

Lupin may bring mRNA to India via partnerships

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Pharma major Lupin is looking at partners abroad to bring Covid-19 vaccines to India. This could be through imports or a “fill and finish” of the vaccine bulk drug, the company said.

Apart from vaccines, Lupin now wishes to be at the forefront of Covid treatment solutions in India and is looking for tie-ups to bring in drugs like Remdesivir.

Nilesh Gupta, managing director, Lupin, said: “We would love to bring in an mRNA vaccine. There are at least six leading candidates of mRNA vaccines. We do not have any visibility on the timelines.”

In the vaccine space, Lupin is looking for what Gupta termed “good meaningful efficacy products” and talks were on with partners.

The company is not expecting anything to happen until the next two to three months are over.

Gupta added mRNA vaccines had stringent cold chain requirements. Some have complex cold chain requirements. The vaccines

of Pfizer and Moderna are the leading candidates that have used mRNA technology.

This apart, it is open to explore partnerships to utilise its “fill and finish” facility.

“We have a fill-and-finish facility available but there are no opportunities in the near term. The facility is lying idle now and it can be put to good use,” Gupta told reporters on Thursday.

Besides vaccines, Lupin is scouting for opportunities in the Covid therapy space. It has tied up with Eli Lilly for

Baricitinib, which is being prescribed along with Remdesivir to hospitalised Covid patients. It expects to bring in the drug to India over the next two months.

“We need to submit some stability data on the drug before the drug regulator. So, some development work needs to be done. Lilly, meanwhile, is importing the drug to meet the demand in India. It is helping us to make the product here,” Gupta said.

Lupin has applied for voluntary licence for Remdesivir from Gilead. “The application is pending and we would like to work with Gilead on Remdesivir,” Gupta said.

