

AIIMS TRIAL ON REPURPOSED DRUGS

Ref: The Sunday Times, 01.09.2019



Doctors at AIIMS, New Delhi, have been conducting clinical trials on repurposed drugs and prescribing cheaper therapies. In the case of single cycle immune therapy for treatment of Guillain-Barre-Syndrome(GBS), and acute inflammatory disorder of the peripheral nervous system, costs usually range from between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 8 lakh. Physicians have been recommending steroids that cost less than Rs 5,000 and are equally effective to those who cant afford to bear the costs. Drug repositioning can support in reducing the cost expenditure while safeguarding access to quality healthcare. Often, researchers lack funding to undertake clinical trials and pharmaceutical companies can be disinterested in repurposing generic drugs as it would fetch them little financial returns. Moreover, India does not offer patent protection for new uses of known drugs.

SCIENTISTS NOVATE GROW TOOTH ENAMEL

Ref: The Times of India, Monday, 02.09.2019



Scientists from China’s Zhejiang University have recently discovered a way to grow back tooth enamel, a development that could spell the end of fillings as a method to repair cavities. They have been able to create a gel that makes tooth enamel repair itself within only 48 hours. Enamel is formed biologically, but once it matures it

becomes A-cellular and thus is devoid of the ability to self-repair. As a consequence, caries – or tooth decay – are one of the most prevalent chronic diseases in humans.

CLEAN-UP ON TRASH MOUNTAINS

Ref: The Times of India, Sunday 01.09.2019



Initiating a major step towards clearing legacy waste at three of the New Delhi city’s landfills, the corporations have invited tenders for starting bioremediation work at Okhla, Bhalswa and Ghazipur dumpsites. The civic bodies will hire trommel machines for biomining and bioremediation at these three locations, as directed by National green Tribunal. In a suo moto action, National Green Tribunal has dismissed plans to cap the landfills and, instead, directed them to follow the “Indore model” of biomining. Bioremediation and Biomining is the process used to sub-surface material by altering environment conditions to stimulate growth of microorganisms and degrade pollutants.

MEDICAL DEVICES PRICES

Ref: Mint, Monday, 02.09.2019



The primary reason for a high neonatal mortality rate according to a UNICEF report in India is nearly half the babies that are being born, especially in rural areas and small towns, are born outside a hospital. A. Vijayarajan, CTO and co-founder of Bengaluru-based Inn Accel, whose mission is to develop novel medical devices for

India has developed a device called Saans, named after “breath” in Hindi. The portable device can provide continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) support – to keep airways of patient with respiratory problems open – even to a new born being transported to a hospital in an autorickshaw. These massive healthcare problems in the country also create opportunities for innovations that could be taken to global markets.

DRONE TECH FOR RESCUE

Ref: The Economic Times, Tuesday, 03.09.2019



A team of students at IIT Madras has developed a drone technology that can help in rescue and relief operations, after natural disasters. The team’s artificial intelligence (AI)- based solution is used in combination with drones that use swarm intelligence to collect data and analyse it in real-time. The project is being executed with data inputs from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The drone, or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), will have a software that will be compatible with standard drones available in the market. If successfully launched, it can serve as a powerful tool for saving lives and aiding in disaster relief and humanitarian aid operations.

GLOVE FOR PROSTHETICS

Ref: The Times of India, Thursday, 05.09.2019



Scientists have developed an electronic glove that can be worn over a prosthetic hand to provide human-like softness, warmth, appearance and sensory perception, such as the ability to sense

pressure, temperature and hydration. People with hand amputations experience difficult daily life challenges, often leading to lifelong use of prosthetic hands and services. The e-glove uses thin, flexible electronic sensors and miniaturized circuit chips on the commercially available nit-rile glove. It is connected to a specially designed wristwatch, allowing for real-time display of sensory data and remote transmission to the user.

LUPIN AND BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM SIGN \$700MN DEAL

Ref: Mint, Thursday 05.09.2019



Lupin has recently signed a \$700 million licensing, development and commercialization agreement with German drugmaker Boehringer Ingelheim to develop a new drug for patients suffering from difficult-to-treat cancers. As per the agreement, Lupin would also be entitled to receive double-digit royalties on the sales on the sales of the product. The firm is looking to develop its MEK inhibitor compound in combination with one of Boehringer Ingelheim’s Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene homolog (KRAS) inhibitors for gastrointestinal and lung cancer patients that have a broad range of oncogenic KRAS mutations.

MEITY MAY RELAX NORMS ON CONTENT

Ref: The Economic Times, Friday, 06.09.2019



Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is considering dropping a contentious clause from the draft

intermediary guidelines that required companies to develop automated tools to 'actively' monitor content on Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook and other platforms. The clause around automated tools to 'actively' monitor content had been a long-standing demand of the home ministry and were included in the draft guidelines. However, this clause has been strongly opposed by global tech giants and civil society members who have said this could raise concerns around 'censorship', thus curbing freedom of expression and would require them to reengineer their products. This would also invite strong criticism for violating privacy. The idea is how this double-edged sword can be used effectively to fuel growth in positive direction.

LEGAL RECOURSE OPEN FOR HOMEBUYERS

Ref: The Times of India, Tuesday, 10.09.2019



In a significant ruling Delhi high court has held that homebuyers can approach both the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and Rera against errant builders as their jurisdictions are "concurrent". The court held that the proceedings under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 can be started by homebuyers (or allottees of properties in proposed real estate development projects) against developers even after enactment of the Real Estate (Development and Regulation) Act, 2016 commonly known as Rera. This will bring certain respite to the housing and real estate sector that is constantly reeling under the stress of an impasse between the homebuyers and builders, developers at various fronts.

SC BACKS WILL OF SENIORS

Ref: The Times of India, Friday, 13.09.2019



Apex Court has recently held that in case parents transfer property to an offspring who took care of them in old age, it cannot be assumed that the individual exerted any undue influence or coercion on them to corner a bigger share of property and dispossessed his or her sibling. Drawing conclusions based on assumptions without requisite evidence would have undesirable consequences as people who take care of aged parents will be at the receiving end from siblings who chose to be less dutiful.

UNIQUE IB NUMBER FOR LANDHOLDINGS SOON

Ref: The Economic Times, Wednesday, 18.09.2019

The infographic is titled "A Unique Number for Your Plot". It contains the following text:

- GOVT PLANS** to issue unique identity number to each landholding
- NUMBER WILL** be GIS-tagged
- IT WILL** provide exact location of the plot
- Unique number will have details of all previous transactions, ownership history & plot size
- Revenue generation details could also be available
- HOW WILL IT HELP?**
 - Bring transparency in landholdings
 - Easier access to credit
 - Proper land titles will help attract investors
 - Reduce numerous litigations related to land
- Streamline process for acquiring land for public and private purposes

 The infographic also features a small icon of a person and a magnifying glass.

Owing to the discrepancy plaguing the housing and real estate sector, assigning unique numbers to plots of land would facilitate real estate transactions, help resolve property taxation issues and improve disaster planning and response efforts, besides making it easier to acquire land for public projects. In order to increase transparency and bring an end to dubious land ownership, the rural development ministry has started working on assigning a standardized unique number for each surveyed plot. All issues related to sale/purchase, collection of taxes and ownership of the plot can be traced using one single number. This new endeavour

hopefully steers the growth in positive direction.

RESPIRE FOR MAHESH MURTHY

Ref: The Times of India, Thursday 19.09.2019



Bombay HC has recently quashed a 2004 sexual harassment case filed against angel investor Mahesh Murthy, noting that the reason for delay in filing the case 14 years later is not “properly explained”. Pursuant to a complaint filed by a woman, police had registered the case against Murthy in March 2018. The woman alleged that in February 2004, Murthy had touched her inappropriately and kissed her against her will. Murthy claimed that criminal law places a limitation on when certain offences can be filed. The division bench of the High Court eventually held that the magistrate, after expiry of the period of limitation, could not have taken cognizance of the charge-sheet.

PINKY BONE DNA

Ref: The Times of India, Saturday 21.09.2019



Researchers in Israel have reconstructed the skeleton of a pre-historic human from a long-extinct and elusive species using DNA found in the pinky bone of a 13-year-old girl who died 70,000 years ago. Little is known about the Denisovans, who were ancient relatives of the more familiar Neanderthals and our own species. Evidence was first uncovered in 2008 in a cave in Siberia, and today it includes only

three teeth, a pinky bone and a lower jaw. The researchers have developed a technology to decipher the ancient DNA and its gene activity. DNA could indicate the Denisovan’s dark skin, eyes and hair, but by mapping gene activity patterns, they could infer how the species stood out anatomically from modern humans or Neanderthals.

NRI AND INDIAN REAL ESTATE

Ref: Mint, Wednesday 25.09.2019



According to a World Bank report released recently, *Migration and Development Brief*, India is one of the top global remittance recipients. Typically, half of the remittances received by Indian residents are used for maintenance of families, followed by deposits in banks, but a major chunk is also invested in real estate. According to rules under FEMA, repatriation of proceeds from the sale of a property cannot exceed \$1 million in a financial year. However, if the property is inherited or gifted to the NRI, they may repatriate more than \$1 million per financial year. It is as important, or perhaps more, important for NRIs to do their due diligence before investing in real estate as it is for resident Indians. It makes sense to check the property title and the financial health of the builder, especially if you are opting for an under – construction project. Also, keep in mind that real estate is a highly illiquid asset.

BRAND/MARK ‘PE’

Ref: The Times of India, Wednesday 25.09.2019



PhonePe, and BharatPe have filed case in Delhi High Court over the usage of 'Pe' (pronounced as "Pay") in their app names, with the former claiming trademark rights over it and alleging infringement by the latter. The Delhi-based BharatPe, over the last nine months, has emerged as one of the fastest growing merchant payment companies, an area PhonePe is expanding aggressively into. The court refused to grant an injunction on PhonePe's original appeal. Interestingly, PhonePe and BharatPe had been arguing among themselves over them matter since August 2018, before the Bengaluru based company moved the court. In this case, PhonePe has challenged the usage of Pe as suffix in BharatPe's name in English as well as in Hindi – both in text and graphic description. The adjudication of this matter shall be a precedent having an impact on suffix and prefix of a generic word which per se has no meaning.

NCW SEEKING AMENDMENTS IN GUARDIANSHIP ACT

Ref: The Times of India, Saturday 28.09.2019

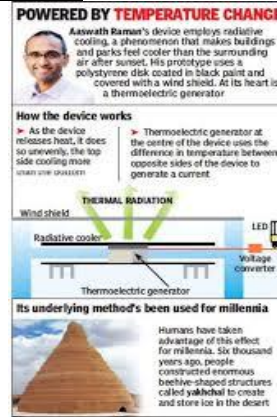


National Commission for Women is contemplating to recommend amendments to the statute Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, seeking to do away with the word "illegitimate" for children, making the mother an equal guardian as the father and expanding the definition of 'natural guardian' to include adoptive parents and grandparents. NCW is proposing changes with an intention to correct the preferential status of father with respect to natural guardianship. The section lays down that "the natural guardians of Hindu, minor, in respect of the minor's property are the father and after

him the mother". NCW will recommend the amendment to be "father or mother".

HARNESSING DARKNESS FOR LIGHT

Ref: The Times of India, Sunday, 15.09.2019



Aaswath Raman has recently demonstrated a way to harness a dark night sky to power a light bulb. The device that he uses employs the method of radiative cooling whereby buildings and parks feel cooler than the surrounding air after sunset. The device releases heat in a way that the top side cools more than the bottom thereby converting the difference in heat into electricity. This device invented by Raman resembles a hockey puck set inside a chafing dish. Though the challenge will be how more electricity can be produced with minimal cost, but this invention definitely marks a feat for the renewable energy sector.

IMPLEMENTATION OF IPR POLICY

Ref: The Economic Times, Monday 09.09.2019



With an aim to foster innovation and creativity in the areas of technology, science and humanity, new guidelines defining IPR policy of the academic institutions have been introduced by the Cell for IPR Promotion & Management. As per these guidelines, the patent rights shall continue to be vested in the academic

institution in case the student, researcher or faculty member uses the resources and funds provided by the institution for development of any product or a process. However, in case there is an express declaration by the institution regarding the product or process being invented by an individual using their own time and resources then in that case, the same shall vest with the individual inventor. It has been suggested that all academic institutions must mandatorily create an IP cell for effective implementation of the guidelines. Besides this, the cell will undertake conducting awareness sessions for faculty, researchers and students.

SRIVILLIPUTTUR "PALKOVA" SET TO GET GI TAG

Ref: The Hindu, Tuesday 10.09.2019



Famous Palkova from Srivilliputtur has been granted GI tag from Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai recently. Palkova is a sweet made from cow milk and sugar which is manufactured in and around the municipality of Srivilliputtur in Virudhunagar district. What makes this product unique is that it is only made using milk from cows reared in and around the town of Srivilliputtur. The milk is naturally sweet and only a small amount of sugar is added to the product. The average shelf life of this product is 7-10 days. GI tag will definitely impact the farming community in this region who would now be able to claim as the product of their own hard work 2000 kg of palkova produced everyday attracting consumers across the globe.

BENETT COLEMAN RESTRAINS 'MISS INDIA' & 'MR INDIA'

Ref: Livelaw.in, Monday, 16.09.2019



In the case titled Bennett, Coleman and Company Limited & Ors. V. Rising India Entertainment Production & Ors., the Delhi High Court has passed an order restraining any organisation from holding beauty pageant competitions with the title 'Miss India' or 'Mr India', or with any other title deceptively similar to them. The court categorically held that using these titles would amount to infringement of trademark enjoyed by the Bennett Coleman group.



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