

maker Sinovac Biotech has announced "positive preliminary" results of phase I and II clinical trials for its COVID-19 vaccine candidate, CoronaVac, saying it can induce a positive immune response.

The phase I/II clinical trials was designed as randomized, double-blind and placebo-controlled studies.

In total, 743 healthy volunteers, aged from 18 to 59 years old, enrolled in the trials.

Of those, 143 volunteers are in phase I and 600 volunteers are in phase II, the Beijing-based company said in a statement.

The vaccine induced

in above 90 per cent of people who were tested 14 days after receiving two injections, two weeks apart. There were no severe side effects reported, the company said in a statement.

The company expects to submit a phase II clinical study report and a phase III clinical study protocol to China's National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) soon and commence application of phase III clinical trials outside of China.

Sinovac is collaborating with Instituto Butantan in Brazil to prepare and conduct a phase III clinical study.

The company expects to share the full data

with the public through academic publications.

Weidong Yin, Chairman, President and CEO of Sinovac, said, Our phase I/II study shows CoronaVac is safe and can induce an immune response.

"Concluding our phase I/II clinical studies with these encouraging results is another significant milestone we have achieved in the fight against COVID-19," Weidong said.

"We have started to invest in building a manufacturing facility so that we can maximize the number of doses available to protect people from COVID-19. Like with our other vaccines, we are committed to

for global use as part of our mission of supplying vaccines to eliminate human diseases, he said.

inovac's development of a vaccine against COVID-19 began in January 2020 in partnership with leading academic research institutes in China.

The company received approval from China's NMPA on April 13 to conduct phase I/II trials on its inactivated vaccine candidate against COVID-19 in China.

There are currently more than two dozen research efforts underway to develop protective vaccines against the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Tremor rocks Gujarat, no damage reported

Ahmedabad, June 15:

An earthquake of 5.3 magnitude shook parts of Gujarat on Sunday night but no major damage to property or life has been reported though some houses in Kutch and adjoining districts developed cracks as per preliminary information, the state government said.

The epicentre of the tremor was located near Bhachau in Kutch district, officials said.

An official of the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said that the tremor was recorded at 8:13 pm. An aftershock of 3.1 magnitude was felt six minutes later, with its epicentre located 25 km west north west of Rapar in Kutch district, the ISR said.

Though the earthquake reportedly didn't cause any major damage, it reminded many people of the devastating earthquake of 2001 that had killed thousands and flattened houses and buildings.

Bicycles the new normal as commuters fear public transport

Portland, June 15:

Fitness junkies locked out of gyms, commuters fearful of public transit, and families going stir crazy inside their homes during the coronavirus pandemic have created a boom in bicycle sales unseen in decades.

In the United States, bicycle aisles at mass merchandisers like Walmart and Target have been swept clean, and independent shops are doing a brisk business and are selling out of affordable family bikes.

Bicycle sales over the past two months saw their biggest spike in the US since the oil crisis of the 1970s, said Jay Townley, who analyses cycling industry trends at Human Powered Solutions.

People quite frankly have panicked, and they're buying bikes like toilet paper, Townley said, referring to the rush to buy essentials like toilet paper and hand sanitizer that stores saw at the beginning of the pandemic.

The trend is mirrored around the globe, as cities better known for car-clogged streets, like Manila and Rome, install bike lanes to accommodate surging interest in cycling while public transport remains curtailed.

In London, municipal authorities plan to go further by banning cars from some central thoroughfares.

Bike shop owners in the Philippine capital say demand is stronger than at Christmas.

Financial incentives are boosting sales in Italy, where the government's post-lockdown stimulus last month included a 500-Euro (\$575) bike bonus rebate for up to 60% of the cost of a bike.

The bicycle rush kicked off in mid-March around the time countries were shutting their borders, businesses were closing, and stay-at-home orders were being imposed to slow the spread of the coronavirus that has infected millions of

people and killed more than 450,000.

Sales of adult leisure bikes tripled in April while overall US bike sales, including kids' and electric-assist bicycles, doubled from the year before, according to market research firm NPD Group, which tracks retail bike sales.

It's a far cry from what was anticipated in the US. The \$6 billion industry had projected lower sales based on lower volume in 2019 in which punitive tariffs on bicycles produced in China reached 25%.

NATIONAL PLASTIC TECHNOLOGIES LTD

Thiru Complex' No. 44, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600008.

CIN: L25209TN1989PLC017413

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING

Notice is hereby given that Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on **Tuesday, 16th June, 2020** to consider and approve, inter alia, the audited financial results for the year ended 31-03-2020.

For National Plastic Technologies Limited,
Place: Chennai S. Abishek
Date: 12.06.2020 Company Secretary

15/6/20
Trinity Mirror