

### **BHARAT BIOTECH TIES UP WITH OCUGEN**

**Ref: [business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com), Tuesday, 02.02.2021**



Covaxin will now soon be available in the US market after Bharat Biotech's tie up with a Nasdaq-listed biopharmaceutical company Ocugen. This company essentially focuses on developing and commercializing gene therapies to cure blindness related diseases. This company will have the rights to the vaccine candidate in US market and will also be responsible for clinical development, regulatory approval (including EUA) and commercialization for the US market.

### **ASTRAZENECA INSTRUMENTAL FOR PANDEMIC**

**Ref: [business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com), Thursday, 04.02.2021**



A new study has revealed startling facts regarding the vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, which not only protects people from serious illness and death but also substantially slows the transmission of the virus. The researchers measured the impact on transmission by swabbing participants every week seeking to detect signs of the virus. If there

is no virus present, even if someone is infected, it cannot spread further. And they found a 67 percent reduction in positive swabs among those vaccinated with this particular vaccine. This is certainly a welcome sign and shall help to contain the spread and transmission of this deadly virus that has brought the whole world to a standstill.

### **“CORONIL” RESTRICTION SET ASIDE**

**Ref: [thehindubusinessline.com](https://www.thehindubusinessline.com), Saturday, 06.02.2021**



Division Bench of Madras High Court has set aside single bench order restraining the company from using a trademark in relation to its immunity booster product 'Coronil'. The Bench while observing that Chennai based Arudra Engineering Private Limited's label is registered as a trademark and incorporates the word 'Coronil' but the same is not similar to that adopted by Patanjali. It was held that the mere use of the word 'Coronil' in the process of manufacture and sale of a tablet as an immunity booster is not going to be detrimental to distinctive character or repute of registered trademark of Arudra. Further it was also held that since the dispute is commercial in nature, the same should be decided by Commercial Division of High Court and disposed off in a time bound manner.

### **AUSTRALIA INTRODUCES LANDMARK LEGISLATION**

**Ref: [economictimes.indiatimes.com](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com), Friday, 12.02.2021**

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New Australian legislation will now make Alphabet's Google and Facebook pay publishers and broadcasters for content. This legislation being one of its kind is being closely watched around the world. As a countermeasure, Google has been striking deals of its own accord with media companies who have complained in the past that they have not been fairly compensated for articles and other content that generate revenue for the tech giant Google. This legislation includes a code of conduct that would allow media companies to bargain individually or collectively with digital platforms over the value of their news content. The code would only apply to media companies that register and are approved as legitimate.

**BILL INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA TO  
ABOLISH 5 TRIBUNALS**

**Ref: [livemint.com](http://livemint.com), Saturday, 13.02.2021**



A Bill for abolishing tribunals where public at large is not a litigant has been introduced in Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur. The main purpose behind the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalization and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021 is to streamline tribunals and provide a mechanism for filing appeal directly to Commercial Courts and High Court. The date for transfer of all these cases from tribunals to Commercial Courts and High Courts shall also be proposed in the Bill. Through this Bill, significant amendments will be introduced

in Cinematographic Act, 1952, the Customs Act, 1962, the Airport Authority of India Act, 1994, The Trade Marks Act, 1999 and the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Act, 2001. There is a proposal for winding up five tribunals including Airport Appellate Tribunal, Authority for Advance Rulings, Intellectual Property Appellate Board, Appellate Tribunal under Cinematographic Act and Plant Varieties Protection Appellate Tribunal. It was observed that these tribunals add up an additional layer of litigation as a result of which administrative requirements increase resulting into delay in disposal of these cases. Consequently, burden on public exchequer will be reduced and shortage of supporting staff will also be addressed. The time will be the perfect judge as to how effective these reforms will prove to be but in any case, speedy delivery of justice, saving of time and money as well as structured way of functioning will be valuable outcomes in the whole process.

**APEX COURT DISMISSES HUL'S SLP IN  
SEBAMED SOAP AD CASE**

**Ref: [moneycontrol.com](http://moneycontrol.com), Tuesday, 16.02.2021**



The Apex Court dismissed a Special Leave Petition filed by Hindustan Unilever against a German soap brand under the name and style Sebamed over disparaging advertisements. The entire issue escalated when Sebamed started releasing print advertisements targeting HUL brands namely Dove, Lux, Rin and Pears. Sebamed ad campaign attempted to highlight that Sebamed soaps are ideal for sensitive skin due to their pH levels but at the same time it claimed HUL products like Dove, Pears, Santoor and Lux having high pH levels. Supreme Court in this case refused to stay Bombay High Court order which allowed Sebamed to run ad campaign naming rival HUL's Dove soap. High Court had, in

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its interim order, restrained Sebamed from running an ad campaign. But SC order allowed the German company to use ads without naming RIN since it is detergent soap. Promoting one's own products by demeaning competitor's products is not a new phenomenon but when high end brands which have the consumer's trust resort to such business tactics, their work culture and ethics definitely create a dent in their own image from the perspective of long run.

**CABINET APPROVES AMENDMENTS TO JUVENILE LAW TO SAFEGUARD INTERESTS OF CHILDREN**

**Ref: [business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com), Wednesday, 17.02.2021**



Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the juvenile justice law to increase the scrutiny of child care institutions and enhance the role of district magistrates to ensure the set-up works in the best interests of children. A bill in this regard is expected to be brought in Parliament for amendment. This will expand the purview of The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015. There is also a proposal to appoint a nodal office in each embassy to monitor the child adopted abroad. Child victims of trafficking, drug abuse and those abandoned by their guardians will be included in the definition of "child in need of care" and protection under the amended law." At present, the act has three categories of petty, serious and heinous crimes. One more category will be included of offences where maximum sentence is more than 7 years but no minimum sentence is prescribed or minimum sentence of less than 7

years is provided shall be treated as serious offences within the JJ Act. The amendments also include authorizing district magistrate, additional district magistrate to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability. The district magistrates have been further empowered under the act to ensure its smooth implementation as well as garner synergized efforts in favor of children in distress conditions. Now the district child protection unit will also function under the district magistrate. Before becoming a member of the Child Welfare Committee, background and educational qualification checks will be included. A member of the child welfare committee has to mandatorily attend three-fourth the number of meetings after the amendment. The basic aim behind the amendments is to strengthen child protection set-up to ensure the best interest and safeguard the rights of the children.

**CONSUMER GROUPS FILE COMPLAINTS AGAINST TIKTOK FOR VIOLATING USER RIGHTS**

**Ref: [business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com), Wednesday, 17.02.2021**



After lodging a series of complaints with regulators, European Consumer Campaign Group BEUC issued a warning regarding the Chinese video sharing app, TikTok's breach of user rights on a massive scale. The app has been accused for an unfair copyright policy in addition to its failure to protect children as well as teenagers from harmful content. There have also been large scale security concerns with respect to Byte Dance Ltd.'s TikTok. Even though TikTok has always been arguing the steps it has been

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taking to address privacy concerns, the ground reality still points towards more than what meets the eye.

**CARRY BAGS COST UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICE**

**Ref: livelaw.in, Monday, 22.02.2021**



Consumer Court in Hyderabad directs “More Megastore” to discontinue its unfair trade practice of arbitrarily imposing additional cost of carry bags bearing its logo on the consumer at the time of making the payment. The District forum made it absolutely clear that this practice amounts to unfair trade practice under relevant Section of the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. This order was passed in a complaint filed by a law student and the Forum relied on recent ruling of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum in the case titled Big Bazaar (Future Retail Ltd.) v. Sahil Dawar whereby the Big Bazaar was restrained from imposing additional cost of carry bags bearing company logo. The Commission even went to the extent of holding that disclosing the price of carry bags at the payment counter also amounts to unfair trade practice. Government orders were also clarified in this case by the Consumer Forum according to which both Central and State Governments have held that a retailer can charge for plastic carry bags without using their company’s logo but carry bags sold having company’s logo should be supplied free of cost. This liberty is granted only on the condition that there is prior intimation and consent of consumers by displaying

information at conspicuous places in business premises.

**CONSENT DECREE - NO LONGER REQUIRES REGISTRATION**

**Ref: scconline.com, Thursday, 25.02.2021**



In the case titled Khushi Ram v. Nawal Singh, 2021 SCC Online SC 128, the Apex Court while clarifying settled position of law categorically held that in cases where the decree sought to be exhibited is with regards to property which is subject matter of suit is not covered by exclusionary clause of Section 17(2)(vi) and decree does not require any registration.



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