

# SII launches India's first qHPV vaccine

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The Serum Institute of India (SII) launched, Cervavac, India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent human papillomavirus (qHPV) vaccine, on Tuesday, on the occasion of India's National Girl Child Day.

Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of the Pune-based pharmaceutical firm, tweeted that Union home minister Amit Shah launched the vaccine.

Cervavac has been developed by the SII in partnership with the department of biotechnology (DBT).

At present, the country is fully dependent on foreign manufacturers for the vaccine. They cost anywhere between Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,500 per dose which is nearly 10 times the expected price of the indigenously developed vaccine.

HPV vaccines protect against infection with HPV, a group of more than 200 related viruses, of which some types are known to cause cervical cancer - the second most prevalent cancer in women in India.

A recent article published in the Indian Journal of Gynaecologic Oncology stated that vaccination against high-risk strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV) is a safe and effective means of primary prevention of cervical cancer.