

# Shifting gears, from road safety to finding O<sub>2</sub>

[PANKHURI.YADAV@TIMESGROUP.COM](mailto:PANKHURI.YADAV@TIMESGROUP.COM)

## New Delhi:

Between April 23 and May 3, there were over 500 distress calls made by Delhi hospitals to the government about the lack of oxygen that left the lives of Covid patients on the edge. Citizens in the hundreds, if not thousands, also desperately searched for oxygen cylinders or oxygen-equipped hospital beds. Into this chaotic situation stepped Save Life Foundation, which is traditionally considered a leader in road safety and emergency medical response.

Even as Delhi residents and serious Covid patients from the neighbouring states continue to swarm Delhi hospitals, SLF has rallied donors and mobilised its emergency procurement system to address the capital's desperate need for oxygen.

The foundation has ordered 891 oxygen concentrators, of which 541 have arrived and have been deployed at the Burari field hospital, Ambedkar Nagar Hospital, Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital, Indira Gandhi Hospital Dwarka and the Chhatarpur Covid Care Centre.

Apart from this, of the 1,510 big oxygen cylinders it ordered, SLF has deployed 1,010 at Indira Gandhi Hospital, Janakpuri Super Specialty Hospital, Satyawadi Raja Harish Chandra Hospital, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Acharya Shri Bhikshu Hospital, Commonwealth Games field hospital and at the district magistrates' Covid step-down facilities in North-East, Central, South and Shahdara districts.

A hundred invasive ventilators have also been ordered to boost the number of Covid ICU beds in the city. Of these, 40 have been delivered to Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital's ancillary ICU facility. The remaining are expected to arrive and get deployed this week. Additionally, 109 ICU 5-para ICU monitors have been ordered for deployment at Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital's ancillary ICU facility.

An official of SLF said that based on the indication provided by the central government, a third wave of coronavirus infections is imminent in Delhi. "SLF is, therefore, making all efforts to continue assisting the state in building the

oxygen and critical-care capacity of the city. Oxygen plants, oxygen storage solutions and increasing the number of ICU beds are the top priorities,” said the official.

The official added that SLF was also continuing to oversee the ambulance response in Delhi through its data-science team. “We plan to build a software platform and institute a dedicated team to integrate and track all ambulances in the capital,” he said.

## **BEACONS OF HOPE**

In the midst of crushing despair and grief, there are also stories of selflessness, kindness and courage that restore one’s faith in humanity and inspire us to dream of a better tomorrow. If you know of any such individuals or organisations who are serving as Beacons of Hope, please share their story with us on [www.TOIBeaconsOfHope.com](http://www.TOIBeaconsOfHope.com) Let’s light a spark and help dispel the dark.