

# SCRAMBLE FOR OXYGEN

Docs insist equipment  
be used at home with  
total tech know-how

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“Doctors are forced to ask patients to create hospital-like settings at home. Another setback is that the prices of BiPAP (Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure) machines, oxygen cylinders, nebulisers, face masks and air purifiers have shot up by at least 50 per cent,” admitted a doctor at a top government hospital.



## COMMON SCENE

BLK Hospital's dedicated respiratory ICU is running full. Still, patients who need ICU admission keep streaming in.

“In the last one week, we have discharged eight patients from the ICU. They are using BiPAP machines and oxygen cylinders at home. We teach them how to operate these machines. They are assisted by nursing staff. Our OPD rush has also spiked three-fold,” said Dr Sandeep Nayar, HoD, respiratory medicines, BLK Hospital.

On Thursday, Delhi's overall air quality index (AQI) clocked 393 — ‘very poor’, only seven points short of the most dangerous level ‘severe’. Eleven areas in the city recorded ‘severe’ air quality. Forecasts say the situation is not likely to improve in the next three days.

Dr Vikas Maurya, head of pulmonary medicines at Fortis Healthcare, said asthma and



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**Asthma and COPD patients who got relief with medicines now need to be shifted to**



Cyclists ride through heavy haze in the Capital on Thursday.

