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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 13/4/21

As cases surge, panel approves Russia's Sputnik V vaccine

DCGI nod awaited amid more cases of mutant strains

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 NEW DELHI

Russia's COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V - has been recommended for emergency use authorisation in India following a meeting of the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Monday, *The Hindu* has confirmed.

If approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Sputnik V would be the third vaccine to be made available in India after the Serum Institute of India's Covishield and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

The Hindu had reported

Adding to the mix

Sputnik V, the third COVID-19 vaccine approved for emergency use in India, is similar to the AstraZeneca 'Covishield vaccine' in terms of design

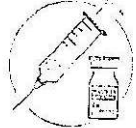
• Sputnik V was granted emergency approval in Russia without proper controlled trials. However, results of such trials were published later in *The Lancet*, showing a 91.6% efficacy

• Before India, the vaccine was approved under

emergency use authorisation in 59 countries

• There are no definitive studies establishing the efficacy of the vaccine against the newer variants

• The vaccine can be stored as a ready-to-use solution in water frozen to -18°C or as freeze-dried powder stored at 2-8 °C



on April 4 that this vaccine was likely to be cleared for public use within 7-10 days.

The recommendation comes amid the recent record surge of fresh COVID cases. On Monday, India re-

ported 948 cases with the U.K., South Africa and Brazil variants of the virus, according to the Health Ministry.

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50 Supreme Court staff test positive

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

Over 50 staff members in the Supreme Court have tested COVID-19 positive, triggering alarm bells in the highest court. Judges have resumed hearing cases from their residences via videoconferencing, as was the practice during the lockdown in 2020. All Benches of the top court functioned from home on Monday.

The court would be tightening COVID-19 social distancing protocols in the next days as cases continue to rise in Delhi. A circular issued on an urgent basis on Monday said the physical mentioning of cases had been suspended for the time being.

India reports 1,60,695 cases

As of 11.55 p.m. on Monday, India reported 1,60,695 COVID-19 cases and 864 deaths due to the infection. The country has so far reported a total of 1,36,86,074 cases and 1,71,073 deaths. ► PAGE 12

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