

INDIA GETS ITS FIRST NASAL COVID-19 VACCINE

Relevant for: Science & Technology | Topic: Biotechnology, Genetics & Health related developments

India's first nasal COVID-19 vaccine, developed by Bharat Biotech, has been approved for primary immunisation in those 18 and above, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday. The company said it was optimised for supply and administration.

The approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation for restricted use in emergencies will further strengthen India's fight against the pandemic, the Minister tweeted. "India has harnessed its science, research and development, and human resources in the fight against COVID-19 under PM Narendra Modi's leadership. With the science-driven approach and *Sabka Prayas*, we will defeat COVID-19," the Minister said.

The company noted that the ChAd36-SARS-CoV-S COVID-19 (Chimpanzee Adenovirus Vectored) recombinant vaccine has been evaluated to determine its impact on safety. The vaccine is stable between two and eight degrees Celsius for easy storage and distribution. The company said it had established manufacturing capabilities at multiple sites across the country.

Krishna Ella, chairman, Bharat Biotech, said: "iNCOVACC will be a global game changer in intra-nasal vaccines technology and delivery systems. Despite the lack of demand for vaccines, we continued product development in intra-nasal vaccines to ensure that we are well prepared with platform technologies for future infectious diseases."

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