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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Attack and aftermath

Christmas market attack in Germany reigniting polarising debates about immigration and national security

A recent attack on a Christmas market in Magdeburg, Germany, has reignited contentious debates about immigration and national security, with far-right groups seizing the moment to push for mass deportation of immigrants.



In the wake of the tragedy, far-right groups have amplified their calls for stricter immigration controls and mass deportations.

our villages, and our homeland" echoed through the streets. The incident has deepened divisions within Germany over immigration and integration policies.

### PICTALK



People dressed as Santa Claus during Christmas celebration, in Chennai

## Navigating the intersection of technology, law and human rights

In a world increasingly shaped by digital technologies, the concept of 'digital arrest' has emerged as a controversial tool in cyberspace

The term 'Digital Arrest' often referred to as the restriction, monitoring, or apprehension of individuals through online mechanisms extends beyond the confines of traditional legal systems to encompass actions in cyberspace.



As technology permeates every aspect of life, the implications of digital arrest have grown even more significantly, offering both opportunities and challenges in governance, security, and individual rights.

ments or agencies freeze digital wallets associated with criminal activities thereby preventing the illicit flow of funds and supporting global financial regulations.

participate in acts akin to digital arrest, raising questions about authority, power dynamics, and accountability in cyberspace.



SHAINY SHARMA

ties can equip individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to engage effectively and securely in the digital world.

As the digital world continues to evolve, so too will the methods of enforcement and resistance. New technologies, such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, may influence how digital arrests are carried out and challenged.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

# Macau: The glittering gem in Xi Jinping's China



SANTHOSH MATHEW

For the Chinese Communist Party, Macau is a beacon of controlled capitalism, showcasing the potential of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework

When Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Macau, the world's gambling capital, the air was thick with anticipation.

Macau's significance lies in its unique identity. A former Portuguese colony, it returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1999 under the promise of autonomy.

The irony is palpable. The CCP, a party built on anti-capitalist ideology, oversees the largest SEZ in the world in Shanghai, nurtures capitalism in Hong Kong, and allows gambling—once condemned as a moral vice—to flourish in Macau.

Xi Jinping's Macau visit was not merely ceremonial. It was a reaffirmation of the CCP's ability to adapt and wield capitalist tools while maintaining a tight grip on power.



veer toward autonomy or dissent, as evidenced in Hong Kong. The "One Country, Two Systems" model—once lauded as a masterpiece of governance—has increasingly become a tool for consolidating Beijing's authority.

A vibrant hub of multinational corporations (MNCs) and transnational corporations (TNCs), it has been at the forefront of economic globalisation. However, its recent struggles with political dissent and Beijing's heavy-handed responses reveal the limits of the "Two Systems" promise.

As Xi extolled Macau's success, he also warned against complacency and stressed the need for "long-term stability," a euphemism for unwavering allegiance to the CCP.



MACAU'S SIGNIFICANCE LIES IN ITS UNIQUE IDENTITY. A FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY, IT RETURNED TO CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY IN 1999 UNDER THE PROMISE OF AUTONOMY

party's narrative that socialism with Chinese characteristics can coexist with, and even benefit from capitalist mechanisms.

The underlying contradictions are hard to ignore. The CCP's insistence on ideological purity clashes with its pragmatic embrace of market-driven policies.

For Maoists, Naxalites, and urban Naxals in India, as well as other ideologues clinging to rigid dogmas, Macau stands as a testament to the power of adaptation.

India, too, can draw inspiration from Macau. As the world's largest democracy grapples with its development challenges, it must consider the role of SEZs, MNC headquarters, and even industries like gambling in driving economic growth.

Similarly, expanding SEZs and creating hubs for MNCs can

transform India into a global economic powerhouse. At the heart of this debate is the question of whether ideology should dictate policy.

As Xi Jinping departed Macau, the world was left pondering the paradoxes of modern China. Under his leadership, the CCP has doubled down on centralisation, curbing dissent while championing economic liberalisation.

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CONTROVERSY OVER AMBEDKAR

Madam—The row over the insult to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar is neither factual nor logical since the home minister never insulted Dr Ambedkar in his speech by words or intention.

Unfortunately, the national politics has reached the spot where Dr BR Ambedkar has been established as a godly figure, though he never participated in any struggle for Indian independence.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala Cantt

### APATHY AT ITS WORSE

Madam—This is our modern India. When a Jaipur gas tanker explosion left motor mechanic Radheyshyam Choudhary with 85 per cent burns.

## Indian diaspora remits \$129 billion



In 2024, Indian expatriates achieved a historic milestone by sending \$129 billion in remittances.

RK Jain | Barwani

ing love of Indians for their homeland. Remittances have unlocked new avenues for development in rural and urban areas.

Indians living abroad establish their identity on foreign soil through resilience and courage. By dedicating a significant portion of their income to the development of their families and nation, they exemplify cultural values and familial commitment.

RK Jain | Barwani

the cacophony unleashed by the accident, but bystanders just filmed his suffering rather than offering aid. Pathetic. People believe in publicity rather than providing succour and relief.

It's more horrible that in the quest for social media, people have forgotten to be human! Shame on us. People want to know that this is the reality of our Sankar. We have read many cases like these where precious lives could have been saved by the onlookers instead of taking useless videos.

### ACTION AGAINST MINING MAFIA

Madam—The operation of the mining mafia is a well-known fact for a long time to both the governments of Rajasthan and Haryana, including the efforts put forth by the general public in complaining against such acts with no stoppage of the bringing down of the Aravalli hills.

RS Narula | Patiala

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## SUCCESS THROUGH WORKPLACE INTELLIGENCE

It is the ability to adapt to the work environment through emotional and cognitive intelligence



SAKSHI SETHI

In today's dynamic work environment, workplace intelligence has become a cornerstone for achieving personal growth, team cohesion, and organisational excellence. Workplace intelligence refers to the ability of individuals and organisations to navigate, adapt, and thrive in the professional environment through effective understanding, communication and decision-making. It encompasses emotional intelligence, social intelligence, and cognitive intelligence blended together with technological advancements thereby creating a comprehensive approach towards addressing the root causes of toxicity and fostering a positive workplace culture. There is no denying that such intelligence not only plays a pivotal role in creating a healthy, harmonious and productive professional environment but also equips individuals and organisations with the tools to identify, mitigate and prevent toxic behaviours that can undermine morale, collaboration and overall success.



It is often believed that employees with high workplace intelligence can manage their tasks efficiently and adapt to new challenges with minimal disruption. By leveraging cognitive and emotional intelligence, they can prioritize effectively and maintain focus, leading to improved productivity. Also, social and emotional intelligence enables them to work harmoniously with others, promoting effective communication and minimizing conflicts. Strong teamwork followed by leaders with workplace intelligence inspires trust, and motivation and navigate through complex challenges with clarity and empathy. It even enhances creativity, innovation and the achievement of their collective goals and even reduces stress, boosts morale, and contributes to overall job satisfaction. In an era of rapid technological advancements and shifting market dynamics, workplace intelligence equips employees and organisations with the resilience and adaptability needed to stay competitive. By fostering emotional and social intelligence, workplace intelligence helps identify and mitigate toxic behaviours, thereby ensuring a positive and respectful work environment.

By promoting training and development, organisations can invest in training programmes that focus on emotional intelligence, communication skills and technological proficiency. Open and constructive feedback mechanisms help the employee grow and refine their workplace intelligence over time. Emphasising diversity and inclusion helps individuals develop social intelligence by interacting with people from different backgrounds and perspectives. Encouraging continuous learning and adaptability ensures that employees remain agile and open to new ideas and methods. Remember, a workforce with high workplace intelligence is more likely to generate creative solutions and drive innovation. Employees are more likely to stay in organisations where they feel valued, supported, and empowered. Today, companies such as Heineken, Cooley, Cruise Automation, Urban Company, Amazon, Chipotle and many more are known for fostering workplace intelligence to attract top talent and build trust with stakeholders.

By investing in the development of workplace intelligence, organisations can create environments that promote collaboration, innovation, and sustainable success, ensuring they remain agile and competitive in an ever-evolving world. As organisations continue to navigate the complexities of globalisation and digital transformation, the importance of workplace intelligence will only grow. Artificial intelligence, remote work and diverse teams are shaping new paradigms that demand a more nuanced understanding of interpersonal and technological dynamics but organisations that invest in fostering workplace intelligence will gain a competitive edge, as their employees will be better equipped to adapt, innovate, and lead in an ever-changing world.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

# A roadmap for financial sustainability of India Post



SUBHASH CHANDRA AGARWAL

India Post is at a crossroads. As private courier services continue to expand their market share with speed and convenience, it must adapt to stay competitive



India Post, a vital lifeline in connecting citizens across the country, needs to undergo a comprehensive review of its services. This reform should focus on introducing innovation, ensuring greater revenue generation for the Department of Posts (DoP), and maintaining affordability for the public. As private courier services continue to gain traction due to their convenience and efficiency, India Post must adapt to remain competitive and relevant in a rapidly changing environment.

**Rationalising Postal Tariffs and Eliminating GST on Select Services**  
The current structure of postal services includes highly subsidised offerings, such as postcards priced as low as 50 paise. While such subsidies aim to make communication accessible, they are often exploited. For instance, during Lok Sabha elections in 2019, political parties used postcards extensively, resulting in significant costs to the public exchequer. Similarly, postcards are frequently misused for commercial purposes, such as reminders by chit-fund companies. These subsidised services, rarely used by the common man, burden taxpayers without corresponding benefits.

To address this, printed or rubber-stamped postcards should be discontinued unless they are sponsored. The introduction of sponsored Meghdoot postcards priced at Re1 and printed postcards priced at Rs10 could ensure a sustainable revenue model. Similarly, the tariff for registered newspapers could be rationalised to Rs1, reflecting the increased cost of inputs for small newspaper production.

Additionally, while normal postal services are exempt from GST, applying GST on premium services like Speed Post is counterproductive. It results in a redundant transfer of funds between government departments. Rationalising tariffs for Speed Post to Rs 20 or Rs 30 per 50-gram weight slabs and aligning other domestic and international postal tariffs in multiples of Rs 10 would streamline the system and reduce inefficiencies. International postal rates could follow a consistent structure, with uniform tariff increases per weight slab for air and sur-



face mail.

**Generating Revenue Through Sponsored Postal Stamps**  
To boost revenue, the DoP should introduce sponsored postal stamps. These stamps, carrying advertisements or approved messages, could be issued in bulk to sponsors at a fixed charge per printed stamp. This initiative could attract businesses, encouraging them to utilise postal services over private courier companies.

Additionally, a new series of definitive postal stamps and stationery could be launched annually on the first day of the financial year. These stamps should maintain consistent color schemes for specific denominations while showcasing new designs based on a selected theme. Commemorative stamps, previously issued in arbitrary denominations like Rs 12 and Rs 41, should be standardised to denominations in multiples of Rs 10. Furthermore, the practice of printing stamps of different denominations on the same sheet, except for miniature sheets, should be discontinued as it complicates usage.

Miniature sheets, being collectible items, should be priced higher than the face value of the stamps they contain. Such measures could not only enhance revenue through philately but also rekindle public interest in postal services.

**Replacing "My-Stamp" with Sponsored Stamps**  
The "My-Stamp" initiative, which allows individuals to print personal images on postage stamps, has been misused. Reports indicate instances of notorious individuals obtaining stamps with their photos, tarnishing the program's credibility. Since no robust mechanism exists to screen applicants' backgrounds, the programme is susceptible to abuse. Discontinuing the "My-Stamp" concept in favor of sponsored stamps could address this issue. Sponsored stamps would

not only ensure better regulation but also offer a significant revenue stream.

**Enhancing Convenience with Sticker Receipts**  
Currently, receipts issued by the Postal Department include a sticker only on the portion retained by the Department, leaving the consumer without one. Adding stickers to consumer receipts would eliminate the need for gum to paste them onto dispatch registers or documents. This small change could save public resources and improve the user experience, especially for organisations that rely heavily on postal services.

**Introducing RTI Stamps and Rationalising Postal Orders**  
Postal orders in low denominations such as Rs 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, and Rs 7 were discontinued due to high handling costs. For example, the handling cost of a postal order in 2011-12 was Rs 37.45, far exceeding its value. To minimise losses, higher denominations like Rs 100, Rs 200, and Rs 500 could be introduced. Furthermore, RTI-specific stamps in denominations of Rs 2, Rs 10, and Rs 50 could replace postal orders for fees under the RTI Act, streamlining the payment process. This approach aligns with recommendations from the Central Information Commission and addresses the issue of unfeasible copying charges below Rs10 due to the absence of lower-denomination postal orders.

**Managing Inoperative and Matured Accounts**  
Unclaimed deposits in post office accounts often remain unnoticed due to deceased account holders failing to inform legal heirs. This creates a risk of fraud, as unscrupulous individuals may attempt to claim such funds in collusion with postal employees. To mitigate this risk, the Postal Department should send registered letters to account holders who have not operated

their accounts or claimed matured deposits for over three years. If no response is received within three months, the funds should be frozen in fixed accounts and made accessible only after rigorous verification. Publishing details of such accounts could help legal heirs claim their rightful amounts, subject to stringent scrutiny. The introduction of successive nominations, as practiced by LIC of India, would further safeguard deposits and simplify inheritance processes.

**Expanding Postal Services Through Bank Counters**  
The closure of post offices in key commercial areas, such as Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi, has caused inconvenience for businesses that rely on Registered and Speed Post services. With banks increasingly adopting government savings schemes, their branches could be utilised for booking postal services. Offering banks a nominal commission for hosting these services would not only enhance accessibility but also integrate postal and banking ecosystems more effectively.

**Revamping the Postal Ecosystem for Sustainability**  
India Post's transformation should emphasise efficiency, innovation, and customer-centricity. Rationalising tariffs, eliminating wasteful subsidies, and leveraging sponsored services are crucial steps toward financial sustainability. Additionally, addressing operational inefficiencies and improving service delivery will help India Post reclaim its position as a trusted and competitive communication medium.

By embracing these changes, India Post can not only secure its financial future but also continue serving as a cornerstone of India's communication network.

(The writer is a Guinness World Record holder and RTI Consultant; views are personal)

# India's math geniuses shine bright in international math competition 2024

India, a nation with a rich legacy of mathematical brilliance, added another feather to its cap by triumphing at the UCMAS International Competition 2024

India has long been a land of great mathematicians, from Aryabhata to Ramanujan to Bhaskara, each leaving an indelible mark on the world with their mathematical ingenuity. Today, India continues to excel in the field, as evidenced by its stellar performance at the Universal Concept of Mental Arithmetic System (UCMAS) International Competition 2024 in New Delhi, where the country bagged both the highest individual and team trophies.

The competition, the world's largest event for Abacus and Mental Arithmetic, brought together over 6,000 students from nearly 30 countries. Participants faced the challenge of solving 200 arithmetic questions in just eight min-



SARIKA JHA

utes, relying solely on the Abacus or mental math techniques—a feat that truly felt like magic. For the second time, the World's Largest Abacus & Mental Arithmetic Event- UCMAS International Competition 2024 was held in India at the Delhi University Multipurpose Hall. Students from across the world competed with each other showcasing their men-

tal prowess in solving a very large number of mathematics problems in the quickest possible time to win the awards. This landmark event reaffirms its global significance in nurturing young minds in mathematics.

The competition aimed at promoting brain development, enhancing cognitive skills, and demonstrating the incredible abilities students can achieve through Abacus and Mental Arithmetic. Presenting the trophies to top performers, former Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi rightly said, "Smart brain produces smart solutions for every problem and prosperity is moving forward only when we have smart brains." Commending the efforts of the young participants, Lekhi emphasised



the importance of such initiatives and said, "UCMAS is enhancing cognitive skills and academic excellence." The blend of the ancient tool of the Abacus with modern teaching methodologies creates a unique educational experience.

Over 3 million children across the world have benefited from the Abacus and Mental Arithmetic curriculum, which encourages creativity, visualisation, and focus while developing strong arithmetic abilities.

In today's competitive academic environment, maintaining mental wellbeing has become an uphill battle for many children. The relentless pressure to excel often leads to stress, anxiety, and even depression. In some heartbreaking cases,

self-confidence. According to Dr Snehal Karia, CEO of UCMAS India, the course is designed to enhance children's mental stability by boosting their concentration, focus, and memory. It equips them with the confidence to understand and embrace their individuality, effectively reducing anxiety and depression. The Abacus & Mental Arithmetic program's key lies in its structured approach to building self-assurance through innovative teaching methods.

The encouragement and skills imparted during the training play a pivotal role in shaping a child's bright future. The program comprises eight levels, each lasting three to four months. Children attend weekly classes guided by

trained instructors, working through specially designed books and activities. Unlike conventional education, the course serves as a supplementary learning system to enhance cognitive abilities. There is an urgent need to complement the school's curriculum by focusing on brain development. The course improves memory, sharpness, and alertness.

As a result, students perform better academically and approach challenges with greater confidence. In a world where competition often overshadows creativity and self-worth, programs like Abacus & Mental Arithmetic provide children with the tools they need to thrive—mentally, emotionally, and academically. Alexan Wong, CEO of

UCMAS International Corporation, said, "The competition not only tests their skills but also serves as a platform to demonstrate their creativity, visual memory, and focus—all of which will shape their future success." The competition itself is a testament to the transformative power of such programs, where students not only test their math skills but also demonstrate the broader cognitive benefits that shape their academic and personal growth.

Ultimately, the world needs such initiatives to nurture well-rounded individuals who are prepared to face the challenges of the future with confidence and creativity.

(The author is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal)







# what's brewing?



Congress MLA Mynampally Rohith attended the 22nd anniversary celebration of DRS International School at Dulapalli, Hyderabad. The event, titled 'Abhyudaya', saw Rohith, an alumnus of the school, as the chief guest, alongside Congress senior leader Nakka Prabhakar Goud, DRSIS Chairman Dayanand Agarwal, directors Anjani Kumar Agarwal, Sanjay Kumar Agarwal and Garv Agarwal, among the other dignitaries.



IT Minister Sridhar Babu inaugurated the WeWork, a new coworking space at MPM Mall in Ameerpet, marking a shift in IT spaces from the western part of the city to central Hyderabad.



A 6-day Handloom Exhibition 2024, organised by the Handloom and Textile Department of the Andhra Pradesh Government, was inaugurated by K. Sunitha, chief secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Government and Rekha Rani, commissioner of Handloom and Textiles, Andhra Pradesh, jointly inaugurated the exposition, at the Sri Satyasai Nigamagama in Srinagar Colony which will run till December 27



The 7th Annual Entrepreneurship & Youth Conference of Sanathana Entrepreneurs Association (SEA) was successfully held at the Marigold by Greenpark Hotel. The event was attended by Advisors of Telangana Government Harkara Venu Gopal Rao, former MLC N Ramachandra Rao and Ex-Union Minister Venugopala Chary



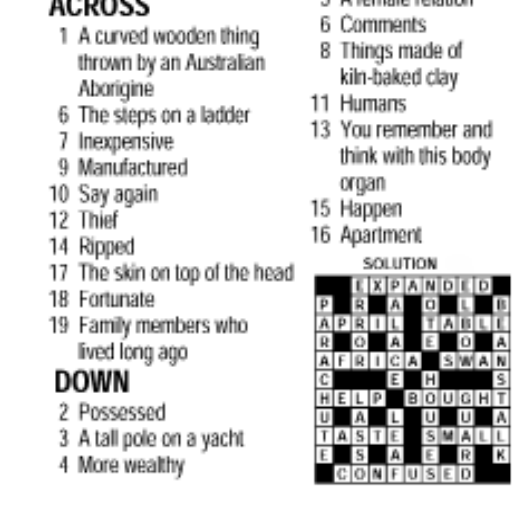
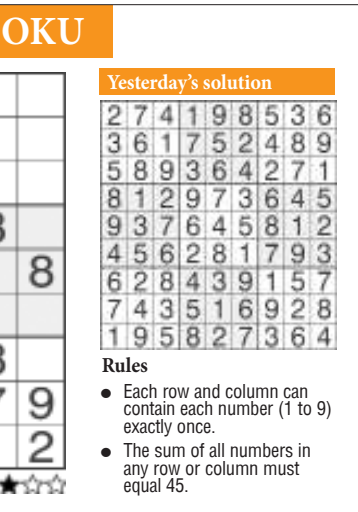
Shaik Arif Ahmed, Faheem Qureshi and Abdul Khader  
Mahmood Ali  
The grand wedding ceremony of Shaik Arif Ahmed, son of Shaik Ateeq Ahmed and the niece of Habeeb Abdullah Kader Al Hamed, daughter of Habeeb Abdullah (Faisal), was held at the Classic Convention Three in Shamshabad, Hyderabad. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries including Mohammed Mahmood Ali, MLC and former Home Minister of Telangana, community leader Iftikhar Shareef and Mir Zulfeqar MLA, among the rest.

Feroz Khan  
Yaser Arfath  
Zulfikhar  
Mirza  
Essa and Hamed Sabri  
Umeed Khan and faisal  
Sanobar Baig, Abdul Rahaman  
Iftikhar Shareef



National Mart has launched its 12th store in Hanamkonda, marking a significant milestone in its expansion journey. The grand opening ceremony marked the presence of Naini Rajender Reddy, MLA, Warangal (West), Gundu Sudha Rani, Mayor, GWMC, Warangal and other local dignitaries, business leaders and community members, who inaugurated the store.

## FUN





**Producer Naga Vamsi, ahead of the release of *Daaku Maharaaj*, speaks to the media and refutes the talks of the industry shifting to Andhra Pradesh.**

## THE INDUSTRY WON'T SHIFT TO AP: PRODUCER

### NAGA VAMSI

discuss possibilities.

On Monday, producer Naga Vamsi held a media conference regarding his film *Daaku Maharaaj*, starring Nandamuri Balakrishna and directed by Bobby Kolli. When asked whether the industry is shifting to Andhra Pradesh, he clearly said, "no." "We have built our houses here with a lot of money, so what can we do if we go to Andhra Pradesh?" asked producer Naga Vamsi. He also added that he has no idea about meeting the AP CM. "I don't have any information regarding a meeting with the Andhra CM," said Naga Vamsi.

**SURESH KAVIRAYANI**  
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

There have been reports over the last few days that the Telugu Film Industry is planning to shift to Andhra Pradesh. With numerous incidents, including a stampede at Sandhya Cinema theatre, a woman's death, an actor's arrest, and the industry's consolation of the actor after his release from jail. Under these circumstances, there are reports that industry representatives plan to meet with AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to

Government's decision on the price hike, Naga Vamsi gave a diplomatic answer. "The FDC Chairman Dil Raju's film *Game Changer* is releasing first, and whatever benefits he receives for his film will automatically apply to my film, which is releasing afterward," said Vamsi.

The producer later clarified that his intention is not to entirely shift to Andhra Pradesh. "We will give equal importance to both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. We will shoot here and there as well," he said.

Director Bobby Kolli said that he portrayed Balakrishna in a different way in *Daaku Maharaaj*. When asked whether showing Balakrishna, an elected leader, in a negative light might prompt criticism from the audience, Kolli replied, "We all know that Balakrishna represents Hindupur, and we have shown how he reacts

when someone from his constituency needs help."

The producer was reluctant to discuss the incidents that occurred over the last few days. However, he acknowledged that an unfortunate incident happened at Sandhya theatre. Some fans damaged chairs and screens in several theatres and when asked about his film's release in many theatres during Sankranti, he said, "We will be more careful." He added, "Generally, such incidents happen in a moment, and it's not possible to prevent them. Since the film is releasing in numerous theatres, we cannot monitor each theater individually."

Now, all eyes are on Dil Raju, the new chairman of the Telangana Film Development Corporation, who returned to Hyderabad last night. A significant task lies ahead for him after taking charge as Chairman.

### TELANGANA EXHIBITORS WELCOME REVANTH REDDY'S DECISION

The Telangana Exhibitors Association on Monday welcomed the decision of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's decision, where he said that in the near future, there will not be any hike in ticket prices of any film. "This will definitely help single theatres to run for a longer period," said Vijayender Reddy, president, Telangana Exhibitors Association. He added that he welcomes the Chief Minister's decision not to hike ticket prices in the future. "We welcome the decision and will give full support for it," he said. He added that if single theaters also hiked ticket prices, audiences wouldn't come to see the films. "There are two different sections of the audience, where one section watches films in multiplexes and the second section watches in single theatres. When single theatres too hiked prices, this section of people stopped coming; now, with the CM's decision, we can run theaters for a longer time," said Vijayender Reddy.

Gorantla Srinivasa Rao, EC Member of Andhra Exhibitors Association, said that they are going to give a memorandum to the AP Government to reduce ticket prices. "We are planning to meet AP Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and appeal to them to reduce ticket prices in single theatres," said Srinivasa Rao. He added that single-screen theaters will survive only if ticket prices are normal. "We welcome the Telangana CM's decision and we want to implement the same in Andhra Pradesh," he said. He added that the recent film *Pushpa 2* had hiked ticket prices, and people didn't come to see it. "In the first week, many theaters were vacant because of the high ticket price. The audience didn't come to see it in the first week for this film," he said.

Ram Prasad, President of AP Exhibition Association, said that he has full confidence in Pawan Kalyan, who always supports the development of cinema. "If ticket prices are fixed and normal, there is a chance that the film may run for many days. People will definitely come to theatres to watch films, even in the fourth week," said Ram Prasad.



### Rahul Ramakrishna takes back his statement in Allu Arjun case

Actor Allu Arjun's controversy has still been a talk-of-the-town. The actor was arrested a few days back, in relation to the Sandhya theatre stampede where a woman passed away. However, later he was released on bail. The film industry personalities visited his house to give their support. Actor Rahul Ramakrishna also posted a big note on his social media in support of Allu Arjun and questioned the authorities.

Later, the police commissioner CV Anand in a media conference presented the videos about what happened on the day of the Sandhya theatre stampede, Rahul Ramakrishna changed his opinion. The actor didn't delete the old posts and keep them in his social media, but posted another note that he was terribly uninformed about the entire event that took place.

"I was terribly un-informed about all the events that took place. I take back my statements that I made previously," said Rahul Ramakrishna in his social media.

Will other film personalities change their opinion on Allu Arjun arrest just like Rahul Ramakrishna?

### 'It was Mega Star Chiranjeevi, who encouraged us'

Dharma and Aishwarya Sharma will be seen as the lead pair in *Drinker Sai*, which is produced by Basavaraju Laharidhar. Kiran Tirumalasetti is the director and the movie is based on real events. The film is releasing on December 27. Producer Basavaraju Laharidhar talks about his film and the inspiration.

Basavaraju said that he doesn't have any experience in the film industry, but his father knows Chiranjeevi very well. "My father, Basavaraju Srinivas, was a key member in the PRP party floated by Chiranjeevi and he has long association with him. We shared this film story with Chiranjeevi and after hearing it, he gave us his blessings to go ahead. With his encouragement, we began work on the film," said Basavaraju. He added that he showed the songs to Chiranjeevi and got good appreciation.

Laharidhar said he started working on this film in 2019, but because of the pandemic he had to put it on hold. "We started again last year with few modifications to the story," said the producer. He added that director Kiran worked earlier with Maruthi and made his debut as director with this one. Talking about the lead pair, he said Dharma trained at Satyanand in Vizag and roped in Aishwarya with an audition. He said that the theatrical and OTT business for small films is somewhat sluggish at present. "However, we are confident that our film's content will be appreciated and confident about the success," he said. He added that his main focus is on *Drinker Sai* and once it's released, he will begin preparations for his next project.



### AADI SAIKUMAR'S LOOK FROM SHAMBHALA IS INTERESTING

Promising actor Aadi Saikumar celebrated his birthday on Monday and on this occasion, the makers of his upcoming film *Shambhala* released a new poster. In this poster Aadi is seen riding a bicycle through a blazing field, his gaze intense and fixed on the horizon. *Shambhala* has already garnered attention for its unique title and intriguing premise. Director Ugandhar Muni is bringing a fresh and mystical story to the screen with this *Sambhala*. Aadi Saikumar is playing a geo-scientist and the shooting started recently at RFC. Archana Iyer is the female lead, while another actress Swasika, is also playing an important character in it. Rajasekhar Annabhimoju and Mahidhar Reddy are the producers. The makers have put in a high budget on this film as they believe in the content. On the other hand Aadi is expected to get a good break with this film.



### Siddharth lends his voice for *It's Okay Guru*

Actor Siddharth is known for his best performances as an actor and has also occasionally proved to be a great singer. The actor first began singing with his film *Chukkallo Chandrudu*, nearly 18 years back and continued his singing in Telugu and Tamil films. Now, he has lent his voice for the film *It's Okay Guru*.

Charan Sai and Usha Sri are playing the lead roles in this film, produced by Suresh Anapurapu and Baswa Govardhan Goud.

Manikanta M is the director and the film is set to hit the screens soon. The lyrical song *Naa Swase Nuvvai*, sung by actor Siddharth, was released on Monday.

The song has been beautifully composed by music director Mohit Rahmani with lyrics penned by Rahul Red Infinity. Siddharth gave his energetic and mellifluous voice. The song expresses intense emotions of love, with lyrics that convey the depth of devotion. The song exudes a beautiful, heartfelt love vibe.

### Anandhi's *Garividi Lakshmi* inspired by real-life

Telugu girl and actress Anandhi has made her mark both in Telugu and Tamil films. She is known for her powerful performance in films like *Poriyaalan*, *Kayal* and many other Tamil films. She was last seen in *Itlu Mareduvilli Prajaaneekam* and *Vidhi*. Now, the actress's new film was launched in style, not in Hyderabad, but in Adoni, in Andhra Pradesh. She brings depth to her characters, is set to deliver another impactful portrayal in this film, produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and TG Krithi Prasad. The title is also interesting. Gowri Naidu Jammu is the director.

The ceremony saw the presence of actors from the film including Anandhi, VK Naresh, Rag Mayur present for the launch. The film portrays the inspiring story of the iconic Burra Katha artist Garividi Lakshmi from North Andhra and tackles the theme of women's identity theft. The shooting is scheduled to commence in the third week of January in Adoni.

TG Krithi Prasad, the daughter of renowned producer TG Vishwa Prasad, is making her debut as a producer with this film.



