

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

32

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: CSM Covid-19

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 22/4/22

## Centre steps in to restore oxygen supplies to Delhi

'24/7 control team will mediate disputes between States'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM

Oxygen stocks at several hospitals in the national capital dipped to alarming lows following disruption of supplies from Haryana on Wednesday. Supplies were restored by late evening after intervention by the Centre.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, "The problem regarding Haryana and Delhi has been resolved."

Hospitals in Haryana too might be staring at oxygen shortages soon, Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan said.

"There is a 24/7 control team by the Centre that will mediate in disputes between the States on supply of oxygen ... We are in a pandemic and there will be differences that crop up between the States on oxygen supply," Mr. Bhushan said, adding that there was a committee for every hospital, and guidelines on appropriate management of oxygen. "Green corridors have been set up to ensure smooth passage of oxygen trucks."

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, "Central govt has increased Delhi's quota of oxygen. We are very grateful to Centre for this."



Gasping for air: A relative of a COVID-19 patient carrying an empty oxygen cylinder for refilling in New Delhi. ■PTI

## Oxygen demand likely to touch 1,500 tonnes in State

AFSHAN YASMEEN  
BENGALURU

With the demand for liquid medical oxygen projected to touch 1,500 tonnes a day by next month in the State, if the upward trajectory continues at the same rate, the State government has written to the Centre seeking additional allocation.

The Centre has presently allocated 300 tonnes a day of oxygen to Karnataka.

According to the State's projection, the requirement is likely to touch 500-600 tonnes a day by this month-end and further go up next month.

The demand for oxygen has come to such a point in the city that several hospitals are now asking patient families to give an undertaking that they will arrange for an ICU and critical care if the patient's condition deteriorates.

"We have been getting calls from many desperate families who have been asked to give an undertaking that they will arrange for an ICU if the condition worsens," said Ameen-e-Mudasar, member of the Emergency Response Team, a volunteer group.

# Oxygen crisis is a consequence of storage and refilling issues: Sudhakar

People can call 8951755722 for oxygen and Remdesivir-related queries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

There are seven liquid oxygen plants in Karnataka which together manufacture 812 metric tonnes of oxygen per day. The State is facing a crisis currently despite this owing largely to problems in storage and refilling.

"We have adequate oxygen in our plants but smaller hospitals do not have storage facilities as they have been managing by refilling small cylinders so far. Now with increased consumption, the refilling has to be done at least three times a day and this is where the problem lies," said Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar

Pointing out that JSW has agreed to give 40 metric tonnes to Bengaluru, he said 5,000 additional cylinders

are also being procured. Another company has agreed to give 500 more cylinders under CSR funds.

With complaints pouring in regarding shortage and blackmarketing of oxygen and Remdesivir, the State government has set up a 24/7 call centre that can handle ten calls at a time.

Passing an order to this effect, the State Drugs Controller appointed 26 officers to work in three shifts and facilitate and coordinate oxygen and Remdesivir supply.

## Artificial scarcity

The Health Department on Wednesday initiated action against Assistant Drugs Controller B.R. Venkatesh and placed him under suspension for creating artificial scarcity of the vital drug.

Calling the current surge in COVID-19 cases an 'unprecedented situation', Mr. Sudhakar called upon people to not rush to hospitals just as they test positive. "Over 95% of cases - all asymptomatic and mild - can be managed at home under the supervision of our telemedicine specialists. If those with mild symptoms go and get admitted, a critical patient who needs hospitalisation will be deprived of medical care, which can be fatal," he said.

## Remdesivir not for all

Consultant Pulmonologist at Apollo Hospitals Ravindra Mehta, who is part of the State's COVID-19 expert committee, said the panic over non-availability of Remdesivir is unnecessary as not all require this injection.

"Only those with moderate and severe infection wherein the oxygen saturation drops below 93 within the first nine days of illness are eligible for Remdesivir. It is only an add-on therapy and can help in improving the patient's condition. While the WHO says it does not impact on mortality, previous literature has shown that it can hasten recovery and reduce hospital stay," he said. He added that the demand can be reduced if it is given to only those who require it.

## Non-COVID-19 patients

All small hospitals with less than 30 beds will now have to treat only non-COVID-19 patients. An order to this effect will be issued. This is to prevent loss of lives due to logistical issues.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Centre steps in to restore oxygen supplies to Delhi

The disruption in supplies from Haryana was preceded by a tweet by Health Minister Anil Vij, who said a tanker carrying oxygen for a hospital in Faridabad in the State had been "looted" by the Delhi government on Tuesday. "Also, pressure is being mounted on us to supply oxygen to Delhi, but we will supply only if we have spare oxygen. Our first priority is Haryana," said the Minister. The Delhi-based Holy Family Hospital authorities said they had been informed by the "supplier of liquid oxygen in Faridabad that the Haryana government was not allowing to supply oxygen outside the State". Sumit Ray, the hospital's head of the De-

partment of Critical Care, said the hospital had stock that would last only until 11 a.m. on Thursday.

Haryana has a cumulative capacity of 270 MT liquid oxygen per day with a plant each in Faridabad and Panipat. The Centre on Tuesday reduced the State's share to 80 MT from the earlier 118 MT, and fixed a quota of 140 MT for Delhi, Mr. Vardhan said. The State was also directed to supply around 20 MT of liquid oxygen to neighbouring Punjab. "When Haryana is producing 270 MT and giving 200 MT to others, there is sometimes popular and public resentment here as well as to why we are not safeguarding our interests," he said.