

Nature.com wins the Webby award 2008

Nature.com received its 'Oscar of the internet'¹ at the 12th Annual Webby awards in New York, USA. Receiving 10,000 entries from over 60 countries, the Webby award is the leading global award honouring excellence on the internet, that includes websites, on-line films and video and interactive advertising.

Nature Publishing Group (NPG)¹, a division of Macmillan Publishers, is dedicated to serving the scientific and medical society under its flagship title *Nature*, and was established in 1869. NPG publishes the top 20 journals (by impact factor in science) and was recognized as the leading publisher of high-

impact, high-quality scientific journals according to the 2007 *Journal Citation Report*^{2,3}. *Nature*, with an impact factor of 28.751, is the number-one multidisciplinary science journal ahead of its contender *Science* (26.372)^{2,3}.

Apart from providing access to prestigious academic journals, Nature.com also presents news and features on 'Nature news', and scientific career information and free job postings on 'Naturejobs'. NPG's social networking service 'Nature network' connects scientists at global and national levels. With the success of the weekly 'Nature podcast', NPG has constructed its own in-house podcast studio.

In 2003, NPG launched 'Connotea', the document tagging and social bookmarking website. Nature.com also hosts country-focused portals such as 'Nature China' and 'Nature India', 'NPG blogs' and the preprint service 'Nature Precedings'.

1. www.nature.com, retrieved 20 July 2008.
2. <http://scientific.thomson.com/free/essays/journalcitationreports/impactfactor/>
3. <http://scientific.thomsonreuters.com/products/jcr>

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India makes its mark in the Arctic

Twenty-five years after establishing its permanent research base in the Antarctica, India made its presence in the Arctic with the inauguration of its research base 'Himadri' recently. This was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Science and Technology, Kapil Sibal. It will carry out round-the-year scientific research in Arctic sciences with a focus on global warming and climate change¹. Research will be carried out in multidisciplinary areas of Arctic sciences like biology, glaciology, geology, marine science, aurora physics, environmental science, rocket-probe studies, climate change monitoring, etc.

Himadri is situated at Ny-Alesund (78°55'N, 11°56'E) on the west coast of

Spitsbergen, part of the Svalbard archipelago of Norway. Ny-Alesund is the northernmost international research village where logistics is managed by Kings Bay, a Norwegian Government-owned company. The Svalbard archipelago, part of the high Arctic region, is a permafrost zone where the ground is frozen all the year round².

Himadri will function under the coordination of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), an autonomous R&D Institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, based in Goa. NCAOR has been coordinating India's Antarctic research programme.

India gets access to Arctic because of being a party to the Svalbard treaty of

1920. The Indian Arctic programme that started in 2007 as a small group of five scientists has expanded to become a full-fledged research station and with this, India became the tenth country to establish a research station at Ny-Alesund. The other countries with permanent research stations in the Arctic are Norway, Germany, France, the UK, Italy, Japan, South Korea and China.

1. www.ncaor.gov.in
2. *Deccan Herald*, 2 July 2008.

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Abhishek Dhar wins ICTP Prize

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy has awarded the ICTP Prize for the year 2008 to Abhishek Dhar of Raman Research Institute, Bangalore and Zhong Fang, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. The press release announcing the Prize, mentions that Dhar has been honoured for 'his outstanding contributions to non-equilibrium statistical me-

chanics of transport and fluctuation phenomena, classical as well as quantum mechanical. His exact and insightful results have clarified subtle issues, and corrected several misconceptions, especially about heat conduction¹.

The ICTP Prize was instituted in 1982 in honour of the theoretical physicist Pierre-Gilles de Gennes (1932–2007), who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics

in 1991. The Prize is awarded to young scientists who have made outstanding and original contributions to physics and mathematics and are less than 40 years of age and working in a developing country. The Prize includes a sculpture, certificate and a cash prize.

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