical weapons to poison him. He was treated at a hospital in Omsk after falling ill on a flight from Tomsk. The hospital said he tested positive for Novichok nerve agent.

JAL SHAKTI MINISTER

The JAL Shakti Minister, R. K. Shah, has announced a new scheme for the welfare of the tea workers. The scheme will cover all the tea workers in the state, including those who are not currently covered under the existing schemes, and will provide them with financial assistance in case of any emergency.

RUSSIA CALLS FOR TOTAL DIGITALISATION OF LABOUR FORCE

Russia has called for a total digitalisation of the labour force. The country has been struggling with unemployment and poverty, and the government is looking for ways to modernise its economy. The call for digitalisation is seen as a way to create jobs and improve the economy.

NITHYA LIKELY TO PLAY A SUPPORTING ROLE IN S.H.Y.A.M. SINGHA ROY

Nithya Menon is likely to play a supporting role in the upcoming film S.H.Y.A.M. Singha Roy. The movie, directed by Virat Singha, is set against the backdrop of a small town in the Indian countryside and is expected to be released soon.

India Meteorological Department

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red warning for the state of Uttar Pradesh. The weather department has predicted heavy rain and high winds in the state, with the possibility of thunderstorms.

IMD issues red alert for 20 districts
The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red warning for 20 districts in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The weather department has predicted heavy rain and high winds in the state, with the possibility of thunderstorms.

Concerned over numbers:
Governor on CCMB study

The Governor of Tamil Nadu has expressed concern over the results of a study conducted by the CCMB. The study found that the number of COVID-19 cases in the state has increased significantly in recent weeks.

CBI books Hyderabad Elite Infra Rs 26 cr bank fraud
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked Hyderabad Elite Infra Private Limited for an alleged fraud of Rs 26 crore.

Shraddha Saran’s family has been accused of murder in the case of the death of her former partner, Rhea Chakraborty. The police have also arrested Chakraborty’s boyfriend, Sushant Singh Rajput, in connection with the case.

Airfare update

The government has announced a new policy for airfare updates. Under the new policy, passengers will be allowed to change their flight details up to two hours before the scheduled departure time.

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Hyderabad continues to report lower Covid cases

The number of Covid-19 patients in Hyderabad reduced to 9,744 as on Wednesday. Though the state reported 101 new cases, no deaths were reported in the city. However, the authorities have not provided a break-up of this number for the city.

Several recent patients came back for follow-ups, but have not come across any complications, according to Dr Sohail Ahmed, a dermatologist at Apollo Hospitals, Nampally.

Meanwhile, the phenomenon can be attributed to the fact that fewer patients are visiting hospitals in Hyderabad from neighbouring countries. An official said, “Moderate to patients arriving from Andhra Pradesh and other border districts of Warangal and Mahbubnagar in the last few days, to being reported from the state, because of the lockdown and other measures.”

However, some of them have come across the disease in their respective districts, he added. While some have come across the disease in their respective districts, others have been transferred to hospitals for treatment.

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Concerned over India’s readiness in COVID-19 treatment

The state received average rainfall of 8.6 mm on normal in 2020. The highest rainfall was recorded in 13.3 mm, while the lowest was recorded in 2.2 mm.

The state government has set up 100 additional COVID-19 treatment centres in the districts of Telangana, as part of the national mission to prevent the spread of the virus.

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COVID IMPACT

SERC crèches take ‘Saddhavana Day pledge’

The crèches of Hyderabad Women’s Collective (HWC) have taken a pledge on 20 August, observed as ‘Sadbhavana Diwas’, to work together for a better society.

Ministers launch plasma donation drive

Swarup Reddy, Minister for Animal Husbandry and DOST, on Saturday launched the plasma donation drive.

UoH faculty selected for J C Bose Fellowships

The University of Hyderabad has announced that 11 of its faculty members have been selected for the J. C. Bose Fellowship from the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).

TCSE invites students to register for DOST

The Telangana State Council for Higher Education (TSCHE) has invited applications from the students for the State Council for Higher Education for Teacher Education (DOST) for the year 2020-21.

Wakf Board issues advisory for Muharram

The Telangana Wakf Board has advised the Muslim community to stay safe this Muharram by following all the guidelines.

Education

The authorities have decided that, from this year, admissions to undergraduate Degrees (DHEMT, D-Pharmacy, B-Tech) and other courses would be conducted through a table. The students have to enter the table and select their course and the seat.

Encroachment of land near reservoirs increases

The water level in the Madhura Reservoir in Warangal district has increased by two feet.

JNTU announces tentative TSET dates

JNTU has announced that the dates for the TSET 2020 will be released on August 20.

TSOs Hyderabad

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad on Thursday conducted the TSET 2020 which is tentatively scheduled to be held on August 20. The tests will be conducted in two centre—morning and afternoon session simultaneously—through online mode on the official website of TSET. Candidates have been requested to check the official website for the official notification and conduct test in consultation with the centre.

The examinations are conducted in online mode by the命题 authority of the JNTU TSET 2020 and the TSET 2020 team is conducting the test in online mode for the students appearing for the exam to follow the COVID-19 protocols and procedures for appearing for the exam.
Kavitha quietly challenging the social media games of BJP

The Assembly authorities are taking up forcibly temporary water tap connections to remove all tap water connections in and around the areas of Srisailam and Tirumala region, according to reports. Owaisi also tweeted a video showing protesters at the Mahbubnagar Passport Office chanting slogans against Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan.

The TPCC President also mentioned that KCR, who supposed to be the patron of the community, is not allowing the Hindus to celebrate their festivals. In a tweet, Sanjay Reddy mentioned that the Hindus are ready to face the challenges and they would successfully face the challenge with the support of the community. He said Rajiv Gandhi was doing the same thing for the community.

Govt failed to plan celebration of Deepawali

Meanwhile, the irrigation department was also in action to release water for the Srisailam Project on Friday.

KCR, Jagan have secret pact: Revanth

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Govt creating hurdles to Ganesh: Chaitanya Sanjay

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India’s Covid recovery rate touches 90 per cent

Naidu bats for representations of women in legislature

Delhi Police head constable arrested for killing man

ED records statement of director Rumi Jaffery in Sushant Singh death case MLA

BJP’s Rathore writes against Tharoor over Facebook post

Railways says 29K-30K died due to trespassing, untoward incidents in 3 yrs

Modi govt destroyed unorganised economy: Rahul

Scientists dispel coronavirus mutation fears, say ‘Malaysia strain’ no cause for concern

Google's Gmail services being restored, clear for all in near future: Google

Dubai space sector reforms not aimed at privatising ISRO: Sivan

In the space sector, we work to balance the interests of the commercial and unorganised economic sectors. Economic activities act as a dr...
The tragedy of the community is that it has no leader who can carry the legacy of his gurus. Followers do not understand historical perspective or geo-political games.

**SOUND BITE**

Partha Chatterjee

**Real empowerment**

**Soun Dermargerie**

I was thrilled when the Government is considering changing the legal age from 18 to 21. I think this is a welcome step to provide women with a sufficient stage in their life to decide and think on their own. It is a step forward in 2020 in terms of family planning and woman empowerment. Women are already aware of the threats which they are facing at a very early age. They are aware of the lack of education and the lack of a choice in their lives. So, when this government has understood the fact that women are already aware of the threats which they are facing and is willing to provide them with a sufficient stage in their life to decide and think on their own, it is a step forward in 2020 in terms of family planning and woman empowerment.

**Actress**

**US President**

Direct but useless.

The story that he has mangled the time and his men's performance was mangled, you can also see the truth in his ends. 

Partha Chatterjee
A bamboo bridge to growth

A social worker couple picked a remote village, Lavada in India, as their home and decided to make bamboo the medium of economic regeneration of the local community. The social landscape has now bloomed like the surging waters of the Korkus river, which meanders through the Korkus reserve. The bamboo kendra undertakes the mission of creating a simple way of life that ensures that they live a successful professional and personal life in co-existence with the environment. Sunil and Neeraj have been inspired by the bamboo kendra and are now the counselors and guides of this new project.

One of the most successful initiatives to be launched by the bamboo kendra is that of the bamboo kendra in the Satpura region, a forest tract nestled in the Satpura hills of the Madhya Pradesh state, India. The bamboo kendra in the Satpura region is unique in its approach to integrating traditional skills with modern technology and creating a new identity for the rural occupations. They need solutions that are focused on economic fulfilment. Sunil’s experiment merges traditional and cultural knowledge with the latest technology and creates a new paradigm for the rural community. The bamboo kendra is a unique model, helping to ensure that traditions are preserved and one generation learns from the other.

The bamboo kendra is a living example of how traditional knowledge and skills can be passed on to future generations. The mission of the bamboo kendra is to create a new identity for the rural occupations. They need solutions that are focused on economic fulfilment. Sunil’s experiment merges traditional and cultural knowledge with the latest technology and creates a new paradigm for the rural community. The bamboo kendra is a unique model, helping to ensure that traditions are preserved and one generation learns from the other.

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Gangwar calls for total digitalisation of Labour Bureau

Union, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Thursday called for the total digitalisation of Labour Bureau, the nodal body for management of labour affairs and that of the ministry.

The minister also said that the ministry is launching a new logo of the Labour ministry in the near future to increase its outreach by the means of various processes and use of digital technology in the implementation of Ministry of Labour and Employment."We are planning for a many more things in the near future," he added before calling for a high-level meeting to be convened by the ministry to discuss the future plans of the Labour ministry. The minister announced that the Labour ministry would be launching a mobile app to inform junior workers about various aspects of their jobs, including working conditions, skill development and welfare schemes.

Sensex tanks 393 points on global slowdown

MUMBAI: Sensex slumped 393 points, or 1.07 per cent, to end at 38,220.39, while the Nifty closed below 11,300 level. Both the key indices opened on a positive note, but the mood soured later amid gloomy economic outlook as well as the financial markets briefly attempted to keep markets running smoothly.

Asian shares retreat after Fed minutes bring risky Fed

Tokyo: Asian shares retreated after Federal Reserve minutes stoked recovery fears as Wall Street’s biggest fear of all returned, with the Fed set to keep interest rates at near zero for a long time.

Tokyo’s Nikkei 225 index shed 1.5% to close at 11,299.97 on Thursday after the minutes of the July Federal Reserve meeting circulated on Wednesday raised concerns about the US central bank’s commitment to boosting the economy.

The minutes of the July 29-30 meeting showed policymakers had discussed the possibility of being open to an explicit inflation target. They also said their patience in how long the economy needed to recover from the pandemic should not be mistaken for a loss of commitment to cutting rates. But the minutes still left the door open for using monetary policy to boost the economy.

The minutes showed the central bank’s many leaders expect the US economy to recover strongly. But they also said the path of the economy was far from clear and the shock from the coronavirus pandemic had left the central bank unable to predict the future with any more accuracy than before.

Cipla, Stempeutics to launch Steempluent for CLI treatment

Mumbai: Cipla, a leadingglobal pharmaceutical company, and Stempeutics Research, a biotechnology company, announced today that they have signed a strategic agreement to launch Steempluent, a novel therapy for critical limb ischemia (CLI), which is also known as rest-in-bed foot ulcer.

Cipla and Stempeutics have been working together for several years to bring this product to market. They have invested heavily in the development of Steempluent and believe it has the potential to be a game-changer in the treatment of CLI.

"We are extremely excited to announce the launch of Steempluent," said YK Venugopal, managing director and chief executive officer, Cipla.

"This is a significant milestone in our journey to make healthcare accessible to all. Steempluent is a breakthrough therapy for CLI, which affects millions of people worldwide. We believe that by working together with Stempeutics, we can bring this important therapy to market and help improve the lives of people affected by CLI," he added.

Retail inflation for farm and rural workers dips in July

New Delhi: Retail inflation for farm and rural workers saw a dip in July, falling marginally to 8.26 per cent from 8.31 per cent in the previous month, government data showed on Thursday.

Inflation based on food articles and commodities used commonly in rural areas, which carry a weightage of 65.6 per cent in the index, declined to 10.01 per cent from 10.1 per cent in July.

On the other hand, inflation based on non-food articles and commodities used commonly in rural areas, which carry a weightage of 34.4 per cent in the index, rose to 3.18 per cent from 2.99 per cent in July.

Government's move to withdraw the excise duty on gold and silver has driven down the prices of these items, leading to a decline in inflation, according to the data.

Inflation for farm articles also moderated to 8.24 per cent from 8.41 per cent in the previous month.

"The decline in inflation is due to a fall in food articles inflation, which is the main driver of retail inflation," said Abheek Barua, chief economist, ICICI Securities.

"However, core inflation, which剔除 influenced by food and international oil prices, remained stable, indicating that inflationary pressure is not yet over," he added.

INFOSYS' SET OF SERVICES TO ACCELERATE CLOUD JOURNEY

INFOSYS, the global leader in digital services and consulting, today announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with Microsoft to help accelerate customers’ cloud journey.

The partnership will allow Infy cloud experts to work closely with customers and help them develop a comprehensive cloud strategy that will drive their digital transformation.

Retailers, while facing challenges in the current market conditions, are looking for ways to improve their online presence and offer a seamless shopping experience to their customers. Infy cloud services can help retailers by providing them with the necessary tools to optimize their online operations, improve customer engagement, and drive sales.

INFOYSIS

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For more information, visit www.infosys.com/cloudservices
Director Karuna Kumar of Palasa 1978 fame has just released his latest film titled Metro Kathalu, which is garnering applause from Bollywood superstars and fans alike. OTT has its doors wide open with even in Tollywood bringing the magic of the big-screen onto your smartphones. Karuna Kumar, with films like Palasa 1978 and Metro Kathalu to his credit, has his fans awaiting more such authentic films. In an exclusive chat with The Pioneer’s SHIKHA DUGGAL, the director talks about his latest anthology that’s based on a book by Mohammed Khadeer Babu.
**SUSHANT, SARA were ‘totally in love’ during Kedarnath promotions: Actor’s friend**

Actor’s friend also speculates whether the Bollywood Mafia played a role in causing their break-up after the release of Sonchiriya.

Talking about how much respect Sars had for Sushant's friends, family and staff, Samuel added, "Sara along with Sushant had immense respect for everyone in Sushant’s life, he is family-oriented and even staff would wonder whether Sushant’s decision to break up with Sara right after the completion of the promo was due to any pressure by the Bollywood Mafia."

Commenting on Sushant's post, Pavitra Dutta, director Kushal Zaveri, who was a close friend of the late actor, wrote, "Someone had to say it! More power to you!"

Vamshi Pradhan, KBC’s producer and Kushal's co-writer wrote, "From Samuel's post and Kushal's comment on the same, it seems the relationship between Sushant and Sara was not a very healthy-buskid affair as his family and friends were totally in love...they were inseparable... So pure and straightforward for those days!"
**Nithya likely to play a supporting role in Shyam Singha Roy**

*The Pioneer*

Hyderabad | Friday August 21 2020

Rana takes up #GreenIndiaChallenge

**Trinadh Rao to direct Ravipudi’s script**

With his plans of taking 23 films to the floor later this year, he has decided to get back to direction after 25 years. Trinadh Rao, who has just finished the shooting of “Gang Leader”, has silently worked on a full-length comedy drama which requires two Ayurveda doctors and one ayurvedic doctor to keep the patients from going to hospital. “Ravipudi is also penning the script,” the source said. Rao is looking forward to working with the young director Prasanth Varma, who is fresh off the success of “Manmadhudu”. He liked the concept and decided to co-produce the film himself like Prasanth Varma, but is yet to sign on the dotted line. The producers are hoping that the financials with him will be wrapped up by the end of this week, the source added.

**Chay in varied get ups**

Like his earlier film roles with Naga Chaitanya where the actor was seen in a role with dual shades, Vikram Krishna Thank You will see the actor playing a character with a dual personality again. Pratap Naidu, the director is happy with the actor’s contribution during the shooting. “Santhanam gives the idea that Chay is a very different character which will challenge the audience to think a bit more in it and see. Meanwhile, shaking some light about Thank You, Vikram speaking to us recently, and that’s a story that he’s been told now. It would resonate with the audience at various levels. That said it’s not a message-oriented film but has an undercurrent of something which is very relevant. The film has been made keeping in mind both the male and female audiences. It has got all mainstream elements — humour, drama, romance and a bit of action," the director, who is developing the story along with Prasanth Varma, said.

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**PRASANTH VARMA AND PRASANTH VARMA TEAM UP FOR A SHOW**

In an interesting development, The Pioneer has learnt that new-age directors Prasanth Sattaru and Prasanth Varma are teaming up for a show which is likely to go on air on a leading Telugu channel soon. Scriptsville, a creative group which Prasanth heads, has penned the story for the show, which will be quite a departure from the shows that have emerged on or Telugu language until now. “The show has plenty of drama and will unfold as a thriller. It’s pegged with scientific fiction element as well. It is poised to break into mainstream” a TV producer who is part of the creative team, said and briefed that the show will be the biggest drawcard for the channel.

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**PRASANTH VARMA**

Ravipudi’s script

The creative group Prasanth Varma has been roped in for a show where Prasanth will serve as the show creator, has shared a similar creative vision for the show, concluded.

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**The cat-and-mouse game between mine and Sudheer’s character:**

When everything is going great, his life turns upside down when a killer (Nani) challenges him with a puzzle to solve. ‘When the cat and mouse game between Sudheer Babu’s and my character is what drew me to this project” said Nani.

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**Production house Sri Venkateswara Creations and actor Nani on Thursday announced that their upcoming film ‘Singham’ will be the first Telugu web series to stream on Amazon Prime Video from September 5. Directed and written by Mohana Krishna Indraganti, the film also stars Sudheer Babu, Nivetha Thomas and Aditi Rao Hydari.**

“I personally am watching gripping action thrillers and it is one such title that delivers thrill, drama and key production. The cat-and-mouse game between Sudheer Babu and my character is what drew me to this project,” said Nani.

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The source adds that the makers of ‘Singham’ have completed the casting and the film has been wrapped up. “It’s a story that has been made keeping in mind both the male and female audiences. It has got all mainstream elements — humour, drama, romance and a bit of action," the director, who is developing the story along with Prasanth Varma, had said.

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**The movie marks its global premiere on the same day as my debut movie, September 5, said Nani.**

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**Nikhil and Pratap Naidu’s SAPLING**

A source close to the development confirmed to us that Pratap Naidu, who has silently worked on a full-length comedy drama which requires two Ayurveda doctors and one ayurvedic doctor to keep the patients from going to hospital. “Ravipudi is also penning the script,” the source said. Rao is looking forward to working with the young director Prasanth Varma, who is fresh off the success of “Manmadhudu”. He liked the concept and decided to co-produce the film himself like Prasanth Varma, but is yet to sign on the dotted line. The producers are hoping that the financials with him will be wrapped up by the end of this week, the source added.

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Trinadh Rao is producing Thank You under his Sri Venkateswara Creations, while Amap Rahum is tipped to compose music.
Great ‘Sergio’ of Navvy

Bryan twins not in US. Open entry list

Leave no stone unturned: Root’s message to teammates

Man city players 105-km for son’s exam

Europa final: Resurgent Inter or Seville’s record 12

Singles

At the start of the summer, we finally be a meeting of champions again. I love people more than 96 hours before departure. Champions invited even playing with-...