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No urgent relief to Serum Institute of India in Rs 100 Cr defamation case

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SII's suit is against the defendants who have been posting and circulating allegedly defamatory content against the company



Pune-based vaccine manufacturer Serum Institute of India (SII) would now have to wait till 3 January 2023 when the Bombay High Court will hear the matter for urgent reliefs in company’s Rs 100 crore defamation suit.

The company is seeking damages from organisations and individuals who were allegedly posting erroneous content against the Covishield vaccine manufacturer and its Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawalla.

A bench of Justice N J Jamadar has refused to pass any restraining order yesterday stating that the papers were bulky and that it did not have the time to pass an immediate order without hearing the parties.

SII's suit is against the defendants from Anarchy for Freedom India and Awaken India Movement, who have been posting and circulating allegedly defamatory content against the company.

According to the suit filed, the defendants have been posting content alleging that the COVID-19 vaccine Covishield, manufactured by SII in collaboration with Oxford University and AstraZeneca, has caused deaths of multiple persons due to side effects.

The SII plea for urgent relief was to temporarily restrain the defendants from publishing any content against the company and its employees. The defendants filed a counterclaim for withdrawal of suit and sought SII's prosecution for allegedly making incorrect statements about Covishield effects.

Justice Jamadar gave time to SII to respond before the next date of hearing on January 3, 2023. In case of urgent relief, the court granted liberty to the company to approach vacation court.