

COVID-19 Global Spread

The spread of Coronavirus has been declared pandemic by the World Health Organization, having 349,211 confirmed cases in more than 180 countries so far. Initiating from China, the epicenter of the disease is Europe now, with the largest number of confirmed cases in Italy. The number of people confirmed to have died as a result of the virus as it has now surpassed 15,308. Italy is facing the highest number of death toll yet.

Global News

- Emirates Airline is suspending all passenger flights from March 25 for a renewable period of two weeks as the UAE halts all inbound, outbound and transit passenger flights.
- China had 39 new confirmed cases on Sunday, the National Health Commission said, down from 46 a day earlier.
- New Zealand prepares for lockdown; Hong Kong to ban tourists.
- European markets tumble as the coronavirus continues to take its toll; Stoxx 600 down 4.5%.
- World leaders plead with public to stay home; debate rages in U.S. over \$1.8 Trillion relief package.
- Iran death toll climbs to 1,812 with 127 new deaths.
- New York City region is now the epicenter of outbreak in America.
- Banknotes carry no particular coronavirus risk: German disease expert.

Global Response

- China aims to be a stabilizing force as global financial markets gyrate.
- Trump activates National Guard in California, New York and Washington State.
- Bad blood between the U.S. and China complicates efforts to get medical equipment where it is needed.
- Throughout Spain, hospitals and exhibition centers are being converted into field hospitals. The aid organization Doctors Without Borders has set up a 100-bed unit on a university campus in Madrid.
- Shell cuts 2020 spending by \$5 billion, suspends share buyback.
- Australia and Canada will not send teams to Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound closed over coronavirus fears.
- Saudi Arabia imposes nationwide curfew amid coronavirus pandemic.
- China embarks on clinical trial for corona vaccine.
- Bill Gates, the world's second-richest person, has committed \$100 million through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to aid global research and treatment of the coronavirus. Jack Ma, Alibaba founder and the second-

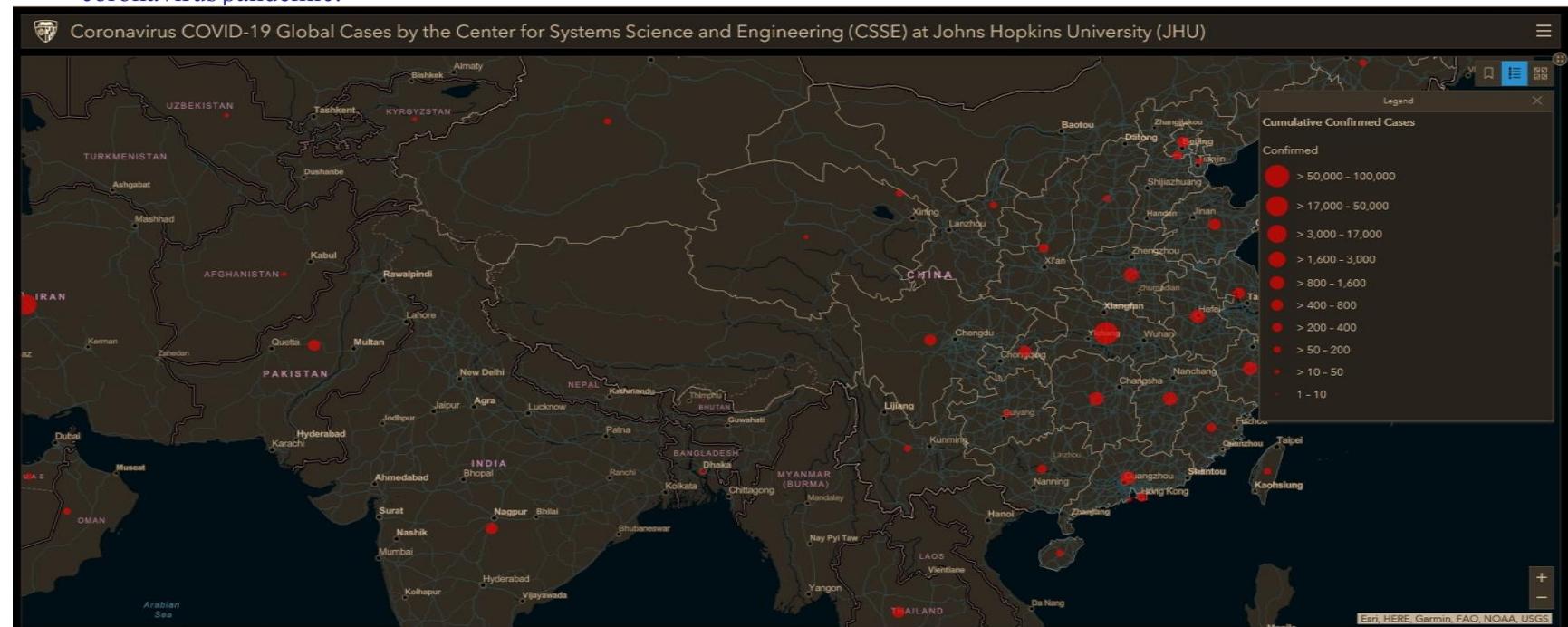
richest person in China has pledged \$14 million from his foundation to help develop a coronavirus vaccine.

Local News

- Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has announced a 14-day partial lockdown in the province as part of an effort to contain the novel coronavirus.
- Gilgit-Baltistan's 'hero' doctor who spearheaded fight against COVID-19 dies.
- Pakistanis stranded at Qatar airport to arrive tonight.
- Karachi passengers flock to Cantt Station on the first day of lockdown.

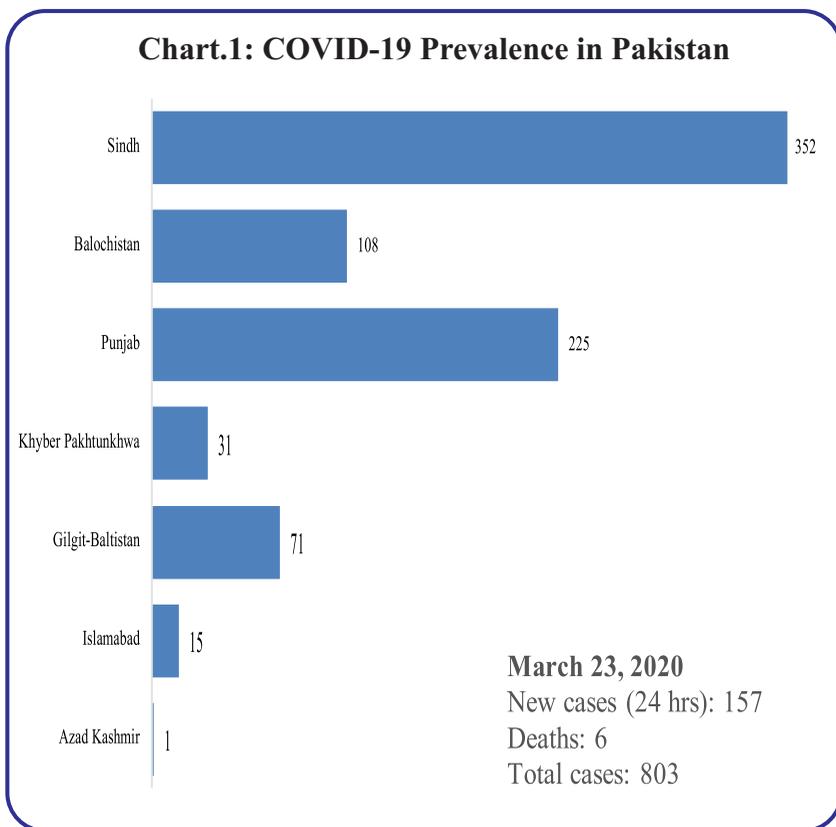
Local Response

- PM Imran Khan approves summary granting provinces powers to seek army's help.
- Sindh government moves to curtail expenses, decides to disburse pensions early.
- Mobile phone operators told to replace ringback tone with awareness messages.
- K-Electric says will not waive off bills, 'providing uninterrupted power supply.
- Moed Yusuf tells overseas Pakistanis not to return amid coronavirus pandemic.

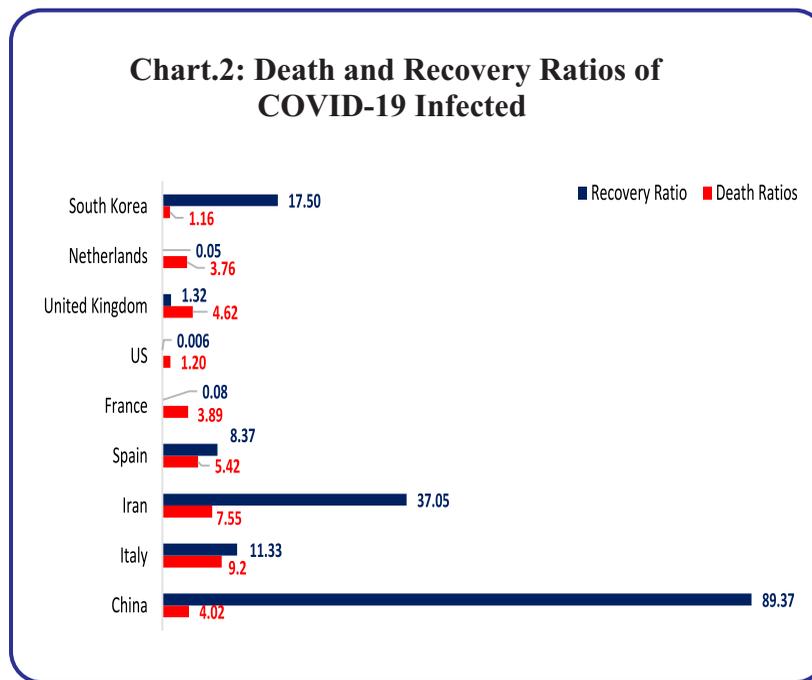


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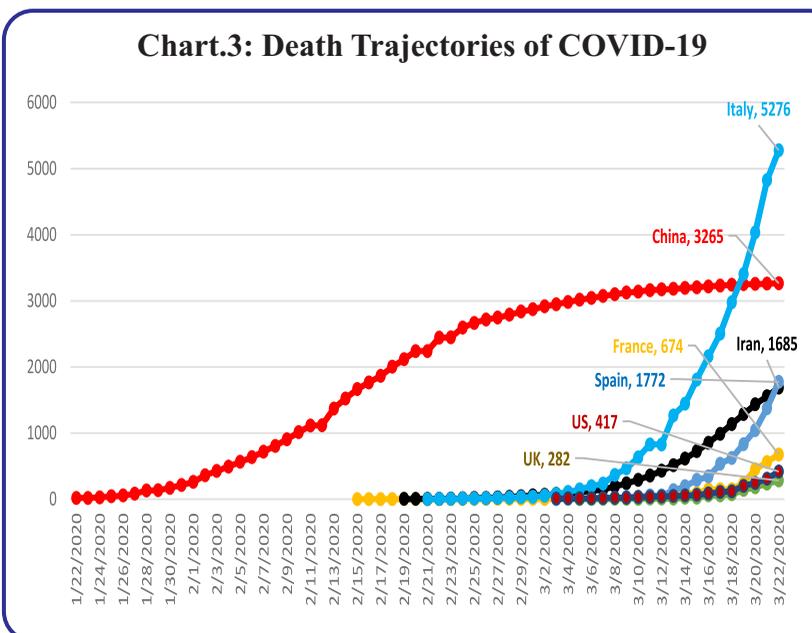
On March 23, 2020, during the last 24 hours, 157 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 803. Two new deaths, 1 in KP and 1 in Balochistan makes total death toll to 6, see Chart. 1.



Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 the death ratio (death to infected ratio) and recovery ratio (recovered to infected ratio) are continuously changing over time. Country to country varying ratios not only depend on government interventions but also on some confounding factors. In the current scenario death ratio in Italy is highest with 9.2%, followed by Iran, Spain and the UK with 7.55%, 5.42% and 4.62% respectively. The recovery ratio is also varying country to country, currently it is highest in China followed by Iran and South Korea. One possible reasons of high death ratio in Italy is that 28.6% of total population in Italy is above 70 years, the most vulnerable age group (more than 90% of deaths belong to this age group), see Chart.2.



A sigmoid shape Death Trajectory of China confirms the bell shape cycle of COVID-19, it indicates that if confined the spread of COVID-19 will converge to zero. This can be achieved with the strategy of social distancing (volunteer or forced). The number of deaths in Italy started increasing exponentially in fourth week after outbreak of COVID-19 in this region. Provided the China like interventions by Italian government we can expect a decrease in number of deaths in Italy during next couple of weeks, see chart.3.



Coronavirus Scenarios

Respiratory disease is rapidly spreading due to novel coronavirus. Disappointing scenes are surfacing in Italy, where the rise of COVID-19 has overwhelmed the medical system and doctors have reported a shortage of staff and equipment. More than 5,400 people have died there, surpassing China in total deaths. Federal and provincial governments are urging people to take measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 respiratory virus that causes the disease. In case if anyone catches Coronavirus, there are three scenarios:

Best Case Scenario 😊

Even without proven treatment, the coronavirus can be less deadly than feared. In South Korea and China, about 0.8 percent of the victims died, and the cruise ship's rate was 0.6 percent. More than 78% patients recover without hospitalization and simple flu symptoms medication.

Most Likely Scenario 😊

The best information we have about the speed of health recovery comes from the World Health Organization's study examining more than 55,000 cases in China. They found that, on average, the mild disease, from the onset of symptoms to recovery, was two weeks. This timeframe was also endorsed in a published report about the first US case clinical course of the US state of Coronavirus. The man was healed in just two weeks. Information from Chinese data also shows that rehabilitation of the more seriously ill patients took up to three to six weeks.

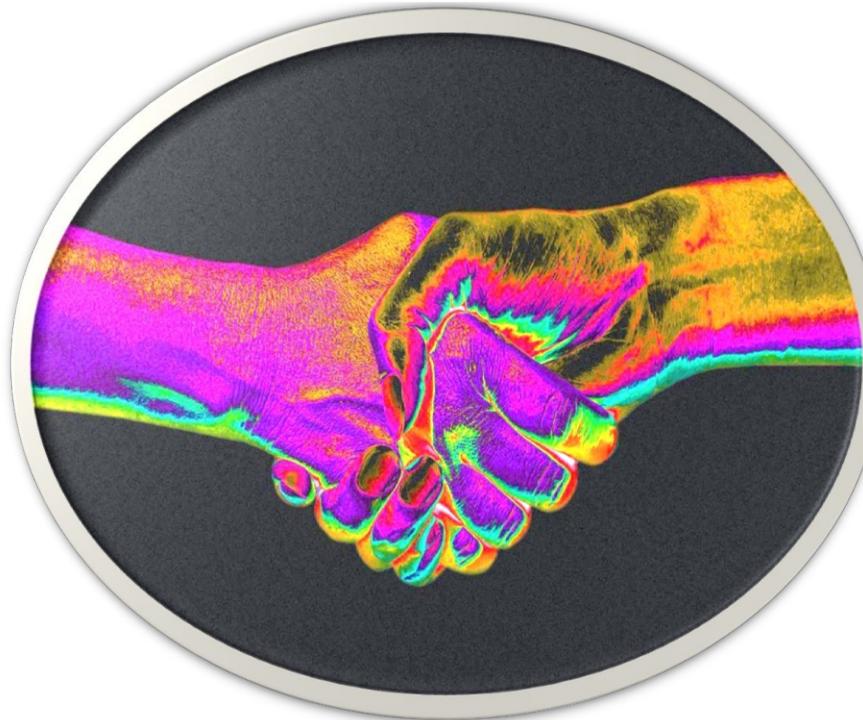
Worst Case Scenario 😞

Because of the worst cases of COVID-19, a person loses his or her ability to breathe; a ventilator is the only option to save lives. But there are less than 2000 ventilators in Pakistan, and hundreds of patients who are struggling to breathe may need such care. Other machines can provide oxygen to help people with mild or moderate forms of the disease, but the most critically ill patients need powerful airway pressure that only ventilators can provide.

COVID-19 READS

1. **Pakistan's Struggle with COVID-19 Quarantines**
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-3.pdf>
2. **Is the Coronavirus Shaping the Future of How We Work?**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/opinion/coronavirus-california.html>
3. **'My Fear, I have to Put it Away.' Coronavirus Job Opportunities Put Workers on the Front Lines of the Epidemic**
<https://time.com/5807686/coronavirus-jobs/>
4. **Thank God the Doctor is In**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/21/opinion/sunday/fauci-coronavirus-trump.html>
5. **Why do People Really Wear Face Masks during an Epidemic?**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/13/opinion/coronavirus-face-mask-effective.html>
6. **Brown Medical Anthropologist Weighs in on Coronavirus in China**
<https://www.brown.edu/news/2020-01-24/coronavirus>
7. **Let's Talk: Social Anthropologist Frederic Keck on the Coronavirus**
<https://axatl.com/fast-fast-forward/articles/social-anthropologist-frederic-keck-on-the-coronavirus>
8. **The Coronavirus: Sociology of a Pandemic**
<https://m.gulf-times.com/story/658925/The-coronavirus-Sociology-of-a-pandemic>
9. **'All Giving is Very Necessary.' Way to Give to Charity During the Coronavirus Crisis**
<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/19/818518736/exploring-the-best-ways-to-give-to-charity-during-the-coronavirus-crisis>
10. **How Does the Coronavirus Compare to Other Economic Shocks?**
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwHMPpntVmrqMfRfNGzgJfJVmhQ>

Avoid Handshaking, Avoid Coronavirus



Source: Kieran Walsh/Getty Images

Experts' View:

However, the Covid-19 will have a significant impact on the growth rate this year. This is based on the assumption that about 50pc of the development spending is usually spent in the last quarter of a fiscal year and such expenditures are already losing focus both at the federal and provincial level as normal construction and related activities come to a halt. (**Khaleeq Kiani, DAWN**)

The impact is expected to be more severe in densely populated urban areas (clustered shanty townships) compared to rural areas where the population is more dispersed and its dependence on the market for the provision of essentials is comparatively limited. Though often devoid of amenities (running tap water, gas, electricity and sewage system), many rural households are self-sustaining. No government, even in the richest of the countries, can handle a crisis of this scale by itself. In Pakistan where the capacity and resources of the government are limited, it would be apt to pool public and private resources to deal with the crisis. (**Afshan Subohi, DAWN**)

Experts' Opinion:

The COVID pandemic reveals cities' vulnerability to health outbreaks, disruptions to supply chains, and economic decline. (**UNDP**)

Our approach to tackling coronavirus is to be as clear and transparent as possible – because all that matters is getting this response right. (**Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health & Social Care and MP for West Suffolk**)

The world will take years to recover from the coronavirus pandemic. The economic shock is already bigger than the financial crisis and it is "wishful thinking" to believe that countries would bounce back quickly. (**Angel Gurría, OECD**)

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