***SOME FACT CHECKS BY FACT CRESCENDO RELATING TO SOCIAL AND HEALTH MISINFORMATION***

1. **Disinformation regarding Sweden Riots targeting Muslims**

 **Claim:** Sweden riots started due to sexual abuse of minors by a Muslim immigrant.

**Fact:** Violence broke out after burning of Quran by right wing activists.

**Synopsis:** Some social media users were spreading fake news regarding Sweden violence following protests against Muslim immigrants in Sweden and ban on Danish Right-wing leader Rasmus Paludan. Fact Crescendo reached out to Malmo Police with the help of local Swedish journalists whom we contacted through email and debunked this propaganda before it could spread further.

**Fact Check link:** <https://english.factcrescendo.com/2020/08/29/no-the-sweden-riots-did-not-start-because-a-muslim-man-raped-minors/>

1. **Conspiracy Theory Of COVID-19 Being A Bacterial Disease-Causing Thrombosis**

**Claim:** COVID-19 is a bacterium causing death among thousands of people due to Thrombosis

**Fact:** COVID-19 is not a bacterium, it is a virus. The primary cause of death in COVID-19 patients is not thrombosis.

**Synopsis:** India is one of the worst affected country due to COVID-19 and there was a spike in misinformation on COVID-19 in the month of April, May and June. Conspiracy theories about the origin of the virus were the most common misinformation trend apart from celebrities getting infected and phony home remedies to treat COVID-19. It was during this time, that a viral message emerged on several social media platform claiming COVID-19 to be a bacterial disease which can easily be treated by antibiotics and the primary reason of the patient’s death was thrombosis. Additionally, it also claimed that the Chinese official knew this from the beginning but never revealed to the world to earn a profit form the disease and do business. However, the message was fake, we broke it into three parts and addressed each separately.

First, we cited the broad scientific consensus that COVID-19 is a virus, not a bacterial disease. Second, we quoted health experts in India and Italy to debunk the idea that ventilators won’t help COVID-19 patients. Third, we addressed the nuance that while some COVID-19 patients have died from inflammation of the blood vessels, the overwhelming evidence shows this is not the primary cause of death.

**Fact Check link:** [**https://english.factcrescendo.com/2020/05/26/fact-check-covid-19-is-a-bacteria-causing-thrombosis/**](https://english.factcrescendo.com/2020/05/26/fact-check-covid-19-is-a-bacteria-causing-thrombosis/)

# Indian Citizen from Tripura Did Not Die Due to Coronavirus In Malaysia

**Claim:** Indian citizen from Tripura dies in Malaysia due to COVID-19

**Fact:** The Indian citizen from Tripura did not die due to Coronavirus in Malaysia. The reason for his death is Status Epilepticus Secondary Meningoencephalitis.

**Synopsis:** Major media houses in India reported a death of a young man in Malaysia due to COVDI-19. According to the reports the man was from Tripura. According to the report, which quoted Abdul Rahim, Hossain’s grandfather, the family had received a call from Malaysian authorities on Wednesday, who told them that Hossain had passed away due to coronavirus. Soon after this, the Malaysian Government refuted the claims on Indian Media to be False. Fact Crescendo contacted Malaysia’s Director-General of Health Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah who dismissed the claims saying that this is “Fake News”. To confirm the truth, we further contacted independent journalists from Singapore, Malaysia and  [Sultan Aminah Hospital](http://hsajb.moh.gov.my/versibaru/) in Johor, Malaysia. However, they were unable to provide us with the death certificate, as it is a private document provided only to the patient’s family. Next, Fact Crescendo contacted family members of the deceased. He provided us the death certificate issued by the Sultan Aminah Hospital in Malaysia, which clearly mentions the reason of death to be Status Epilepticus Secondary Meningoencephalitis. However, Misan Miah (deceased’s family) while speaking to Fact Crescendo mentioned that local reporters told his grandfather that if he tells the media people that the death of his grandson was due to coronavirus then the government would help in bringing back the body home soon.

**Fact Check link:** <https://english.factcrescendo.com/2020/02/05/fact-check-indian-citizen-from-tripura-did-not-die-due-to-coronavirus-in-malaysia/>

1. **Nostradamus predicted the collapse of Idukki dam in Kerala in July 2020.**

**Claim:** Nostradamus predicted that Idukki dam in Kerala will collapse and will cause a massive flood in July 2020 in his book Les Propheties.

**Fact:** Nostradamus has not made any such prediction.

**Synopsis:** A lot of our readers sent us a claim of Nostradamus prediction on Idukki dam in Kerala for verification. Many of them were worried whether Kerala has to see yet another massive flood this year after being ravaged by floods in the last two years. We checked the French and English versions of Les Propheties and found that no such predictions were made by Nostradamus. This article is one of our most searched article on Google.

**Fact Check link:** <https://www.malayalam.factcrescendo.com/a-collection-of-popular-fake-prophecies-purveyed-in-the-name-of-nostradamus/>

1. **Hail storm from Nepal shared as Chhattisgarh, India.**

**Claim**: Video of a hail storm in Chhattisgarh.

**Fact:** Video was of a hail storm that happened in Nepal.

**Synopsis:** During the time of cyclone Amphan hitting India, this video of a hail storm alleged to be of a hailstorm from Chhattisgarh got viral on social media. When reverse image search and In-Vid failed to give us any lead, we searched with key words on Google and found the video on YouTube and following the lead we came to know that the video is from Nepal. We traced down the person who had shot this video by contacting his friends and family members and he sent us a video from the same location clarifying that the video was indeed from Nepal.

**Fact Check Link:** <https://marathi.factcrescendo.com/video-of-hailstorm-from-nepal-shared-as-from-chhattisgarh-india/>

1. **Organs of patients who died while receiving treatment for COVID-19 being harvested and sold by Private Hospitals in India.**

**Claim:** Video of a cadaver of a man who died of COVID-19 and his organs were taken out illegally by doctors.

**Fact:** The Video is of an incidence that took place in Kota, Rajasthan in 2018 and has got nothing to do with current pandemic. The allegations of organ harvesting made in the video were also later found to be false.

**Synopsis:** In 2018, a person had died after a brain surgery in Kota, Rajasthan. The surgery was conducted by doctors at Sudha Hospital. However, the relatives of the deceased made a ruckus and shot a video alleging that the doctors have removed the kidney of the deceased by pointing to a bandage near the lower waist area. Fact Crescendo contacted the hospital for the post mortem reports which mentions that the kidneys of the deceased was intact. The bandage was due to a part of the patient’s cranium was attached on the top of the stomach of the patient while he was being operated. This is a standard procedure during such operations. Fact Crescendo secured the post mortem report of the deceased with the help of police and debunked the claim with the help of it. Fact Crescendo have also provided the accounts of Doctors and police officials as well.

 **Fact Check Link:** <https://www.factcrescendo.com/illegal-kidney-transplant-of-covid-patient-in-kota/>

1. **Street play that was a part of campaign for seeking justice for a rape victim shared as real incident of rape.**

**Claim:** The video of a girl called Nirmala Pant being sexually assaulted.

 **Fact:** The video is of a street play which was conducted to raise awareness about the real incident and seek support of the masses in seeking justice for the victim Nirmala Pant.

**Synopsis:** A group of students had enacted a street play as a part of their campaign seeking justice for a rape victim Nirmala Pant. The video of this awareness campaign, however, was shared as the video of the actual incident. The video was shared widely in India and Nepal. To debunk this video Fact Crescendo spoke to Nepalese media and also successfully traced down the writer, director and people who were present when the play was enacted. From their authentic accounts we debunked the false claim.

**Fact Check Link:** <https://english.factcrescendo.com/2020/08/27/photographs-of-a-street-play-based-on-the-nirmala-pant-rape-and-murder-case-is-being-circulated-as-images-from-the-actual-incident/>

# Are organs of alleged Coronavirus infected patients in Mumbai being smuggled?

 **Claim:** Images of a cadaver of a man who died of COVID-19 and his organs were taken out illegally by doctors in Gorai, Mumbai. The body was haphazardly burnt to avoid contact with the family who would have found out that the kidney was missing.

**Fact:** The images are not related to COVID-19 or illegal kidney smuggling. These show the last rites of an unclaimed body of a woman in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

**Synopsis:** This claim was a part of a conspiracy theory viral in India claiming that private hospitals are confirming false positives for COVID-19 patients and are later illegally smuggling kidneys. Fact Crescendo found that the images were upload by a social worker claiming that they received the service of the cremation of an unidentified and unclaimed woman aged 43 years. We also got in touch Gorai Police who denied the claims of organ trading in the area.

**Fact Check Link:** <https://english.factcrescendo.com/2020/08/01/trafficking-of-organs-of-covid-patients-in-mumbai/>

# Press Trust of India misreports 2 confirmed Coronavirus cases at Kolkata airport

**Claim-** Two passengers tested positive for COVID-19 during thermal screening in Kolkata Airport.

**Fact-** There were no confirmed cases in Kolkata.

**Synopsis-** This misinformation was widely circulated and reported in India when there were only 3 confirmed COVID-19 patients in India. This misinformation was widely reported in by major news agency as PTI. According to the news report two passengers were tested positive for COVID-19 during the thermal screening at the Kolkata Airport. Fact Crescendo debunked this claim by contacting the passengers in question and also got access to their COVID-19 test result which clearly mentioned that they were tested negative.  **Fact Check Link-** <https://english.factcrescendo.com/2020/02/15/there-are-no-confirmed-coronavirus-patient-in-kolkata/>

1. **Police did not attempt a crackdown on the protestors in Shaheen Bagh at 3 am

Claim**- Video claimed to show Delhi police attempting a crackdown on protestors in Shaheen Bagh against CAA, NRC and CAB.
**Fact-** The video shows a different crackdown that took place 25 kms away in Khureji Khas area.

**Synopsis-** This video went viral during the time when the protests against CAA, CAB and NRC were at its peak in India. Several hundreds of people were protesting in Shaheen Bagh including women and children. The video shows a police crackdown on these people at 3am when everyone was asleep. Fact Crescendo debunked this misinformation by locating the site of the video to be 25 kms away form Shaheen Bagh with the help of timestamp, Google Maps and directions.

**Fact check link -** <https://www.factcrescendo.com/police-did-not-attempt-a-crackdown-in-shaheen-bagh/>