

COVAXIN, COVISHIELD approved for Emergency use in India

written by iasexam.com | 04/01/2021



The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) on Sunday approved the emergency use of both Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for immunisation against Covid-19 in India.

DCGI VG Somani said, "After adequate examination, CDSCO has decided to accept the recommendations of the Expert Committee and accordingly, vaccines of Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech are being approved for restricted use in emergency situation and permission is being granted to Cadila Healthcare for the conduct of Phase III clinical trial."

Key Highlights

- On January 1, Covishield was recommended for emergency use whereas Covaxin was recommended for restricted use on January 2. Both vaccines need to be administered in two doses and stored at temperatures between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius.
- Somani said both firms submitted data on their trial runs and both have been granted permission for "restricted use". Replying to queries on the potential risks the vaccines might pose, he said, "We will never approve anything if there's slightest of safety

concern. Vaccines are 110 % safe. Some side effects like mild fever, pain & allergy are common for every vaccine. It (that people may get impotent) is absolute rubbish.”

- Soon after the DCGI nod, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: “It would make every Indian proud that the two vaccines that have been given emergency use approval are made in India! This shows the eagerness of our scientific community to fulfil the dream of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, at the root of which is care and compassion.”
- Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director WHO South East Asia Region said that WHO has welcomed the first emergency use authorization given to COVID 19 vaccine in the WHO South East Asia region. “The use of vaccine in prioritized populations along with continued implementation of the other public health measures and community participation will be important in reducing the impact of COVID 19,” Dr. Singh.
- Select hospitals across the country conducted an inoculation dry run. The nationwide rehearsal was to understand the best way to administer the vaccine and plug loopholes in logistics and training. India, which has more than one crore three lakh cases of infection, will conduct the largest vaccination drive in the world.

SOURCE: *The New Indian Express*