

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: 23  
chief minister

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 16/3/2021

## With 'signs of second wave', CM talks tough

Take precautions seriously or be ready for another lockdown: BSY

STAFF REPORTER 16/3/21  
BENGALURU

With experts pointing out that the rising COVID-19 cases are a "sign of a second wave", Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Monday chaired a meeting in which the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended measures, including keeping COVID Care Centres (CCCs) as standby and holding talks with private hospitals to treat patients as they did earlier and ramping up testing.

The Chief Minister asked citizens to take precautions seriously if they did not want another lockdown. Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Yediyurappa said that there was a need for the public, particularly in districts with high positivity rate, to exercise all precautionary measures. Bidar, Kalaburagi, Bengaluru Rural, Udupi, Tumakuru, Dakshina Kannada, and Bengaluru Urban districts have a high positivity rate, he said, adding, however, that the mortality rate in the State remained low.

"I urge people of the State to exercise precautions, if they want to avoid another lockdown," he said.

Though he announced some new directions, he did not announce many restrictions that were suggested by the TAC on Monday. Mr. Ye-

diyurappa said that he would wait for the meeting of the Prime Minister with Chief Ministers that was scheduled on Wednesday before deciding the next course of action.

He said that the officials had suggested that vaccination and the testing rates should be ramped up in districts where the positivity rate was high. Shopkeepers, bus operators and others who came in contact with a large number of people should be tested, he added.

Among the measures he announced were increasing contact tracing, establishment of COVID care centres like earlier, and directing officials to get in touch with private hospitals to allocate beds for COVID-19 positive patients and ensure that the supply of oxygen was available.

Mr. Yediyurappa suggested that senior citizens who were to receive vaccination should be identified via voter lists. He also said that measures should be taken to vaccinate people in large apartments and voluntary organisations should be roped in to increase vaccination rates in slums and rural areas.

At least 3 lakh people should be vaccinated every day, said the Chief Minister.

# TAC makes a slew of suggestions, but govt. holds off on approval

## Committee has recommended strong action in six districts with high positivity rate

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

Anticipating a further surge in the number of COVID-19 cases in the coming days, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Monday recommended various stringent measures in six districts in the State where the positivity rate was above 1%. However, the State government has not yet accepted the recommendations.

Some of the measures they suggested in six districts (Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Dakshina Kannada, and Udupi) included the suspension of classes for all school students, except those of classes 10 and 12 (II PUC) for the next two weeks (till March 31).

They also recommended that with some exceptions, all classes be held online. Another measure recommended was to have alternate seating in cinema halls for the next two weeks, with a maximum capacity of 50%.

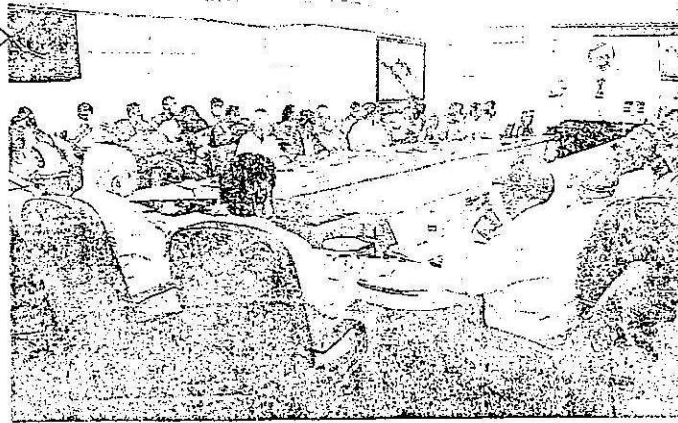
The committee also recommended that 20 contacts be traced for every positive case.

Officials pointed out that they were waiting for the meeting with the Prime Minister scheduled on Wednesday to announce certain restrictions, as they did not want there to be any discrepancies between the national and State guidelines.

### Some accepted

Some of the other measures, such as strict enforcement of COVID-19 behaviour and limiting people at weddings and other events were, however, approved by the Chief Minister. Also approved were measures such as increased testing and vaccination.

The committee has also categorically asked the government to review the status of COVID hospitals, oxygenated beds, ICU



Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa having a meeting with officials and doctors on the COVID-19 situation on Monday. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

beds, and the establishment of COVID-19 care centres. It has suggested that dialogue be initiated with private hospitals for allocating beds for COVID-19 patients.

The meeting chaired by the

Chief Minister on Monday was attended by TAC members C.N. Manjunath, Giridhar Babu, Sudarshan, and V. Ravi. Ministers K. Sudhakar and C.N. Ashwath Narayan, besides Chief Secretary P. Ravikumar, were also present.

## 932 fresh cases in Karnataka

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

The number of new COVID-19 cases continued to stay above the 900 mark in Karnataka, with the State reporting 932 fresh positive cases on Monday, taking the total cases to 9.61 lakh.

Out of the 932 cases, as many as 550 were reported from Bengaluru Urban alone. Out of the total 8,860 active cases of COVID-19 in Karnataka, 125 patients are admitted in ICUs across different hospitals in the State.

As many as 62,358 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Sunday. Of these, 59,799 tests were RT-PCR, while the remaining were Rapid Antigen Tests.

The positivity rate for the day

## Minister warns schools on classes for primary students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The Department of Primary and Secondary Education will initiate action against schools in the State that conduct physical classes for children in classes 1 to 5 without permission, said S. Suresh Kumar, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, on Monday.

In a press release, he pointed out that following the recommendations of the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee, the State government had accorded permission to schools to conduct physical classes for

students of class 6 and above. However, it was reported in the media that several schools across the State were conducting classes for students of lower standards.

Taking serious note of this, given the spike in COVID-19 cases, Mr. Suresh Kumar directed the Commissioner of Public Instruction to constitute taluk-level monitoring committees to identify schools conducting classes for lower standards and to initiate stringent action against such school managements. He directed the Commissioner to issue a circular in this regard.

## COVID-19

stood at 1.49 %, while the Case Fatality Rate was 0.75 %. As many as seven COVID-19 deaths were reported on Monday, taking the total number of fatalities in the State to 12,397.

### Vaccination continues

Meanwhile, a total of 1.25 lakh people were vaccinated. This included first and second doses of healthcare workers and frontline workers, as well first doses for people above 60 and those in the age group of 45 to 60 with comorbidities.

With this, cumulatively 14.96 lakh people had been vaccinated as of Monday. No severe adverse effects following immunisation were reported in anyone on Monday. As many as 3,191 sessions were planned on Monday, and 3,188 were held.