

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, RESEARCH AND REFERENCE BRANCH

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Key meet today to decide on stricter curbs in state

'Not necessarily' lockdown but steps 'to curtail movement'

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BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government is set to decide on stricter measures to rein in the Covid-19 second wave during a meeting on Monday. The talks come at a time when experts have warned that the government is fast losing control over the second surge.

When asked if the government was now leaning towards a lockdown, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said what was being considered was "not necessarily" a lockdown but involved stringent measures "to curtail movement".

The minister's statement comes in the wake of record-breaking numbers of Covid-19 cases being reported in the state over the last two weeks. On Sunday, Karnataka reported 19,067 cases,

of which 12,793 were from Bengaluru alone. "The virus is being spread through the activities and movements of people. The decision before the government is how many activities it will curtail," the minister said, adding that he hoped the decisions would support sweeping restrictions.

No lockdown: Ashoka

However, Revenue Minister R Ashoka ruled out a complete lockdown, saying it will adversely affect the poor. "But we will take stringent measures," he told reporters. Ashoka also said the government has directed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to raid private hospitals that do not share 50% of beds with the government to treat patients. "Some big hospitals have set aside only 10-15% of their beds," he said. The govern-



A health worker administers Covid-19 shots at a free vaccination camp in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

10 new Covid Care Centres

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said plans are under way to scale up ICU bed numbers. He added that 10 new Covid Care Centres (CCCs) would also be opened in the weeks to come, including at the Agricultural College and at a centre donated by Bosch in Koramangala.

ment has asked BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta to initiate action against them.

Sources said the government stares at the hard choice of introducing a lockdown for neglecting measures which could have curbed the outbreak earlier. "The one step, night curfew, has not helped because not many people socialise after 10 pm," a source said. "As of Sunday, the city has

run out of ICU beds completely. There is not one bed available for critical cases," the source added. Officially, the BBMP website showed that 5% of ICU beds and ICU-ventilator beds (52 ICU beds and 24 ICU-ventilator beds) were available.

The BBMP has issued notices to five private hospitals for not complying with the mandated 50% of beds for the government.