## Khaitan group to set up five oxygen plants in Uttar Pradesh

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LUCKNOW: Collaborating with industries to fight Covid-19 pandemic, the MSME and industries departments, led by ministers Sidharth Nath Singh and Satish Mahana, held a meeting with industry representatives and discussed ways to promote industrial activity while safeguarding the interest of workers.

Chairperson of PHDCCI and CMH Radico Khaitan, Dr Lalit Khaitan, said his company would set up five oxygen plants in the state, the first of which would be established in Kanpur and the remaining would be set up as per the requirement of the government.

The UP chapter of PHDCCI raised several issues with the government which the departments concerned have promised to take up on priority. These include making vaccination of workers mandatory for them to work in industries and factories and allowing private hospitals to administer vaccines.

"The government should encourage private companies to manufacture equipment required for Covid treatment. The liquor industry, which contributes about Rs 100 crore per day to the state's revenues, should be restarted and the government can also look at the possibility of home delivery. Schools, colleges and hotels should be converted into hospitals," said Khaitan.

The other suggestions were related to debt refinancing, planning ahead of potential waves to avoid another shutdown, spending part of the CSR funds on Covid relief, taking support from fourth and fifth year medical students and nurses in their final semester to increase the number of healthcare professionals.

Senior advisor, UP PHDCCI, Mukesh Singh said the formula adopted by the Noida Authority for providing oxygen cylinders to patients in home isolation could be adopted in all major districts of the state.