

## RUSSIA APPROVES ONE-DOSE 'SPUTNIK LIGHT'

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Health & Sanitation and related issues

Russia has authorised Sputnik Light, a single dose vaccine against COVID-19, for use. Sovereign wealth fund Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) on Thursday said the move will pave way for immunisation of a larger number of people in a shorter timeframe.

Sputnik Light is the first component — recombinant human adenovirus serotype number 26 (rAd26) — of Sputnik V vaccine that has been approved by over 60 countries, including India.

CEO Kirill Dmitriev said Sputnik Light will be “exported to our international partners to help increase the rate of vaccinations in the face of ongoing fight with the pandemic and new strains of coronavirus”. At less than \$10, the vaccine will also be affordable, he said.

There is a big interest already in Sputnik Light and it is likely to be registered in several countries as early as next week. “It can be used as a booster shot for other vaccines. Cocktail of vaccines like Sputnik V is the way to go, and they work very well,” he said. A RDIF statement said Sputnik Light demonstrated 79.4% efficacy. The efficacy of Sputnik V was 92%.

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