

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Transport Department,
Civil Secretariat, Jammu

Subject:- Guidelines/Instructions for opening of Public Transport in the UT of J&K.

Government Order No. 27 -JK (TR) of 2020

Dated :- 07 -06-2020

Whereas, public transport was banned in the UT of J&K vide Order No.TC/JK/1318-75 dated 18-03-2020 and subsequent to the declaration of nationwide lockdown in view of COVID-19 pandemic in sync with instructions/orders issued by Chairperson, State Executive Committee under Disaster Management Act, 2005;

Whereas, pursuant to the guidelines issued after Unlock 1.0, there seems to be an urgent need to open the public transport in the UT of J&K. Opening of public transport would result in movement of general public and will give boost to economic activities;

Whereas, in the first phase of opening of public transport, details of routes and number of vehicles to be operated was sought by State Transport Authority (Transport Commissioner, J&K) from Regional Transport Authorities keeping in view the priority of the concerned districts;

Whereas, the overall opening of the routes for the public transport will be governed by the guidelines for red, orange and green districts as notified by the State Executive Committee (SEC), under Disaster Management Act, 2005 from time to time.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered, for the operation of public transport, within the UT of J&K, w.e.f 08th of June, 2020, subject to the strict adherence to SOP, forming **Annexure-A** to this Government Order, that:-

1. Operation of buses/mini buses shall be allowed in the green/orange districts on the routes identified and with the restriction of number of vehicles to be plied on these routes within the defined limits of respective districts only, by respective Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs) as per **Annexure-B** to this Govt Order.
2. Only SRTC buses shall be allowed to ply in Red districts on the routes within the defined limits of respective districts only, forming **Annexure-C** to this Govt. Order.
3. Only SRTC buses shall be allowed to ply on inter district and inter province routes within the UT of J&K whenever permitted by State Executive Committee (SEC), under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. However, routes between contiguous green districts, where inter district movement will be permitted for private operators as notified by the Transport Department (**Annexure-D**).
4. Taxies, cabs, maxi-cabs and Auto rickshaws shall ply on their designated routes within the Districts of their registration and between contiguous green Districts subject to permissibility by SEC, on odd even basis i.e.,
 - a. The vehicles having registration number as an odd number, shall ply on the odd numbered day of the month i.e., 1st, 3rd, 5th ----- 29th and 31st day of a calendar month;
 - b. The vehicles having registration number as an even number, shall ply on the even numbered day of the month i.e., 2nd, 4th, 6th ----- 28th & 30th day of a calendar month.

However, inter- province movement, shall be permitted if there is a valid pass issued by the Competent Authority (Divisional Commissioner concerned) and subject to the condition that all passengers disembarking at designation point, shall observe, mandatorily the Covid-19 protocol, put in place by the UT of J&K.

5. Regarding the opening of interstate public transport order shall be issued separately, after relaxation by SEC.
6. All the instructions enshrined in the SOP has to be followed in letter and spirit while operating public transport. Any deviation shall attract penal action as envisaged in the Govt. Order No. 61-JK(DMRRR) of 2020 dated 07.06.2020 of Chairperson, State Executive Committee.

This issues with the concurrence of Chairperson, State Executive Committee.

By the order of Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-

(Hirdesh Kumar) IAS


Commissioner/Secretary to Government,
Transport Department

Dated:- 07-06-2020

No. TR-44/MVD/2020

Copy to:

1. Financial Commissioner, Finance Department.
2. Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department.
3. Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, J&K.
4. Joint Secretary (J&K), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
5. Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir.
6. Inspector General of Police Traffic, J&K.
7. Inspector General of Police, Jammu/Kashmir.
8. Transport Commissioner, J&K.
9. All Deputy Commissioners (Chairman/Chairperson, RTA).
10. All Superintendents of Police.
11. Managing Director, Road Transport Corporation, J&K.
12. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K.
13. Private Secretary to Hon'ble Advisor (In-charge Transport Department).
14. Private Secretary to Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Transport Department.
15. Government Order/Stock file.


(Raj Mohammad Malik) KAS
Deputy Secretary to Govt.,
Transport Department.

Annexure-A to Govt. Order No. 27 of JK(TR) 2020 dated:- 07.06.2020

STANDARD OPERATING PROTOCOL TO BE ADOPTED DURING TRAVEL WITHIN THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

1. The overall opening of the routes for the public transport will be governed by the guidelines for red, orange and green districts as notified by the State Executive Committee (SEC), under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 from time to time.
2. During the journey, Drivers/Conductors and Passengers have to wear masks mandatorily. Further, passengers should also carry sanitizers with them.
3. Drivers and conductors shall ensure that passengers while boarding/de-boarding the buses maintain and observe social distancing.
4. Drivers and Conductors shall follow preventive measures for the COVID 19 defined from time to time by the administration.
5. All public vehicle operators shall ensure sanitising of the vehicles after regular intervals. For the purpose of sanitization, Sodium Hypo chlorite like chemicals can be used.
6. During the journey, chewing of any kind of Tobacco & Gutka and smoking & spitting is banned inside vehicles and at stops / stands.
7. It shall be ensured by drivers and conductors that only the passengers having valid E-pass/pass issued by competent authority, are allowed to board the Intra district/Inter- District Bus/Passenger vehicles in the districts declared as 'Red' Districts, wherever permitted by State Executive Committee.
8. Owners of the vehicles while operating their vehicles shall keep a record of their Drivers and Conductors and provide the same to the District Administration, if required.
9. Entry into the Driver's cabin is strictly prohibited. In case there is no cabin, plastic or other material shall be used for temporary erection of Driver cabin in order to avoid any possible contact of the Driver with the passengers.
10. Sanitizer bottles must be kept inside the vehicles at all times and must be used by the vehicle staff and passengers, from time to time, at regular intervals.
11. It must be ensured that the staff and passengers are free of any COVID 19 symptoms. Only Asymptomatic persons be allowed to board the vehicles.
12. The passengers shall ensure COVID 19 protocol and shall maintain physical distancing at Bus / Mini Buses / Taxis stands and not spit inside or outside vehicles and at stands and other public places, cover their faces while sneezing and coughing.
13. No passenger vehicles shall be allowed to pass through containment zone as far as possible. However, if any passenger vehicle passes through any Containment Zone, due to non-availability of diversion routes, shall not be allowed to take a halt or board or deboard the passengers in such Containment Zone.

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14. The below mentioned passenger vehicles shall ply while observing the following seating capacity limits:

- i) Taxies and Cabs, wherever permitted by SEC, will be allowed to ply with a maximum of two passengers excluding the driver. This means that there will be maximum of three persons in the vehicle, at any point of time;
- ii) Maxi Cabs, wherever permitted by SEC, can ply with a maximum of half of their authorised seating capacity. This means that there will be maximum of 04 persons plus Driver in case of 08 seater capacity vehicles and maximum of 06 persons plus Driver in case of 12 seater capacity vehicle, in the vehicle, at any point of time.
- iii) Auto Rickshaws, wherever permitted by SEC, are allowed to ply with two persons in addition to the driver; and
- iv) Buses and Mini Buses, (Stage and Contract Carriage Vehicles), wherever permitted by SEC, shall carry passengers not more than 50% of their authorised seating capacity in case of 2x2 seater Buses/Mini Buses and $\frac{2}{3}$ rd (two-third) of their authorised seating capacity in case of 3x2 seater Buses.

15. Persons above 65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women and children below the age of 10 years should avoid any kind of transport except for essential and health purposes.
16. Staff of passenger vehicles as well as the passengers must preferably have Aarogya Setu App downloaded in their mobile phones while they travel with all relevant details filled and keep the App functional at all times.
17. The passengers intending to undertake travel must carry their identity proof.
18. Respective Regional Transport Authorities will prioritize the routes to be opened phase-wise depending upon the need, Containment Zones/Red Zones, location of public offices, working areas/sites, industries, workplaces, institutional areas etc. and may restrict the number of commercial vehicles plying on such routes to avoid congestion. The RTAs shall submit this information to Transport Commissioner for consolidation/compilation, upon whose recommendation, the Transport Department shall issue the orders for whole of the UT of J&K, in this regard, notifying the routes which will be opened up for use.

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