

TN Govt inks MoU with Spain company Edibon for Rs 540 Crore investment commitment

CHENNAI, Feb 7: The Tamil Nadu government has signed an MoU with Edibon, a worldwide benchmark company, with 40 years of experience in teaching and research equipment for engineering and technical education with an investment commitment of Rs. 540 crores, in the presence of Chief Minister MK Stalin who is in Spain for attracting investments.

from Spain's industrial giants - Gestamp, Talgo and Edibon. Convinced then of the boundless opportunities in Tamil Nadu, India's manufacturing powerhouse. Thrilled to seal the deal with Edibon, securing a massive investment of Rs. 540 crores!," the CM said in his tweet.

Stalin also said he had a fruitful discussion with Mabtree, a company engaged in R&D in immunotherapies. "A fitting finale to

the successful visit to Spain. With such fruitful results, I will be departing from Spain on Tuesday and longing to see you all after quite a few days, which feels like an eternity to me. Similarly, I am grateful to the Tamil community in Spain for the warm welcome and hospitality they have shown me," the CM added.

Stalin will return to Chennai on Wednesday morning after an 8-day visit to Spain.

Conclave helps govt students eye global opportunities, says School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh

CHENNAI, Feb 7: As part of efforts to improve the state's Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education, government school students were briefed regarding higher educational opportunities during the South Asian Education Conclave held at the Anna Centenary Library in Chennai on Tuesday.

The conclave saw the participation of ambassadors from Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore, who interacted with the students and pro-

vided them with information regarding different universities, the application processes involved and the various scholarships available.

Speaking at the event, School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi said that the students who participated in the event should act as ambassadors and inform other students about the available opportunities.

"The relationship between Tamil Nadu and the rest of south Asia goes back as far as the time of Cholas

and Pandyas. At present, Tamil students who go to these countries to study only strengthen these ancient ties," he added.

"Last year, 274 government school students from the state got into premier institutions in the country. This includes two girls who went on to study in Taiwan. They were among the three students selected for scholarship from the country. This year we should aim for a higher number," said R Sudhan, member-secretary of model schools.

Revoke power tariff hike or face consequences in polls: MSMEs warn TN govt

COIMBATORE, Feb 7: MSMEs have warned the DMK government that it would face adverse results in election if it does not make an announcement regarding rollback of power tariff hike during the budget session of the Assembly.

Speaking to media-persons in Coimbatore on Monday, office-bearers of the Tamil Nadu Industrial Electricity Consumers' Federation (TNIIECF) urged the

government to cancel peak hour charges levied on the sector.

"The state government had earlier reduced the rooftop solar network charges for all MSMEs by 50% from Rs 1.53 to 76 paise. We request to waive this 76 paise too. With regards to demand charges, it was Rs 35 for a kW consumption unit earlier, but it was revised to Rs 153. We want the government to revert to the earlier tariff,"

they said.

"We expect the government to make positive announcements with regard to industrial electricity charges in the budget session. If not, TNIIECF will take steps that could create an impact in the upcoming Lok Sabha election. We have sought an audience with the chief minister and other ministers on Monday. We will announce our next move if our demands are not addressed,

AIADMK govt ushered in prosperity: EPS

DHARMAPURI, Feb 7: AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami participated in a tractor rally offering support to the farmers and inaugurated the Kongu multipurpose training centre at Harur on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the AIADMK government offered an era of prosperity to the people of Tamil Nadu.

"The AIADMK government started 11 medical colleges and six law colleges across the state, a feat no other state or government was able to achieve. We brought 7.5 per cent reservation in NEET, we earned over 140 awards and accolades from the Union government. Also, we renovated over 14,000 PWD-controlled lakes and 27,000 lakes controlled by the panchayats under the

Kudimarmathu scheme."

Criticising Chief Minister MK Stalin, he said, "Stalin promised he would scrap NEET immediately after taking charge as CM. But even recently at the DMK youth meet at Salem he said the same. The DMK government is employing shrewd gimmicks to fool people." MLAs KP Anbalagan, SP Velumani and PThangamani participated in the event.

Noisy scenes in Lok Sabha over DMK leader's remark against Union Minister Murugan

NEW DELHI, Feb 7: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday witnessed a war of words over a remark made by TR Baalu against Union Minister L Murugan, with ruling BJP MPs asking the DMK leader to apologise for "insulting" a Dalit.

As Baalu did not heed to the demand, Speaker Om Birla expunged the word from the records while DMK

members along with the Congress and Left MPs staged a walkout. The incident took place when the House was discussing a question related to flood relief to Tamil Nadu during the Question Hour. After two of his party colleagues asked questions on the subject, Baalu asked a supplementary.

At that point of time, Murugan, Union Minister of

State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, who also hails from Tamil Nadu, said the DMK leader was asking an "irrelevant" question.

At this, Baalu made a comment against Murugan. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, his deputy Arjun Ram Meghwal, several other minister and BJP MPs were on their feet

No discrimination in disbursing disaster relief funds to non-BJP-ruled states: Nityanand Rai

NEW DELHI, Feb 7: Dismissing the allegations of discrimination against non-BJP-ruled states while disbursing funds for disaster relief, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Tuesday informed Lok Sabha that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is very sensitive to the need of the state governments during any natural disaster and the central government provides all kinds of help during any crisis.

Replying to a question

related to flood relief to Tamil Nadu, Rai said, "In fact, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is very sensitive to the need of the state governments during any natural disaster and the central government provides all kinds of help during any crisis."

The Minister also insisted that Rs 2,013 crore was still lying with the Tamil Nadu government under SDRF, which it is free to spend for flood relief.

He said under the present government, an inter-minis-

terial central team is being dispatched even before a request from the state government comes.

Rai said a total provision of Rs 33,581 crore was made in 2010-15 in the State Disaster Response Force. The amount has been increased to Rs 61,220 crore in next five years and to Rs 1,38,122 crore in 2021-26, which is 282 percent increase.

The central government has given an additional Rs 1,98,173 crore to the National Disaster Response Fund



ister said.

Rai said Rs 65,346 crore had been given by the central government as additional funds to the NDRF between 2004-14, while Rs 1,98,173 crore has been given between 2014-24, which is three times more than the previous period.

The Minister further insisted that the Centre had been working for a robust disaster mitigation initiative under which its aim is to ensure zero casualties of both life and properties.

AIADMK, BJP wooing PMK, DMDK to their side

CHENNAI/VILLUPURAM: As hectic informal parleys are on for forging alliances for the Lok Sabha election, AIADMK and BJP are trying to rope in PMK and DMDK to their respective alliance.

Former minister and senior leader of AIADMK CV Shanmugam called on PMK founder S Ramadoss at the latter's residence in Thailapuram near Tindivanam on Monday night. Sources said

the discussion between the two leaders which lasted for two hours revolved around the possibility of forming an alliance for the Lok Sabha election. "The meeting was aimed at exploring the potential for collaboration in the upcoming election," said a source privy to the meeting. However, Ramadoss did not commit, the sources said, adding BJP is also in touch with PMK.

This is not the first time that Shanmugam met Ramadoss for alliance talks. In 2019 also, he initiated the discussions with PMK.

Meanwhile, when reporters pointed out to AIADMK deputy general secretary KP Munusamy that the ruling DMK has almost finalised the seat-sharing, he said, "The AIADMK will show this in action instead of answering questions of the media. Please

wait and see. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami will forge a mega alliance and win the election."

BJP sources said the party has already initiated talks with DMDK and that the latter is keen on getting a Rajya Sabha seat along with the Lok Sabha seats.

Meanwhile, BJP state president K Annamalai rushed to New Delhi on Tuesday

night. Sources said the BJP is trying to complete the alliance formation before February 25 since on that day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be addressing a massive BJP rally at Palladam.

The Madras HC has dismissed a petition filed by an AIADMK member seeking direction to the Election Commission to ensure the conduct of the party's organisational polls in a democratic manner.

08.02.2024 அன்று காலை 9.00 மணிக்கு
ஈரோடு மாவட்டம், சோலார் புதிய பேருந்து நிலைய வளாகத்தில்
அரசு நலத்திட்ட உதவிகள் வழங்கிட வருகை தரும்

◆◆◆ கழக இளைஞர் அணி செயலாளர் ◆◆◆

மாண்புமிகு இளைஞர் நலம் மற்றும் விளையாட்டு மேம்பாட்டுத் துறை அமைச்சர்

திரு. உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் அவர்களை

வருக! வருக! என அன்புடன் வரவேற்கும்...

ஈரோடு வடக்கு, தெற்கு மாவட்ட தி.மு.க.

SC reduces 20-year jail sentence to TN man, convicted of POCSO, on the ground of saving his marriage to victim

NEW DELHI, Feb 6: In a rare and unusual order and just to save the convict's marriage with the victim, the three-judge Special Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice of India Dr D Y Chandrachud on Monday remitted the 20-year jail sentence of the man from Tamil Nadu found guilty of the aggravated sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl whom he later married and had two children with in Tamil Nadu. The Apex Court passed

the order on a curative petition, filed by the convict, Sankar. As per the case, he was the uncle of the victim.

The Madras High Court had also upheld the 20 year jail sentence and then Supreme Court too.

The SC had earlier also rejected Sankar's appeal and review of the appeal plea for reduction of his jail sentence, forcing him to file a curative plea before it.

The man was convicted and sentenced to 20 years

of rigorous imprisonment under Section 6 (Aggravated sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in 2018.

Invoking extraordinary powers of the Supreme Court to do 'complete justice' endowed to the top court by Article 142 of the Constitution, the Apex Court passed the order and remitted the jail sentence of 20 years to the term, Sankar, had already undergone, as more than six

years.

The Special Bench, also comprising the two senior most judges, Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai, passed the order

Sankar, in his curative plea had argued before the Apex court that "with his incarceration, his marital life with the prosecutrix (the assault victim who is his wife now) has been shattered, leaving the prosecutrix and her children destitute".

He said he and the prosecutrix had been married for many years and have two children.

Considering the "peculiar facts" of the case, the Apex Court remitted the remaining prison sentence of Sankar. It ordered him to be released, and the fine of ₹2 lakh imposed on him to be waived.

While referring and citing two of its earlier judgments, including K. Dandapani, the Top Court passed the order.

M. Annadurai takes over as ED & State Head of IndianOil for TN and Puducherry

Madurai, Feb 07: Mr. M. Annadurai takes over as the new Executive Director & State Head of IndianOil for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. This transition follows the relocation of Mr. V C Asokan to the Mumbai Head Office as Retail Sales Head. With an illustrious career spanning over three decades



in IndianOil, Mr. Annadurai brings a wealth of experience in Sales (Retail, Institutional Business & Lubes), Operations, and Aviation. A Mechanical Engineer from College of Engineering - Guindy, he holds an MBA in Finance from Madras University—a testament to his strong academic background.

In his new role, Mr. Annadurai not only

assumes the responsibilities of State Head for IndianOil but also takes on the crucial position of State Level Coordinator for the Oil Industry in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Mr. Annadurai's extensive pan-India marketing expertise includes notable assignments in Gujarat, Karnataka, and his home state, Tamil Nadu. His tenure at the Marketing Head Office played a pivotal role in driving IndianOil's flagship fleet card program, XTRAPOWER, to its current success.

IndianOil looks forward to leveraging Mr. Annadurai's experience to further strengthen its presence and contribute to the growth of the energy sector in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

PM Modi quotes speeches by Nehru, Indira says congress leaders had 'no faith' in Indians

NEW DELHI, Feb 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday made repeated attacks on India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru during his speech in the Lok Sabha, claiming that the Congress leader thought Indians were lazy and of low intelligence.

Modi's nearly 100-minute speech was laced with sharp attacks on the Congress and the Gandhi family, and he said the party "never trusted India's potential".

He considered 'lazy' and 'less intelligent', PM Modi said quoting the first PM of

India.

Targeting the opposition, particularly the Congress party, the Prime Minister said that the country has suffered through the 'mindset' of the grand old party, which has never trusted the capabilities of the countrymen.

"The country has suffered through the mindset of the Congress party, which has never trusted the capability of the countrymen. It considered itself rulers and the public as lesser and inferior," PM Modi said.

Reading out a statement

by former Prime Minister Nehru, PM Narendra Modi said, "Nehruji thought that Indians were lazy and less intelligent."

The Prime Minister further said that former PM Indira Gandhi's thoughts were 'no different' from that of Nehru's.

Referring to a statement by Indira Gandhi, he stated, "Looking at the people in Congress today, it seems that Indiraji could not assess the people of the country correctly but assessed Congress absolutely correctly.

In a veiled attack on the

Gandhi family, PM Modi said, "The royal family of the Congress party thought this way about my countrymen. Even today, it reflects in their way of thinking."

Meanwhile, PM Modi also expressed confidence in his third straight victory in the Lok Sabha polls and asserted that the country will be the third-largest economy in the third term of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA government.

On the basis of the experience of 10 years of governance, looking at today's strong economy and the

rapid speed with which India is progressing today, I can confidently say that in our third term, India will be the third largest economic power. This is Modi's guarantee," the PM said.

Hitting back at Prime Minister Modi over his criticism of Nehru, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor later said, "Poor Nehru ji has gone since 60 years, and he continues the same lament about Nehru ji. We are flattered that he is so worried about us that he has devoted his entire speech towards the Congress."

Trailblazing Performance: BMW Group India is No.1 in luxury electric vehicle market.

Chennai, Feb 7: BMW Group India continued its record-breaking success in the luxury electric vehicle (EV) market in India by posting the best-ever annual EV sales in CY 2023. With this, BMW Group EVs continued leadership in the luxury segment for second year in a row.

The company sold 1,474 electric cars (BMW + MINI) between January - December 2023. BMW delivered 1,235 EVs registering a remarkable +415% y-o-y growth. MINI delivered 239 units posting



an impressive +123% y-o-y growth.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "BMW Group India has successfully retained its lead-

ership in the electric luxury car segment for the second consecutive year. By blending driving pleasure with zero emissions, our luxurious offerings resonate with a

growing clientele embracing a progressive and sustainable mindset. We continue to set the pace in the Indian electric luxury vehicle market with the most diverse and innovative product range, designed to cater to diverse customer needs. A perfect example is the BMW iX which is the highest selling luxury electric vehicle in India. With proven strengths, future-oriented

technologies and a robust premium charging network, we are confident of taking this to the next level."

In terms of overall retail sales as well, BMW Group India delivered its best-ever annual performance in 2023. The company sold 14,172 cars (BMW and MINI) with +18% growth. BMW sold 13,303 units (+18%) and MINI 869 units (+22%).

Nippon Paint India announces AYDA Award winners 2023

February 2024, Chennai: Nippon Paint (India) Private Limited Decorative Division, Asia Pacific's leading paint manufacturer announced the India finale of AYDA 2023-2024 to esteem young minds of the design and architecture world.

This edition of AYDA was conducted for the theme "CONVERGE: Championing purposeful designs - Building Impact in Design Through Purposeful Intervention."

The India finale of AYDA took place on 6th Feb '24 at Hotel Feathers, where finalists from colleges Pan-In-



dia were present. With over 2000 applicants, the judges narrowed them down to 24 finalists. The eminent jury panel included:

This year's theme encouraged young designers to

Over the years, AYDA has impacted thousands of young and talented student designers, presenting them with various opportunities to engage with renowned speakers and key figures in the design industry. In addition, the platform has enabled the participants to gain first-hand industry knowledge, personalized coaching, mentoring, and skills-building through various workshops by experienced lecturers and industry professionals. The winners were awarded by a reputed panel of Architects and Interior designers along with Mr. Mahesh Anand,

President - Decorative Division, Nippon Paint (India). Mr. Mahesh Anand, President - Decorative Division, Nippon Paint (India) shared his enthusiasm saying, "It gives us immense pride to be able to nurture young dreams through AYDA. It has become a stepping-stone towards success for several young aspiring architects. This year, it wasn't just about showcasing design. The message thrumming through the air was: ignite your passion, find a cause close to your heart, and weave them together into something extraordinary."

Kauvery Hospital Vadapalani restores health of 4-year-old girl by removing 15cm Cancerous Liver tumour

Chennai, 7th February, 2024: Kauvery Hospital Vadapalani successfully performed a complicated surgery on a girl aged four, to remove a large malignant tumour from her liver. The medical team, led by Dr. Swaminathan Sambandam, Director Multiorgan Transplant, Advanced GI and HPB surgery, Kauvery Hospital, Vadapalani showcased exceptional expertise and dedication, ensuring a positive outcome for the young patient.

The young girl was admitted to the hospital due to fever and abdominal pain.

Subsequent tests revealed a diagnosis of left hepatoblastoma (Liver Cancer which was a 15cm tumour in liver) and underwent laparoscopic left hepatectomy (Removal of the tumour from the liver tissues) followed by chemotherapy.

Dr. Swaminathan Sambandam, Director, Multiorgan Transplant, Advanced GI and HPB surgery, Kauvery Hospital, Vadapalani said, "Childhood cancers in the 0-14 age group contribute to 4.0% of all the cancers. Surgery plays a key role in treating paediatric liver cancers, where the tumour is

completely removed which is then followed by Chemotherapy. The procedure also involves the expertise of surgeon, anaesthetists and post-surgery care to prevent complications and infections. This procedure stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of our medical team and the strength of our patient. We have the state-of-the-art facility and infrastructure to handle complex Paediatric Hepatobiliary surgeries and Hepatobiliary surgeries including cancer surgeries and Paediatric Liver transplants at an affordable cost."

Lady Doak College, Madurai Conducted AMALCHEM CLUB Intercollegiate Meet "HUE-MISTRY"

Madurai, Feb.7: Amalchem Club, Department of Chemistry, Lady Doak College, Madurai has been a platform for chemistry students to exhibit their talents, explore new ideas and gain new insights through various activities. In recent years, regular usage of products with artificial color additives has become inevitable. This leads to serious health issues and contain carcinogenic substances. Therefore, to create awareness in society, Amalchem Club, Department of Chemistry has organized a state level inter-collegiate meet, HUE-MISTRY (Chemistry of Colors) on 05.02.2024 at

J.X. Miller auditorium, Lady Doak College, Madurai.

Welcome address was given by Ms. W Jerusha Shalom, III B.Sc. Chemistry, ICM President, Amalchem Club. Dr. Christianna Singh, Principal and Secretary, Lady Doak College, Madurai graced the occasion and delivered the inaugural address.

She inspired the young minds by sharing her life experience and gave a note on the importance of colors in everyday life. This year, 188 participants from 16 different colleges in the state of Tamil Nadu have participated and showcased their talents in 10 different



competitions. Dr. Nirmala Rebecca, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Mathematics delivered the valedictory address and distributed the prizes to all the participants. The overall trophy was bagged by

Thiagarajar College of Arts and Science, Madurai, and Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi bagged the runner-up in this mega event. Vote of thanks was given by Ms. C.P Catherine Golda, II M.Sc. Chemistry, ICM

President, Amalchem Club. The event was coordinated by Dr. S. K. Suja, Dr. D. Rani Rosaline and Dr. P. Silviya Reeta, and organized by students from the Amalchem Club, Department of Chemistry, Lady Doak College,

Union Interim Budget reaction quote by Jaepy Kurian, Senior VP and Delivery Head in India, Orion Innovation

Chennai, Feb 6: "We appreciate the government's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047 and its efforts to provide inclusive development and growth across various sectors and regions."

"We support the government's initiatives and schemes that aim to boost the digital economy, such as the PM SVANidhi scheme for street vendors, the PM Kisan Yojana for farmers, Mudra Yojana for women entrepreneurs, PM Mudra Yojana for entrepreneurs,

the Digital India programme, the National Digital Health Mission, and the National Education Policy. We believe that these initiatives will empower millions of Indians with access to digital services, opportunities, and benefits."

"We also suggest some areas where the government can further invest and collaborate with the private sector to accelerate the digital transformation of India, such as enhancing the digital infrastructure, promoting digital literacy and skills,



fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, and ensuring data security and privacy. We are confident that with the government's support and guidance, India can emerge as a global leader in the digital era."

1.15 crore welfare assistance to fishermen: Minister Anitha Radhakrishnan provided

Thoothukudi Feb 07 Minister Anitha Radhakrishnan provided welfare assistance worth Rs 1.15 crore to fishermen in Thoothukudi. Fishermen were given welfare assistance worth Rs.1.15 crore in a program held at Tuticorin District Collectorate. The event was presided over by District Collector Lakshmi Pathy. Anitha Radhakrishnan, Minister of Fisheries-Fishermen's Welfare and Animal Husbandry, participated and provided welfare assistance to the fishermen. In this, accident insurance compensation amount of Rs.64 lakhs provided by Tamil Nadu government to the families of 32 fishermen, four-wheeler cooled vehicle worth Rs.36 lakhs for 3 beneficiaries under Prime Min-



ister Fisheries Development Scheme, 60 percent subsidy for one beneficiary to carry out integrated colorful fish farming under Prime Minister Fisheries Development Scheme. A total of 36 beneficiaries were given welfare assistance worth Rs.1.15 crore as subsidy of Rs.15 lakh. Ottapidaram Member of Legislative Assembly Shanmukiah, Mayor Jagan

Periyasamy, Deputy Mayor Jenita, District Panchayat Member Selvakumar, Joint Director of Fisheries and Fisheries Welfare Department Amalaseviar, Assistant Director Bushra Shabnam, Tuticorin Fishing Port Management Division Fisheries and Fishery Welfare Department Assistant Director Vijayaraghavan, Officers and fishermen participated.

Ex-employees accuse Elon Musk's SpaceX of sexual harassment, discrimination

SAN FRANCISCO: Former employees at Elon Musk's SpaceX have expanded their legal case against the rocket-making company that they accuse of discrimination and sexual harassment.

According to the new accusations made to a California civil rights authority, SpaceX nurtured a hostile work environment where jokes about sexual harassment were commonplace, women were paid less than men and workers who complained were dismissed.

The information first reported by Bloomberg on Tuesday was confirmed by the plaintiffs' lawyers.

In these complaints, consulted by AFP, the engineers broadly describe a sexist corporate culture, where sexual comments and other forms of harassment were tolerated or made light of.

They also found that Musk's often inappropriate online humor was being emulated internally, setting the tone at the workplace.

The California civil rights department, notified

the aerospace company in January of the seven complaints filed several months earlier by the former employees.

"The harassment was visual in nature in that CEO Elon Musk made public statements that were lewd and demeaning towards women, transgender individuals and gay people on his personal twitter (now X) account," said Paige Holland-Thielen in her complaint.

She also explained that she had to regularly read the Twitter account of the bil-

lionaire, since he regularly posted important information about SpaceX.

Holland-Thielen also referred to a performance review that deemed her "too emotional" and asked her to "be more humble", after she had expressed her concerns to a superior that a male colleague was taking credit for her work.

The complaints follow a separate action in which a US labor agency said that the employees were unlawfully fired after complaining in a public letter about their

treatment at the company.

SpaceX last month went to court to try to derail the US National Labor Relations Board accusation and delay a hearing on the matter set for March 5. Musk's company argued that the structure of the regulatory board is unconstitutional and the hearing process violates the company's right to a jury trial. Tesla, Elon Musk's other flagship company, has been the subject of similar accusations of racism and sexual harassment at its California site.

Swiggy Partners with Greater Chennai City Traffic Police for Three-Day Road Safety Awareness Program

Chennai, February 7, 2024 : On the occasion of Road Safety Week, Swiggy, India's leading on-demand convenience platform has collaborated with the Greater Chennai City Traffic Police and organized a comprehensive road safety and traffic awareness program for its delivery partners in the city. The program was initiated on February 5th to run over a span of three days, covering key locations such as Anna Nagar and Adyar in Chennai.



pants will receive training on crucial aspects such as traffic rules, helmet usage, case studies, consequences of reckless driving, and

parking etiquette. Swiggy has been conducting annual road safety training for its delivery partners in the city since 2018.

The program commenced with a safety rally by Swiggy's delivery partners at Anna Nagar, witnessing an impressive turnout of over 100 participants. This was followed by informative traffic awareness sessions led by Traffic Inspector Mr. Shakthivel. The inaugural session was graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police Traffic, and Mr. Sundar Raj, Assistant Commissioner of Police.

Following this, the program will extend its reach to delivery partners in Adyar next week before encompassing significant zones across Coimbatore.

The "Road Safety and Traffic Awareness Programme" underscores Swiggy's commitment to promoting responsible driving practices among its delivery fleet. Partici-



State Level English "Model Court Competition 2024" held in Salem Govt. Law College : HC judge Chief guest

Feb.7, 2024: State Level English "Model Court Competition 2024" was held for three days from 02.02.2024 to 04.02.2024 at Salem Government Law College. On its final day of Feb. 4, the special guest was Hon'ble Justice

Mr.S.S.Sunder-- High Court Judge Chennai, Professor Dr.J. Vijayalakshmi, Director of Legal Studies, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai, Dr. S.Durga Lakshmi, Principal--Govt Law College- Salem, Dr. N. Ramapiran Ranjit Singh, Principal--Govt Law College, Dharmapuri and members of the Tamil Nadu State Model Court Committee, participated in the event. A total of 18 law college teams participated, Coimbatore Govt Law College got the first prize and Madurai Govt Law College bagged the second prize.

CHICAGO: In yet another distressing incident, an Indian student faced a brutal attack in Chicago on Tuesday (local time).

Following the attack, the Indian Consulate in Chicago has stated that it is in touch with the victim, Syed Mazahir Ali, as well as his wife in India.

The Indian mission has assured all possible assistance to Ali, who hails from Hyderabad, and his family. "Consulate is in touch

with Syed Mazahir Ali and his wife in India, Syeda Ruqiyia Fatima Razvi and assured all possible assistance," the Indian Consulate in Chicago wrote in a post on X.

The Consulate has "also contacted the local authorities who are investigating the case."

Videos on social media that surfaced showed Ali bleeding heavily as he described the horrific incident. Meanwhile, another

video circulating on social media, which appears to be CCTV footage of the incident, shows Ali being chased by three attackers on the streets of Chicago.

More details are awaited in the case.

The incident took place at a time when attacks against Indian-origin students in the US are on the rise.

Last week, an Indian student in the United States named Shreyas Reddy was found dead in Cincinnati,

Ohio. The cause of his death, however, remains unknown as of now.

According to reports, Reddy was a student at the Linder School of Business.

The Indian Consulate in New York expressed regret about the incident and said that it was in touch with his family and was extending all possible assistance to them.

Notably, it was the third death of an Indian student within a span of a week.

On January 30, Neel

Acharya, a student at Purdue University, was found dead after being missing for days, according to the Tippecanoe County Coroner.

Similarly, on January 29, another Indian student, identified as Vivek Saini, was brutally killed with repeated blows from a hammer by a homeless man inside a store in Lithonia, Georgia, US.

A video of the incident went viral on social media, but the date of the incident can't be confirmed.

What Went Wrong With Byju's, Which Was Once Valued At \$22 Billion

New Delhi: Byju's, run by billionaire CEO Byju Raveendran, was the poster child of India's startup ecosystem and was expected to herald a change in pedagogy at schools and colleges. It reached a valuation of \$22 billion in 2022 as its popularity rose by offering online and offline education courses. But in the last year, the company's popularity and valuation have seen a sharp decline with several of its investors now calling for leadership change at the ed-tech firm.

How Byju's Started Byju Raveendran was happily working as a service engineer at a shipping firm. A visit to his hometown in Kerala in 2003, where he helped some friends crack the MBA entrance exam CAT, was when he first realised that he had a penchant for teaching. He appeared for the competitive exam and aced it with a perfect score.

He though rejected all MBA offers and returned to his job, only to score a 100 percentile in the exam again two years later. This led to several people approaching him to help them crack the exam. The demand for his teaching skills grew rapidly,

leading to the formal launch of Byju's classes for the CAT exam in 2006.

Meteorite Rise Of Byju's Byju's soon expanded its reach to undergraduate students, eventually forming Think and Learn Pvt Ltd. in 2011. The company then ventured into the school curriculum, breaking down chapters into interactive videos and using real-life examples to make students understand fundamental concepts.

In 2015, the company launched Byju's learning app, which catered to students from kindergarten to class 12. By 2019, Byju's had become India's first ed-tech unicorn, a startup that is valued at over \$1 billion.

Byju's became the darling of India's startup ecosystem, captivating the nation with its innovative approach to education. The use of interactive videos and technology, coupled with celebrity endorsements from the likes of Shah Rukh Khan and Virat Kohli, propelled Byju's valuation to an unprecedented \$22 billion, making it the world's most expensive ed-tech startup.

The Fall The meteoric rise of By-

ju's eventually gave way to a tumultuous fall. After a rapid expansion during the Covid pandemic, Byju's has been struggling with cash-flow problems and is embroiled in a dispute with creditors over a \$1.2 billion loan.

The company's rapid expansion also led to allegations of a toxic work culture and immense pressure on employees to acquire more customers.

In June 2023, tech investor Prosus cut Byju's valuation by 75%, leading to layoffs and allegations of financial mismanagement. Byju's parent company, Think & Learn Pvt Ltd., faced scrutiny for not paying PF money to employees and was also suspended by Google and Facebook for non-payment of ad dues.

Reasons For Downfall When the Covid pandemic hit, Byju's saw an opportunity to promote online and went all out with marketing. Their business boomed between Mar 2020 to Oct 2020. It acquired several ed-tech startups, not just in India but also in the US, as it tried to expand rapidly.

During COVID-19, the company sponsored the Indian cricket team, the Foot-

ball World Cup, and even signed football star Lionel Messi as a global ambassador.

But growth has slowed since classes resumed, and the company's challenges have been exacerbated by the months-long legal dispute that's only showing signs of intensifying.

Byju's revenue has remained steady, but its losses jumped from ₹ 252 crore to 4,564 crore in just one year between 2019-20 and 2020-21. Aggressive marketing tactics and financial mismanagement have also played a significant role in the company's downfall. Sponsorship of major events and celebrity endorsements strained its financial standings, leading to a \$1.2 billion loan default in 2021.

The company's failure to file timely financial reports also raised questions about its stability. Byju's delayed the filing of its 2021/22 financial results by nearly a year, prompting auditor Deloitte and three board members to quit. Its chief financial officer and chief technology officer also quit in November 2023.

By November 2023, Byju's founder had to mortgage

personal properties to secure a loan for employee salaries. The current valuation of \$1 billion marks a drastic decline from its all-time high, signaling a troubling period for the once-thriving ed-tech giant.

What Next For Byju's?

The latest blow to Byju's comes in the form of shareholders moving a resolution seeking the ouster of the founders from top leadership roles, including CEO Byju Raveendran. Some of Byju's investors say the company's valuation has fallen to between \$1 billion and \$3 billion.

"The company and our employees are paying the price for a stand-off triggered by some investors," Byju's said.

Byju's, which is currently raising \$200 million through a rights issue of shares, said such capital is "pivotal for a successful turnaround" and it has received support for the capital raising from multiple shareholders.

The success of the ongoing capital-raising effort will likely play a pivotal role in determining the company's ability to execute a successful turnaround.

e-cars flagged off at VOC Port

Chennai, Feb 7: Today on 14 e-cars were flagged-off jointly by V. Suresh Babu, Chief Mechanical Engineer, K. Ravikumar, Chief Engineer, R. Prabakar, Traffic Manager, Capt. Praveen Kumar Singh, Deputy Conservator and Ashoka Kumar Sahu, Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer at the Port's Administrative Offices.



renewable energy sources. Aligned to the initiatives of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has envisioned through 'Maritime Amrit

kaal Vision 2047' for development of carbon neutral Ports in India and reduce Green House Gas emissions through sustainable solutions such as usage of green fuels, electrified/renewable energy-based yard equipment, vehicles & vessels, shore to ship power supply arrangement etc. V.O. Chidambaran Port is equally inspired to reduce its share of carbon emission and become carbon neutral in the years to come. V.O.

Chidambaran Port, as a Steward of Environment care, has implemented an array of green initiatives such as 5 MW Solar Port Plant, 2 MW Wind Turbine generator, 640 KW Roof top solar power, e-cars, 100% LED lighting, Shore power supply to ships and tugs, Electric vehicle charging stations, etc.

Port has planned to induct e-buses, provide shore power in all the berths & terminals, convert all the equipment operated by fossil fuel in the Berths, terminals and storage areas such as Harbour Mobile cranes, Rail Mounted Quay Cranes, Rubber tyred gantry cranes through electric /Renewable energy sources, in a phased manner.

HMA Agro Industries Ltd Agreement with Maharashtra Food Processing & Cold Storage

Chennai, Feb 7: HMA Agro Industries Ltd a leader in handled foods and agro products, has announced that it has entered into an agreement with Maharashtra Food Processing & Cold Storage, a Partnership Firm, for providing facilities of Slaughtering, Chilling, Processing, Freezing and Packing of frozen halal boneless buffalo meat duly packed in food-grade polythene bags.

Earlier, the company executed a stock split in the ratio of 1:10, i.e. sub-division /split of each equity share having face value of Rs. 10/- each, fully paid-up into ten equity shares having face value of Rs. 1/- each fully paid-up. The record date for the said split was December 29, 2023.

For Q2FY24, the company reported revenue of Rs. 11,847 Mn, EBITDA of



Rs. 566.44 Mn, PBT of Rs. 530.95 Mn, and PAT of Rs. 381.68 Mn. For H1FY24, the company reported revenue of Rs. 21,455 Mn, EBITDA of Rs. 1,178.59 Mn, PBT of Rs. 1,101.66 Mn, and PAT of Rs. 808.88

Mn. HMA Agro Industries Ltd. operates as a food trade organization. The company offers handled food and agro products including frozen fresh buffalo meat, prepared and frozen natural

products, fruits, vegetables, and cereals. HMA Agro Industries serves customers worldwide. The company has a production capacity of 1472 MT per day. The company's State-of-manufacturing facility is spread across 6 City in Agra, Unnao, Punjab, Aligarh, Mewat & Prabhani. It has a fully integrated infrastructure for manufacturing & retailing with complete automation.

11 dead, over 175 injured in major inferno at cracker factory in Madhya Pradesh

BHOPAL, Feb 7: A major inferno triggered by several blasts at a firecracker factory in Harda district of central Madhya Pradesh reportedly killed at least 11 people and injured over 175 on Tuesday.

The blaze began at around 11.30 am in the cracker factory owned by an Agrawal family in Magardha Road area – around 2 km from Harda district headquarters.

Seven of the deceased have been identified as Bano Bi, Priyantu, Mubin, Anuj, Abid, Usha and Mukesh. While ten persons died in Harda district only, one person died while being rushed to Bhopal for life-saving treatment. Out of the 175-plus injured, over 25 critically injured people were rushed to Bhopal.

The MP CM Dr Mohan Yadav who met the injured at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS-Bhopal) confirmed the deaths of 11 persons. "One of the

deceased succumbed to injuries while being rushed to Bhopal. I've met nine people out of the 12 brought at AIIMS-Bhopal. I'll go to Harda district after the Vidhan Sabha session on Wednesday."

With many dozen people being present in the multi-storied factory at the time of the blasts and many of the injured being in critical condition, the casualty figures are likely to rise.

While an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each was announced by the CM for the families of the deceased, PM Narendra Modi, while expressing condolences to the bereaved families, announced Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the injured, from the PM National Relief Fund.

A high-level probe was announced by the CM, to be carried out by a three-member committee headed by Principal Secretary (Home)

Sanjay Dube and having as members ADG-Intelligence Jaideep Prasad and Secretary (PWD) RK Mehra.

The CM also assured stern action in the matter once the responsibility was fixed. "Directions have been issued to conduct detailed inspection of all such factories across the state, followed by submission of the report in a day. Exemplary action will be taken against those found responsible for the mishap."

The opposition Congress's state unit while demanding Rs 25 lakh ex-gratia for families of each deceased, sought a judicial enquiry into the matter. A two-member fact-finding committee comprising Harda districts MLAs Ramkishore Dogane and Abhijit Shah has been formed by MP Congress to probe the matter.

"As per information available with us, there have been mishaps at the same factory in the past too, after

which the factory was sealed by the local administration. Only a judicial probe by a High Court judge can determine who was behind the resumption of operations at the factory on the order of then Narmadapuram Divisional Commissioner in 2021-2022," state Congress spokesperson Bhupendra Gupta said.

Meanwhile, according to reports from Harda district, around 1000 personnel, in-

cluding teams of NDRF and SDRF, are engaged in rescue operations at the site of the accident.

Poclaim machines have been pressed into action at the site where the entire multi-storied factory was flattened by the fire and blasts. According to reports from ground zero, the intermittent blasts along with fire also caused enormous damage to houses in the neighbourhood of the factory.

Indian govt decides to fence entire border with Myanmar

NEW DELHI, Feb 7: India has decided to fence the entire 1,643-km-long India-Myanmar border, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Tuesday.

The move could virtually put an end to the Free Movement Regime (FMR) prevalent along the porous border.

The FMR allows people residing close to the India-Myanmar border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any document.

The 1,643-km-long India-Myanmar border, which passes through Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, currently has FMR.

It was implemented in 2018 as part of India's Act East policy.

Fencing along the border has been a persistent demand of the Imphal Valley-based Meitei groups which have been alleging that tribal militants often enter into India through the porous border.

The Meitei groups also allege that narcotics are being smuggled into India taking advantage of the unfenced international border.

In a post on X, Shah said the Narendra Modi government is committed to building impenetrable borders.

"It has decided to construct a fence along the entire 1643-kilometer-long Indo-Myanmar border. To facilitate better surveillance, a patrol track along the border will also be paved," he said.

The home minister said a 10-km stretch of the border in Moreh in Manipur has already been fenced.

Furthermore, two pilot projects of fencing through a hybrid surveillance system are under execution.

"They will fence a stretch of 1 km each in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Additionally, fence works covering approx 20 km in Manipur have also been approved, and the work will start soon," he added.

ANNOUNCING THE INAUGURATION OF GLOBAL SCHOOL OF AVIATION IN CHENNAI

Chennai Feb 07 On 6th

February full operations of the much anticipated Global School of Aviation in collaboration with Gulf Aviation Academy, Bahrain begins in Chennai. This 8000 sqft training facility in Chennai located bang on the airport road marks the commencement of a transformative journey in preparing aspiring aviation enthusiasts for successful careers in the fastest growing Aviation industry.

Global School of Aviation is poised to become a beacon of excellence in aviation education, offering comprehensive training programs and fostering a passion for aviation. This school boasts state-of-the-art classrooms, dedicated training facilities, and experienced instructors committed to providing a cutting-edge learning experience.



Global Flight Handling Services is a trusted brand in Indian aviation managing 22 airports covering the length and breadth of India, including divine city airports like Ayodhya and Tirupati.

Global successfully managed handling more than 158 aircraft movements in 48 hours during the most auspicious Pran Prathishtha event of Lord Rama in Ayodhya. This includes private jet and charter movements of VIP, VVIP and CIPs. These top dignitaries were attended and facilitated by the well

trained professional team from Global.

Some of the dignitaries includes Baba Ramdev, Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Amitabh Bachchan, Lakshmi Mittal, Sri Sri Ravishankar and also takes honour in handling the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and other top politicians.

The aviation school will cover various aspects of aviation including cabin crew training, courses in various airport management programs, hospitality and other related topics.

Ajit Pawar's faction is real Nationalist Congress Party, rules Election Commission

NEW DELHI: In a setback to Sharad Pawar, the Election Commission on Tuesday officially recognised Ajit Pawar's faction as the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), ending months of speculation over the factional fight with his party founder and uncle Sharad Pawar.

In an order, the Election Commission (EC) also allotted the NCP symbol 'Wall Clock' to the group led by Ajit Pawar.

The decision followed

the laid-out tests of maintainability of such a petition which included tests of aims and objectives of the party constitution, test of party constitution and tests of a majority both organisational and legislative, the commission said.

"The test of majority in the legislative wing found favour in this circumstance of the case, where both groups have found to be working outside the party constitution and the organisational elections," the poll authority

observed.

The EC made a concession to the group led by Sharad Pawar by allowing it a "one-time option" to claim a name for its political outfit and provide three preferences by Wednesday afternoon in view of the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections.

Ajit Pawar had walked away with a majority of NCP MLAs in July last year and supported the BJP-Shiv Sena government led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in Maharashtra.



An agitation against the DMK lead Tamil Nadu Govt to implement their grievances as they told in their Election manifesto. Lakshmanan regional secretary ATP TNSTC president. Ex minister, K.P. Anbalagan spoke about the govt how to cheat the Transport conductors & drivers and shout the slogans of their needs. MLAs A. Govindasamy, V. Sampathkumar, Farmers wing state president TR. Anbalagan. Dt. Peravali secretary SR. Vetrivel, ATP, Secretary M. Palanisamy, PACB state secretary Chin. Arulsamy, Town secretary Pookadai Ravi, Union secretaries Neelapuram Selvam, Sivaprakasam, SC, Palani, Velumani, Sekar, Selvam, Mathivanan, EB Anbalagan, DMDK Vijayvenkatesh, Raja, Ex union president, ponnuvelu, TNSTC Join secretary Karunanidhi, Kamaraj, Retd, Kannadasan, Kumar, Rajagopal, Amaipusara Tholir sanga Singarayana and huge number of ATP personals were participated in agitation.



I did 'Lal Salaam' for Rajini sir: Actor Vishnu Vishal

Chennai, Feb 7: Vishnu Vishal is very much a cricketer at heart. Even though he stopped playing the sport professionally almost two decades ago, he compares the challenges he faces in the film industry as an actor/producer to the tricky deliveries he would encounter as a batsman.

"Unlike cricket, which happens to be my in-born talent, acting and producing films are skillsets that I acquired over the years. I still know there is room for improvement and am working harder each day to deep-root my place in the industry."

Life has come a full circle for him in a lot of ways, as he plays a cricketer in his upcoming political-sports drama Lal Salaam, and shares the screen with Rajinikanth, the Superstar who spotted and encouraged his talent right from his debut in Vennila Kabaddi Kuzhu.

"Acting alongside Rajini sir as a hero is a dream for many. When I got the chance in Lal Salaam, I grabbed it. Aside from this, the film has a good message that has been conveyed in a very engaging manner," shares an elated Vishnu.

The actor, who recently completed his 15th year in cinema, reveals that having a child-like enthusiasm to learn and being consistent in everything he does are the two factors that have brought him this far in the entertainment industry, as a first-generation producer-actor, "I get doubts in the most basic processes in cinema, but I

never hesitated to clarify it with the right people around me. Whenever I meet an experienced person from cinema, I talk to them as much as possible and get knowledge from them. It's a very competitive business that even giants are falling every year. I wanted to learn everything from scratch and now I can say with confidence that I know how the ecosystem of cinema functions."

This clarity of Vishnu is reflected in the way he fore-casts the result of Lal Salaam on his career. He says, "Lal Salaam will be a good film and people will remember me for the good character I essayed. But I am aware that the film won't elevate my star status or commercial viability, I have other films lined up which will take care of these factors."

The Ratsasan actor goes on to share his admiration for Rajinikanth's wholesome understanding of cinema as a business, "Rajini sir reads the environment once he steps into the sets and will ensure that the budget doesn't exceed because of him at any cost. For instance, if it's a crucial scene that can be continued to the next day, he will finish it within a few takes and save the rent cost for a day. A superstar like him needn't be this considerate, but he always goes the extra mile."

Vishnu also gushes about the legend's preparatory process. "Even if it is a simple dialogue, he tries out all possible variations and finalises the best one for the

take. This ritual of him in turn eases out other actors who are starstruck around him."

Vishnu, who took home a couple of lessons from Rajinikanth, was on the news recently for befriending and hosting a different star: Aamir Khan. "His friendship is something beyond my dreams. I am an introvert, who thinks twice before initiating a conversation with a stranger. But I have reached a point where I can say that Aamir sir is a friend and I can pull his legs without any inhibitions. It all started with an accidental meetup my wife had with him at a function. From there, he slowly went on to become a close friend of our family within a year," shares Vishnu, who goes on to reveal that he might do a film under Aamir's production in the future.

"Actually I have been turning it down, as I want to relish our bond and not let the business influence it anyway. But sir is keen on making a film with me. So, we might join hands at the right time, for the right script." Interestingly, Vishnu shares a similar bond with Telugu star Ravi Teja too. The Tollywood star even co-produced his Gatta Kushti. "Ravi Teja sir and I have a lot in common. Though we met only a few years ago, many of our values and thinking patterns aligned. He is full of love and he decided to collaborate with me for FIR and Gatta Kushti within just one meeting. I am just thankful to God for these connections, they

are completely unplanned."

Lal Salaam is promoted as a sports film that carries a strong political message. Does Vishnu believe his personal views should align with the films he is part of? "Well, not exactly," he replies instantly, "I am majorly unaware of politics around the world. But if an issue happens in front of my eyes, I take time to understand the situation and take an informed stand on it. I turned down the RX 100 remake offer as I felt it was being partial to women, and I did Gatta Kushti to show that every gender is equal. These are the few instances where I took a clear stand with my films."

He goes on to explain that he is okay with doing a film, which carries a message unrelated to his lived-in experience. "I did Jeeva, just because I trusted Susienthran sir. Being a cricketer I never faced any discrimination based on caste, but I cannot deny the core of the film, just because I got fair treatment. I believe in equality and freedom of speech. I have shared my contempt both even online whenever a section of our people act against it."

Vishnu registers that he doesn't believe in number games both in life and cinema, and he would rather wish to see everyone win together. "Life is treating us hard enough, so none of us should see each other as threats. I don't think anyone can be happy by focusing on pulling others down.

India edge past South Africa in Benoni thriller to reach summit clash

Chennai, Feb 7: At one point in the match, it didn't look like India would get over the line. They were 32/4 chasing 245 against quasi hosts South Africa. But then came the magical 171-run partnership between captain Uday Saharan (81) and Sachin Dhas (96) that set the current defending champions on course to a stunning comeback from behind win by 2 wickets. The result guarantees a ninth final appearance for India, and the fifth in a row.

Opting to chase for the first time this tournament, the decision to do that didn't take too kindly to India, who lost Adarsh Singh first-ball to an unplayable delivery from Kwena Maphaka. Tristan Luus then put in a show, bowling with fire to have both in-form Musheer Khan and reliable Arshin Kulkarni edging to second slip.

India's total of 26/3 at the

end of the PowerPlay soon became 32/4 when Priyanshu Moliya edged a drive behind to the keeper. The bowler? Luus again, the pacer finding good shape in the air and troubling the Indian batters right through his six-over spell.

The drinks game came at the perfect time for India, who looked a different outfit on the other side of it. The massive stand between Dhas and Saharan that ensued was the highest for the fifth wicket in the history of U19 World Cups. Dhas was the more aggressive of the two, hitting 11 fours and 1 six en route to his 95-ball knock. Saharan played the anchor's role but his 124-ball knock, featuring 6 fours, came to an end with a dramatic run out during the closing moments in the game, which saw India lose a cluster of wickets once again.

The captain's run out followed the run out of Murugan Abhishek and double strikes by Maphaka, who came back into the attack and took all of one ball to remove Dhas. But even amidst the panic, India kept finding the odd boundary, with Raj Limbani's six off the first ball he faced standing out. It all finished with a glorious cover drive from the pacer, with seven balls still left in the match.

"My dad also used to play similarly; slowly and taking the game deep," Saharan said after India won the game. "The ball was seaming early on but once the ball got old, it started coming onto the bat better."

The seam movement that Saharan spoke of was offer in plenty for Limbani, who struck twice inside the first PowerPlay to pick up the wickets of Steve Stolk and David Teeger. Lhuan-dre Pretorius (76) and Richard

Seletswane (64) then added 72 runs for the third wicket but India managed to keep the scoring rate down in the middle overs. Musheer Khan broke that stand and then struck later to account for Oliver Whitehead's wicket too.

Luus (23* off 12) and Juan James (24 off 19) upped the challenge for India in the final overs, helping South Africa add 81 runs in the last 10 overs. But the middle overs hurt them, both with the bat and ball, and made the difference in the match.

It was a nervous victory for India but it was a victory nevertheless. Now they will face the winner of Australia vs Pakistan semi-final in the title clash.

Brief Scores: South Africa 244/7 (Pretorius 76; Limbani 3-60) lost to India 248/8 in 48.5 overs (Dhas 96, Saharan 81; Maphaka 3-32, Luus 3-37) by 2 wickets.

Zimbabwe to host India for T20I series

Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) have said they will host India for a five-match T20I series in July. All the matches will be played in Harare and kick off within a week after the conclusion of the T20 World Cup.

The matches will be played on July 6, 7, 10, 13 and 14 at the Harare Sports Club.

"The confirmation of this tour comes after productive discussions between ZC and the BCCI, with the primary objective of fortifying bilateral ties and fostering a spirit of collaboration between the

two cricketing boards," ZC said in a statement.

ZC Chairman Mr Tavengwa Mukhulani said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be hosting India for a T20I series in July in what will be our biggest international attraction at home this year.

"The game of cricket has always immensely benefited from India's influence and dedication to the sport, and I would like to say a huge thank you to the BCCI for committing to tour Zimbabwe once again.

"The significance and magnitude of this tour cannot be over-emphasised, especially as it is coming at a time we are working round the clock to re-establish ourselves as a force to reckon with at the highest level of the game."

BCCI Honorary Secretary Mr Jay Shah said: "The BCCI has always played a pioneering role in contributing to the global cricketing community. We understand that it is a period of rebuilding for Zimbabwe, and Zimbabwe

Cricket needs our support at this juncture.

"Our steadfast commitment to touring and supporting fellow member boards aligns with our principle of bringing about a positive transformation within the cricketing landscape. The BCCI will do its best to make bilateral cricket stronger and commercially more viable.

"Our pledge to support Zimbabwe Cricket reflects a shared vision for the growth and prosperity of cricket on the international stage."