

CARGOCONNECT

Connecting Cargo Professionals

Postal Registration No.: DL (S)-17/3372/2019-2021
WPP No.: U(S)-81/2019-2021
Posted at Lodi Road HPO, ND on the 4th-5th same month
RNI No.: DELENG/2009/31040
Published on the 2nd of the same month

VOL XII ISSUE VIII JULY 2021 | ₹20



APPAREL SUPPLY CHAIN
NEED SPEED TO SHELF

Logistics service providers have rushed in to rescue the nation reeling under a mammoth Oxygen crisis. After a severe shortage of medical-grade Oxygen that crippled hundreds of hospitals in the northern and western states at the start of the devastating second wave—stabilised to quite an extent at the moment—an array of domestic and multinational companies quickly devised strategies to beef up Oxygen supply and save thousands of patients struggling for breath.

Meanwhile, corporate India has been largely successful in its efforts to continue to address both the issues—related to supply of Oxygen as well as its logistics—by contracting airlifting of more Cryogenic Containers, Oxygen Concentrators and other medical items. Many corporate honchos have been taking to social media seeking ideas to help the needy. A long list of companies which includes Tata group, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Adani Group, Vedanta Group, Larsen & Toubro, Jindal Steel and Power (JSP), ITC, Bharat Forge, among many others have stepped in with offers. Most of these companies are supplying liquid Oxygen at zero cost to hospitals. At the same time, they have been working with customers and partner organisations to distribute supplies throughout the country and also serve community health centres. Public sector companies such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) also diverted Oxygen produced at their refineries to augment the availability of medical Oxygen across the country.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has already formed a Task Force on Oxygen Supply Chain to work with central and state governments to augment Oxygen supply by working on domestic capacity enhancement and imports; logistical issues between states including issues of transportation, non-availability of cylinders, policy-level in-

terventions, and so on. Additionally, to help seamless imports, the government on April 24 exempted Oxygen and Oxygen-related equipment from customs duty, along with COVID-19 vaccines.

Several logistics start-up founders and investors started mobilising WhatsApp groups to pool resources, donations and essentials alike as part of the Action COVID-19 Team Grants (ACT Grants) initiative to import Oxygen and Cryogenic Containers from abroad. Some groups are trying to put together delivery resources to help optimise Oxygen Cylinder supplies across the country.

For instance, Delhi NCR-based logistics unicorn, Delhivery has flown in more than dozen chartered cargo planes to the country from international locations including China, in the beginning

team to arrange charter aircraft, mobilise customs at origin and destination to fly in 6,000 Oxygen Cylinders from Shanghai, China in eight chartered flights to ease the Oxygen supply situation in the NCR region.

Allcargo and ECU Worldwide were responsible for arranging flights at origin in a period of high demand at short notice, landing rights permissions from the Chinese Civil Aviation Ministry in coordination with the Indian Embassy in Beijing, clearance at origin and destination and final delivery to site, entirely on a not-for-profit basis. The project was supported by Give India Foundation, a leading NGO, and Luxfer Uttam India.

International container and integrated shipping giant, AP Moller - Maersk had shipped more than 6,000 Oxygen Concentrators, 500 Oxygen Cylinders and several medical supplies and ventilators.

LOGISTICIANS RISE STRONGER TOGETHER TO RAMP UP OXYGEN DISTRIBUTION CAPACITY



of May itself, following which 38,444 more Oxygen Concentrators arrived. The company's officials, including the management has reached out to businesses seeking to help companies in need of essentials from abroad. It has also reached out to businesses wanting to import Oxygen Concentrators and other essential supplies for collaborations.

Mumbai-based domestic topper, Allcargo Logistics initially offered to ship 500 Oxygen Concentrators from Singapore. Later on, they went in to transport 2 million masks for Maharashtra government from Singapore, while another million was also brought in later.

In addition, responding to requests from the Delhi state government, Allcargo and its subsidiary ECU Worldwide set up an emergency response

During the efforts, Maersk offered its ocean transportation service to institutions and organisations participating in medical relief at a nominal rate of \$1 per container. All commercial air freight shipments facilitated by Maersk India are being done on a zero-profit basis.

15 of the company's top executives from different functions voluntarily got together in the early days of the second wave and put together 'Project Oxygen War Room', or POWR as they called it, to help society fight the virus.

The logistics activities undertaken by Maersk in order to support the medical aid into the country involve facilitating shipments coming in from countries such as Ireland, Finland, China, Germany, UAE, Qatar, Israel, South Africa and Singapore with more shipments from China, Turkey and Dammam still in progress.

Multinational transport and logistics firm, Bollore Logistics India received and delivered 3,600 Oxygen Concentrators for one of India's leading multinational medical technology company. The company fully chartered a Boeing 747-400 from Hangzhou Airport in China, taking charge of customs formalities, receipt at Delhi Airport and last-mile delivery to the customer's warehouse.

This operation was carried out by Bollore Logistics India, in close collaboration with Bollore Logistics China. Setting a new record, that was biggest-ever single consignment of Oxygen Concentrators that landed in New Delhi.

Amid all the significant developments, what came as a surprise was Oxygen export data from the Department of Commerce that showed India exported twice as much Oxygen to the world during the first 10 months of FY21



compared to FY20. India had exported 9,301 metric tonnes (MT) of Oxygen across the world between April 2020 and January 2021 compared to 4,502 MT of Oxygen in FY20.

During the first wave, the demand for liquid medical Oxygen (LMO) increased from 700 metric tonnes per day (MTPD) to 2,800 MTPD. But during the second wave, it has jumped to 5,000 MTPD, according to research firm Crisil.

One of India's largest crowd sourced logistics platforms, Shadowfax associated with GiveIndia and Ola to enable delivery of Oxygen Concentrators in 100 cities across India. O2ForIndia—an initiative to deliver Oxygen Concentrators to the doorstep to those in need via Ola app is being expanded to over 100 cities including Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Pune, Nagpur, Lucknow, Patna, Ranchi, Coimbatore and Puducherry among oth-



Delhi NCR-based logistics unicorn, **Delhivery has flown in more than dozen chartered cargo planes** to the country from international locations including China, in the beginning of May itself.

Mumbai-based domestic topper, **Allcargo Logistics initially offered to ship 500 Oxygen Concentrators from Singapore.** Later on, they went in to transport **2 million masks** for Maharashtra government.

International container and integrated shipping giant, **AP Moller - Maersk had shipped more than 6,000 Oxygen Concentrators, 500 Oxygen Cylinders** and several medical supplies and ventilators.

Multinational transport and logistics firm, **Bollore Logistics India received and delivered 3,600 Oxygen Concentrators** for one of India's leading multinational medical technology company.

One of India's largest crowd sourced logistics platforms, **Shadowfax associated with GiveIndia and Ola to enable delivery of Oxygen Concentrators** in 100 cities across India.

Continental Carriers had chartered a B747-400 ABC freighter to transport **190 pallets of 'Zeolite' weighing 109 tonnes** to Delhi from a factory in South of Italy.

Small-sized firms like **Active Freight Logistics (AFL)** have also been facilitating the logistics and supply chain of medical relief.

ers in the following weeks.

Through its pan-India network, Shadowfax is enabling the storage, sanitisation, delivery and reverse-logistics of Oxygen Concentrators for this thoughtful initiative. Through its expansive hyper-local dark store facilities, deep tech capabilities, and staff trained in COVID Safety Precautions, Shadowfax is supporting the delivery of crucial life saving equipment for those in need, in partnership with GiveIndia and Ola.

O2ForIndia lets people in need re-

quest an Oxygen Concentrator through the Ola app by providing a few basic details. The request will be validated and the concentrators will be provided to the patients at their doorsteps within 30 minutes of the request made.

Contributing to the ongoing COVID relief operations, one of the country's top freight forwarder Continental Carriers handled another charter uplift of three 20 ft International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) standard containers weighing 33.5 tonnes. These ISO containers will help in removing the transport constraints for medical grade liquid Oxygen in the country.

The shipment was flown on an Air-BridgeCargo (ABC) plane that took off from China's Tianjin Airport to reach Kolkata Airport on Wednesday evening.

Earlier, Continental Carriers had chartered a B747-400 ABC freighter to transport 190 pallets of 'Zeolite' weighing 109 tonnes to Delhi from a factory in South of Italy.

The shipment was road transported using dedicated trucks over two days and moved to Milan airport for clearance. Post-clearance, it was transported over 900Km in bonded trucks to Liège Airport in Belgium for ULD build-up and on-forwarding to Delhi Airport.

Upon arrival, Continental Carriers prioritised clearance of the shipment through customs and delivered it in perfect condition to the customers located in Delhi NCR and Ahmedabad.

Small-sized firms like Active Freight Logistics (AFL) have also been facilitating the logistics and supply chain of medical relief. The company handled 1269 kg of COVID-related cargo flown in to the country by a Qatar Airways Cargo flight. The relief cargo included Oxygen Concentrators and other relief materials donated by the Jain Society of North Texas-USA that arrived at Bangalore Airport.

The said cargo was bonded at the Menzies Aviation Bobba – Customs Bonded Warehouse where customs examination and other formalities were completed in a short span of time and the cargo was loaded and moved out of the warehouse. AFL successfully cleared the shipment within 15 minutes from customs and readied it for dispatch within 30 minutes from the warehouse, supported by the Menzies COVID Relief Task Force team involved in handling of the shipments and facilitating the swift clearance. 