

# PROJECT 02 for INDIA

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## **In news**

Recently launched PROJECT 02 for INDIA to play a significant role in the wake of the second wave of COVID-19.

## **What is it?**

'Project 02' caters to meeting the rising demand for medical oxygen by supporting government hospitals to procure oxygen and related high priority equipment from approved manufacturers and start-ups, supporting manufacturers and start-ups to scale up capacity, addressing logistics challenges, enabling supplies to extended/make-shift hospitals and strengthening R&D and innovation for future pandemics

## **More about PROJECT 02 for INDIA**

- 'Project 02 for India' is to enable stakeholders working to augment the country's ability to meet this rise in demand for medical oxygen.
- Under this project, a National Consortium of Oxygen is enabling the national level supply of critical raw materials related to medical oxygen
- Raw materials include zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, manufacturing compressors, final products, i.e., oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.

## **Role of Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser**

- Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (O/o PSA, GoI) is involved in an effort aimed at raising COVID-19 response funds from private sector companies, donor organizations, and individuals to strengthen India's fight against COVID-19.
- These funds will be used for producing medical oxygen

for various health facilities in India through an initiative called 'Project O2'

- To execute this project, O/o PSA, GoI is facilitating at the national level, supply of quality oxygen cylinders, concentrators, and ventilators through four reputable national technology incubators

### **National Consortium of Oxygen**

- The consortium is looking forward to providing immediate to short-term relief
- It is also working to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for long-term preparedness.
- A committee of experts has been evaluating critical equipment such as oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators, from a pool of India-based manufacturers, start-ups, and MSMEs (in partnership with FICCI, MESA, etc.).
- **The Manufacturing and supply consortium also includes** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL); Tata Consulting Engineers (TCE); C-CAMP, Bengaluru; IIT Kanpur (IIT-K); IIT Delhi (IIT-D); IIT Bombay (IIT-B), IIT Hyderabad (IIT-H); IISER, Bhopal; Venture Center, Pune; and more than 40 MSMEs.

### **Grants and support to the consortium**

- The consortium has started to secure CSR/philanthropic grants from organizations like USAID, Edwards Lifesciences Foundation, Climate Works Foundation, etc.
- Hope Foundation, American Indian Foundation, Walmart, Hitachi, BNP Paribas, and eInfo Chips are procuring oxygen concentrators and VPSA/PSA plants as part of their CSR efforts to aid the consortium's work.
- NMDC Ltd has agreed to fund the procurement of raw materials like zeolite for the manufacturers in the consortium.