

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO.904 OF 2005

Ehsanul Hoque A. Nadvi

..Petitioner.

Vs.

Union of India & Ors.

..

Respondents.

...

Mr. Akhilesh Upadhyaya for the petitioner.

Ms. P.A. Purandare for respondent No.6.

Mr. T.N. Jariwala for respondent No.8.

....

**CORAM : DALVEER BHANDARI, C.J.&  
DR.D.Y.CHANDRACHUD, J.**

April 20, 2005

P.C. :

1. Notice to the respondents to show cause why the petition be not admitted, returnable on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2005. The learned counsel waives service of notice for respondent Nos.6 and 8. Notice now be issued only to the remaining respondents.

2. We direct the respondents to file reply affidavit within two weeks from today, with an advance copy to the learned counsel for the petitioner, who will be at liberty to file rejoinder, if any, before the adjourned date.

3. Meanwhile, we restrain the respondents from removal and/or cutting, damaging of Gillbert Hill in any manner situated at Andheri (West).

CHIEF JUSTICE

DR.D.Y.CHANDRACHUD, J.

# TIMES CITY

\* THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2006

SATIONS SAY THERE ARE STILL  
IMPLEMENTATION | 5

THE LONGEST-SERVING BMC CO  
THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN TONY S

Public Interest Litigations To Cut Through Red Tape In 200



New courts

# PILLS FOR A HEALTHIER MUMBAI



## Saving Gilbert Hill

Efforts to protect the pre-historic Gilbert Hill in Andheri — dating back nearly 65 million years to the Mesozoic era — received a boost because Ehsanul Nadvi, a resident of the area, focused the court's attention to the damage caused by encroachments to the 200-foot-high monolith





# High court comes to rescue of Gilbert Hill

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Prashant Nair

**Mumbai:** The Bombay high court has come to the rescue of the pre-historic Gilbert Hill in Andheri. Hearing a PIL on the dangers posed to the hill by haphazard construction activity nearby, a division bench of Justices R M Lodha and A S Bagga has directed that an IIT-Bombay team be appointed to inspect the hill and submit a report.

The team, the judges said, will have to check whether constructions nearby have caused any damage to the hill or if any portion of the basalt rocks have been cut or removed by the builders.

Gilbert Hill is a 200-foot-high monolith column of black basalt rock and is estimated to date back nearly 65 million years to the Mesozoic era. Created by molten lava, the hill is considered to be a rare geological phenomenon and similar to such formations in other parts of the world including the Devil's Tower in Wyoming and the Devil's Post Pile National Monument in eastern California, USA.

A temple and a dargah are today in existence on top of the hill which affords a panoramic view of the city. Many Bollywood films, including a



**IN FOCUS:** An IIT team will inspect the pre-historic hill

scene from the blockbuster 'Sholay' were filmed on the hill. It has been designated a national monument by the Geological Survey of India and was declared a national park in the 1950s.

According to the PIL filed by city businessman Ehsan Nadvi, there were largescale encroachments at the base of the hill in the 1990s. Two builders, Sagar and Cordcon, later obtained permission from the slum rehabilitation authority and have constructed seven buildings around it.

"Constructions and developments near the hill pose a danger to the hill," said advocate Akhilesh Upadhyay, counsel for the petitioner. "In the US and other parts of the world, such structures are preserved and protected." He informed the court that on the northern aspect of the hill, a large area had been excavated for construction. He stressed on the need to impose some curbs on development near it.

The HC has already stayed all constructions around the hill for the past one year.



























