



Covid-19 Compensation

Why in News

Recently, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** has issued orders for an **ex gratia of Rs. 50,000** to the next of kin of those who died of **Covid-19**. The amount has been recommended by the [National Disaster Management Authority \(NDMA\)](#).

- The amount will be disbursed from the [State Disaster Response Fund \(SDRF\)](#).
- Last year, **Covid-19 was notified as a disaster** by the Ministry.

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Relief measure

A look at how the ex gratia of ₹50,000 will be paid as per the NDMA recommendation



The funds:

The States will provide the ex gratia relief from States Disaster Response Fund. The District Disaster Management Authorities will make the disbursement



The procedure: After documents proving a COVID-19 death are submitted, the claim will be settled within 30 days. The amount will be deposited in Aadhaar-linked bank accounts



Addressing grievances: District-level committees will deal with grievances regarding certification of death and issue amended documents

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The **ex gratia is applicable to the deceased**, including those involved in relief operations or associated in preparedness activities **“subject to the cause of death being certified as Covid-19”**.
 - The assistance would be **applicable from the date of the first case** in the country and **continue till the de-notification of Covid-19 as a disaster or till further orders**, whichever is earlier.
- **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF):**
 - **About:**
 - SDRF has been constituted under **Section 48 (1) (a)** of the [Disaster](#)

Management Act, 2005.

- It was constituted based on the **recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission.**
- It is the **primary fund available** with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief.
- It is **audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) every year.**
- **Contribution:**
 - The **Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation** for general category States and Union Territories and **90% for special category States** and Union Territories (northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).
 - The annual Central contribution is **released in two equal installments** as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
- **Disaster (s) Covered under SDRF:**
 - **Cyclone**, drought, **earthquake**, fire, **flood, tsunami**, hailstorm, **landslide**, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and **cold waves**.
- **Local Disasters:**
 - A State Government may use up to **10% of the funds available** under the SDRF for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be 'disasters' within the local context in the State and which are not included in the notified list of disasters of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Source: TH

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