

Editorial Analysis

1 March 2022



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Using all options: On Covaxin licensing

The article emphasizes vaccination as the only way to control and recover from the effects of the second wave of the pandemic. Owing to the negligible percentage of the population vaccinated so far, completing vaccination of the remaining substantial number of people seems to be unachievable in a short span. The primary reason is the scarcity of supply and alternatives available in India.

The pharma companies have promised to augment the production and supply till other alternatives are made available to Indians. Also, the country has sought a waiver of the TRIPS agreement to revive from the worsening situations and come up with other vaccines.

As per the patent Act, section 100, the center allows specific companies to manufacture vaccines, but section 92 extends a relaxation to grant a compulsory license in case of exigencies.

The government must revisit this contradictory stand and allow production without the consent of the patent holder. For instance, ICMR which funded Bharat Biotech must step in and license other manufacturers to help increase production and supply. Likewise, other manufacturers can also chip in to augment vaccine production.

Words to look out for

Statutory:

- **Synonyms:** legal, lawful, legislative
- **Antonyms:** unofficial, illegal
- **Word usage:** The council sits for a statutory period of three years.

Waiver:

- **Synonyms:** release, abandonment, discharge
- **Antonyms:** accept, claim, face
- **Word usage:** By signing the waiver, the scuba diver assumed the risk of any accidents.

Augment:

- **Synonyms:** increase, magnify, supplement
- **Antonyms:** reduce, abridge, contract
- **Word usage:** Because I want to augment my income, I am thinking about getting a second job.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/using-all-options-the-hindu-editorial-on-covaxin-licensing/article34574280.ece>

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The Guardian view on working from home: a new social divide

The article highlights the post-pandemic challenges being faced in Britain these days with a special focus on work from home culture. A recent research stated that in 2019, only 5% of people used to work from home, which substantially rose to 50% during the first and 3rd lockdowns.

This remote working is more prevalent in high-paid, high-educated profiles causing them to migrate to developed suburbs in London. Supporting stats mentioned that 70% of the staff in Richmond upon Thames worked from home while in Burnley the figure was less than 14%.

The idea is to understand the implications of this shift. It is certainly predicted to have an impact on economic geography. Exemplifying the fact, the author mentions the closure of many urban office spaces. With online shopping on the boom, urban centers are being pushed towards closure.

For businesses, it is indeed profitable. But for employees the situation is complex. They are experiencing social disconnection, burnout, and struggling with lowered morale.

Some of the scholars predict online working to erode creativity and collaboration in the future, leaving the freshers with no experience of getting a feel of the organization and working together. Thus, more deep thinking is required to mitigate the downsides of the work from home culture.

Words to look out for

Affluent:

- **Synonyms:** wealthy, prosperous, rich
- **Antonyms:** poor, penniless, impoverished
- **Word usage:** Only affluent families could afford the top-dollar price tags attached to the homes in that neighborhood.

Swathe:

- **Synonyms:** envelope, wrap, cover
- **Antonyms:** expose, announce, appear
- **Word usage:** Wrapping the swathe around the wound, the good samaritan hoped that the bandage would hold until help arrived.

Loom:

- **Synonyms:** emerge, rise, appear
- **Antonyms:** fade, disappear, recede
- **Word usage:** When the storm begins to loom over the horizon, we will head back to the car.

Article Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/may/18/the-guardian-view-on-working-from-home-a-new-social-divide>

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