

UP close to becoming self-reliant in medical oxygen production: CM

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Owing to the sustained efforts of the Uttar Pradesh government towards making the state self-reliant in medical oxygen production, as many as 450 oxygen producing plants have been operationalised in the state.

Ensuring adequate presence of medical oxygen, the state government on Sunday announced that 450 oxygen plants had already been set up in Uttar Pradesh while work to get the other 105 plants functional was progressing rapidly.

In a proactive move to equip the state with sufficient availability of medical oxygen, a total of 555 oxygen plants were sanctioned during the second wave of COVID-19 which hit the country during April and May this year.

With as many as 41 plants becoming functional in the span of the last 11 days, the dedicated efforts of the Yogi government have given a major boost to the state in terms of producing the life-saving fluid.

While reviewing the COVID-19 situation across the state in a high-level meeting with senior officials, the chief minister said that 41 more oxygen plants had become functional in the last 11 days and the process of establishing the remaining under-construction plants should be expedited.

Real-time monitoring of the installation work has been planned, with the district administrations being asked to continuously monitor the progress of installation work of these plants and ensure availability of raw material so that the work could be completed on time.

Along with emerging as the top state in terms of conducting Covid tests and COVID-19 vaccination, Uttar Pradesh has also been proactively engaged in ramping up the medical resources in view of any possible future requirements.

The presence of oxygen plants has also been mandatory in hospitals of over 50-bed capacity. The chief minister also directed the officials to assess the updated situation in this regard and take necessary action. Along with hospitals and medical colleges, oxygen plants are also being installed at the health centres and primary health centres across the state.

As many as 25 oxygen plants were functional in the state before the government took the step of constructing more to equip Uttar Pradesh with sufficient amounts of medical oxygen. Apart from the initiatives of the state government, the Centre has also approved the establishment of PSA medical oxygen plants with funding from PM Cares. Keeping in mind the importance of medical liquid oxygen which is essential in treatment of COVID-19 patients, the state government is closely monitoring the installation of these plants.

To further improve the Covid Control Mechanism as well as giving employment to the youth, the government is also providing training to ITI trainees in operation of oxygen plants in the state. Special training sessions are also being conducted for paramedical staff and pharmacists to prepare them to fight the pandemic's possible third wave. With this initiative, the government is not only providing skill training to the local youth but is also giving them employment opportunities.

Active cases down to 176

The active caseload in the most populous state has been reduced to 176 from a high of 3,10,783 in April, pushing the recovery rate up to a remarkable 98.7 per cent, while the percentage of active cases as against the total confirmed cases is just 0.01 per cent.

In another encouraging sign, the number of COVID-19 patients in home isolation in the state has reduced to 158. This is a result of timely provision of free medical treatment, medicine kits and regular teleconsultation as per the directions issued by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Eliminating the deadly second wave of COVID-19, out of over 2.17 lakh samples tested in the last 24 hours, 11 tested positive for coronavirus infection and as a result the test positivity rate (TPR) has slumped to even lower than 0.01 per cent in Uttar Pradesh. In the same period, another 12 COVID-19 recovered from the infection.