

BE partners with J&J for COVID-19 vaccine development

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Hyderabad-based Biological E. Limited (BE) has entered into an agreement with Janssen Pharmaceutica NV (Janssen), one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, for the creation/enhancement of manufacturing capacities for drug substance and drug product for Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine candidate, Ad26.COVS.2. Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine candidate is currently in Phase 1/2a clinical trials.

Mahima Datla, Managing Director of BE said, "We are very pleased indeed to collaborate with an organization like Johnson & Johnson. Given the magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic, our ability to mount an effective response will be predicated on the ability to supply the vaccine globally and in significant quantities. This is best achieved through collaboration."

The WHO has declared COVID-19, caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, a pandemic. Globally; over 17 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including over 686,000 deaths have been reported to the WHO. Currently, there is no approved vaccine for COVID-19.