

# Govt forms Covid crack team for Bengaluru

**7 ministers, CM's aide to take charge of each zone of city**

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a new game plan to tame Covid-19, the Cabinet on Thursday decided to form a ministerial team to manage the pandemic in each of the eight municipal zones in Bengaluru, where cases have been rising rapidly.

There are seven ministers from Bengaluru in Yediyurappa's Cabinet who along with CM's political secretary S R Vishwanath, will manage the Covid-19 affairs in the east, west, south, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bommanahalli, Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli and Yelahanka zones.

The government also appointed senior IAS officers in each of the eight zones to "monitor, review and take immediate decisions" on controlling the spread of Covid-19 in the city.

"The chief minister has appointed the ministers to each zone where they will be in charge of taking steps to control the Covid-19 pandemic," Law Minister J C Madhuswamy said, briefing reporters after the Cabinet

**'Going out of control'**

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Thursday said the Covid-19 situation was "getting out of control a little" in some parts of the state, but assured citizens that authorities were taking necessary steps. "In some districts, it is getting out of control a little. But the district administration and police are working day and night," he said.

meeting.

"Coronavirus is now (spreading) deeply. We discussed the steps needed. It was decided to increase the number of beds with high-flow oxygen facilities in taluk and district hospitals, do more tests and deliver the results faster," Madhuswamy said.

The Cabinet approved spending Rs 207 crore to provide "medical gas pipeline with high-flow oxygen" and emer-

gency beds alongside other infrastructure at taluk and district hospitals. The Cabinet also approved Rs 81.99 crore spent by the health department on purchasing medical equipment at public health centres.

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The Cabinet approved the promulgation of an ordinance that will increase the government's contingency fund limit to Rs 500 crore. "Currently, we are allowed to spend only Rs 80 crore from the fund. But

because of Covid-19, we have had to provide immediate financial aid to several communities whose livelihood was affected. So, as a one-time measure, the limit of the fund will be increased to Rs 500 crore through an ordinance," Madhuswamy explained.

ZONE	MINISTER	IAS OFFICER
West	Deputy Chief Minister <b>C N Ashwath Narayan</b>	Rajender Kumar Kataria
East	Housing Minister <b>V Somanna</b>	Tushar Girinath
South	Revenue Minister <b>R Ashoka</b>	Munish Moudgil
Bommanahalli	Education Minister <b>S Suresh Kumar</b>	P Manivannan
RR Nagar	Cooperation Minister <b>S T Somashekhar</b>	R Vishal
Mahadevapura	Urban Devlp Minister <b>B A Basavaraja</b>	N Manjula
Dasarahalli	Food & Civil Supplies Minister <b>K Gopalaiah</b>	P C Jaffer
Yelahanka	CM's political secretary <b>S R Vishwanath</b>	Naveen Raj Singh

INDIA CASES ON THURSDAY

**25,092**

**463**

DEATHS

Wednesday's cases: **24,879**  
Deaths: **487**

KARNATAKA CASES ON THURSDAY

**2,282**

**17**

DEATHS

Wednesday's cases: **2,062**  
Deaths: **54**