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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Covid-guidelines

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 21/4/21

State imposes weekend curfew till May 4

Night curfew from 9 pm-6 am; new guidelines issued to rein in Covid cases

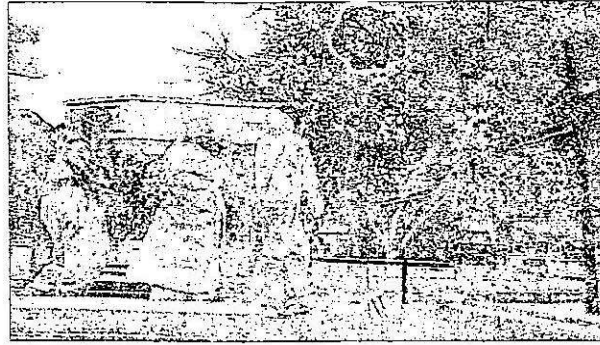
21/4/21

SHRUTHI HM SASTRY
BENGALURU, DHNS

The B S Yediyurappa administration on Tuesday opted for the "middle ground" of night and weekend curfew till May 4 instead of going for a full-fledged lockdown to curb Covid-19 cases.

Starting Wednesday, the government ordered the closure of theatres, malls, bars and dine-in services at hotels to keep people from venturing out amid an unprecedented spike in coronavirus cases. The new curbs will be applicable all over Karnataka.

The night curfew will be in effect from 9 pm to 6 am. The weekend curfew will kick in from 9 pm on Friday and will be in force till 6 am on Monday. > Curfew, Page 5



Volunteers of Mercy Angels and Archdiocese of Bengaluru carry a Covid victim for burial in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

NEW RESTRICTIONS

- Night curfew from 9 pm to 6 am
- Weekend curfew from 9 pm Friday to 6 am Monday; grocery, other shops allowed from 6 am to 10 am
- Schools, colleges, theatres, malls, gyms, bars to remain shut
- No dine-in at restaurants; standalone liquor shops, bars permitted for takeaways
- Marriages with 50 people, cremation/funeral with 20 people max
- Stadia, playgrounds allowed but no spectators
- Industries, construction activities allowed
- Banks, ATMs, e-commerce delivery permitted
- Govt offices at 50% strength; work-from-home for IT companies

Lockdown should be last resort: Modi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi ruled out lockdown as a solution to tackle the Covid-19 second wave.

Addressing the nation on Tuesday night, he told states to clamp lockdown only as a "last resort", even as states like Delhi, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh went for the emergency measure in the face of a massive spike in coronavirus cases.

Modi also condoled the loss of life due to the pandemic. "We have to save the nation from lockdown. We have to focus on micro containment zones... The country is waging a war against corona again. But we will overcome this storm with public participation," he said.

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State imposes weekend curfew till May 4

CURFEW, FROM PAGE 1

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During the weekend curfew, neighbourhood shops selling essentials will be open from 6 am to 10 am.

The decision of the government comes amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi advising states to consider a lockdown as a last resort.

The new guidelines were the culmination of an all-party meeting chaired by Governor Vajubhai R Vala, which was followed by a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

At the all-party meeting, Vala asked the state government to take "tough measures" to contain the spread of the virus even as former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy

pitched for a total lockdown.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar said the new guidelines did not amount to a lockdown. "We've picked a middle ground," he said. "The new guidelines will be in effect till 6 am on May 4. On May 3, we will review the situation again," he added.

With cases rising, pressure was mounting on the government to keep people at home. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and several others in the government were not in favour of a lockdown, given the devastation it caused last year.

"We have reached a stage where more stringent norms are needed. But, we need to be pragmatic," Home & Law

Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, stressing the need to save lives while sustaining livelihoods.

"We saw what happened last year," he said, referring to the lockdown.

The government has also tweaked the attendance cap for marriages. Earlier, up to 100 people were allowed for indoor events, while the cap was 200 for outdoor events. Now, there is an overall cap of 50 people for marriages and 20 for funerals.

Places of religious worship will remain closed for the public, except for priests to perform daily rituals.

All essential services will remain functional. Inter-state and intra-state travel is not restricted.