

# The pandemic is an opportunity to correct some historical wrongs

Sachin Chaturvedi writes: The 12th Ministerial Conference of WTO must grant TRIPs waiver for vaccines, Covid-related medical supplies

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Health worker vacinate a beneficiary at an urban primary health center in Nerul, Navi Mumbai (Express Photo by Amit Chakravarty)

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In the run-up to the 12th ministerial conference (MC-12) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), access to vaccines has emerged as the most contentious issue. The role of associated intellectual property, in the context of the pandemic, is being discussed since India and South Africa placed their joint proposal at the WTO in October 2020 and a revised proposal in May 2021. Though the TRIPs limitation for latecomers to the technology race was always described by developing countries as a historical injustice, the recent [Covid-19](#) pandemic is being seen as the final wake-up call for doing away with the historical wrongs in global norm-setting multilateral institutions.

