

# The race is on: Last-mile delivery companies are playing their part in Covid-19 vaccination

Transportation is just one aspect of the chain and another crucial part of the vaccine journey is storing it. Gubba Kiran, CEO **Gubba Cold Storage** says there are around 10,000 cold storages in the country, but less than 5% of them serve organised sectors like ice cream, chicken, processed food, meat and probably less than 1% serve the pharma industry for API's, raw materials, finished goods.

Of this, less than 0.1%, which means less than 100 cold storages can be used to preserve vaccines. Each vaccine storage facility needs to acquire a WHO-GDP certificate, 21 CFR data loggers, utmost cleanliness and an isolated chamber, since we cannot store vaccines with something else.

Telangana-based Gubba Cold Storage, which operates a chain of cold storages, has designed and started operating pharma cold storage facility that is highly efficient and compatible for **covid vaccine** preservation in the proximity of Hyderabad.



Gubba Kiran, CEO, Gubba Cold Storage.

Gubba started with the first cold storage in 1987 and today is one of India's largest players with 1.25 crore cubic feet preservation capacity and 18 cold storage plants in Hyderabad and Aurangabad. When it comes to pharma, the company preserves Active Pharma Ingredients (API), dangerous goods, bulk drugs, capsules, vials and syringes, packaging material, finished goods and excipients.

“With a capacity of 6600 pallets and three different temperature zones, -20 C, 2 to 8 C, 15-20 C we have built a system to make available 3 crore vaccines to the people of India at any time,” says Gubba Kiran, CEO Gubba Cold Storage. The company today boasts of mechanical operations, automated technology, ERP powered warehouse management systems, experienced and trained manpower, 24 hours online temperature reporting, along with high safety standards to effectively handle Covid vaccines.

“In early 2020, when the Covid hit the world and within a month we developed a sense of urgency. That was one such point where Gubba didn't think about the company's business, it was uncertain, we just knew that it is our responsibility to be proactive. The space, infrastructure, safety is ready, it's now time for the government to have trust in the Indian cold chain industry and permit the administration of Covid vaccines in third party cold storages,” says Kiran. He adds that the company is already researching even more effective ways of preserving and sustaining vaccines.