

Working on how to make O₂ distribution transparent: IIT-D

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New Delhi:

Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi is looking to assist Delhi government by streamlining their portal for oxygen distribution to hospitals and people in home isolation. On Wednesday, Delhi High Court had told the government to consider taking the help from IIT-D and DTU.

The high court had directed the government to ask the two institutes to prepare a blueprint for the supply and distribution infrastructure of liquid medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders to the national capital, **TOI** had reported.

“The estimations should be prepared on the basis of the plans that are worked out by the consultants/ experts in consultation with other wings of the GNCTD, such as DGHS and the various hospitals and nursing homes,” said justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli.

Sanjay Dhir, associate professor for strategic management in the department of management studies said the institute had already begun discussions on this. “On Thursday morning, director V Ramgopal Rao connected me to the secretary of the government, who is looking for IT solutions for the management of the oxygen supplies,” he said.

Dhir said that the institute even gave a demonstration to the high court on Thursday. “We have been working on the Co-Win portal and the government’s Remdesivir distribution portal, which is created to curb the black marketing of the injections. IIT-D showed a flow chart and technical expertise on how to involve stake-holders and make the system transparent,” he said.

The institute can help Delhi government in deciding how to distribute oxygen, what would be the checkpoints and how to track it, said the associate professor.

As there is no time to create new technology for this, IIT-D said it will try to ensure the tech currently used by Delhi government is being fully utilised. “We will make the tracking system robust, so that everyone knows where the

oxygen is. We are still in the midst of the peak of the second wave, so it is necessary to streamline the processes,” Dhir added.

Earlier, IIT-Delhi had distributed oxygen cylinders from their laboratories to the Delhi government. Director Rao, who had also contracted Covid, on his recovery tweeted that the institute was handing over “many cylinders to local administration” and will be giving more.

The high court has also asked Delhi government to approach DTU for assistance. Yogesh Singh, DTU vice-chancellor told **TOI** that the institute has not communicated with the government yet. “We have a number of supply-chain experts who can help the government with the distribution of resources,” said Singh.

HC BENCH SAYS

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