

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-128

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in last 24 hours

Globally

5 488 825 cases (84 314)

349 095 deaths (5 581)

Western Pacific Region

5 488 825 cases (84 314)

349 095 deaths (5 581)

European Region

2 061 828 cases (20 124)

176 226 deaths (3 013)

South-East Asia Region

218 523 cases (8 250)

6 359 deaths (219)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

449 590 cases (10 690)

11 452 deaths (159)

Region of the Americas

2 495 924 cases (41 472)

145 810 deaths (2 071)

African Region

85 815 cases (2 771)

2 308 deaths (94)



Muslims offer Eid al-Fitr prayers at a Mosque with SOP's—*Getty Images*

Global News

- WHO announces launch of foundation to support critical health needs.
- U.S. surpasses 100,000 COVID-19 deaths.
- Global coronavirus cases top 5.7 million: Johns Hopkins University.
- 10pc of world's museums will never open again, says UNESCO.
- Pakistani exporters obtained large orders for face masks from US, Canada and Europe: Razak Dawood.
- Pandemic puts up to 86 million children at risk of poverty: study
- Mothers shouldn't stop breastfeeding due to virus fear: report.
- Spread of coronavirus fuels corruption in Latin America.

Global Response

- China's digital currency takes shape amid COVID-19, benefits for foreigners.
- EU plans to raise \$825 billion for coronavirus relief. Hard-hit countries need help soon.
- Singapore jails taxi driver for 4 months for Covid-19 Facebook post.
- Philippines' task force backs easing one of world's toughest lockdowns.
- EasyJet airline axes almost a third of staff on virus fallout.
- Disney sets to reopen Walt Disney World in July.
- France bans use of hydroxychloroquine to treat Covid-19.

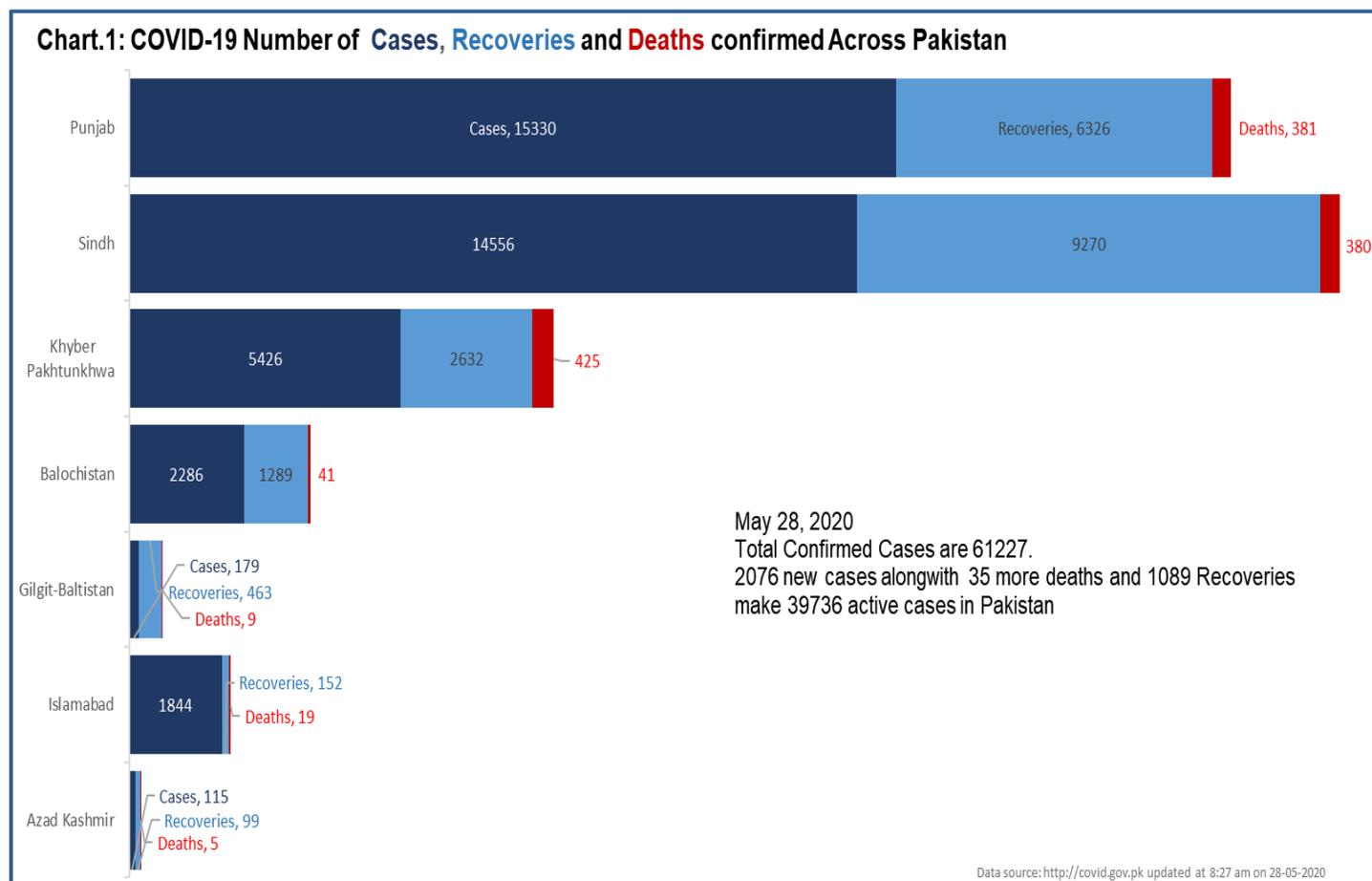
Local News

- Confusion prevails over market business hours in Punjab.
- Sindh reports new cases; nationwide tally jumps to 62,330.
- 919 new coronavirus cases take Punjab's total to 22,037.
- Pakistan's Covid-19 recoveries cross 20,000.
- 80 new Covid-19 cases confirmed in Balochistan.
- NDMA receives third batch of donations from Singapore.
- 882 children under 10 have contracted coronavirus in Sindh so far: Murtaza Wahab.

Local Response

- PM Imran to attend high-level virtual event on Financing for Development in COVID-19 era.
- Hospitals overflow as Covid-19 spikes.
- Revised lockdown to be imposed in K-P.
- Punjab okays drug to treat Covid-19 patients.
- Complete planning being done to mitigate impact of pandemic in future: PM Imran.
- Availability of ventilators being ensured at all Punjab hospitals: Dr Yasmin Rashid.
- Ajmal Wazir warns against hoarding essential items.

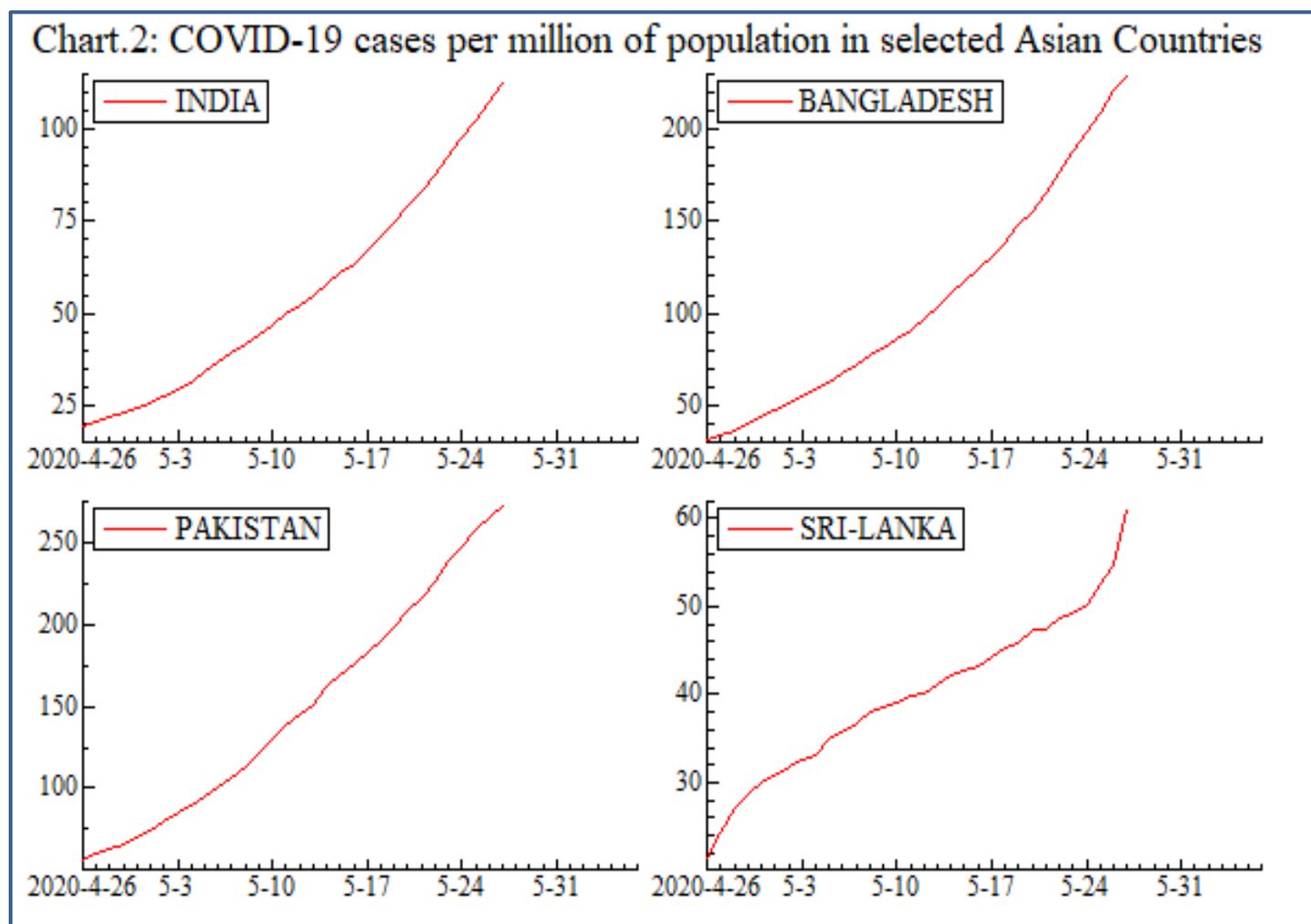
During the last 24 hours, 2076 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 61227. Nineteen deaths from Punjab, nine from KP, six from Sindh and one from Islamabad have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 1260 deaths and 20231 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1. The incidence of cases has increased many folds with in past seven days as 13,136 new cases have been reported since May 22, 2020, with 243 deaths and 6076 more recoveries, see News Letter Issue 38.



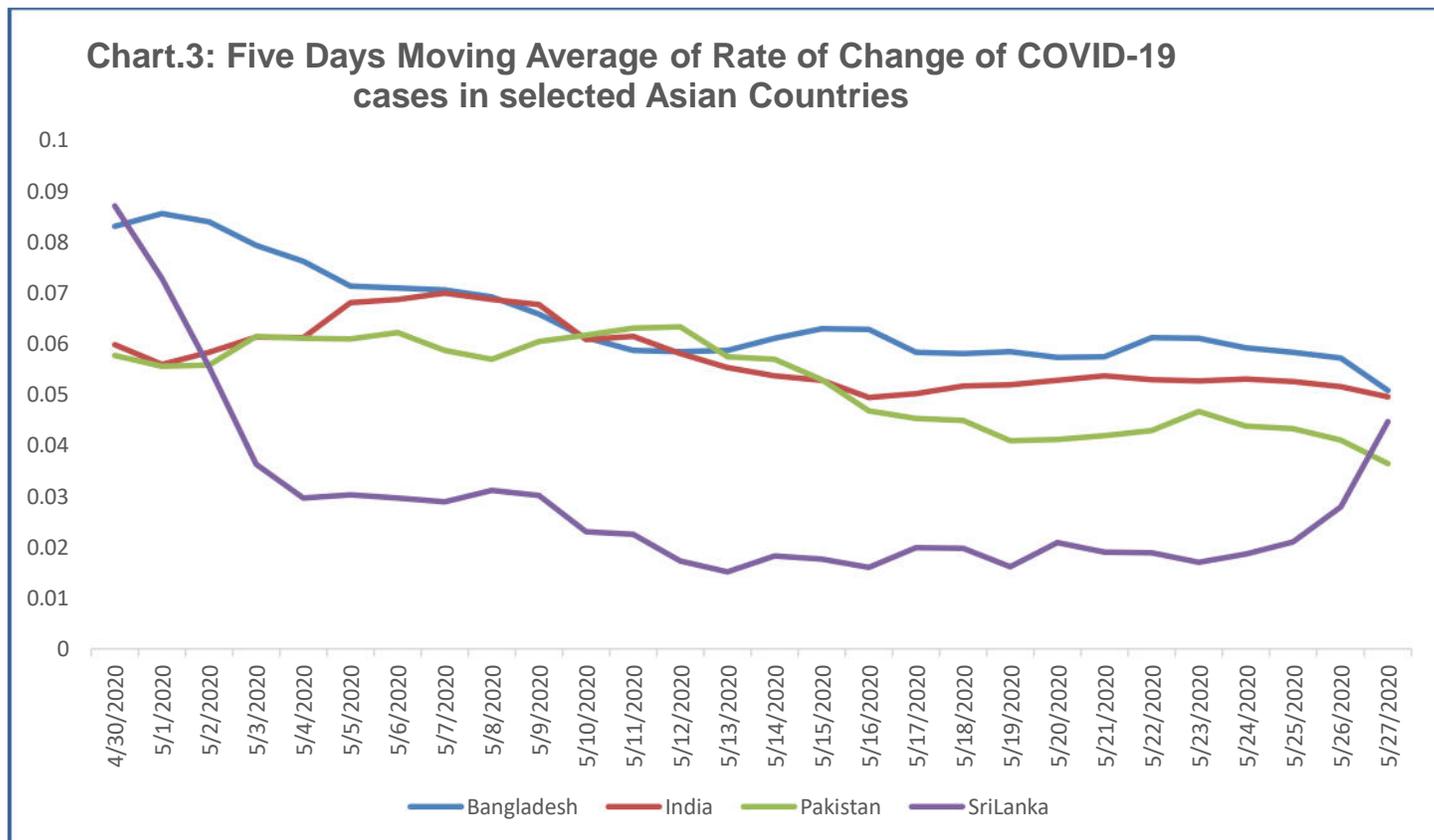
COVID-19 is an infectious disease; it is expected to spread more rapidly in populous areas. Comparison of number of COVID-19 cases to the population density of distinct Continents/regions of the world reveals a different scenario. Though Asia is the most populous region but is way behind in number of COVID-19 cases than Europe and Americas (*reference: PIDE NL ISSUE-25*). Is it average high temperature providing shield to Asia, or the younger population provides higher immunity in Asia? Another theory suggests that since Asian countries are hit by Malaria, Dengue and other diseases in near past improved the immunity level in the region. According to medical

experts natural human immunity increases gradually, also it is dependent to climate conditions and human demographics.

In previous issues of PIDE NL series it is evident that Pakistan is way low in pandemic spread as compare to high hit countries (mostly from Europe and Americas). To have a better insight given all above explained factors constant, a comparison of Pakistan with other populous Asian countries like India, Bangladesh and Sri-Lanka, reveals that Pakistan is at worst position among these countries in COVID-19 cases per million population followed by Bangladesh, India and Sri-Lanka, see Chart.2. The data is taken from 26 April 2020 to 27 May 2020, the middle of summer time with high average temperature in the region. We don't see any comparatively improved condition of Pakistan in the region. In the absence of no vaccine prevention is the only cure, during last week of Eid-ul-Fitr vacations about thirteen thousand new cases reported in Pakistan. A continuous and diligent awareness campaign is needed to change Personal Normative Belief (PNB) of masses about severity of COVID-19 cases.



Although in Pakistan the number of cases per million of population is increasing in the region during the period, the five days moving average of rate of change of COVID-19 cases is mostly decreasing as compare to India and Bangladesh, see Chart.3. With continuous awareness campaign to change Personal Normative Belief (PNB) of masses, COVID-19 spread can be contained in Pakistan.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Solidarity Trial?

The Solidarity Trial is an international clinical trial to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19, launched by WHO and partners. It is hoped that one or more of the treatments under trial will result in improving clinical outcomes in COVID-19 patients and save lives. Other trials are on-going around the world in addition to the Solidarity Trial.

Based on data from laboratory and clinical studies, Remdesivir, Lopinavir/Ritonavir, Lopinavir/Ritonavir with Interferon beta-1a, and hydroxychloroquine had been initially selected as treatment options. Following new evidence on the safety and efficacy of hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for hospitalized COVID-19 patients, enrollment for this drug was temporarily suspended on 24 May 2020.

Over 100 countries have expressed an interest in participating in the trial and WHO is actively supporting more than 60 of them, including with the following:

- ethical and regulatory approvals of the WHO core protocol;
- identification of hospitals participating in the trial;
- training of hospital clinicians on the web-based randomization and data system;
- shipping the trial drugs as requested by each participating country.

To date, over 400 hospitals in 35 countries are actively recruiting patients and nearly 3500 patients have been enrolled from 17 countries.

An interim trial analysis will be produced and will be monitored by an independent group of experts as the global Data and Safety Monitoring Committee.

Why was the use of hydroxychloroquine temporarily suspended in the Solidarity Trial?

- In light of recent publications of evidence on the safety and efficacy of hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for COVID-19 patients, the Executive Group of the Solidarity Trial decided to implement a temporary pause of the hydroxychloroquine arm within the trial as a precaution while the safety data is being reviewed.
- As an example, an observational study published in the Lancet on 22 May found that, among 100 000 patients from multiple countries randomized to receive hydroxychloroquine, when used alone or with a macrolide, there was a higher mortality rate and an increased frequency of irregular heartbeats.
- A final decision on the harm, benefit or lack of benefit of hydroxychloroquine will be made once the evidence has been reviewed by the Data Safety Monitoring Board. This review will include data from the Solidarity Trial and other ongoing trials, as well as any evidence published so far. It is expected by mid-June.

Source: World Health Organization

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (March 28, 2020 — March 30, 2020)

March 28 — Cases of COVID-19 worldwide surpass 600,000.

Portugal announces that all foreigners will be treated as residents during the COVID-19 crisis, to ensure they have access to public services. Quarantine measures in the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the outbreak began, begin to ease after more than two months of lockdown, including restarting rail service in and out of the city.

Health officials in Illinois, U.S., announce the death of a baby from COVID-19. This is the first death of an infant in the country. Spain and Italy hit new records for the number of dead in one day. Spain records 832 dead and Italy records 889.

March 29 — Global death toll from COVID-19 surpasses 30,000.

March 30 — Johnson & Johnson announces the selection of a lead COVID-19 vaccine candidate. The company expects to start human trials by September, at the latest, and anticipates the first batches of a vaccine could be available for U.S. Food and Drug Administration "emergency use authorization" in early 2021.

The University of Washington, University of Oxford, and La Jolla Institute for Immunology receive \$20 million to fund clinical trials to identify highly potent immunotherapies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants come from the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, an initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, and Mastercard.

According to the U.N. Development Programme, income losses are expected to surpass \$220 billion in low- and middle-income countries. Almost half of jobs in Africa could be lost.

"For vast swathes of the globe, the pandemic will leave deep, deep scars," says Achim Steiner, administrator of UNDP. "Without support from the international community, we risk a massive reversal of gains made over the last two decades, and an entire generation lost, if not in lives then in rights, opportunities, and dignity."

Botswana reports its first cases of COVID-19

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>

Experts' Opinion

No doubt saving human lives ought to be the top priority because they are priceless. But it also takes resources to accomplish that task. The question critics needed to ask themselves was: can Pakistan with its economy showing the lowest ever growth rate in the last 62 years and a big chunk of population languishing at below the poverty line afford a complete lockdown? **(Malik Muhammad Ashraf, THE NEWS)**

I think what's key is the employers and organizations the students may want to work with in the future are really going to want to see that students have used this time effectively and in this substantive way to develop their own skills. So my suggestions would be to look for internship opportunities, to look for online courses in different fields that they might be interested in to try and gain new expertise or to learn a new language. **(Danial, CGTN)**

Credibly spelling out the impact of the coronavirus on Pakistan's economy is a realistic starting point. This can establish confidence that we know where we are and where we are likely to be headed. The budget can demonstrate a principled approach of: i) resource generation through tax compliance; ii) deficit reduction by curtailing expenditures; and iii) finance the deficit by a shift to non-debt creating instruments. **(Dr Khaqan Hassan Najeeb, THE NEWS)**

The government will be under pressure to completely restore economic activity, withdraw restrictions on all modes of transport, and ensure full attendance at government offices and institutions. After the end of July, the question of allowing educational institutions to open will have to be addressed in a rational manner. Thus, living with the virus will not be as simple as leaving the people free to save themselves with their admittedly limited means; the government will have to remain on its toes to stay ahead of the problems that a substandard administration and an untrained citizenry will continue to create. **(I.A Rehman, DAWN)**

WHO advice for Public—*Myth Buster*

Most people who get COVID-19 have mild or moderate symptoms and can recover thanks to supportive care.

If you have a cough, fever and difficulty breathing seek medical care early – call your health facility by telephone first.

If you have fever and live in an area with malaria or dengue seek medical care immediately.

FACT:
Most people who get COVID-19 recover from it



World Health
Organization

#Coronavirus

#COVID19

27 May 2020



A teacher wearing a protective face mask conducts a lesson at a school in Belgium—*Reuters*

COVID-19 READS

- 1. Pakistan Needs To Embrace For The Second Outbreak Before It Is Too Late**
<https://nayadaur.tv/2020/05/pakistan-needs-to-embrace-for-the-second-outbreak-before-it-is-too-late/>
- 2. Peshawar's Hayatabad Hospital Turning Away Corona Patients After Reaching Full Capacity**
<https://nayadaur.tv/2020/05/peshawars-hayatabad-hospital-turning-away-corona-patients-after-reaching-full-capacity/>
- 3. Mount Everest: Chinese team summit during pandemic**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-52819738>
- 4. Coronavirus: What sporting events are affected by the pandemic?**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/coronavirus-sporting-events-affected-outbreak-200310084205890.html>
- 5. The road to a blue-green recovery**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/road-blue-green-recovery-200528082435928.html>
- 6. The full toll of Covid-19 on children's mental health won't be known for years**
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/28/health/coronavirus-mental-health-children/index.html>
- 7. Coronavirus is whipping up a mental health storm for NHS workers**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/28/coronavirus-mental-health-storm-nhs-workers>
- 8. The coronavirus infection rate is still too high. There will probably be a second wave**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/28/coronavirus-infection-rate-too-high-second-wave>
- 9. Protecting and creating jobs must be a priority in any coronavirus recovery**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/28/protecting-creating-job-coronavirus-recovery-rishi-sunak>

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