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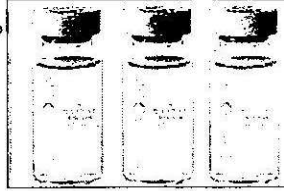
ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 27/12/20

14 ministers, several IPS officers got Covaxin shot

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BENGALURU, DHNS

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, which is currently under Phase 3 trials, has been administered to over 100 eminent personalities, according to an administrator connected to the trials being conducted at the Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre (VIMSRC) in Bengaluru.

Chaitanya Adikesavalu of Clintrac International Private Limited, a research company monitoring the clinical trials, told the media on Saturday



that 14 ministers plus an unspecified number of IPS officers in Karnataka had been vaccinated.

Dr Rajesh Naidu, Managing Director of Clintrac, confirmed to *DH* that ministers had been vaccinated, but also clarified that homemakers, labourers, students, IT pro-

fessionals and others had received the shot.

"The Covaxin trial is India-wide and we need a large number of people to get involved," Dr Naidu said, adding 800 people had registered to participate in the Vydehi trials.

Several insiders declined to comment on the ministers and IPS officers who got the shot.

Dr K M Srinivas Murthy, Director of VIMSRC, said that the trial is anonymised, which means that Vydehi does not have access to the volunteer list.

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14 ministers, several IPS officers from state received Covaxin shot

Vaccine, from Page 1

"That information is held by ICMR. We do not know details about who is coming to be vaccinated," he said.

Shortage of volunteers

Dr Naidu said the trial run seeks a total of 26,000 volunteers across 25 sites, as per a requirement set out by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The trial's first dose of Phase III trials was administered on Dec 1 and the second one will be given on Dec 30. However, the trial run in Bengaluru has faced serious shortage of volunteers. "I expected about 1,500 volunteers to sign up for the trial in the first week considering that the city has a vibrant volunteer spirit, but was surprised by the limited turnout," Dr Naidu said.

According to a researcher involved in the trials, only 262 volunteers have come forward so far.