

Short-term scramble



The Coimbatore-based **ELGI Equipments** is 'moving heaven and earth' to make as many compressors as possible to meet the huge requirement of oxygen generation equipment, informs **Jairam Varadaraj**, the ₹1,100-crore compressor major's managing director. "This demand is all in a bunched time frame as the government is trying hard to find vendors with both capacity and ability," he adds. Varadaraj was in the US when the pandemic hit. "This is just a beginning," he cautions. "A lot of work is left to be done as various hospitals have decided to set up their own oxygen plants." Next, the manufacturing needs to migrate to rural areas, for which 'conversation is already on' though nothing has crystallised yet. This is, of course, a short-term business opportunity besides being a social responsibility, Varadaraj points out: ventilators were a big need earlier, but they are not being talked about any longer, because the capacity has been created. "The same will happen with oxygen in a month or two, and people won't have to scramble for it," he points out, adding that the third and fourth waves of the pandemic won't be as severe as the first two have been. ♦

An accomplished teacher

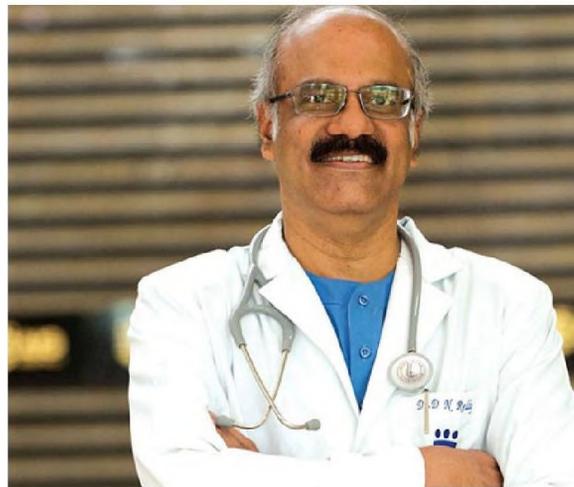
Rajagopal Ragavan Echambadi, Dunton Family Dean at the D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University, has been appointed the 10th president of the **Illinois Institute of Technology**, US. Born and brought up in Chennai, Echambadi completed his mechanical engineering degree from the College of Engineering, Guindy, and MBA from Anna University. He did his Ph D in Business Administration at the University of Houston. His first job through campus placement was in Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) as service engineer overseeing Kerala and Tamil Nadu. His teaching skills won him many laurels. Echambadi is well known for the iMBA programme that he conceptualised and launched at the University of Illinois in 2016, which attracted the



attention of the government of India. "We offered the first affordable, scaled online MBA programme in partnership with the Coursera platform, which reaches 80 million people around the world," he said. "The programme is now considered one of the best

disruptive and break-through in graduate MBA," says Echambadi. At a time when an MBA degree could cost \$100,000, this programme cost only \$22,000. Now, students from over 150 countries are participating in their MBA programmes. ♦

Honours galore



One of the first medical practitioners to promote endoscopy in India, **Dr D. Nageshwar Reddy** has "led the charge of educating numerous endoscopists all over the world", says Dr Klaus Mergener, president, American Society of Gastrointestinal

Endoscopy (ASGE). The recipient, who is the first Indian to win the **ASGE's Rudolf V. Schindler Award**, named after 'the father of gastroscopy', is chairman, AIG Hospitals, the Hyderabad-based super-specialty establishment.

"This is humbling for me," acknowledges Reddy. "I rededicate myself to the education and promotion of quality endoscopy." This award has come on the heels of another distinguished achievement: Dr Reddy was recently inducted as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This too was a first for an Indian medical doctor in the last 100 years. One of the most recognised medical professionals, with awards and felicitations from national and international organisations for his exemplary work, he is also a Padma Bhushan – and, earlier Padma Shri – awardee from the Indian government, and a winner of numerous other awards and fellowships. He has also published over 670 papers in national and international peer-reviewed journals, contributed chapters in 20 international textbooks of gastro-enterology and edited eight textbooks on gastrointestinal endoscopy. ♦