

First exports of Bharat Biotech Covid vaccine to Brazil, UAE likely this week

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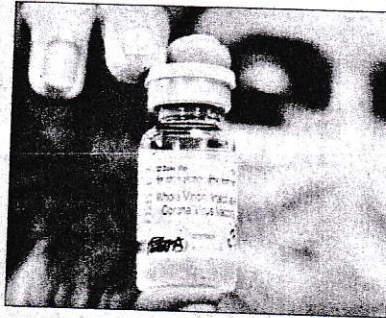
BHARAT BIOTECH SAID on Tuesday it is likely to export its Covid-19 vaccine to Brazil and the United Arab Emirates this week, a major success for the shot approved at home for emergency use without efficacy data from a late-stage trial.

Bharat Biotech has already supplied millions of doses of Covaxin, developed with the state-run Indian Council of Medical Research, to its home government's inoculation drive.

The government has also aggressively pushed locally made vaccines abroad as part of a diplomatic campaign.

"Mostly yes," a Bharat Biotech spokeswoman told Reuters when asked if exports to the two countries could begin this week as reported by local media.

The company expects results from an ongoing trial involving 25,800 participants in India only by March, though the country's drug regulator has called the



vaccine safe and effective amid criticism from doctors and health experts.

A study on 26 participants has found Covaxin effective against the UK strain of the coronavirus.

Bharat Biotech has also applied to conduct a Phase III trial for Covaxin in Brazil, which plans to import eight million doses of it in February and another 1.2 million in March.

The company has also sought emergency use authorisation in the Philippines.

— REUTERS

Govt orders another 1.45 cr vaccine doses

THE GOVERNMENT HAS placed orders for one crore additional doses of Covishield from Serum Institute of India and 45 lakh more doses of Covaxin from Bharat Biotech, officials of the two vaccine makers said on Tuesday. Serum Institute has received an order for 10 million doses of Covishield, a company official said in response to a query. The government had earlier placed a purchase order with it for 1.1 crore doses of the vaccine. A Bharat Biotech spokesperson said, "The company has received a letter of comfort from the Government of India to supply another 4.5 million (or 45 lakh) doses."

— PTI