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The Telegraph

BUSINESS

CALCUTTA MONDAY 28 JUNE 2021

Linde plea to ramp up liquid oxygen facilities

SAMBIT SAHA

Calcutta: Linde India, the largest producer of industrial gas in India and the world, has called for building liquid oxygen storage plants in hospitals to meet the future surge in demand if a third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic hits India.

The company cautioned that installing PSA oxygen plants, some of which are being put up under PM Cares Fund, is not the "panacea" to tackle the future surge and advised complementing them with liquid storage facilities deep down to the district level as an effective solution.

"Just a word of caution...PSA is not a panacea. It is a machine that produces oxygen of a particular grade. It cannot take care of any surge demands," Abhijit Banerjee, managing director of Linde India, said.

After being grossly under-prepared to anticipate the surge in demand of medical oxygen (MO) during the peak of the second wave of the pandemic in May, the Centre as well as various states are now trying to enhance the capacity of MO in the country. The PM Cares Fund has released funds to set up 551 such PSA units.



SURVIVAL STRATEGY

Banerjee pointed out that there have been instances in the past when oxygen generation through pressure swing absorption (PSA) plants were found to be unreliable. They were either producing less than the rated capacity or oxygen of purity below Indian medical standard. The plants, which require rigorous maintenance, can also be rendered useless during power outage or unscheduled and scheduled maintenance.

"PSAs do reduce the base demand of liquid oxygen to an extent but they are not the end solutions. We have been telling the governments and hospitals to enhance liquid storage capacity," Banerjee said during a virtual interaction organised by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Linde, which emerged as one of the largest suppliers and facilitators of MO during the second wave, has also urged governments to change the rules for setting up storage plants. The safety requirements are now obsolete and not prevalent in many parts of the world. Apart from limiting the storage capacity, they also prevent many hospitals from having them in their premises.

Before the pandemic, the requirement of MO was about 800-850 tonnes per day (tpd) in India. In September-October last year during the first wave, the requirement went up to 3,000tpd. In May, the all-India demand was a bit less than 10,000tpd.

Moreover, most of the installed capacities to produce oxygen were in the east while demand drove up in the north, south and west of India. It threw up a logistics challenge of quickly moving the MO to the region which needed it most. Supply of oxygen to industry was completely cut off, barring a few exceptions.

Corporates such as Tata Group and ITC Ltd has partnered Linde, procuring ISO containers from overseas markets on rent and airlifted them to India for faster supply.

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আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা



| SUPPLEMENT | ROBIBASORIYO | ITYADI | PATRIKA

Sunday, 27 June, 2021



Page No. 8

অক্সিজেনের মজুত ভান্ডার গড়তে আর্জি

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা

করোনার দ্বিতীয় ঢেউয়ের ঠাক্কায় অক্সিজেনের তুমুল খাটতির ছবি দেখেছে সারা দেশ। হঠাৎ চাফিলা বাড়ায় শিঙের অক্সিজেন উৎপাদন বন্ধ রেখে চিকিৎসার জন্য তরল অক্সিজেনের উৎপাদনে জোর দিতে হয়েছে। গত ক'সপ্তাহে সংক্রমণের প্রকোপ কিছুটা কমেছে ঠিকই। কিন্তু খের চোখ রাজ্যে তৃতীয় ঢেউয়ের আশঙ্কা। এই পরিস্থিতিতে এখন থেকেই অক্সিজেনের জোগানের ব্যবস্থায় জোর

দিতে হাসপাতাল ও গ্রামে অক্সিজেনের মজুত ভান্ডার গড়ার মতো একগুচ্ছ প্রচারাভিযান দিতে ইন্ডিয়া-র এমটি অডিভিভিৎ বন্দোবস্তায়া। এক সময়ের পরিচিত সংস্থা ব্রিটিশ অক্সিজেনকে অধিগ্রহণ করেছিল দিতে গোষ্ঠী।

সংস্কৃতি বেঙ্গল চেম্বারের ওয়েবিনারে অক্সিজেনের উৎপাদন, সঞ্চয় ও সমাধান সংক্রান্ত আলোচনার অডিভিভিৎবাবু বলেন, করোনার দ্বিতীয় ঢেউ বড় শিক্ষা। তা চোখে আঙুল দিয়ে দেখিয়েছে চিকিৎসার জন্য অক্সিজেনের উৎপাদনের পাশাপাশি

তার মজুত ভান্ডার ও নব্বুন ব্যবস্থায়ও জোরদার হওয়া দরকার। সাম্প্রতিক সপ্তাহের পরে হাসপাতালে 'পিএসএ অক্সিজেন গ্রাউট' বসানোর জোর দেওয়া হচ্ছে ঠিকই। তবে তাঁর বক্তব্য, দ্বিতীয় ঢেউয়ের মতো হঠাৎ বিপুল হারে চাফিলা বাড়লে শুধু তা নিয়েই সপ্তাহের মোকাবিলা করা সহজ নয়। তার সঙ্গে অক্সিজেন মজুত ভান্ডারও তৈরি রাখতে হবে। এ জন্য কিছু পুরনো নিয়ম বদল করা দরকার।

সেই সঙ্গে গ্রামীণ এলাকায় এমন পরিস্থিতির মোকাবিলায় জেলা বা

মহকুমাঞ্জে এখনই মজুত ভান্ডার গড়ায় জোর দেন অডিভিভিৎবাবু। তাঁর মতে, হঠাৎ করে বাড়লেও, সংক্রমণ বিপুল আধারত্যা দিতে দু'তিন সপ্তাহ সময় লাগে। তার মধ্যে এই সব ব্যবস্থা অনেকটা করে ফেলা সম্ভব। পাশাপাশি আতঙ্কে বা অপ্রয়োজনেও অনেকে আর্জি সিলিঙার বড়িতে বা আবাসনে মজুত বাণায় কুঠিম সঞ্চয় তৈরি হয়েছিল বলেও মনে করেন তিনি। অহেতুক সেই প্রথণতা এড়িয়ে বরং চিকিৎসকদের পরামর্শ মেনে চলার সুপারিশ করেছেন তিনি।

The PLI scheme does not make up for obstacles in a highly competitive environment: Chairman Maruti

□ lalitsethi • 5 days ago



Maruti Suzuki's RC Chairman Bargaba said the government's production-linked investment (PLI) scheme to boost large-scale manufacturing capacity does not compensate for obstacles in a highly competitive business environment. He advocated policies aimed at making manufacturing competitive by lowering costs to make them affordable in the domestic and international markets.

"The PLI scheme supports specific sectors and products. It cannot make up for the obstacle of being uncompetitive," Bhargava said in an interactive session with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

The government has announced spending of Rs 1.97 on PLI schemes in 13 sectors, including automobiles, in the United Budget 2021-22. This scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing under the Government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

In response to the question, Bhargava said the company is not looking for a new manufacturing plant because the industry CAGR has been less than 2%

over the past few years. "We just need to find a place to relocate from Gurgaon. We will add more land to Gujarat," said the chairman of the country's largest car maker.

Bargaba said that attracting investment requires political and administrative will and measures to ensure cost competitiveness, in connection with the revitalization of West Bengal's industry. .. In answering the question, he said that conflicts in the relationship between the state and the center would not affect investment.

The West Bengal government is worried about the center on a variety of issues.

Read also: Maruti Suzuki India raises car prices in the July-September quarter

The PLI scheme does not make up for obstacles in a highly competitive environment: Chairman Maruti

Source link [The PLI scheme does not make up for obstacles in a highly competitive environment: Chairman Maruti](#)

PLI scheme doesn't compensate for obstacles in uncompetitive environment: Maruti chairman



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He advocated for policies that are directed at making manufacturing competitive by bringing down costs to make it affordable for domestic and international markets.

"The PLI scheme will help certain sectors and products. It cannot compensate for the obstacles of being uncompetitive," Bhargava said at an interactive session with The Bengal Chamber.

The government had announced an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore for the PLI scheme for 13 sectors including automobile in the 2021-22 Union budget. The scheme aims at boosting domestic manufacturing under the governments Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

To a question, Bhargava said that the company was not looking for new manufacturing plants as the industry CAGR for the last few years was less than two per cent.

"We only have to look for a site to relocate from Gurgaon. Have some additional land in Gujarat," the chairman of the country's largest automaker said without elaborating. To attract investment, Bhargava said, there has to be political and administrative will, and measures to ensure costs are competitive, he said in the context of revitalisation of industry in West Bengal.

Replying to a question, he said that conflict in the relationship between a state and the Centre does not impact investments.

The West Bengal government is at loggerheads with the Centre over various issues. PTI BSM NN NN

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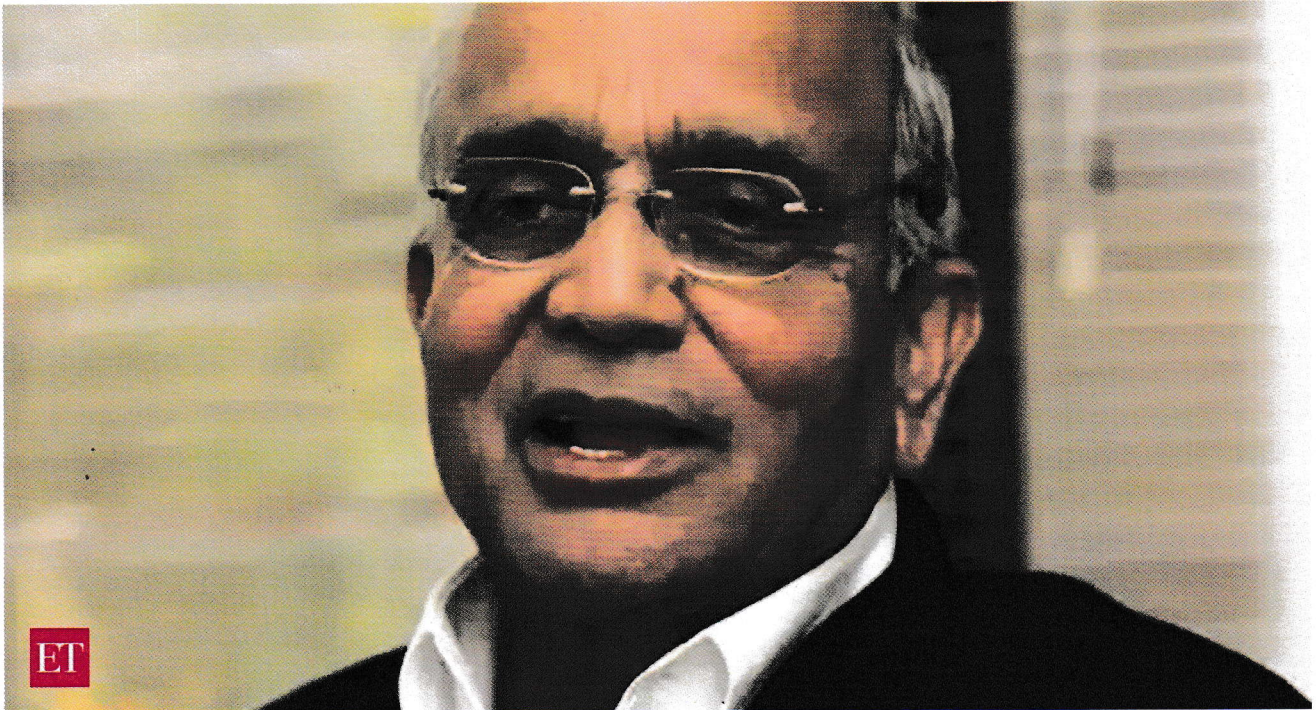
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PLI Scheme Doesn't Compensate For Obstacles In Uncompetitive Environment: Maruti Chairman RC Bhargava

By Ana Williams

On Jun 26, 2021

AUTOMOBILES



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Agency News PTI | Jun 25, 2021 07:38 PM IST

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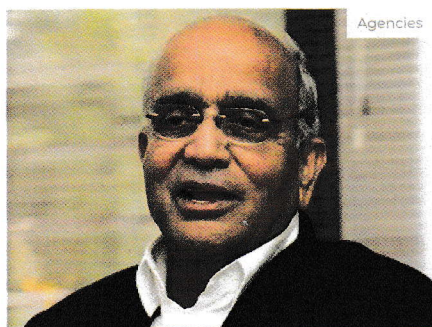
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Synopsis

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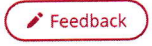
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PTI
Jun 26, 2021, Updated Jun 26, 2021, 11:22 AM IST



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PLI scheme doesn't compensate for obstacles in uncompetitive environment Maruti chairman

PTI June 25, 2021 19:49 IST

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