



mustread

SC allows Sanjay Dutt to shoot abroad

New Delhi: Bollywood actor and Samajwadi Party General Secretary Sanjay Dutt, who is on bail in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, was on Friday allowed by the Supreme Court to go abroad for six months for the shooting of five films. Dutt has to take the permission of the apex court before leaving the country.

NRI in hospital for suspected swine flu

Hyderabad: An NRI woman was on Friday admitted to a hospital here with suspected symptoms of swine flu, soon after she landed here from the United States. The woman was shifted to Andhra Pradesh Chest Hospital straight from the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, after she was found with symptoms.

'No urgent hearing of plea against Modi'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to give a hearing on priority basis to a petition seeking contempt action against Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks in connection with the probe ordered against him and others for post-Godhra riots.

Paanwala's son clears IAS

Lucknow: Pradeep Shukla (24), son of a *paanwala* from Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh, has cleared the civil services examination in his first attempt. Shukla secured the 427th rank.

Nation

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MUMBAI, SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009 PAGE 9



91.92% pass Kerala Class 10 exam

A total pass percentage of 91.92 has been recorded in Kerala's Secondary School Leaving Certificate exam held in March. Nearly 4.5 lakh candidates appeared for the examination in 2,731 centres in Kerala, Lakshadweep and the Gulf.

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Indian docs develop 'nano' cancer drug

A first in the world, it is a modified version of the existing drug used to treat many types of cancer. Human trials are awaited, but if successful it will dramatically increase chances of cancer patients' survival

Hindustan Times Exclusive

Neha Bhayana
Mumbai, May 8

A GROUP of Indian researchers has modified an existing cancer drug in a way that is likely to make it several times more potent.

The team has developed a "nano" version of carboplatin, a drug used to treat many cancers through chemotherapy.

Essentially, the innovation lay in the way the researchers manipulated the drug molecule to make it smaller and render it more effective. The team has applied for patents in India and in the US for the innovation and its application.

During trials on rats, the researchers found that 75 per cent of the modified drug reached the cancerous cells, as opposed to just 5 per cent for the normal drug.

"This is a very good development," said C.H. Mohan Rao, head of the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology. "If this nano version works in humans, it will dramatically decrease toxicity and increase the chances of cancer patients' survival."

The research is being published in the next edition of the US medical journal *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences*.

The research team claims that this is the first "nano" ver-



CURE-ALL FORMULA

■ Researchers manipulated the drug molecule to make it smaller and render it more effective.

■ They took commercially available carboplatin and used nanotechnology — the manipulation of materials at a microscopic level — to break it down.

■ During trials on rats, the researchers found that 75 per cent of the modified drug reached the cancerous cells, as opposed to just 5 per cent for the normal drug.

■ While researchers tested the drug for retinoblastoma or eye cancer in rats, human trials will also include tests for brain and kidney tumours.

sion of carboplatin in the world and also the first time a completely Indian team has developed such a version of a cancer drug.

Indian scientists were involved in developing a "nano" form of another cancer drug, paclitaxel, but they did it in collaboration with scientists abroad, Rao said.

But this drug has not lived up to the initial expectations. "We have been using nano particles of paclitaxel for breast cancer treatment for two to three years. It has improved the outcome only by five to seven per cent, which is not good enough," said Dr S.D. Banavali, head of medical oncology at Mumbai's Tata Memorial Hospital, who was also involved in the research.

The research team, headed by eye cancer expert Dr Debraj Shome of Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad, has tested carboplatin for retinoblastoma in rats, but they will start human trials soon and also test it for brain and kidney tumours.

Retinoblastoma is a rapidly developing cancer which develops in the cells of the retina, the light sensitive cells of the eye. Retinoblastoma is a very treatable cancer.

The nano carboplatin particles, which are one-billionth the size of a pinhead, have smaller molecules. So they are more potent even in smaller doses, explained Dr Jayesh Bellare, who was part of the research team along with other colleagues from the Indian Institute of Technology,

Bombay.

Researchers took commercially available carboplatin and used nanotechnology — the manipulation of materials at a microscopic level — to break it down.

"We added certain agents to the molecules due to which 10 to 100 molecules stuck together and formed nanoparticles," Bellare said.

Dr Shome said they injected the nano carboplatin around one eye of two dozen rats and normal carboplatin around the other eye. "We found that 75 per cent more of the drug reached the eye near which we had injected the nano version," said Dr Shome. "The trial proves that reducing the size of the drug increased its delivery to the affected area."

Every year, retinoblastoma affects 1,200 Indian children under the age of three.

Carboplatin is usually injected in the child's bloodstream or near the eye. But less than five per cent gets carried to the eye and it causes damage all over the body.

In majority of the cases, doctors have to remove the patients' affected eye and some children even die as the cancer spreads rapidly.

Banavali said with nano carboplatin, doctors might be able to save the eyes of a greater number of children. But he added that they would have to wait and see how effective the nano form of carboplatin is in humans.

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Facebook goes desi, speaks Hindi, other Indian tongues

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, May 8

facebook

THE WORLD'S trendiest social networking site, Facebook, went *desi* on Friday.

Facebook, following market leader Orkut owned by search giant Google, has introduced new features that can help members navigate in Hindi, Tamil and other regional Indian languages such as Bengali, Punjabi, Malayalam and Telugu.

Users can change language settings through the 'settings' tab or through the language option on the bottom left on their Facebook homepage. In the increasingly multilingual Web, one can already cut and paste Tamil and Hindi scripts.

The latest move helps instructions for browsing in Indian languages, but Facebook is not yet enabled for transliteration that enables instant conversion of the English script turning into phonetic-based texts in other languages.

Facebook users can only browse through the site in the five regional languages and not message each other or update their status in these yet unless they cut and paste already transliterated messages.

Rival Google has Indic language transliteration with its social networking site Orkut in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

Facebook is the second most popular networking site in India after Orkut, according to market research firm comScore.

Orkut reigned as the most visited social networking site in India at the end of 2008 with over 12.8 million visitors of the total 19.3 million, three times the size of its nearest competitor Facebook that recorded 4 million visitors during the year.

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Mission green: SC bans mining in Aravali hills

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, May 8

TERMING ENVIRONMENT and ecology as national assets, the Supreme Court on Friday suspended all mining activities in the Aravali hills in Haryana, striking a blow to attempts to decimate the national capital region's green belt.

The order means that there can be no mining in a vast area of 448 square km — more than a third the size of Delhi's 1,438 sq km — across

Faridabad, Gurgaon and Mewat — that was once supposed to be set aside for a national park.

Maintaining that environment and ecology were subject to inter-generational equity, the court invoked the Principle of Sustainable Development, which, it said, was a part of Article 21 the Constitution (right to life).

The order was passed by a three-judge green bench headed by Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan.



COURT UPDATE

<http://htblogs.com>
from our
BLOGS


POORNAM SAXENA

By The Way on celebrities and their penchant for controversy

I'm the last person on earth who has any sympathy for all those people who take celebrities to court at the drop of a hat — or pop of a button in the case of Akshay and Twinkle. I'm always puzzled about how people have the time and the inclination to write lengthy, complicated legal complaints...



SUATA ANAND

Singly Political on dealing with snubs and insults from politicians

Some years ago, when Sitaram Kesri had pulled support from the Deve Gowda government in New Delhi, I called Sharad Pawar to ascertain what he would do — would he split the Congress to support Gowda, would he go along with Kesri (whom he abhorred) or would he make...



SAMAR HALARNKAR

Our daily Bread shares some recipes for *doi maach*

Readers of this blog will know how much I love fish. I can eat it for breakfast, lunch and dinner (and in between). I can eat it dried (<http://blogs.hindustantimes.com/my-daily-bread/2009/02/19/the-divinity-of-dried-fish/>), fried, grilled, curried, deep fried, stir-fried and — in the case of sushi — raw.

To read the complete blog posts log onto htblogs.com

Hindustan Times finds that a year after Supreme Court upheld new reservation quota, OBC students are still struggling for facilities at institutes

It's second year of quotas for backward groups, but campuses still not ready

Chitrangada Choudhury
New Delhi, May 8

FINDING ENOUGH water, electricity and hostel rooms are the issues troubling V.K. Jain, registrar of Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, as he tries to find place for the 300 new students from other backward communities (OBCs).

"We have built a new hostel, which should be opened this academic session," said Jain, whose campus has about 5,500 students. "But that will still keep more than 1,000 students on the waiting list." He'll also need 95 new teachers, and is planning new buildings for each of JNU's 14 departments.

As some of India's most well-known educational institutions enter the second academic year since the Supreme Court upheld 27 per cent reservation for students from OBCs in centrally-aided institutions, campuses are still struggling to provide for the flood of students.

Most institutions assured the Centre last year that they would implement the quotas in phases, over three years.

They said they would also increase general admissions, so students without affirmative action do not end up battling for fewer places. This means the number of students, by 2011, will increase by 54 per cent. That target looks unlikely



HT FILE PHOTO

Delhi medical students protest against reservation.

ly as they struggle to reach quotas of 8 to 18 per cent this year.

At Delhi University where colleges have to take in nearly 19,000 more students by 2011, Dean, Students Welfare, S. Vij said: "We've got financial sanction for additional services from classrooms, labs, books and libraries, because all this is under pressure. The amount of personal attention teachers could give students is however decreasing."

At Ahmedabad's Indian Institute of Management, administrator N. Pillai said they started a six per cent reservation last year. This will go to 13 per cent this year, less than half the promised quota. Pillai said new infrastructure, like hostels, was being put in place.

Some universities aren't doing anything this year. "We have not received any

intimation from the HRD (Human Resource Development) Ministry to implement the OBC quotas," said Rakshanda Jalil, spokesperson for Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia, which is ignoring affirmative action in its admissions for 2009.

A senior HRD ministry official, requesting anonymity as he is not authorised to speak to the media, said Jamia was told to draft an expansion plan last July, but it did not.

At the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Registrar V. Gupta said up to nine per cent of the quotas were implemented last year. But this year there will be no progress towards the 27 per cent mark.

He said: "There are financial and infrastructure problems."

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CITIES CORNER IIT SEATS

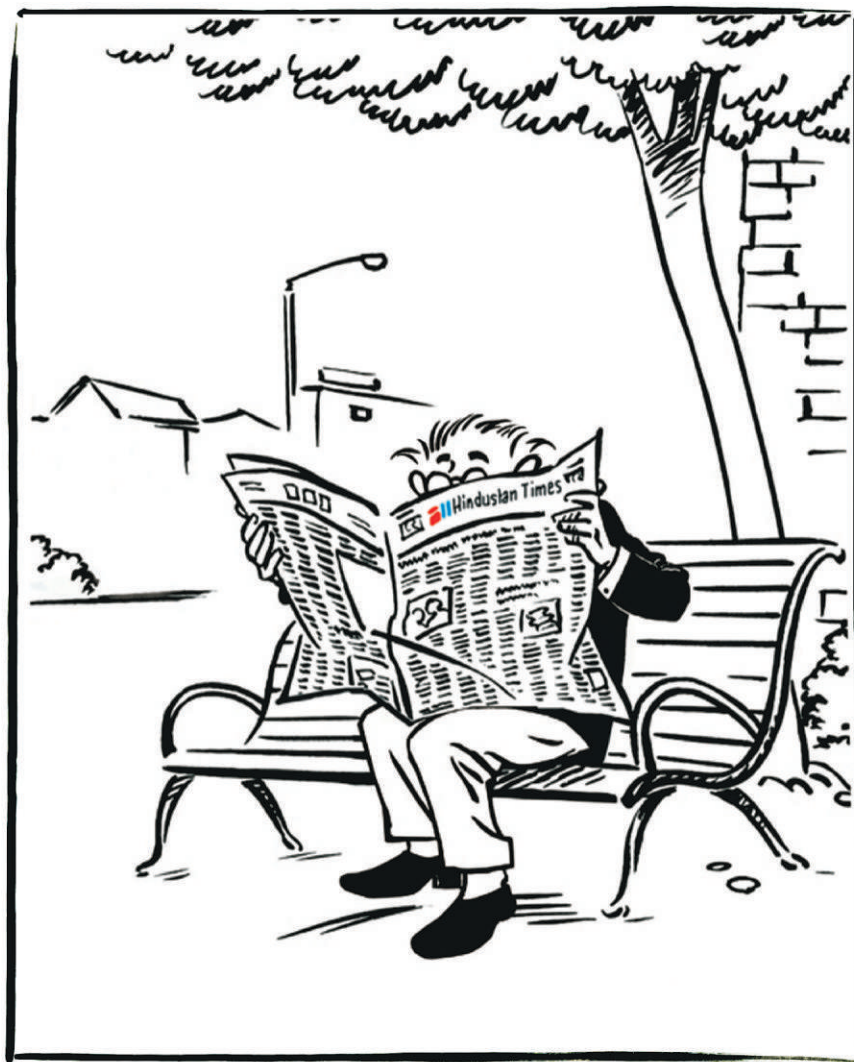
LIVING IN an urban area. Attending a coaching institute. Educated professionals as parents. Studying in a school affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education and the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education.

THESE ARE the privileges common to students who make it to India's elite Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT).

THOSE ARE also the privileges not available to students from India's disadvantaged communities: Scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward communities. So, students from such castes and tribes cannot make up even their reserved quotas of 22.5 per cent.

THESE ARE the findings of a study conducted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, which sifted through data on 2.7 lakh students who appeared for the IITs' joint entrance exams.

SO HOW many students from rural India make it to IIT? Only 6 per cent.



Delhi's No. 1 English daily is now also Mumbai's fastest growing.

Hindustan Times

Opening minds, changing lives.

The IRS figures are in: Hindustan Times is the No.1 English daily in Delhi + NCR Market. While in Mumbai, the Hindustan Times has grown by 44 %, with 1.67 lakh new readers, recording the highest growth amongst all dailies in Mumbai. Now that's good news.

* Growth in Daily Reach (AIR) in IRS R1 2009, over IRS R1 2008



JISHU DEV

Hyderabad, May 8

A SOFTWARE engineer will sweep the premises of a government-run hospital here for one month, in a novel punishment announced by the Andhra Pradesh High Court after the man was convicted of harassing two women.

M. Dinesh Kumar, 21, working with Dell Computers, was on Thursday ordered by Justice B. Chandrakumar to sweep the premises of Gandhi

Hospital for one hour daily.

He is allowed to choose the hour according to his convenience. However, to ensure that the court order is complied with, the judge asked the superintendent of the hospital to maintain a register for Dinesh Kumar to mark his attendance daily.

Dinesh Kumar and his friend Balarngasai, while going on a motorcycle on March 21, harassed two girls by pulling their *dupattas*.

While locals caught and beat up Balarngasai, Dinesh Kumar managed to escape. On a complaint by the girls' escort Venkatakrishna, police registered a case against the two.

The techie's plea for anticipatory bail was dismissed by the district court and he then approached the high court.

The judge directed the accused to surrender before the police within seven days.

IANS

