

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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States get ₹890 crore to mount COVID-19 response

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It is part of the ₹15,000-crore package announced in March

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government has released more than ₹890 crore as the second instalment of COVID-19 aid to strengthen the health response in 22 States and Union Territories. The amount is based on case load, according to an official statement from the Health Ministry.

This is a part of the ₹15,000-crore package announced in March to support the States' emergency response and the preparedness of their health systems. The money was meant for patient treatment, manpower training and medical infrastructure.

Health facilities

"The second instalment will be used for strengthening of public health facilities' infrastructure for testing, including procurement and installation of RT-PCR machines, RNA extraction



A health worker collecting virus samples in New Delhi. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

kits, TRUNAT & CBNAAT machines and BSL-II cabinets, strengthening of public health facilities infrastructure for treatment and development of ICU beds, installation of oxygen generators, cryogenic oxygen tanks and medical gas pipelines in public health facilities and procurement of bedside oxygen concentrators," said the statement.

The money would also be used to recruit, train and pay incentives to healthcare workers and volunteers, including ASHA workers, on COVID-19 duty.

States included

The States that will get the funds are Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim.

The first instalment of ₹3,000 crore was released in April to all States and UTs, and was used to ramp up testing facilities, augment hospital infrastructure and conduct surveillance activities, along with procurement of essential equipment, drugs and other supplies.