

Coronavirus Scare Leads To Shortage Of Face Mask In City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Panic over the novel coronavirus has led to the shortage of face masks and sanitizers in the summer capital Srinagar.

The mask boom has prompted sellers to jack up prices and exploit demand. During the past one week people across the city markets were buying in bulk to send to their families and relatives.

Panicky people are seen knocking on the doors of pharmacists to buy face masks to prevent being infected. Though some people are able to get them while majority return with empty hands.

Though no positive cases of coronavirus infection have been seen in Jammu and Kashmir, chemists confirmed the shortage of masks.

It may be recalled that the guidelines issued by the J&K health department in its advisories, mention the usage of handkerchiefs to maintain cough hygiene.

Danish Lateef, a salesman at a local pharmacy store outside Shri Mahraja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, said the sale of masks in his shop has gone up due to the panic surrounding coronavirus. "The stock of face masks is now over. The sanitizers and handwash items are also short. This is panic



doctors said the masks offer little protection.

"I have sold the entire stock of masks in last four days. This week I am planning to order a fresh consignment from outside. Looking at the situation across the world I am not sure if the order is delivered soon," said Abdul Rashid, a pharmacist in Karan Nagar.

He further said: "Mostly school going children, senior citizens and patients with bronchial and respiratory problems are buying them. With different medical advisories doing rounds on internet, the masks and sanitizers are selling out fast."

China's coronavirus outbreak, which began in December 2019, has reportedly now spread to dozens of countries. The World Health Organisation (WHO), has already declared it public health emergency.

Doctors had stated that the threat cannot be ruled out in the valley because of tourist inflow in valley and also many of students studying in Iran and their movement from Iran to Kashmir may bring the infection here. Chances cannot be ruled out that 31 cases have already been declared positive in India.

As per media report, coronavirus has infected more than 9,00,000 people globally and caused over 3,00,000 deaths. (KNT)

buying, which was seen earlier during outbreak of swine flu," he said.

He added that a month ago he was selling not more than 5-10 masks a day, and over the past three or four days, the number crossed 100, resulting into the shortage of stock.

Masks are available from Rs 20 to Rs 100 a piece. Some people complained that the price has doubled for clinical masks. "What was sold at Rs 20 now costs for Rs 50 owing to shortage," he said.

A patient searching for the face mask outside JVC hospital Bemina said: "When supplies are short and demand is high, then there could be

bad practices like hoarding in order to sell them at higher prices, and that's why we are unable to buy a single mask."

A senior pulmonologist at Chest Disease hospital said that, wearing a mask is only one of the precautions to prevent infections. "Importance should also be given to other preventive aspects like washing hands, keeping distance from an infected person and maintaining cough hygiene," he said.

The swine flu scare that had gripped Kashmir some five years before had led to brisk sales of masks. However, this time in the case of coronavirus,

8382 Cases Pending In J&K HC For Over 10 Years

Aqib Ali

SRINAGAR: There are 8382 cases which are pending in excess of ten years before Jammu and Kashmir High court, official data revealed.

The High Court, which is working with less than its strengthened number of judges, also has 24392 cases pending for last five to ten years and the number of cases awaiting adjudication for upto five years stands at 42830 as on ending February 2020, minister of Law & justice, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad stated in a written reply to a question by parliamentarian Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena.

The MBBS doctor-turned-politician from Rajasthan had sought details about the total number of civil and criminal cases pending in the Supreme Court and different High Courts of India.

Prasad said that as per the information provided by the Supreme Court, total 60,603 cases are pending in top court, out of which 49,088 are civil matters and 11,515 are of criminal nature as on March 3.

Regarding high court, the minister said as on ending February, 46.15 lakh cases are pending in 25 different high courts and 27.68 lakh are going on for less than five years, 9.25 lakh for five to ten years and 8.97 lakh for more than a decade.

many strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure (court halls and residential units) for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, filling up of vacant posi-

and District and Subordinate Courts, he said from 1 May 2014 to 29 February 2020, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. He said 522 new judges were appointed and 443 Additional Judges made permanent in the High Courts. He said the sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1079 currently.

Regarding reduction in Pendency through follow up by arrears committees, Prasad said the panels have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. He said arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too.

Prasad also laid emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Referring to Commercial Courts Act, 2015, amended on 20th August, 2018, he said it stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. He said amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines. (GNS)



The minister, according to GNS said, said that the disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary and the government has no role in it. However, the Government, Prasad said, is committed to speedy disposal of cases and their reduction. "The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has adopted

tions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court, reduction in pendency through follow up by Arrears Committees at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special type of cases." Regarding filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts

3-Day Photography Workshop concludes at MERC, KU

SRINAGAR: A three-day workshop on Still Photography organized by Media Education Research Centre (MERC), University of Kashmir concluded here on Saturday.

During the workshop award winning documentary photographer and educator, Showkat Nanda trained MERC students about the technical nuances of photography including importance of composition, lighting and contemporary trends in the field.

According to the organizers the purpose of the workshop was to train the students with all the skills necessary to work as professional photographers. Nanda, a recipient of Fullbright Fellowship and a Magnum Emergency Fund grant, offered useful tips to students about composition of images.

Dr. Aaliya Ahmed, Head of the Department, MERC said that the workshop aimed at providing a fair understanding of photography, handling techniques and composition skills to students.

Dr. Ahmed also stressed upon the importance of conducting such programs in future as well. (GNS)

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PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Closed)
Srinagar- Leh - (Closed)

This Day in History

- 1746 - Duke of Cumberland's troops occupy Aberdeen
1754 - Marquis of Ensenada becomes premier of Spain
1766 - Willem V (18) becomes governor of United Provinces
1777 - Regiments from Ansbach and Bayreuth, sent to support Great Britain in the American Revolutionary War, mutiny in the town of Ochsenfurt.
1782 - Gnadenhütten Massacre - Ohio militia kills 90 Indians
1801 - British drive French forces from Abukir, Egypt
1813 - 1st concerto of Royal Philharmonic
1817 - The New York Stock Exchange is founded.
1838 - US mint in New Orleans begins operation (producing dimes)
1844 - King Oscar I ascends to the throne of Sweden-Norway.
1855 - 1st train crosses 1st US railway suspension bridge, Niagara Falls.
1862 - Battle of Elk Horn Tavern ends with Confederate withdrawal.
1911 - International Women's Day is launched in Copenhagen, Denmark, by Clara Zetkin, leader of the Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany.
1920 - Denmark & Cuba join the League of Nations.
1929 - US worker union commission reports of slavery in Liberia
1946 - 1st helicopter licensed for commercial use (NYC)
1957 - Israeli troops leave Egypt; Suez Canal re-opened for minor ships
1959 - Pro-Egyptian coup fails in Mosul Iraq.
1963 - Syrian Arab Rep Revolution Day - Military coup in Syria
1966 - An IRA bomb destroyed Nelson's Column in Dublin.
1976 - 1,774 kg (largest observed) stony meteorite falls in Jilin, China
1978 - The first-ever radio episode of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglas Adams, is transmitted on BBC Radio 4.
1979 - 1st extraterrestrial volcano discovered (Jupiter's satellite Io)
1979 - China withdraws invasion troops from Vietnam
1979 - Shuttle Columbia (OV-102) transported 38 miles overland from Palmdale.
1983 - House Foreign Affairs Com endorses nuclear weapons freeze with USSR.
1983 - IBM releases PC DOS version 2.0.
1986 - Japanese probe Suissei passes Halley's Comet at 109,800 km
1986 - Martina Navratilova is 1st tennis player to earn \$10 million
1991 - Planeloads of US troops arrive home from the Persian Gulf, Iraq hands over 40 foreign journalists & 2 American soldiers it captured
2012 - Toyota recalls 700,000 vehicles over safety concerns.
2013 - North Korea terminates all peace pacts with South Korea.
2014 - Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 with 239 people loses contact and disappears, prompting the most expensive search effort in history.



PRAYERS

FAJR 5:29
ZUHR 12:43
ASR 4:52
MAGRIB 6:36
ISHA 7:56

Commissioner SMC reviews various projects

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Saturday reviewed various projects.

"In a meeting held under chairmanship of Commissioner SMC MR Gazenfar Ali, various projects under AMRUT were reviewed," an official statement issued here said.

"The status of all the works under AMRUT that included Sewerage and Septage, Drainage sector, Rejuvenation of Brari Nambal, Urban Transport Sector, Green space sector, Water works Sector and other issues were reviewed and discussed at length".

It was informed in the meeting that out of six Storm water Drainage schemes five are completed that is at Lal Chowk, Indra Nagar, Malabagh, Gangbuk, one dewatering station at NR Colony Bemina whereas the drainage scheme shall be completed at Shalteng by September 2020, the statement said.

Regarding STP's Mr Ali was

informed that both STP's one at Achen and other at Aluchibagh are completed and fully functional, the statement said.

"During the course of meeting directions were also passed to LAWDA to expedite second phase of Rejuvenation of Brari Nambal where as it was informed that first phase has already been completed".

While reviewing the status of walkways it was said that walkways at Peerbagh, Tengpora, Rambagh and Shireenbagh have got completed and an Idle parking in Pantha Chowk is also completed, the statement said.

"Commissioner SMC directed all the concerned departments to expedite with the remaining works and get them completed within stipulated time frame.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner Adm, SMC, Joint Commissioner (works), SE Drainage, ADP Planning all Executive Engineers, representatives for SDA, Floriculture, UEED and others".

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION BARAMULLA

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SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. MDB/Tech : 5078-83 Dated: - 05-03-2020.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed tenders affixed with Four Rupees Revenue stamps are invited from Approved / Registered Contractors having experience in similar nature of work for the following work: -

Table with 7 columns: NIT No / Date, Description of Material, Estimated Cost (Rs), Earnest Money, Cost of Tender Documents, Class of Contract, Time of completion. Contains 2 rows of tender details.

Complete details along with other terms & conditions are given in the tender document which can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, Baramulla against payment (Cost of tender documents) as mentioned above (Non refundable / Non transferable) in the shape of demand Draft drawn in favour of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Baramulla or in cash to be remitted in Divisional Chest against proper G.R.

The tender documents shall be issued to the intending tenders on producing of following certificates / documents.

- Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting newly live allotted GST No. and PAN Card.
Valid Registration Card.
Latest Tax Clearance Certificate.

Last date of sale of tender documents is fixed 18-03-2020 upto 03:30 P.M.

The tenders shall be received in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla by or before 20-03-2020 upto 02:00 P.M. Each tender shall be accompanied with the earnest money in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla, without which no tender can be entertained. The tenders can be opened on the same day or any other day as convenient to the tender opening authority in presence of the tenderers who wish to be present. In case of the holiday / otherwise the tenders shall be received on the next working day. Full details can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours before due date. Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form: 25.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIV. BARAMULLA

DIPK 6275/19/M

From KO Archives

Srinagar- Muzaffarabad Bus: All Exempted From Visa

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri has said that any national, Indian or Pakistani, travelling on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service will use special documents for travelling purposes.

Kasuri while speaking to media during Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman Masood Khan's farewell said that as per the agreement between India and Pakistan the travellers will use special documents and not visa.

He said that the bus service would in all probability start from April 7, and preparations for the same were in full swing and both sides were working out the travel documents issue.

He further added that Islamabad had not attached any condition on travel on the bus service with exception that nobody would be permitted to travel on international passport or Visa.

Army, BRO racing against time to start bus Racing against time to meet the April 17 deadline of running the bus service from here to Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Army and Border Roads Organisation are engaged in the process of de-mining and improving the stretch of road close to the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Army is also involved in establishing the initial check post coming at LoC between Uri and Chakoti on PaK side, defence spokesman Col R K Sen told PTI.

The repair and strengthening of the existing piers and abutments of the bridge over Khalias-de-Khan Nallah is being carried out by the army engineers, he said adding army has stage-forwarded the requisite stores for construction of the bridge. The BRO is also putting in an all-out effort for improving road from Uri to the Line of Control which was in a state of disuse, Col Sen said.

They are working to increase the head room, of the existing red bridge and constructing a causeway to divert the traffic temporarily, the spokesman said.

He said army is assisting the civil administration in setting up requisite communication facilities for the initial check post complex.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 08 March, 2001)