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Paracetamol Prices Jump 40% In India As Coronavirus Epidemic Shuts Down China



NEW DELHI : The world's second-most populous nation is facing the ripple effects of shut-downs in China with production of medicines to mobile phones being hit as supply chain disruptions prolong.

Prices of paracetamol, the most commonly used analgesic, have jumped by 40% in India, while the cost of azithromycin, an antibiotic used for treating a variety of bacterial infections, has risen by 70%, said Pankaj R. Patel, chairman of Zydus Cadila. The pharma industry could face shortages in finished drug formulations starting April if supplies aren't restored by the first week of next month, he said.

The coronavirus, which has killed more than 1,000 people and stoked fears of a broader slow-down for the world's second-biggest economy, has challenged the global supply lines after production in China slowed down and movement of people in and out of the country stalled. As manufacturers based in China restart factories, nations such as India which depend heavily on imports of some raw material and intermediate goods from mainland continue to face uncertainty.

Patel sees a substantial increase in prices of active pharmaceutical ingredients -- the basic substance used to make drugs -- in the short- to medium-term.

India, one of the largest suppliers of generic drugs to the world and home to about 12% of all manufacturing sites catering to the US market, relies on China

for as much as 80% of API requirement. Pharma isn't the only sector hit by China's production pause.

Mobile phones

Some Indian manufacturers of mobile phones are facing disruption to production on account of the shutdown in China, according to Pankaj Mahindroo, chairman of India Cellular and Electronics Association that represents companies including Foxconn, Apple Inc., Micromax Informatics Ltd. and Salcomp India.

"The impact is already visible," said Mahindroo. "If things don't improve soon, production will have to be stopped."

Inventory with manufacturers would last for about two weeks and production will start suffering when they run out of critical components like printed circuit board, camera modules, semi conductors, resistors and capacitors, Mohindroo added.

India imported electronic goods worth \$55 billion in 2017-

18. According to a government report, production of cellular mobile handsets reached 225 million units in the year ended March 2018, as compared to 60 million units in 2015.

"If the situation persists, it will impact our assembly line," said Manish Sharma, president and CEO, Panasonic India and South East Asia. "If the shutdown continues in China, just like other industry players there will be a delay in production."

German Far Right Arrests Reveal 'Shocking' Mosque Attack Plan

GERMANY:- Members of a German extreme-right group arrested last week were believed to have been plotting "shocking" large-scale attacks on mosques similar to the ones carried out in New Zealand last year, the government said on Monday.

Officials said that investigations into 12 men detained in police raids across Germany on Friday had indicated they planned major attacks, following media reports over the weekend the group aimed to launch several simultaneous mass-casualty assaults on Muslims during prayers.

"It's shocking what has been revealed here, that there are cells here that appear to have become radicalised in such a short space of time," interior ministry spokesman Bjorn Gruenewaelder told reporters at a Berlin press conference.

"It is the task of the state, and of course of this government, to protect free practice of religion in this country, with no reference to what religion it might be," Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said.

"Anyone practising their religion in Germany within our legal order should be able to do so without being endangered or threatened."

Suspended policeman
According to media reports, the group planned to use semi-automatic weapons to copy last March's attacks in Christchurch in New Zealand in which 51 people were killed at two mosques.

Investigators learned about the plot from someone who had infiltrated the group, the reports said. The alleged leader of the



group, who was known to the authorities and whose meetings and chat activity had been under observation, had detailed his plans at a meeting organised with his accomplices last week.

According to German daily Bild, the leader was a 53-year-old from Augsburg named by investigators as Werner S.

Prosecutors said on Friday they had launched early morning raids to determine whether the suspects already had weapons or other supplies that could be used in an attack.

Of the 12 men arrested on Friday, four are believed to have founded the group while eight more had promised to support them with money and weapons.

The suspects, all of whom are German citizens, also included a police officer previously suspended over his links to the far right, North-Rhine Westphalia state interior minister Herbert Reul said on Friday.

Bild claimed to have identified him as Thorsten W., a 50-year-old medieval history enthusiast whose posts online included pictures of himself with a sword and shield and rants describing Germany as a "radical left dictatorship".

'Vigilant'
German authorities have turned increased attention to the country's underground extreme right scene since the murder of conservative local politician Walter Luebeck last June.

In an October attack on a synagogue in eastern city Halle, an assailant armed with home-made weapons killed two people at random on the street and in a Turkish restaurant after failing to breach the temple's solid wooden door.

Interior ministry spokesman Gruenewaelder said police have identified around 50 extreme right adherents as "dangerous" individuals who could carry out a violent attack, compared with 660 Islamists and fewer than 10 far-left extremists.

British Mp Heading Group On Kashmir

with me'. I told him not to speak to me like that and was then taken to a cordoned off area marked as a Deportee Cell. He then ordered me to sit down and I refused. I didn't know what they might do or where else they may take me, so I wanted people to see me," the British MP said.

The immigration officer disappeared again, she said, adding that she phoned her sister-in-law's cousin who she was going to be staying with.

"Kai got in touch with the British High Commission and he tried to find out what was going on," she wrote on Twitter.

She said later several immigration officials came to her but none of them knew why her e-visa was cancelled. "Even the person who seemed to be in charge said he didn't know and was really sorry about what had happened."

Abrahams was among a group of MPs who issued formal letters following the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 in August last year.

We are gravely concerned at the announcement by Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah, that Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir, has been removed by Presidential Order, the Opposition MP had noted in her letter to the UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab at the time.

India Serves Demarche On Turkey

diplomacy and that they will have strong implications on India's ties with Turkey.

MEA Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said India rejected the repeated attempts by Turkey to justify the cross-border terrorism "practised so blatantly" by Pakistan.

In an address to a joint session of Pakistan's Parliament on Friday, Erdogan compared the "struggle" of Kashmiri people with that of the fight by Turkish people against foreign domination during the World War I, and threw his weight behind Islamabad on the Kashmir issue.

"India has made a strong demarche with the Turkish government on the remarks made by President Erdogan on the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during his recent visit to Islamabad. These remarks reflect neither an understanding of history nor of the conduct of diplomacy," Kumar said in a statement.

He said the Turkish President's remarks "distorted" events of the past to advance a "narrow minded" view of the present.

"This recent episode is but one more example of a pattern of Turkey interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. India finds that completely unacceptable," Kumar said.

The demarche was made by Secretary (West) Vikash Swarup to the Ambassador of Turkey.

India's Policies May Cause Refugee

quoted him as saying. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that India can destroy Pakistan in 11 days is not a responsible statement by a premier of a nuclear state with a huge population, the paper reported.

Khan made the statement in the presence of visiting UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who was also attending the summit. He said because of the "Hindutva" ideology, Kashmiris have been lockdown for over

200 days. He alleged under the same ideology, the BJP-led government passed two discriminatory nationalistic legislations, targeting 200 million Muslims in India.

Khan was referring to India's Citizenship Amendment Act and the revocation of the special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The new citizenship law passed by the Indian Parliament in December 2019 offers citizenship to non-Muslim persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The Indian government has maintained that the CAA is an internal matter of the country and stressed that the goal is to protect the oppressed minorities of neighbouring countries.

India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5. Reacting to India's move, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian High Commissioner.

India has always maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is its integral part and ruled out any third party mediation, including either from the UN or the US, saying it is a bilateral issue with Pakistan.

Khan said if the international community does not take notice of this situation, it will create another refugee crisis for Pakistan as Muslims of India will move to Pakistan.

"This is not the India of Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi. The United Nations (UN) must play its role otherwise it will become a very big problem in the future," Duniya News quoted Khan as saying.

Internet, Connectivity

to the connectivity," he said during an interaction with investors.

He was part of the Road Show by the Jammu and Kashmir government for its Global Investors Summit sometime in May this year.

Sharma also said after the Supreme Court directed to review the situation, the administration is holding meetings every week and every fortnight further relaxation in terms of access to internet is given.

Speaking about the law and order situation, he said the overall situation in Jammu and Kashmir is much changed after August 5 when special status to the state was withdrawn with the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution.

"Things are getting better and better," he added.

Sedition Case: 3 Engineering

"They (Kashmiri students) have been arrested, produced before the court and remanded in judicial custody," the Hubbali-Dharwad police Commissioner R Dileep told PTI.

The police had come under severe criticism from right wing groups for releasing the youths on Sunday.

According to police sources, they were apprehended in this morning and taken to court.

The action came after members of right wing organisations staged demonstrations outside the police station on Sunday. Sri Ram Sena chief Pramod Muthalik was among those who criticised the police for releasing the youth who allegedly "demonstrated their anti-India vitriol on the first anniversary of Pulwama attack."

Members of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, and other Hindutva outfits tried to manhandle the Kashmiri students as they were being taken to the police van after leaving court, The Hindu reported. Police sources said Home Minister Basavaraj

Bomma too spoke to the police officials about the case.

Notification Issued For Phase-II

and Budgam in Budgam; Wakura in Ganderbal; Kulgam block in Kulgam; Nutnussa, Drugmulla, Magam, Ramhal and Tarthpora in Kupwara; Awantipora and Kakapora (partly) in Pulwama and Chitragam in Shopian of Kashmir Division.

In Jammu Division, the Panchayati elections will be held in Bhagwah, Kastigarh, Thatri, Doda (Ghat), Dali Udampur, Gundana, Assar, Khellani, Bhaderwah and Bhalla of Doda; Surankote, Loran, Mandi, Nangali Sahib Sain Baba, Sathra, Lassana and Buzfiat (partially) in Poonch; Gundi Dharam, Batote, Rajgarh, Sangaldan, Gandhri and Ramban in Ramban; Arnas, Thuroo, Jij Bagli, Mahore, Gulabgarh and Chasana in Reasi; and Sewna, Chanunta, Ramnagar, Majalta and Khoon in Udhampur.

According to the notification, the last date for making nominations is February 24, 2020, the date for the scrutiny of nominations is February 25, 2020, the last date for withdrawal of candidature is February 27, 2020, the date on which a poll, if necessary, shall be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 7, 2020, the date of counting is March 7, 2020 unless notified otherwise, and the date before which the election shall be completed has been fixed as March 26, 2020.

KPC Concerned Over 'Harassment'

district. "On Sunday night, a multimedia journalist Kamran Yousuf, working with the 'Newsclick', was picked up from his home by the police. Recalling the details, Kamran said that a police party led by DySP and SHO Pulwama entered his home around 11 pm and knocked on the door," the spokesman said.

The spokesperson said that Yousuf alleged he was taken in a police vehicle to the office of DySP and questioned about a Twitter account operated by Kamran Manzoor. The journalist claimed that they checked his phones and asked me about Kamran Manzoor as they suspected that he was operating the account.

The spokesperson cited the journalist as saying that as the police officers did not get anything objectionable from his phones, he was let go at around 1 am.

"The police's nocturnal raid at the house of a journalist has once again highlighted the dangers faced by journalists in the valley," the KPC spokesman said.

J&K Admin Flags Off Pan-India

in Jammu and Kashmir, the government flagged off grand pan-India roadshows, starting with Bengaluru and Kolkata.

The roadshows are aimed at allowing prospective investors have a dialogue on the investment opportunities in the region.

Providing a platform for the business communities to deliberate upon how the newly-formed Union territory's potential may be leveraged, the roadshows will cover cities like Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad in February and March.

They intend to get along business hubs to draw together investors, decision-makers, senior government officials and the local business community in a dialogue that can spur the region's industrial growth and manufacturing across 14 identified focus

sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Kewal Kumar Sharma, adviser to the lieutenant governor, emphasised that a "new version of J&K -- J&K 2.0 is all set to emerge as the UT is now at par with rest of India."

Every district of Jammu and Kashmir has a distinct heritage, culture and history, and huge untapped potential, Sharma said.

Rohit Kansal, principal secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, highlighted 14 sectors, including tourism, education, healthcare and infrastructure, which present the opportunities for potential investors.

With an aim to make Jammu and Kashmir an industrial hub, more than 48 investible projects and new 14 focus sectors have been identified, which are investor-friendly and easy to business, Kansal said.

"Six thousand plus acres of industrial and sector-specific land bank has been identified to attract large, mega and small industries to create more employment opportunities in the newly-formed UT.

"Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) has also started its Investment felicitation Cell at Delhi and planning for Jammu and Srinagar," Kansal said.

"We are coming up with two IT parks with plug and play facility, and are also in process of finalising our new industrial promotion policy," said Bipul Pathak, principal secretary, IT, J&K.

The Union Territory of J&K is one of the best destinations in the country for setting up residential schools, smart schools, skill centres, according to Hirdesh Kumar, commissioner secretary, school education.

"We are confident that such steps coupled with the Centre and UT administration's efforts to restore normalcy in J&K will soon create an environment for attracting industry to the UT."

Trump Kashmir Mediation Offer

Administration "stands ready to assist."

A release from Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Representative Eliot Engel reiterated his support for "the longstanding US position" on Kashmir, affirmed that the pace and scope of India-Pakistan dialogue is a bilateral determination, and called on Pakistan to facilitate such dialogue.

In its second report on Kashmir in less than six months, CRS also noted that many in India disagree with the Modi's government's "blanket characterisations of the Kashmir conflict as an externally fomented terrorist."

They argue that such characterisations "obscure the legitimate grievances of the indigenous Muslim-majority populace," the report added.

CRS noted that critics of the Modi government believed it was working on a "Hindu nationalist agenda" to change the status of the occupied valley.

The critics argued that "its policy agenda entails bringing the patriotism of Indian Muslims into question and portraying Pakistan as a relentless threat that manipulates willing Kashmiri separatists, and so is responsible for violence in Kashmir," the report added.

CRS, an independent research wing of Congress, prepares periodic reports for US lawmakers so that they can take informed decisions on major international issues. Currently, two resolutions are pending in the House of Representatives that question India's Aug 5 decision on Kashmir. One of the resolutions was sponsored by Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.

The CRS report pointed out that supporters of New Delhi's Hindu nationalist agenda oppose a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

In their view, "talking to Pakistan cannot resolve the situation, nor can negotiations with Kashmiri separatist groups and parties, which are seen to represent Pakistan's interests rather than those of the Kashmiri people," the report added.

Quoting independent observers, CRS reported that blanket characterisations of the Kashmir conflict as an externally fomented terrorist effort endorses a "harsh counterinsurgency strategy that ... has only further alienated successive generations in the Valley."

Those who reject the Modi's government's narrative, argue that "Kashmir's turmoil is, at its roots, a clash between the Indian government and the Kashmiri people, leading some to decry New Delhi's claims that Pakistan perpetuates the conflict," the report added.

CRS reported that pro-independence political parties on both sides of the Line of Control were given little room to operate, and because of this many Kashmiris had become deeply alienated.

The report said that Pakistan called for a UNSC session and, with China's support, the Council met on Aug 16 to discuss Kashmir for the first time in more than five decades.

CRS noted that "India's self-image as a regional leader in no need of assistance" prevents it from accepting third-party mediation on Kashmir.

The report sought to highlight the fact that the India-US relationship had "grown stronger in the last decade", while Washington's equation with Islamabad remained "clouded by mistrust".

"The administration views India as a key 'anchor' of its 'free and open Indo-Pacific' strategy, which some argue is aimed at China. Yet any US impulse to 'tilt' toward India is to some extent offset by Islamabad's current, and by most accounts vital, role in facilitating Afghan reconciliation negotiations," the report added, quoting analyses and media reports.

Court Quashes PSA of Middle-Aged Man

KNT reported. After his arrest, Wani was slapped with PSA and sent to Agra Jail in Uttar Pradesh. Justice Ali Muhammad Magray observed that the accused was an elderly person against whom police have failed to prove any charges. After quashing his detention under PSA, he directed authorities to release the accused without any delay.

2 Alleged Timber Smugglers Arrested

report said had to open fire to prevent the alleged timber smugglers from fleeing. The report added that the vehicle was also seized by the cops.

Gazanfer Ali Reviews SBM

oriented activities including awareness drives on waste segregation and sanitation in schools and colleges, besides organizing Walkathons and Nukhad Natks across the city. Among other, Consultant, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Project Management Support Unit, Nodel Officer SBM, IEC Partners and other concerned were present in the meeting.