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Tools

Govt to monitor prices of vax in open market

New Delhi: The government is working on a mechanism to monitor the prices of anti-Covid vaccines in the open market once the jabs are available for people above 18 years of age from May 1. While vaccine companies are free to price the vaccines supplied to the open market, hospitals and other vaccine providers are likely to charge a small fee for the service.

The government plans to come up with a mechanism to keep a check on these prices even as prices will be initially governed by market dynamics, officials said.

From May 1, as the new Covid-19 vaccination policy gets rolled out, private hospitals, states and corporate houses will be able to procure directly from manufacturers at a pre-fixed price for vaccination of those above 18 outside the central programme. However, vaccination will continue to be given free of cost to health and frontline workers and those above 45 years of age at government vaccination centres. While the Bharat vaccine Ignoxin V is expected to be available from May end, the Centre is also in talks with Pfizer.

Meanwhile, Bharat E has completed phase 1 and 2 clinical trials for its nasal vaccine and is likely to start phase 3 very soon. The vaccine is expected to enter the market by August. Total vaccination across the country crossed the 11.1 crore mark on Wednesday with more than 31.3 lakh vaccine doses administered till 8 pm. TOI

₹150 was special price for initial vax set, says SII

▸Continued from P1

The statement took the government by surprise, which is engaged in talks on the supply of Covishield at Rs 150 per dose. "We had a discussion with SII executives today at noon, and they have not communicated any change in price. We will continue with the current procurement price of Rs 150 per dose," an official source told TOI.

Sources at the Centre said that even states and hospitals were those who further negotiated the prices, although it is expected to consumers it may be difficult when trained supplies and expected surge in demand as more people still remain eligible from May 1. On its part, Serum Institute is seeking a price hike arguing that Rs 150 was a special price for the initial set of vaccines. "The Rs 150 price is for a viable price, and we are doing this mainly," the company executive said.

So far, the company has supplied around 60 million doses to the Centre with Covishield making up over 60% of the nearly 11 crore vaccine administered across the country so far. Yesterday, the government had announced that it would extend advance funds of around Rs 3,000 crore to Serum Institute, which would be adjusted against purchase orders. But there is no clarity on whether there would be any further orders from the Centre.

O_2 carriers get police cover after 'lootings'

Haryana Says Delhi Govt Robbed Tanker

Times News Network

Chandigarh/Bhopal/Mumbai: As an acute oxygen shortage hits the fight to save lives as Covid cases continue to surge across the country, in efforts not allegations of oxygen tankers and cylinders being looted pour in. Many states, including Maharashtra, have begun providing police protection to vehicles carrying cylinders and gas tankers.

On Wednesday, Haryana health minister Anil Vij accused the Delhi government of "looting an oxygen tanker by hoodwinking Haryana while it was passing through in New Delhi" early on Thursday morning.

According to officials of the Haryana food and drug administration, Aspirantech, which was asked by Vij to carry out a probe, the incident took place when a tanker carrying liquid oxygen from a plant in Panipat was on its way to Faridabad and Palwal districts for supply to hospitals.

As the tanker was passing through New Delhi, a team of policemen and officers allegedly stopped it and forcibly filled oxygen cylinders from the tanker. The Haryana government is preparing a complaint. However, sources said it has stopped the supply of the entire quantity of oxygen that had been allocated to Delhi from the Faridabad plant.

Vij has also ordered police protection of vehicles carrying oxygen cylinders and tankers in view of police incidents of oxygen being looted in the state.

In Mira Bhayandar, oxygen cylinders was looted by relatives of Covid patients when were stopped up in the state-run of a hospital in Thane on Tuesday night. An FIR was registered. In Maharashtra, an oxygen tanker headed for a hospital in Dhule district was reportedly diverted to a different place for only two day ago. Following this, the state police decided to ensure such restriction.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL Sandeep Adhikari

'Oxygen being imported, will take 3 weeks'

Amid rising concerns about supplies, the Centre has called for national use of oxygen. "We appeal to hospitals and nursing homes to postpone non-emergent and care of other patients who are positive," NITI Aayog member health Dr V K Paul said.

The Centre has also increased oxygen quota of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, UP, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi in view of the sudden rise in demand. The Centre will also convene a meeting of oxygen cylinders and tankers in the state.

It has received expressions of interest from a few foreign suppliers of oxygen against the tender for import of 50,000 tonnes. However, it is likely to take around three weeks to arrive, officials said. "We presently don't have enough oxygen in the country. We are ensuring that it does reach to states today. We are also reviewing the list of industries who can get oxygen. Only those units, plants who have a captive oxygen plant will now be given oxygen," health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said. TOI

Maha, UP, Guj to get most Remdesivir for 10 days

Times News Network

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday made an interim allocation of Remdesivir for 10 states and UTs till April 30. This was done in view of the reports of shortages of Remdesivir in certain regions of the country and to facilitate smooth level state supply.

"Remdesivir being an intravenous therapy drug given to acute and severe cases of Covid for which oxygen support is a must, this allocation pertains to limits to which medical oxygen is allocated and few other states where the high volume of supplies are being observed," the health ministry said in an official statement.

Maximum allocation has been made for Maharashtra, followed by UP, Gujarat, MP, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh. The allocation includes both purchases made by the states as well as supplies through private channels.

The initial allocation is dynamic and will be reviewed continually in consultation with the states, to ensure all needs can be met with the available supplies.

The health ministry said the consumption of serious Covid patients in hospitals for which a clinical management has also resulted in an increase in demand for Remdesivir. "While states have been advised to increase indigenous of the drug which is fixed as an intervention, initial through for the ministry, they have also been advised to take action against possible hoarding and black marketing," the ministry said.

The ministry said all states are currently the above mentioned allocation will be considered for allocation when their supply orders are placed with manufacturers.

The government has also advised manufacturers to consider supply orders already made to them, particularly with a state and accordingly and also transport the supplies as per the agreed state allocation and monitoring. They have also been asked to facilitate supplies to the government and distribution channels.

AIR POWER: IAF's C-130J Super Hercules

IAF deploys transport fleet to airlift meds, staff

The IAF has deployed its transport aircraft fleet of C-130J Super Hercules and other aircraft to airlift medical equipment, medicines and critical equipment to the fight against the raging pandemic. "The aircraft is undertaking for Covid hospitals and facilities across the country, doctors and nursing staff from Kochi, Mumbai, Vizag and Bengaluru, for instance, were airlifted for the setting up of the Covid facility being run by SGRD in Delhi," a senior officer. Similarly, oxygen containers, regulators, trolleys and essential medicines are being airlifted for Covid centres in Delhi and other places, he added. TOI

Updates

'Free police from political interference'

FACE OFF

WHAT READERS SAID

"There must be clear demarcation between the role of the police and their responsibility to the people. Absolute independence is not the way forward but provisions must be made so that politicians or executives can't interfere in the discharge of duty. —Arya Raja, Kottayam

Political interference is a curse to wide-ranging shortcomings of the force, even where there is no interference, the track record is not good or worth emulation. Some political control is necessary to keep it reined in. —Rani Mathew, Kochi

Politicians and police are like two eyes of a person. They can't be separated. They have to be faithful to duties and must not cross the line. But when required, they should join hands in the people's interest. —Sandhya Sathe, Kochi

There has to be reasonable control and also independence to function. Ultimately, it boils down to the leadership and integrity in execution. Power can happen irrespective of what's on paper. If execution and use of powers is not done in letter and spirit, it will keep defeating the purpose and help gain on the accountability latch. —Vina Gandhi, Kochi

Il die in Maha rural hosp, kin blame shortage of oxygen

Prasad.Nichani@timesgroup.com

Aurangabad: Eleven Covid patients died allegedly due to oxygen shortage, as the Bamati Rural Medical College in Ambajogai in Beed district, around 120 km from Aurangabad city, on Wednesday.

The relatives of six of the victims alleged that oxygen supply to the patients, who were on the ventilator, was interrupted for around 30 minutes in the afternoon at the facility. The hospital authorities, however, refuted the allegations made by the relatives and said that due to power cut had made the oxygen pressure and had shifted some health complications.

Hailed as the first rural medical college in Asia, Swami Ramanand Teerth Rural Medical College has been serving as a Dedicated Covid Hospital (DCH) during the pandemic with a bed capacity of 300, including 50 ventilator beds. When contacted, hospital dean Vikrant Kumar said the DCH facility faced shortage of oxygen on Wednesday but the issue was resolved by sourcing it from other plants.

"Oxygen cylinders from two cylinders of oxygen per day and felt the shortage after night from Latur was delayed between 10 am and 11 am, however, we immediately arranged the necessary supply from five district plants from Hingoli, Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad and Nandurbar," he said. Kumar said the 11 deaths in question happened between 10 am and 4 pm on Wednesday.

Sakharam Pawar, an oxygen tanker headed for a hospital in Dhule district was reportedly diverted to a different place for only two day ago. Following this, the state police decided to ensure such restriction.

Highest-ever spike in cases in 17 states, UTs

▸Continued from P1

A rising in 17 states and Union territories contributed their highest ever spike in cases on Wednesday, taking India's total to 1,59,000 — the highest daily number ever recorded in any state outside Maharashtra.

Other states where cases touched an all-time high were Karnataka (11,156), Kerala (11,441), Rajasthan (10,000), Madhya Pradesh (11,187), Gujarat (11,570), Bihar (11,215), Tamil Nadu (11,000), Haryana (10,784), Himachal (9,400), Jharkhand (9,441), Punjab (11,019), Uttarakhand (1,187), Odisha (1,431), Telangana (4,543), J&K (1,266) and Goa (1,243).

Maharashtra reported 67,468 fresh infections, its second highest tally, yet while Delhi's cases dropped to 24,638 (from 28,395 on Tuesday), Maharashtra's continued to record the highest number of fresh cases. Delhi, the highest ever to the state. Delhi reported 246 deaths while Chhattisgarh counted 80 fatalities in the last 24 hours.

In Gujarat, the daily toll rose to 131, and Karnataka recorded 130 deaths. Other states with a high toll were Madhya Pradesh (75), Punjab (88), Jharkhand (81), Rajasthan (63), Bihar (61) and Tamil Nadu (52).

Family asked to get O_2 for siblings, both die

Abhijay Nath Shukla | TOI

Ghaziabad/Noida: Hospitals in Delhi-NCR have been complaining about acute shortage of oxygen supply for patients, despite the local administrations being assured that the situation is under control.

On Wednesday afternoon, an official at a prominent hospital in Ghaziabad's Indirapuram said they have oxygen for just six hours, and will have to start discharging Covid patients if the supply runs out. Now Ellora's area in Noida's Dasna, two brothers admitted to a private Covid facility died within eight hours of each other such a day ago, even after their family managed to arrange for oxygen cylinders on their own.

Amit Gaitan (46) and his brother Ankit (44) died within eight hours of each other in a private Covid facility.

Amit Gaitan (46) & Ankit Gaitan (44) died within eight hours of each other in a private Covid facility

Amit Gaitan (46) had to be hospitalized after breathing difficulties on April 11. Their oxygen levels had dropped below 90. He was later a Covid-ion report, hospital refused to take them in, the family have said. Ankit Gaitan (44) also turned down away as they had Covid-like symptoms. The family finally managed to get them admitted at Sarvan Hospital, Aligarh, on the day morning.

"The management asked us to get oxygen for them. We got one. When it finally got after the second hospital on Saturday evening," said Nitin Kumar, two-year-old brother-in-law. A hospital official, speaking anonymously said there has been a shortage of oxygen for past four days, and that they aren't taking new patients. The official said that they are focusing on those currently admitted and not taking any new patients.

On Monday night, the condition of both brothers turned downhill. Amit died an hour after being shifted to a private hospital in Noida, and Ankit died a few hours later. Both had Covid-like symptoms and he is recovering at home. His samples have been sent for tests. At least 15 hospitals in Delhi-NCR reported oxygen shortage on Wednesday again. The administration particularly warned a power-starved hospital to factor 30 of India, which asked for the supply orders on Wednesday.

Premium and Sharma hospitals in Greater Noida and Bharatiya Hospital in Noida's Sector 31 have also reported a huge demand for oxygen. In Ghaziabad, a recently acquired Covid facility said on Wednesday afternoon that it had only six hours' oxygen supply left. Despite repeatedly flagging the issue, the administration has not responded, officials at the hospital have said. The facility has 63 beds/patients.

JUST LIKE THAT

Pharma up, Farmer down

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY, e-Tender Notice

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS
Sealed quotations are invited from reputed vendors for fixing of anti-bird VC tiles (2x2x10mm) in five classrooms at Army Public School Shillong. Total area is 3586 sq ft (approx). Interested firms may send their quotations to the Principal, Army Public School Shillong, Haipor Road, Laitumkhrah, PO-Umlyngka – 793006. The quotations must reach the School Office by 13 May 2021. For any query contact 8974056288 or email at armyschoolshillong@gmail.com

SCIENCE CITY
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SECURITY, WATCH AND WARD SERVICES
Digitally signed E-tenders are invited from reputed and well established agencies having proven experience and expertise in the field for "Annual contract for Security, Watch and Ward Services in Science City, Kolkata", Interested agencies may visit https://eprocure.gov.in/epublishing/ and search for Tender ID 2021_SCCOL_627386_1 for details. Tender documents may also be downloaded from our website http://sciencecitykolkata.org.in Last date of submission of bids is up to 18.00 hours of 13.05.2021.

Raineshwar Kharagpur Expressway Limited
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer-4, Solid Waste Management, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (NT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer-4, Solid Waste Management, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Name of the Work	Approx. Amount of Tender (₹ in Lakhs)	EMD
Scientifically shifting of processed Windrow rejects, inerts, unused materials and rejects from Doddaballapura processing plant.	193.09	1,00,000/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of GOK from 22.04.2021. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 29.04.2021 upto 4:00 pm. (3) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 27.04.2021 at 4:00 pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer (SWM). (4) Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer-4, SWM on 03.05.2021 at 4:30 pm. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: https://eprocure.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer-4, Solid Waste Management

e-RFP
Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
The details of the e-RFP may be seen from the website of GRSTC Limited www.eodisacommerce.com/eprocure and Odisha Police website.
Interested bidders are requested to register on eNCIC Portal www.eodisacommerce.com/eprocure for details of e-RFP and participation.
Any change in the above schedule shall be notified on the GRSTC website i.e. www.eodisacommerce.com/eprocure.
Sd/-
A.D.G. of Police (Pers.)
Odisha, Cuttack
Tender Calling Authority

WEST BENGAL MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Company wholly owned by the Government of West Bengal)
COVID URGENT
AMENDMENTS TO NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Bid Reference no. WBMSCL/NIT-73/2021, dated 14.04.2021)
The tender documents may also be downloaded from the website www.wbmsclltd.gov.in
Managing Director
& Commissioner to the Government of West Bengal
Health & Family Welfare Department