

## MAHARASHTRA

### ENHANCING BED QUALITY -

A directive was issued by Maharashtra in May 2020 to all charitable hospitals to enhance their bed capacity to accommodate patients. Around 80% of the operational bed capacity of these hospitals was regulated by rates determined by the state till August 2020. Private clinics, dialysis centres and nursing homes were also asked to offer necessary services. To increase the number of isolation beds, the state government reached out to the Central and Western Railways for converting train wagons into isolation facilities. Patients facing overcharging issues in hospitals were encouraged to lodge formal complaints with District Collectors on their official email addresses.

### MANAGING MEDICAL WASTE -

The Panchganidistrict took to mandatory decentralized segregation by separating dry and wet waste before handing it over to waste collectors. A waste bin for hazardous items like medical waste and batteries, was added following the COVID outbreak. Directions were issued to every household for storing medical waste like syringes, masks, gloves, medicines, tissues and items which could be contaminated in a separate bin. Waste collection is carried out on a daily basis by the civic body and sent to a Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment (CBMWT) facility. A fine of Rs. 500 has been imposed by the Municipal Council for failure to segregate the waste. The civic body in Panchgani has also established a group of waste collectors called 'swachhagrahis' who raise awareness about the hazards of biomedical waste and the need for segregating it from other waste.