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INDIA KNOCKED OUT AS
LANKA BEAT AUSTRALIA
TO ENTER FINALS 21

IOA REFUSES TO TAKE
ACTION AGAINST
KALMADI 26

AARUSHI MURDER CASE: SC
REFUSES TO SHIFT TRIAL
TO DELHI FROM GZB 3

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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2012

India foils Swiss MNC's bio-piracy bid

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: India has successfully foiled a bio-piracy bid by a Swiss multinational firm to patent an age-old Indian home remedy — milk as a laxative.

Nestec SA had filed a patent application at the European Patent Office (EPO) on May 12, 2009, claiming the usefulness of cow milk for the treatment of constipation and as a laxative to be its unique finding.

However, cow milk is being used alone or in combination with other ingredients for treating constipation and as a laxative in traditional Indian medicine systems for hundreds of years. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Union health ministry's department of Ayush sent the EPO references of the remedy from several ancient Indian texts dated between 5th century and 20th century.

This led to the applicant withdrawing its claim and patent application on January 24. "Within 16 weeks of India providing evidence, the three-year-old attempt by a Swiss company was struck down by the EPO," a health ministry official said.