

NATIONAL

Can build hospitals in quick time to treat virus patients: L&T

CHENNAI, MARCH 24, 2020 05:02 IST
UPDATED: MARCH 24, 2020 04:20 IST

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Construction giant L&T ready to plug infrastructure gap



Even as the [COVID-19](#) outbreak spreads across the country, questions have been raised on whether the nation's health infrastructure will be sufficient to treat the rising numbers of positive cases. Sources said a mention of the gap was also made during the [Prime Minister's video conference](#) with business leaders on Monday.

Given the urgent need, construction giant Larsen and Toubro is among the agencies that hopes to provide expertise to build exclusive hospitals to treat COVID-19 patients, in record time.

L&T CEO and M.D. S.N. Subrahmanyam told The Hindu that a task force from the company's Buildings and Factories vertical will be capable of building a 50-100 bedded hospital from scratch with state-of-the-art facilities within three to four months.

"We have the necessary design and capability. It is technically feasible," he said, exuding confidence at completing the task.

Following the novel coronavirus outbreak and rapid spread, China had built a large health facility with space for 1,000 beds, within 10 days in Wuhan. "With this kind

of emergency building happening in the rest of the world, we have been thinking of our capabilities here. In fact, in India, we have done other projects, building structures rapidly, in record time. And so, we started thinking about building a hospital too,” Mr. Subrahmanyan said.

He says the team has plans and models ready and would be able to complete construction within the promised time. He added that the company also had the plans, wherewithal, capability and methodology to quickly convert, if needed, marriage halls or other existing structures, into a hospital with necessary infrastructure.

Aug 28, 2020 11:31:10 AM |

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