About SDPI

SDPI was founded in August 1992 on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), also called Pakistan’s Agenda 21. The NCS placed Pakistan’s socio-economic development within the context of a national environmental plan. This highly acclaimed document, approved by the Federal Cabinet in March 1992, outlined the need for an independent non-profit organization to serve as a source of expertise for policy analysis and development, policy intervention, and policy and program advisory services. SDPI is registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860.

Mission
To catalyse the transition towards sustainable development, defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations.

Vision
To be a center of excellence on sustainable development policy research, capacity development and advocacy in Pakistan.

About Newsletter

*In order to keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI brings out a Bi-weekly E-Newsletter on “COVID-19”*

*It carries reference information’s to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.*

Newspapers Covered:

- Dawn
- The News
- The Express Tribune
- The Nation
- Business Recorder
- Daily Times
- Pakistan Observer
- Pakistan Today
- Urdu Point

A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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Let ghost and cloud kitchens thrive
Source: Asad Hayat, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-02-28
KARACHI: While glancing through your Facebook newsfeed, you must have seen posts about home-made food items that may be delivered to you, should you order on phone or WhatsApp – or on their Facebook pages. These posts are actually the modern version of traditional kitchen services that have existed for a long time. You don’t know the kitchens where the food items of your choice are p..... more >>
## National News

### Islamabad

**Glad tidings: Experts foresee no new Covid-19 variant**


LAHORE: A sigh of relief for the dwellers of the world as scientists and experts are not expecting an emergence of any new and lethal variant of Covid-19 in the near future. It was revealed by Special Assistant to Prime Minister Dr. Faisal Sultan Saturday while talking exclusively to The News at the sidelines of RheumaCon 2022 in Lahore. SAPM said the fifth wave of Covid-19 has almost passed and..... more >>

**Lowest daily Covid tally in 50 days**


ISLAMABAD: The country saw the lowest number of daily Covid-19 cases in 50 days on Sunday, with the national positivity falling to 2.11 per cent. Besides, domestic airlines and public transport have been allowed to serve meals to passengers from tomorrow (Tuesday). Data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) showed 847 infections over the past 24 hours. It was the lowest da..... more >>

**Two more succumb to Covid-19 in Islamabad**

Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-01

ISLAMABAD: Covid-19 claimed two more lives in the capital while 54 cases were reported in the districts of Rawalpindi and Islamabad on Monday. Officials of the capital administration said a man and a woman from Bhara Kahu and G-6 died from the virus. During the last 24 hours, 2,852 tests were conducted in the capital for detection of the virus, out of which 24 women and 20 men tested positive wi..... more >>

**Pindi, Islamabad report two deaths from Covid-19**

Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-02

ISLAMABAD: Two patients died of Covid-19 and 96 got infected in the federal capital and Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours. According to officials of the capital administration, one person lost his battle against the virus and 68 tested positive in Islamabad on Tuesday. The deceased was in the age group of 70-79 and was a resident of Bari Imam, the officials said. During the last 24 hours, 4,1..... more >>

**70pc targeted students fully vaccinated: NHS official**

Source: Ikram Junaidi, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-03

ISLAMABAD: In its fight against Covid-19, Pakistan has achieved another milestone by fully vaccinating 70 per cent or 7.9 million students, aged between 12 and 17 years, in just six months. Talking toDawn, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Health Services Sajid Shah said the decision to vaccinate all the 11.3 million students in that age group on a priority basis was taken after it was ob..... more >>

**Patient loses battle against Covid-19**

Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-03

ISLAMABAD: One person succumbed to Covid-19 in Rawalpindi on Wednesday whereas 52 people were diagnosed with the disease in Islamabad and Rawalpindi districts. The deceased was identified as Ishfaq Ahmed, 87, resident of Al Mumtaz Colony, Adiala Road. According to the health authority’s data, the positivity ratio in Rawalpindi reduced to 1.04pc. Officials of the capital administration sai..... more >>
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hazardous pandemic medical waste piles up</td>
<td>Muhammad Ilyas/Tufail Ahmad/Umer Farooq, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-03-03</td>
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<td>LAHORE/ KARACHI/ PESHAWAR: The by-product of the superspreader, medical waste, if not properly disposed will haunt the country’s environment for years to come and the lack of a plan in its disposal intensifies the threat. A recently published research article titled 'Plastic waste release caused by Covid-19 and its fate in the global ocean', a copy of which is available with th.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Covid-19 claims another three lives</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-03-04</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: As many as 70 people were diagnosed with Covid-19 in Islamabad and Rawalpindi districts on Thursday whereas three patients also succumbed to the disease in the federal capital. The deceased were identified as Abdul Aziz, 82, resident of Dhoke Gangal, Fehmeeda Khan, 55, and Ijaz Hussain, 66. Officials of the capital administration said during the last 24 hours 3,672 tests were conducte.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</td>
<td>Umar Bacha, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-02-27</td>
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<td>Misconceptions behind low coronavirus inoculation rate in Shangla villages</td>
<td>Umar Bacha, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-02-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHANGLA: Health workers have complained that they are struggling to achieve the coronavirus inoculation targets in Shangla district due to the people’s misconceptions about the vaccine. They told Dawn that most families in rural areas believed in conspiracy theories about Covid-19 vaccination and therefore, inoculation rates were low. The vaccinators said it was very hard for them to convi.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coronavirus deaths top 6,200 in KP</td>
<td>Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-02-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>PESHAWAR: Fatalities from Covid-19 reached over 6,200 with the passing away of nine more persons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday amid less testing owing to strike by health workers involved in sample collection. The province reported 115 new infections as ratio of sample collection and number of testing continue to fall owing to strike by the members of the rapid response teams, which has incap.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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Punjab

Guard of honour for nurses on Covid frontline
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-03
BAHAWALPUR: Ceremonies were held in parts of Punjab on Wednesday to pay tribute to the nurses who rendered invaluable services during the Covid-19 pandemic. The events were held on the directive of Chief Minister Usman Buzdar. Contingents of police, Rescue 1122 and civil defence presented guard of honour to the nurses. Bahawalpur Deputy Commissioner Irfan Ali Kathiya attended the event at the Ba..... more >>

Sindh

Five more die of Covid in Sindh
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2022-02-27
KARACHI: Five more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives while 309 new cases emerged overnight in the province, said a statement issued from Chief Minister House on Saturday. It said that 309 new cases were detected when 15,041 samples were tested, which constituted two per cent detection rate. Out of 309 new cases, 81 had been detected from Karachi —South 39, East 24, Korangi nine, West e..... more >>

Four more die of Covid in province
Source: APP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-26
KARACHI: Four more patients of coronavirus died overnight and 495 new cases emerged overnight, a statement issued from Chief Minister House said on Friday. With latest deaths, the death toll rose to 8,062 that constituted a 1.4 per cent death rate. Some 23,745 samples were tested, which detected 495 cases that constituted a 2pc current detection rate. Currently, 19,511 patients were under treatm..... more >>

Covid claims five lives as detection rate drops to two per cent in Sindh
Karachi: Another five patients of the novel coronavirus died in Sindh over the past 24 hours, showing a mortality rate of 1.4 per cent and brining the death toll in the province since March 2020 to 8,067. In his daily Covid-19 situation report on Saturday, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 15,041 samples were tested and 309 cases emerged, constituting a two per cent detection rate. So..... more >>

444 new Covid-19 cases emerge in Sindh
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-01
KARACHI: Fortunately no death stemming from coronavirus reported on Sunday, however 444 new cases emerged when 9,032 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House. Shah said that fortunately no death was reported and Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 8,067 that constituted 1.4 percent death .... more >>

Three more die of Covid in Sindh
Source: APP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-02
KARACHI: Three more patients of Covid-19 died and 358 new cases emerged overnight across the province, a statement issued from the Chief Minister House said on Tuesday. It said three more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 8,073 constituting a 1.4 per cent death rate. It said 9,610 samples were tested, which detected 358 cases that constituted 3.7pc current detection..... more >>
Pak-Afghan border needs to have bank counters, vaccination facilities: PAJCCI
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-02-27
KARACHI: Zubair Motiwala Chairman and Khan Jan Alokozai Co-Chairman of Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) have suggested to set up bank counters at borders and polio vaccination facilities for Afghan children accompanied by the parents. The inclusion of CAR region in PAJCCI’s current portfolio to serve as tri-lateral Chamber was also iterated. At P..... more >>

Shortage of ventilators kills newborns in Sindh
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2022-03-04
Shortage of ventilators at government hospitals in Sindh’s Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas divisions is killing dozens of children every month, a private TV channel reported. Public sector hospitals in 10 out of 12 districts of the divisions are without ventilators. The government has left critical infant care largely to the private sector or charity organisations. Newborns and infants who need to..... more >>

Post-Covid lifestyle changes spike hearing problems
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-04
KARACHI: The number of people suffering from hearing problems worldwide is expected to reach 900 million by 2050 from 450 million in 2022, according to doctors. Noise pollution is one of the reasons for the increase in the number of hearing-impaired people in developing countries, including Pakistan, earn, nose and throat (ENT) specialist said at a seminar organised by the Dow University of Scie..... more >>

Three die of Covid in Sindh
Karachi: The coronavirus claimed three more lives in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll to 8,083 in the province. As many as 9,863 samples were conducted, after which 410 tested positive which constituted a 4.2 per cent current detection rate, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily Covid-19 report on Monday. The CM said currently 19,261 patients were u..... more >>
International News

Countries News

New research points to Wuhan market as pandemic origin
NEW YORK: Scientists released a pair of extensive studies on Saturday that point to a market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the coronavirus pandemic, the New York Times reported. Analyzing data from a variety of sources, they concluded that the coronavirus was very likely present in live mammals sold in the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in late 2019 and suggested that the virus twice spilled..... more >

Brazil tourism sector tries to rise from pandemic ashes: Philippines lifts Covid-19 restrictions in capital
Manila: The Philippines will lift most Covid-19 restrictions in the capital Manila next month, President Rodrigo Duterte’s spokesman said Sunday, after a sharp drop in infections and a rising number of people vaccinated. It comes weeks after the country reopened its borders to foreign tourists for the first time in two years and as campaigning for the May 9 national elections cranks up. Bus..... more >>

Virus-hit Hong Kong considers lockdown as bodies pile up
Hong Kong: Hong Kong may impose a China-style hard lockdown that confines people to their homes, authorities signalled Monday, with the city’s zero-Covid strategy in tatters and bodies piling up in hospitals. Two years of strict zero-Covid policies kept the coronavirus largely bay but a breakthrough of the highly transmissible Omicron variant exposed how little authorities had done to prepa..... more >>

Donors News

Covid has taken severe mental health toll: WHO
Geneva: The Covid pandemic has taken a dire toll on mental health, the WHO said Wednesday, indicating that cases of anxiety and depression had swelled by over 25 percent globally. In a fresh scientific brief, the World Health Organization also found that the Covid-19 crisis had in many cases significantly impeded access to mental health services and raised concerns about increases in suicidal beh..... more >>

Covid has taken severe mental health toll: WHO
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2022-03-03
The Covid pandemic has taken a dire toll on mental health, the WHO said Wednesday, indicating that cases of anxiety and depression had swelled by over 25 percent globally. In a fresh scientific brief, the World Health Organization also found that the Covid-19 crisis had in many cases significantly impeded access to mental health services and raised concerns about increases in suicidal behaviour ..... more >>
**SDPI Engagements**

### Researchers Articles

#### Doing business in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
A debate on significantly reducing regulatory costs for new businesses is timely. The financial support and facilitation provided by the government amidst the Covid-19 pandemic was not sufficient for all sectors. The evolving situation in Afghanistan is bound to impact the business climate in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which could see both an influx of refugees and a deterioration..... more >>

#### Graduating from the FATF
Source: Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-02-28
The FATF plenary meeting is in progress and once again all eyes are set on whether Pakistan would get graduated to the FATF’s ‘white list’ or stay on its ‘grey list’. The Indian media, however, like always, is running stories that Pakistan might be downgraded to the FATF’s ‘black list’. Before we explain what it means to be on one of these lists and..... more >>

### SDPI News

#### German team concerned over Afghan situation
Islamabad: Christoph Dinkel Aker, Co-founder, Al-Sharq Reise, Germany, has said that it is high time to learn more about Pakistan and fight the stereotypes about the country in European society. Mr. Aker said this while visiting Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) along with a 13-member delegation representing social, economic, and political experts from Germany. Members of the dele..... more >>

#### Pakistan Faces Multiple Problems Due To Afghan Situation: German Delegation
Source: APP, *Urdu Point*, 2022-03-03
ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 1st Mar, 2022 ) :Co-founder Al-Sharq Reise,Germany, Christoph Dinkel Aker on Tuesday said that it is high time to learn more about Pakistan and fight the stereotypes about the country in the European society. He was visiting Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) along with a 13-member delegation representing social, economic, and politic..... more >>

### SDPI's Related Articles

#### Russia tour not to affect US, Europe exports: Razak Dawood
Source: Khalid Hasnain, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-02-26
LAHORE: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood claims PM Imran Khan’s visit to Moscow in the middle of the Russia-Ukraine conflict will not impact Pakistan’s exports to Europe and the US, though economists feel the timing of the tour may have sent a wrong signal to the West, but it will have little to no impact on the country’s exports. &l..... more >>
SDPI's Related News

PM Imran’s Tour to Russia will Not Affect the US, Europe Trades, Says Abdul Razak Dawood
Source: Dawn Report, TopWireNews, 2022-02-26
Renowned economists doubted the time of the PM’s visit to Russia, signaling a wrong gesture to the West. But Abdul Razak Dawood refuted all rumors of analysts. “Whenever such a situation develops and creates trade-related problems, you need to understand how we can benefit. But I don’t think this situation will affect our exports (to Europe and the US). Mr. Dawood said. The PM ad..... more >>

Webinar News

Whistle Blowing Termed Vital To Curb Unethical Practices In Higher Education Institutions
Source: APP, Urdu Point, 2022-02-27
ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 27th Feb, 2022): Whistle blowing in higher education institutions is vital to protect public interest, curb unethical practices at various levels, improve the overenroll standards of high education and create best learning environment for the students and teachers. Experts from prominent national and international academic institutions said this while ..... more >>

‘Whistle-blowing in HEIs vital to curb unethical practices’
Dr. Mahboob was addressing the ‘International Conference on contemporary issues and challenges of whistle-blowing in higher education institutions (HEIs),’ organised here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Prof Mahboob said that we need to come up with a mechanism where whistle-blowers can report matters and get protection under the law of the land, he added. Dr. Raz..... more >>

‘Whistleblowing vital in higher education’
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-01
ISLAMABAD: Whistleblowing in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is vital to protect public interest, curb unethical practices at various levels, improve the overall standards of higher education and create the best learning environment for the students and teachers. Experts from prominent national and international academic institutions shared these views at an international conference on the ..... more >>

Implementation of CTBCM Model to Increase Accountability in the Power Sector
Source: ProPK Staff, ProPakistani.com, 2022-03-03
Implementation of the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contracts Market (CTBCM) model in Pakistan would provide transparency, predictability, accountability, and a level playing field by creating competition between multiple buyers and sellers in the energy sector of Pakistan. ADVERTISEMENT The experts said this during a special meeting ‘Examining the future direc..... more >>

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