V. P. Duived.

A signed statement by the applicant that the research work under reference has not been given any award. The applicant should also indicate the extent of the contribution of others associated with the research and he/she should clearly acknowledge his/her achievements. (Max. 500 KB)

## **Declaration:**

I declare that the research work submitted under reference has not been given any award

## **Author Contribution:**

Santosh Kumar and Ved Prakash Dwivedi initially started the study. Santosh Kumar, Ashima Bhaskar, Chetan Sharma, Sandeep Rai Kaushik, Dhiraj Kumar Singh, Shivam Chaturvedi and Ved Prakash Dwivedi performed *in vitro* experiments and analyzed data. Santosh Kumar, Ashima Bhaskar and Ved Prakash Dwivedi performed all the animal experiments. Gautam Patnaik performed experiments with Human PBMCs. Ved Prakash Dwivedi conceived the hypothesis and supervised all the experiments. Ashima and Ved Prakash Dwivedi designed experiments and analyzed the data. Gobardhan Das provided the resources (FACS antibodies). Ashima Bhaskar and Ved Prakash Dwivedi wrote the manuscript.

There is no conflict of interest.

Place: New Delhi Signature of the Applicant

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023