



## 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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## Opinion/Articles/Editorials

## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

**FUTURES LOST TO THE VIRUS**

Source: [Asad Zia](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-06

PESHAWAR: For almost two weeks last summer, Saliha and Sabira Rehman watched their father fight Covid-19 in a hospital in their hometown in Mardan District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. At the time, the pandemic was at its peak in Pakistan, and the girls stood by helplessly as their father, Ghan Rehmani, struggled to overcome his symptoms. He quietly succumbed to the disease at the end of May. Rehman was..... [more >>](#)

**A Brighter Tomorrow**

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Daily Times](#), 2022-03-07

Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar's ringing the milestone bell to mark 100 million fully vaccinated Pakistanis has all the bearings of a divine miracle. To expect a country like ours, having gained widespread notoriety for vaccine resistance (thanks to our unwinnable war against the crippling poliovirus) in the same lane as the rest of the developed world, marking a turning point i..... [more >>](#)

**100-million milestone**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-08

Yet another commendable milestone has been achieved as Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar revealed that 100 million people across the country are now fully vaccinated while around 127 million have received at least one dose. Soon vaccines will be eligible for citizens of all ages. Moreover, 70% of students have also been fully vaccinated. This is indeed encouraging as there is..... [more >>](#)

**The 100m milestone**

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-11

THERE is scarcely a national challenge that cannot be overcome with consensus and strong political will. The federal government's achievement in fully vaccinating 100m people in the country over nine months is proof that great obstacles can be overcome if those in power are willing to put in the effort. In real terms, according to the latest figures, it means that the National Command and Op..... [more >>](#)

**Vaccine milestone**

Source: [Vaccine milestone](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-10

March 6 marked Pakistan crossing the major milestone of fully vaccinating 100 million people against the coronavirus pandemic. The national vaccination drive has been running in full swing across the country and there are all indications that Pakistan will be able to cover all eligible citizens fairly soon. Meanwhile, news regarding patients is also encouraging: on March 8, Pakistan reported six C..... [more >>](#)

## National News

### Islamabad

#### Number of Covid cases increases slightly

Source: [Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-05

ISLAMABAD: The number of Covid-19 cases slightly increased on Friday as 953 people tested positive across the country, bringing the national positivity rate to 2.59 per cent. On Thursday, 768 cases were reported in the country and the figure of new cases on Friday rose to 953. According to National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) figures, the number of active cases are 36,794. During the pas..... [more >>](#)

#### Two more die of Covid-19 in Islamabad

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-05

ISLAMABAD: Two people succumbed to Covid-19 whereas 23 new cases emerged in the federal capital on Friday. The positivity ratio in the area reduced slightly to 0.7pc. Officials of the capital administration said the deceased were female patients aged between 50 and 89 years, and were residents of G-8. During the last 24 hours 3,252 tests were conducted in the capital. Nine cases were reported i..... [more >>](#)

#### 953 fresh Covid-19 cases detected across country

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-05

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus daily case count in the country, Friday, witnessed an upward trend as 953 new Covid-19 infections were detected during the past 24 hours by carrying out 36,678 diagnostic tests reflecting a positivity ratio of 2.6 percent. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Covid-19 data released here, the new cases pushed the country's coronavirus o..... [more >>](#)

#### Two more succumb to Covid in Pindi, Islamabad

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-06

ISLAMABAD: A slight drop was seen in the Covid-19 weekly positivity ratio in the capital however two people succumbed to the disease in Islamabad and Rawalpindi districts on Saturday as 81 people were diagnosed with the disease. District Health Officer Dr Zaeem Zia said that the weekly positivity rateduring the current week was 1.4pc, as compared to 1.7pc during the last week, decreased by 0.3pc ..... [more >>](#)

#### 100 million fully vaccinated across Pakistan, says Asad Umar

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-06

Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar on Friday has announced that 100 million people across the country are now fully vaccinated. Umar, who is also the chief of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), took to his official Twitter handle to announce the "major milestone reached in the national vaccination drive". He further stated that more than 127 million Pakis..... [more >>](#)

#### 3 die of COVID-19, 77 new cases

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2022-03-06

Islamabad : As many as three more confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 died of the illness in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district while 77 individuals were confirmed positive for the infection from the twin cities showing the number of patients being tested positive from the region is on a continuous decline. It is worth mentioning here that t..... [more >>](#)

### Over 700 artworks to be displayed at Art Bazaar

Source: [App, Daily Times](#) , 2022-03-05

The art bazaar will be held at Gallery 6 on Saturday to connect artisans with art buyers and promote purchase of local craft. The gallery will be celebrating its 14th anniversary from March 5-6 through this event, which will kick off at 11:00 a.m and conclude at 7:00 p.m. The celebratory exhibit, resuming after a gap of two years due to Covid-19, is an annual anniversary tradition of the gallery..... [more >>](#)

### Weekly Covid positivity further declines in Islamabad district

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2022-03-07

ISLAMABAD: While 37 people were infected with Covid-19 in a single day, the weekly positivity has further declined in Islamabad district. As many as 3,162 samples were collected out of which 37 were found positive on Sunday with the daily positivity rate traced at 1.1 percent. The graph of daily cases showed that during the last one week, single day cases increased and then decreased the very ne..... [more >>](#)

### Covid-19; WHO praises Pakistan for vaccinating 100m citizens

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2022-03-07

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Sunday congratulated Pakistan on vaccinating 100 million citizens against Covid-19. "Heartiest Congratulations to Pakistan," tweeted the WHO, adding, "The WHO applauds Govt of Pakistan for having over 100 million individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19 virus." "This indicates the tremendous efforts made..... [more >>](#)

### Covid-19 claims 7 more lives

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2022-03-07

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported seven deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases surged to 1,514,258. A statement issued here on Sunday by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), said that nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 30,265 while 755 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province i..... [more >>](#)

### 100 mn citizens inoculated: WHO felicitates Pakistan for achieving milestone

Source: [News Desk, The News, International](#) , 2022-03-07

KARACHI: The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Sunday felicitated Pakistan on achieving the milestone of inoculating 100 million citizens against COVID-19. "Heartiest Congratulations to Pakistan," the WHO wrote on Twitter, adding, "The WHO applauds Govt of Pakistan for having over 100 million individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19 virus." It indicated the tremendous..... [more >>](#)

### Two lose battle against Covid in capital

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2022-03-09

ISLAMABAD: Two people died of Covid-19 in Islamabad district whereas 23 people were diagnosed with the disease on Monday. Positivity ratio was traced at 0.9 percent. Officials of the capital administration said a female patient (60-69) died on Sunday. She was a resident of Bhara Kahu. The other deceased was a male patient (70-79) who passed away on Monday but his address was not known, they added..... [more >>](#)

### Advancing telemedicine

Source: [Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2022-03-09

BESIDES poor management and the lack of medical resources and infrastructure in the healthcare sector, the chronic shortage of doctors in both the rural areas and cities, continues to remain unaddressed. But even in grim

circumstances there can be reason to hope. During the dark days of the pandemic, people with conditions such as heart disease and diabetes were advised to stay away from the Covid..... [more >>](#)

### 19 diagnosed with Covid-19

Source: [Munawer Azeem](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-09

ISLAMABAD: As many as 19 people were diagnosed with Covid-19 in Islamabad district with the positivity ratio recorded at 0.7 percent. Officials of the capital administration said during the last 24 hours 2,438 tests were conducted. They said four cases each were reported in the age group of 20-29 and 30-39, followed by three each in 50-59 and 60-69, two in 40-49, and one each in 10-19, 70-79 and ..... [more >>](#)

### DRAP cuts Covid drug Remdesivir's price 100mg infusion and powder to cost Rs2,308

Source: [Shabir Hussain](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-12

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) has reduced the price of Remdesivir, a drug commonly used to treat coronavirus. Through a formal notification, the authority has fixed the price at Rs2,308 per 100mg infusion and powder. The price of the said drug was fixed at Rs9,244 in October 2020. Its price was further reduced in December the same year to Rs3,564. The antiviral drug..... [more >>](#)

### Covid-19 claims two more lives in Islamabad, Pindi

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-12

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital reported one casualty from Covid-19 and 31 new cases while one patient also died of the disease in the district of Rawalpindi on Friday. Officials of the capital administration said the deceased woman was a resident of Bhara Kahu and was in her 60s. During the last 24 hours, 2,292 tests were conducted in Islamabad out of which results of 18 males and 13 females cam..... [more >>](#)

### Govt mulls NCOC closure as cases drop

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-13

ISLAMABAD: As the number of Covid-19 cases continues to decrease across the country, the government has started deliberations to close the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The responsibility to deal with the data will be given to the National Institute of Health, Centres for Disease Control (NIH-CDC). "It should not be taken as we want to close the NCOC. Fact is that we have p..... [more >>](#)

### After dengue & Covid-19, is Pakistan ready for West Nile virus?

Source: [M. Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-11

KARACHI: Unexplained deaths of birds including crows, kites and pigeons in Karachi, Islamabad and other cities indicates the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV), which is spread by a species of mosquitoes present in Pakistan, and cause West Nile fever in humans, infectious diseases experts feared Thursday. They said although no test is available at the moment at most of the clinical laboratories in..... [more >>](#)

### 'Initiatives for women's empowerment to bring economic development'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-11

Islamabad : President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said the initiatives for women's empowerment and financial inclusion would lead to the country's economic development. He was addressing the ceremony held here to launch the 'Insaaf Watch' portal developed by the Ministry of Law and Justice in collaboration with the British High Commission and Group Development Pakistan to facilit..... [more >>](#)

### **'COVID created gap in learning'**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2022-03-11

Islamabad : The COVID-19 brought about a generational catastrophe in terms of learning as in the next 5-6 years the gap of learning of the past 2 years will be evident, said Dr Fatima Dar, CEO, Oak Consulting. Dr Dar was speaking at a webinar on "Accelerating Sustainable Development beyond Pandemic: way forward for Pakistan" organised here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (..... [more >>](#)

### **CDC to replace NCOC: Dr Sultan**

Source: [M. Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2022-03-13

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on health Dr. Faisal Sultan has said the transition is underway to hand over functions, roles and responsibilities of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) to the Center for Communicable Diseases (CDC) at the National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad, and soon the NCOC would be wound up permanently. "Yes, ultimately NCOC had to be..... [more >>](#)

### **One dies of COVID-19**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2022-03-13

Islamabad: Another patient has died of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory while 35 individuals have tested positive from ICT and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours hinting that the fifth wave of the outbreak has almost lost its intensity. A continuous depression in the number of COVID-19 patients from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi is being witnessed..... [more >>](#)

### **Pakistan's active Covid-19 cases drop below 20,000 mark**

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2022-03-10

Pakistan's active COVID-19 case count fell below the 20,000 mark after the number of recoveries saw a drastic increase as 12,103 patients suffering from the virus recovered overnight, the National Command and Operation data showed Wednesday morning. On Tuesday, the number of active coronavirus cases in Pakistan was at 29,346. After the major decline, the country's active case count dro..... [more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 claims two more lives, infects 280**

Source: [App, Daily Times](#), 2022-03-12

As many as two more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 8,091 and 280 new cases emerged when 7,891 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Friday. He added that two more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 8,091 that constituted 1.4 percent death rate. Shah said that 7,8..... [more >>](#)

### **Two deaths, 125 new corona cases reported in Punjab**

Source: [App, The News, International](#), 2022-03-14

LAHORE: Around 125 new cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab while two persons lost their lives during the last 24 hours. According to data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 503,764 while the death toll 13,537 and recoveries 485,385. The P&SHD confirmed 82 cases in La..... [more >>](#)

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

### Decline in cases affects Covid vaccination

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-08

PESHAWAR: The health workers continued struggling to achieve Covid-19 vaccination target and collect samples from suspected patients after decline in number of cases and mortalities as three more passed away due to the virus and 117 infections were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday. A report of health department said that all three mortalities were reported in Peshawar. The province'..... [more >>](#)

## Punjab

### Five deaths, 252 new corona cases reported

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2022-03-05

LAHORE: Five people lost their lives due to coronavirus on Friday while 252 new cases were reported across Punjab. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for Punjab P&SHD on Friday, the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 502,309 while total number of deaths recorded 13,513 so far. The P&SHD confirmed the maximum number of coronavirus cases were reported in Lahore..... [more >>](#)

### Over 30 Covid cases surface in Rawalpindi, Islamabad

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-13

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital reported 30 new Covid-19 cases while Rawalpindi saw the emergence of only six patients on Saturday. According to officials of the capital administration, during the last 24 hours, 2,110 tests were conducted in Islamabad out of whom 18 males and 12 females tested positive. The positivity ratio was recorded at 1.42pc in Islamabad district. The officials said eight ca..... [more >>](#)

### 155 new cases of corona in Punjab

Source: [App, The News, International](#), 2022-03-11

LAHORE: No death was reported due to coronavirus and about 155 new cases were recorded in Punjab on Thursday. According to data shared by a spokesperson for the P&SHD, the number of cases in the province reached 503,328 while a total number of deaths had been recorded 13,534 so far. The P&SHD confirmed 90 cases in Lahore. .... [more >>](#)

### Covid-19 cases continue to fall in Islamabad, Pindi

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-14

ISLAMABAD: As many as 27 new Covid-19 cases surfaced in Rawalpindi and Islamabad districts on Sunday as the positivity rate in the region continued to decline. With a continuous decline in the number of Covid-19 cases, closing the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) and shifting responsibility of dealing with data related to the virus to the National Institute of Health, Centre for Disea..... [more >>](#)

## Sindh

**In the end, KLF tells us about joys of meeting in the time of Covid**

Source: [Shazia Hasan, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-07

KARACHI: Just like the previous day, when a moderator of a very important session had vanished during the 13th Karachi Literature Festival (KLF), on the concluding day, Sunday, a keynote speaker at the closing ceremony, Hanif Kureishi, decided to go missing. Again there was a drama of looking for him. Again the organisers Oxford University Press (OUP) were at a loss. This time they called in the ..... [more >>](#)

**No Covid death in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent, Daily Times](#), 2022-03-08

KARACHI: No death was reported due to Covid-19 in Sindh during the last 24 hours, while 89 new cases emerged when 2,872 tests were conducted, said Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah in his daily report on Monday. .... [more >>](#)

**Biotechnology helps protect humans from epidemics, say experts**

Source: [Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-08

HYDERABAD: Speakers at a training course said that field of biotechnology protected humans from epidemics by developing vaccines and was the only way to improve quality of human life as it helped lessen problems caused by genetic deficiencies. They were speaking at three-day training course titled "Recent trends and techniques in biotechnology" that got under way at the Institute of B..... [more >>](#)

**264 test positive for Covid in Sindh**

Source: [PPI, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-10

KARACHI: No death from Covid-19 was reported on Wednesday. However, 246 new cases emerged when 7,342 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House. Mr Shah said that 7,342 samples were tested which detected 246 cases that constituted a 3.4 per cent current detection rate. He added that so far 8,016,563 tests have been c..... [more >>](#)

**Moot discusses mental ramification of Covid-19**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-11

KARACHI: As many as 446.51 million people around the world were infected with Covid-19, of which around six million persons failed to survive, while 380,489,141 people recovered from the viral infection, Psychology Department head Dr James Kay of the Kabarak University, Kenya, said while delivering a keynote address during the inaugural session of a daylong second international conference on &ldqu..... [more >>](#)

**Death toll zero as pandemic wanes**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-13

KARACHI: Fortunately no death stemming from Covid-19 was reported on Saturday, however 306 new cases emerged when 7,243 tests were conducted, a statement issued from CM House said. The latest cases have put current detection rate at 4.2 per cent. Currently 8,824 patients were under treatment; of them condition of 110 patients was stated to be critical, including nine shifted to ventilators. Acco..... [more >>](#)

**No Covid death reported from Sindh as 188 new cases emerge**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2022-03-14

No death resulting from Covid-19 was reported in Sindh during the previous 24 hours. However, 188 new cases of the viral disease emerged when 5,567 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad

Ali Shah on Sunday in his daily statement on the pandemic situation in the province. Shah said the death toll due to Covid-19 in the province since the start of the pandemic was ..... [more >>](#)

### **Sindh reports 188 fresh Covid-19 cases**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-14

KARACHI: Fortunately, no death stemming from Covid-19 was reported on Sunday, however 188 new cases emerged when 5,567 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from the CM House. Murad said that fortunately no death was reported from Covid-19. He added that 5,567 samples were tested which detected 188 cases that constitut..... [more >>](#)

## International News

### Countries News

#### **Saudi Arabia lifts most Covid restrictions**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2022-03-07

Saudi Arabia said on Saturday it was lifting most Covid restrictions including social distancing in public spaces and quarantine for vaccinated arrivals, moves that could facilitate the arrival of Muslim pilgrims. The decision includes suspending “social distancing measures in all open and closed places” including mosques, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) cited an interior minist..... [more >>](#)

#### **S Arabia lifts Covid-related curbs**

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-07

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia has lifted almost all coronavirus-related restrictions in the kingdom after witnessing a declining Covid-19 trend, a report published by Saudi Gazette said. Saudi Arabia will no longer require the passengers arriving in the kingdom to show a negative PCR test report or quarantine themselves upon arrival. Instead of fulfilling these two requirements, the foreigners travelling ..... [more >>](#)

#### **China's zero-Covid policy under pressure**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-08

BEIJING: China on Monday reported its highest number of coronavirus cases in two years as clusters emerged in more than a dozen cities, posing a fresh challenge to Beijing's zero-Covid policy. The country's borders remain mostly closed as policymakers continue to pursue the zero-tolerance approach even as many parts of the world turn to living with the virus. More than 500 infections ..... [more >>](#)

#### **Queen Elizabeth II greets Trudeau in person after Covid scare**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-08

Queen Elizabeth II on Monday met visiting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in her first in-person engagement since falling ill with Covid-19. The 95-year-old monarch, who is also queen of Canada, chatted with Trudeau after he jetted in for talks on the conflict in Ukraine with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte. Last week the queen donated to an appeal for fund..... [more >>](#)

#### **Austria suspends mandatory Covid vaccine law**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-10

Vienna: Austria said Wednesday it is suspending mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations for all adults saying the pandemic no longer poses the same danger, just weeks after the law took effect in an EU first. The Alpine nation of nine million people was among few countries in the world to make jabs against the coronavirus compulsory for all adults. The law took effect in February and called for fines up ..... [more >>](#)

#### **Chinese city locks down: Shanghai shuts schools as Covid spikes**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-12

SHANGHAI: A Chinese city of nine million was ordered into lockdown on Friday and Shanghai shut its schools as authorities scrambled to halt a Covid-19 outbreak that has pushed nationwide cases to their highest levels in two years. Changchun, the capital of northeastern Jilin province and an important industrial base, ordered residents to stay at home, allowing one person out every two days to buy..... [more >>](#)

**Australia enters new phase of Covid**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-13

SYDNEY: Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the nation's political leaders want to move to a new phase of living with Covid-19 as though it were the flu but would consult health experts. A day after meeting with the national cabinet of state and federal leaders, Morrison told reporters on Saturday morning they had discussed moving to "Phase D" of the national pan..... [more >>](#)

**France offers fourth Covid jab to over-80s**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-13

PARIS: France is offering a fourth dose of a coronavirus vaccine to people older than 80 who had their booster more than three months ago, the prime minister said on Saturday. Jean Castex told Le Parisian newspaper that they were nevertheless recommended to keep wearing a face mask as France relaxes its Covid-19 coronavirus restrictions. .... [more >>](#)

**Millions locked down as China wrestles worst virus outbreak in two years**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-14

BEIJING: China placed all 17 million residents in one of its biggest cities under lockdown on Sunday, as virus cases doubled nationwide to nearly 3,400 and anxiety mounted over the resilience of its 'zero-Covid' approach in the face of the worst outbreak in two years. The southern tech hub of Shenzhen told all residents to stay at home as it struggles to eradicate an Omicron flare-up .... [more >>](#)

**France to lift Covid restrictions**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-14

PARIS: France will lift most of its Covid restrictions on Monday, scrapping Emmanuel Macron's flagship vaccine pass and ending compulsory indoor mask-wearing in schools and many public spaces, as the government vows to ease pressure on French people's daily lives despite a rise in infections. Less than month before April's presidential vote – with polls showing the centris..... [more >>](#)

**Donors News****Covid boosters needed to check risk of severe disease: WHO**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-09

GENEVA: An expert group convened by the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Tuesday it "strongly supports urgent and broad access" to booster doses, in a reversal of the UN agency's previous insistence that boosters weren't necessary and contributed to vaccine inequity. In a statement, WHO said its expert group concluded that immunization with authorized COVID-19 vaccines..... [more >>](#)

## SDPI Engagements

### Researchers Articles

#### Mental well-being and tele-psychology

Source: [Abdullah Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-06

The omicron variant of the corona virus forced many countries and regions to order lockdowns to curb the spread of the disease. There is a wider realisation now, however, that lockdowns have a significant impact on the psychological well being of people. The Covid-19 pandemic has had substantial psychological impact on the people globally. Research on the psychological well-being of the most expo..... [more >>](#)

#### Reflections on the IPCC WGII report

Source: [Dr Hina Aslam](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-13

“Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.” — IPCC WGII 2022. The Sixth Assessment Cycle (AR6) of the Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) focuses on the assessment of impacts, vulnerabilities and nec..... [more >>](#)

### SDPI News

#### Pakistan should be prepared to capitalise on new opportunities

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-14

Islamabad: Pakistan should be prepared to capitalise on new opportunities that are presenting themselves with ample predictability in the prevailing geopolitical situation, said former finance minister Dr Salman Shah. Dr Shah was delivering his keynote address at a panel discussion on ‘Economic security and geo-economics: challenges and opportunities for Pakistan,’ organised here by ..... [more >>](#)

### SDPI's Related News

#### Challenges of climate change, health, and nutrition in Pakistan

Source: [Reporter](#), [The AGA Khan University](#), 2022-03-07

Climate change and extreme weather events are contributing to a wide range of health and food security risks around the world. These threats are particularly severe in low- and middle-income countries like Pakistan that are often the least able to respond. This calls for urgent and proactive actions to meet the many challenges posed by climate change whilst achieving the Sustainable Development..... [more >>](#)

### Webinar News

#### ‘Consultation imperative for competitive electricity market’

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-05

Islamabad: Implementation of the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contracts Market (CTBCM) model in Pakistan would provide transparency, predictability, accountability, and a level playing field to multiple buyers and sellers in the energy sector of Pakistan. The experts said this during a special meeting on ‘Examining the future direction of the electricity market in Pakistan: The case of Co..... [more >>](#)

**Speakers-call-for-giving-more-space-to-womenfolk**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2022-03-08

ISLAMABAD: Speakers have said that women and girls in Pakistan need to be provided with more space to achieve their best potential and usher real development in society. They said this during a webinar titled 'Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow' held by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in connection with International Women's Day. Presenting an ove..... [more >>](#)

**Speakers call for more space to women to ensure development of society**

Source: [Zubair Qureshi](#), [Pakistan Observer](#), 2022-03-08

Women in Pakistan need more spaces to achieve their best potential to play their role in real development of society. The speakers said this during a webinar 'Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow' held by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in connection with the International Women's Day. Presenting an overview of women's development in Pakistan, M..... [more >>](#)

**More Space To Women Needed For Development Of Society: Speakers**

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point](#), 2022-03-07

ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 7th Mar, 2022): Women and girls in Pakistan need more space to achieve their best potential for playing their role in real development of society. The speakers expressed these views in a webinar 'Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow' held by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in connection with the International Women..... [more >>](#)

**'COVID created gap in learning'**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2022-03-11

Islamabad: The COVID-19 brought about a generational catastrophe in terms of learning as in the next 5-6 years the gap of learning of the past 2 years will be evident, said Dr Fatima Dar, CEO, Oak Consulting. Dr Dar was speaking at a webinar on "Accelerating Sustainable Development beyond Pandemic: way forward for Pakistan" organised here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (..... [more >>](#)

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