

Chennai set to get largest cricket stadium

CHENNAI: Plans are afoot to bowl out Melbourne and Eden Garden cricket stadiums. **The world's largest cricket stadium is all set to come up near Chennai in time for World Cup 2011,** which India will co-host with **Pakistan**

,
Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The executive committee of the Tamil Nadu Cricket

Association will finalize the contractor to build the "ultra modern cricket stadium" on a 50-acre site in Karunkuzhipallam village in Kanchipuram district, 25km from the city. The stadium's name will be announced by the association after consultation with the state government.

The highlight of the stadium, besides the size and seating capacity, will be a retractable

roof to ensure matches don't get washed out during rain.

The stadium complex will occupy 30 acres. "The stadium will have more seating capacity than Eden Gardens or the Melbourne Cricket Ground, though we can't give an exact number at this stage. It will meet futuristic

safety standards,"
said TNCA honorary
secretary KS
Viswanathan.

Melbourne has a
seating capacity of
close to 1 lakh,
while Eden Gardens

**can accommodate
up to 90,000
spectators. The rest
of the area will be
used for two smaller
fields for research
and training,
besides
rehabilitation.**

TCS bags 5-year Singapore airline deal

**MUMBAI: India's
top software
exporter Tata
Consultancy
Services has
bagged a
five-year
multi-million-**

**dollar contract
from Singapore
Airlines Cargo.**

**As per the
agreement, SIA
Cargo has
outsourced its**

**cargo revenue
accounting
processes to
TCS.**

**"Singapore
Airlines and
TCS have**

**always enjoyed
a long lasting
relationship
which can be
termed more as
a partnership in
progress rather
than a**

**customer-service
e provider
relationship,"
TCS Asia Pacific
Executive
Vice-President
and Regional
Director Girija**

Pande said in a statement.

Although the company did not reveal the deal size, industry

**sources said it
could be over
100 million
dollars as SIA
Cargo, a
wholly-owned
subsidiary of
Singapore**

Airlines, is ranked fourth in the world in terms of international freight tone-kilometer.

**The airline has
a route
network that
covers more
than 39
countries.**

**TCS share
prices were up
1.6 per cent at
Rs 831.**

**Analyst
Gartner said
India's top**

**outsourcing
companies
were likely to
become the
next
generation of
"megavendors**

**" for IT
services by
2011,
competing for
deals worth
more than one
billion dollars.**

**Tata
Consultancy
Services,
Infosys
Technologies
and Wipro
would**

**increasingly
compete with
other top
players such
as IBM,
Accenture
and EDS for**

**those large
deals,
Gartner said.**

One-third of world's poor in India: Survey

**NEW
DELHI:
India is
home to
roughly
one-third of**

**all poor
people in
the world. It
also has a
higher
proportion**

**of its
population
living on
less than \$2
per day
than even**

**sub-Saharan
n Africa.**

**That is the
sobering
news**

**coming out
of the
World
Bank's
latest
estimates**

**on global
poverty.**

**The fine
print of the
estimates
also shows**

**that the
rate of
decline of
poverty in
India was
faster**

**between
1981 and
1990 than
between
1990 and
2005. This**

**is likely to
give fresh
ammunitio
n to those
who
maintain**

**that
economic
reforms,
which
started in
1991, have**

**failed to
reduce
poverty at
a faster
rate.**

**India,
according
to the new
estimates,
had 456
million**

**people or
about 42%
of the
population
living
below the**

**new
international
poverty
line of
\$1.25 per
day. The**

**number of
Indian poor
also
constitute
33% of the
global**

**poor,
which is
pegged at
1.4 billion
people.**

**India also
had 828
million
people, or
75.6% of**

**the
population
living
below \$2 a
day. Sub-S**

aharan

Africa,

considere

d the

world's

**poorest
region, is
better — it
has 72.2%
of its**

**population
n (551m)
people
below the
\$2 a day**

level.

Anwar

Ibrahim,

scored a
bigger
than
expected

Malaysia

■
■

Malaysia'

s

best-kno

wn

oppositi

on

**politician
, Anwar
Ibrahim,
scored a**

**bigger
than
expected
victory in**

a

by-electi

on on

Tuesday,

**boosting
his
chances
of**

**becomin
g the
country's
next**

**prime
minister.
Anwar,
whose**

**campaign
for the
parliamentary**

**seat
vacated
by his
wife has**

**been
dogged
by
charges**

of
sodomy,
won a
majority

of 15,671
over his
governm
ent

**opponen
t.**

He said

he would
initiate a
vote to
topple

**the
coalition
that has
ruled**

**Malaysia
for five
decades.
"The**

**message
is clear,
we in
Permata**

**ng Pauh
and in
Malaysia,
we**

**demand
change
for
freedom**

**and
justice,"
Anwar
told a**

**jubilant
crowd of
thousan
ds of**

**people
gathered
in a
football**

**stadium
who
were
chanting**

**"reforma
si"
(reform)
and**

"merdek

a"

(freedom

).

**''We
want an
independ
ent**

**judiciary,
we want
the
economy**

to

benefit

the vast

majority

**not the
corrupt
few,"**

Anwar,

who was

wearing

a

colourful

**batik
shirt,
told the
cheering**

**crowd.P
olitical
analysts
had said**

**that the
man who
was
once a**

**rising
star in
the
governm**

**ent and
is now
seeking
to oust it**

**from
power
had
needed**

**to win by
at least
the
13,388**

**majority
his wife
won
when**

she
conteste
d the
seat in

March's general election.

**That
Anwar
won by
much**

more

gives

him a

real shot

at
tempting
the 30
governm

ent

legislator

s to join

his

**three-par
ty
coalition
and that**

will

enable

him to

win

**power in
a
confiden
ce vote**

**that he
has said
he will
call for**

**Septemb
er.**

UK

govern

ment

now

targetin g Islam

**If the
British
govern
ment is**

**attempti
ng to
interfere
in the**

**Muslim
community
on
matters**

of Islam by funding a board

**of
theologi
ans, it is
being**

**“wrong-
headed”
as such
a panel**

would
have no
credibilit
y,

**accordin
g to
editor of
The**

Muslim News, Ahmed J Versi.

**"Other
govern
ments
have**

tried to

impose

their

views to

control

Islam

and

have

**failed. It
has
been
counter-**

**producti
ve and
divisive,
"Versi**

said. "It
will be
perceive
d that

**the
whole
strategy
of the**

UK Government on tackling

**extremis
m is to
target
not just**

**extremis
ts but
Islam
itself,"**

he said.

His

warning

comes

as

Communi

nities

**Secretary Hazel
Blears
was**

**announc
ing the
Govern
ment's**

latest package of measure

s as

"Winning

g Hearts

and

Minds'' of the Muslim commun

ity. The
launch
of
"Prevent

ing
Violent
Extremi
sm:

Next Steps for Communi

nities"
included
funding
a board

**of some
20
theologi
ans,**

who

have yet

to be

named,

**under
the
auspice
s of**

Oxford and Cambridge

university.

Speakin

g from t

he

inter-fait

h

**conferen
ce in
Madrid,
he said**

that

there

was

unanimous

us

agreement

nt

among

Jewish, Christia n and Muslim

**delegate
s that
religion
does not**

**breed
extremis
m but
there**

**are a
variety
of
complex**

issues

that is

the

problem

