

Over 57,000 three-ply masks seized from illegal unit in Agripada, one arrested

HOME / CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK / OVER 57,000 THREE-PLY MASKS SEIZED FROM ILLEGAL UNIT IN AGRIPADA, ONE ARRESTED

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The illegal hand sanitizer manufacturing unit at Wada which was busted by the Palghar police on Monday

Mumbai: Continuing the present crackdown against illegal manufacturing, overpricing and storage of protective medical gears like masks, hand sanitizers and gloves, the Mumbai police crime branch busted an illegal mask manufacturing unit at Agripada and recovered a stock of over 57,000 three-ply masks, on Tuesday.

Senior Inspector Kedari Pawar of the Crime Branch (Property

Cell), which conducted the raid, told Mirror Online on Wednesday that the owner of the illegal unit, identified as 32-year-old Miraz Shaikh, has been arrested and booked under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Pawar said that the estimated price of the seized masks is over Rs 17 lakh in the open market.

Pawar said the Property Cell had been tipped off about the illegal mask manufacturing unit at Lakdawala Chawl in the Kalapani area of Agripada. Accordingly, the crime branch sleuths made a swoop at the unit at around 4.30 pm on Tuesday.

"The said unit was actually into the manufacturing of bags and purses earlier. However, cashing in on the present demand, they had started making masks," Pawar said.

During searches conducted in the premises, the police found around 57,500 finished masks kept in bundles while stocks of raw materials were kept for further manufacturing. Pawar said the owners of the unit did not have the requisite permission to make masks (which requires tests and certification before they were deemed fit for use), nor did they have the expertise. "Moreover, they were manufactured in the make-shift unit without following the basic hygiene and safety guidelines," he said.

During questioning, the owner of the unit revealed that the stock was part of an order for two lakh masks which was meant to be sent to Bangalore. "Moreover, the masks were meant to be sold at Rs 30 per piece, which is way above the Rs 10 per piece price fixed by the government," Pawar added.

It is worth mentioning here that the Palghar police had raided a counterfeit hand sanitizer manufacturing unit at Wada on Monday and seized stock of over Rs 20 lakh which was meant to be sold in Mumbai. Prior to that, the Mumbai police had seized masks and hand sanitizers worth over crores of rupees from different parts of the city in the past fortnight.

Source: <https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/coronavirus/news/over-57000-three-ply-masks-seized-from-illegal-unit-in-agripada-one-arrested/articleshow/75049861.cms>