

**Bi – Weekly**



# **E – Newsletter on COVID - 19**

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**Sustainable Development Policy Institute  
SDPI**

## 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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## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

**UK vaccine approval**

Source: [Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-14

THE British government's travel update that includes two Chinese vaccines in its approved list for incoming travellers is welcome news for Pakistan. Scores of Pakistani citizens who have received two jabs of either Sinopharm or Sinovac can travel to the UK from Nov 22 without having to quarantine at home. This is in stark contrast to the days when Pakistan was on the red list and travellers .....[more >>](#)

**Beware a fifth wave**

Source: [Kamal Siddiqi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-16

Pakistan in the past week has reported less than 300 new Covid-19 cases as the positivity rate again for the second time fell below 1 per cent this month. The good news is that the positivity rate has remained below 2 per cent since October 15 on the back of an expanded immunisation drive across the country. Local media has reported that the number of Covid-19 cases in Pakistan has fallen to it.....[more >>](#)

**Vaccination results**

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-16

The federal and provincial governments deserve credit for the declining trend in coronavirus cases in the country. The positivity ratio of Covid-19 has now fallen to below one per cent in Pakistan. On Nov 13, the infection rate stood at 0.68%, with only 231 persons having been detected with the disease on that date. The falling trend has been continuing for more than a month. This is an encouraging.....[more >>](#)

**Rushing towards a calamity**

Source: [Rafia Zakaria, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-17

THE climate summit held in Glasgow did not produce the agreement that the ailing planet that we all inhabit so desperately needed. Many thousands of people attended, Covid-19 restrictions notwithstanding. Most came from the Western countries that are directly responsible for producing the crisis itself, and few, according to Mary Robinson, a former Prime Minister of Ireland, came with a "cri.....[more >>](#)

**A Steep Fall**

Source: [Editorial, Daily Times](#), 2021-11-19

It ought to concern the government, even as it revels in its victory at the joint session, that FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in the country fell 12pc year-on-year in the first four months of the current fiscal year. That this has happened just as FDI trends have overcome Covid restrictions and are rising across the world should worry policy makers even more, especially since the reasons given s.....[more >>](#)

**Life After Covid**

Source: [Editorial, Daily Times](#), 2021-11-19

As new and new mutations keep rearing their heads to fly in the face of vaccinations, the pandemic is not going anywhere. No qualms about that. And staying true to such unforgettable disasters in the yore, the ongoing COVID-19 testing the limits of mankind; forcing us to push open the portal to a new world. A dramatic beginning for Mother Earth, indeed. However, coronavirus was just as critical o.....[more >>](#)

**President Xi Jinping's global vision**

Source: Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, [The News, International](#), 2021-11-19

President Xi Jinping started his journey as President with the launch of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He was convinced that without sharing prosperity there is no rationale in claiming the status of a responsible state. In this way, China would not be different from other major powers of the world. It will also not be good for the sustainability of economic growth and development of China. More.....

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## National News

### Islamabad

#### 'Return to normal life': NCOC to relax COVID protocols

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-15

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday announced that it would relax the COVID-19 protocols in cities with "excellent vaccination progress." According to a notification issued in this regard, the decision was taken during the NCOC's session on November 12, 2021. The meeting reviewed the disease situation in the country and the full vaccination status.....[more >>](#)

#### Covid-19 cases on decline across country

Source: [Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-13

ISLAMABAD: Covid-19 cases are on decline as only 391 people contracted the virus and nine people lost their lives on Friday. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), out of 38,524 Covid-19 tests conducted across the country over the past 24 hours, 391 came back positive, suggesting a positivity rate of 1.01 per cent. As many as 23,330 active patients are in the country. ....[more >>](#)

#### COVID-19 claims no life from twin cities, 43 cases reported

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-15

Islamabad: No death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has been reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while 43 new patients have been tested positive for the illness from the twin cities. It is important that to date, a total of 143,429 patients have been reported from the region since the advent of coronavirus in Pakistan of which 2,155 patien.....[more >>](#)

#### PRCS donates 200,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-14

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) under its Covid-19 campaign has donated 200,000 Sinopharm vaccines to the government of Pakistan through the National Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI). PRCS Secretary General Dr Adeel Nawaz handed over the consignment of vaccines to EPI National Programme Manager Dr Akram Shah at a ceremony held at the EPI office. PRCS received the .....[more >>](#)

#### Over 688,000 children to be vaccinated against measles in Islamabad

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-16

ISLAMABAD: A campaign was on Monday launched in the federal capital to vaccinate 688,389 children up to the age of 15 years against measles and rubella (MR). A similar drive was also launched in the Rawalpindi and Attock districts which will continue till Nov 27. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CDA Affairs Ali Nawaz Awan opened the campaign at the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) .....[more >>](#)

#### NCOC Covid-19 update: National positivity ratio lowest since second wave

Source: [App](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-16

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of Covid-19 pandemic on Monday recorded a decline with the lowest positivity ratio during the past 24 hours and reduced per day positive cases, disease trend and death rate since the second wave of pandemic. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), in a tweet on its official handle, shared the latest disease statistics. The nerve centre of the country in i.....[more >>](#)

**Covid vaccination to children halted till 27th**

Source: [Imran Mukhtar](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-16

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Monday announced to suspend Covid-19 vaccination for the children between 12 to 15 years of age till November 27 due to the ongoing national measles and rubella (MR) campaign launched across the country. The government has launched MR immunization campaign from November 15 to 27 during which children aged 9 months to 15 years will .....

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**Covid-19 positivity rate drops to 0.64pc**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-17

ISLAMABAD: The lowest positivity rate for Covid-19 and the least number of infections were reported on Tuesday in the country for the past 14 months. According to data shared by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the positivity rate dropped to 0.64 per cent with 216 infections over the last 24 hours. Earlier, 213 cases were reported on August 30 last year. Six people succumbed.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid cases continue declining trend**

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-16

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was informed on Monday that the anti-Covid vaccination of students between the age of 12 to 15 years would remain suspended till November 24 because of the nationwide inoculation campaign against measles and rubella. The forum, which serves as the nerve centre of the government's unified effort to stem the spread of the coronavi.....

[more >>](#)

**IMCG F-7/2 sealed after 5 corona cases reported**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-17

Islamabad -Health authorities on Tuesday sealed Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) PG F-7/2 on confirmation of five COVID-19 cases there. The District Health Office in its statement issued said that it has been observed that five cases of COVID-19 have been reported from Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) PG, Sector F-7/2, Islamabad. The notification said it is hereby advised to i.....

[more >>](#)

**Curbs in cities to be relaxed as per anti-Covid vaccination rate, says NCOC**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-15

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has decided to relax restrictions in cities across Pakistan on the basis of their vaccination rate against Covid-19. According to a press release issued by the NCOC on Sunday, the decision was taken during a session of the NCOC held on November 12 to review the disease situation in the country and full vaccination status of different .....

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**NCOC directs stakeholders to beef up vaccination drive**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-18

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday decided to establish call centers and chatbots to reach the people eligible for Covid-19 vaccination. The decision was taken at a meeting of the NOCO presided over by Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar. According to a statement, the NCOC directed all stakeholders to beef u.....

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### **Govt working on plan to reintegrate expatriates**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Spokesman](#), 2021-11-18

As the Covid-19 has badly affected the job market across the world particularly overseas Pakistanis, a countrywide initiative has been intensified jointly by the government and international organizations in order to support thousands of expatriates coming back to the country to make a new start and achieve a sustainable employment as well as businesses. The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) i.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 national positivity ratio below 1 percent**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-18

The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Wednesday was recorded 22,387 with 270 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 499 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Ten corona patients have died during the last 24 hours, who were under treatment in different hospitals, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC).....

[more >>](#)

### **25 fresh Covid-19 cases reported in capital**

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-17

Health officials on Tuesday said that 25 new Coronavirus cases were reported in the federal capital during the last 24 hours. According to an official of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), as many as 26 cases were reported on Monday while 38 cases were reported on Sunday. He said so far 107,364 cases were reported from the federal capital and 948 deaths were reported from Islamabad .....

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### **Covid-19: lowest per day positive cases, deaths**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-17

The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Tuesday was recorded 22,626 with 216 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 375 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Six corona patients have died during the last 24 hours, who were under treatment in different hospitals, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). .....

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### **NCOC directs to beef up vaccination outreach**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-18

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday directed all stakeholders to beef up vaccination outreach measures, after the government would conclude its measles and rubella (MR) campaign, for maximum inoculation of eligible population. Three days ago, the forum had announced to suspend Covid-19 vaccination for the children between 12 to 15 years of age till November 27.....

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### **Experts for education roadmap in post-Covid era**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-19

Experts at a panel discussion emphasized for a major role of stakeholders especially parliamentarians, educationists and parents for moving forward with education agenda to resolve host of critical issues and limitations created with the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. The policy discussion was organized by the Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) as part of its 12th Annual Convention in Islam.....

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### **Covid-19 national positivity ratio shows slight resurgence**

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-19

The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Thursday was recorded 22,501 with 460 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 336 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Ten corona patients have died during the last 24 hours, nine of them were under treatment in different hospitals and one of them died in his or her respective quarantine or home, according to the I.....

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### **Students to be taught 'complete syllabus' this year: Shafqat**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-19

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mehmood on Thursday said during the current academic year, students would be taught the "complete syllabus" and no concession would be made in this regard as was given last year due to COVID-19. Addressing a press conference hosted after chairing the 33rd Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference in Karachi, the mi.....

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### **Experts want stakeholders' say on post-COVID-19 challenges for youth**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-19

Experts at a panel discussion have emphasised for a major role of stakeholders especially parliamentarians, educationists and parents for moving forward with education agenda to resolve host of critical issues and limitations created with the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The policy discussion was organised by the Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) as part of its 12th Annual Convention .....

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### **NCOC Covid-19 update: National positivity ratio lowest since second wave**

Source: [App](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-19

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of Covid-19 pandemic on Monday recorded a decline with the lowest positivity ratio during the past 24 hours and reduced per day positive cases, disease trend and death rate since the second wave of pandemic. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), in a tweet on its official handle, shared the latest disease statistics. The nerve centre of the country in i.....

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### **460 new Covid cases reported with 10 deaths**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-19

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Thursday recorded 460 infections from the coronavirus and 10 deaths during the last 24 hours. According to the latest statistics released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), a total of 41,131 tests were conducted throughout the country whereas the positivity ratio stood at 1.11 percent. The number of patients in critical care was 1,044. The overall death t.....

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### **Experts stress stakeholders' role for edu roadmap in post-Covid era**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-19

ISLAMABAD - Experts at a panel discussion emphasised for a major role of stakeholders especially parliamentarians, educationists and parents for moving forward with education agenda to resolve host of critical issues and limitations created with the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. The policy discussion was organised by the Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) as part of its 12th Annual Conv.....

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### **Pakistan reports less than 300 new Covid cases**

Source: [Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-14

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has reported 231 new corona virus cases in the last 24 hours, down from 391 a day earlier, as the positivity rate fell below one percent for the second time this week. The positivity rate has remained below two percent since October 15, according to the NCOC. During the last 24 hours, Punjab reported 89 cases and 5 deaths, Sindh 29 cases and 1 death, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 74.....

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## **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

### **Covid vaccination slowdown feared in KP due to campaign against measles, rubella**

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-14

PESHAWAR: With two-week measles and rubella vaccination campaign beginning in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa tomorrow (Monday), health officials fear that the focus of health workers on the children's protection from two infections will temporarily slow down the coronavirus immunisation. They, however, insist the anti-dengue activities will continue unabated. "During the Nov 15-27 measles an.....[more >>](#)

### **Covid restrictions to remain intact in most KP districts**

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-16

PESHAWAR: The government has decided to continue with Covid-19 restrictions in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, except Peshawar, Chitral and Mansehra, for low immunisation rate against the pandemic. A notification issued by home and tribal affairs department said that a considerable number of people had been vaccinated due to which National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) decided to inc.....[more >>](#)

## **Punjab**

### **No salary for Covid workers for six months**

Source: [Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-13

FAISALABAD: Corona ward employees of the Allied Hospital have been serving without salary for the last six months. The issue surfaced when the employees of the ward complained to Punjab Specialized Secretary Health Punjab Ahmed Javed Qazi who visited the hospital and the Covid-19 ward on Friday. The Punjab government set up a special ward for the treatment of coronavirus patients and deploye.....[more >>](#)

### **Over 4.36m vaccinated in Faisalabad**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-16

FAISALABAD - Over 4.3 million (4,367,204) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the city. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Monday that 2,937,385 citizens were injected first dose while 1,367,784 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 38,316 health workers were also given first dose while 23,719 received the second dose of vacc.....[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 claims one life**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-17

RAWALPINDI: An elderly Covid-19 patient lost his life in the district and seven people were diagnosed with the disease on Tuesday with the positivity ratio recorded at 0.7pc. Six people were discharged from hospitals after recovery during the last 24 hours. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Saleem, 71, a resident of Dhamial, brought to Rawalpindi Institute of Urology (RIU) on Nov 15. ....[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims another life in Rawalpindi**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-17

Rawalpindi-Seven more COVID-19 positive cases were reported during the last 24 hours, bringing the tally of confirmed cases to 39,126 in the district while one person lost his battle of life against the deadly virus. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Tuesday, the total infected cases included 36,128 from Rawalpindi and 2,998 from other districts. Among the ne.....

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**Rawalpindi's coronavirus positivity rate drops to 0.3pc**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-15

Rawalpindi - As many as five more persons were tested positive of coronavirus, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,112 in the district, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.34 per cent during the last 24 hours in the district. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Sunday, the total infected cases included 36,116 from Rawalpindi and 2996 from other d.....

[more >>](#)

**18 test positive for Covid-19 in Pindi**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-18

RAWALPINDI: As many as 18 people tested positive for Covid-19 in the district and 11 patients discharged from the hospitals on Wednesday after recovery. As per data shared by District Health Authority, the positivity ratio of Covid-19 cases in the district was 1.02pc as out of the 1,758 tests 18 people found positive for the Covid-19. At present, there are 85 active patients in Rawalpindi di.....

[more >>](#)

**17 more test positive for coronavirus**

Source: [App](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-19

Rawalpindi: As many as 17 more patients were tested positive of coronavirus during the last 24 hours in Rawalpindi district, with five belonging to Rawalpindi Cantonment area, four from Gujar Khan, two each from Kotli Sattian, Potohar town and Rawal Town, while one each case has arrived from Kalar Syedan and Islamabad. According to the District Corona Management centre on Thursday, 21 Coronavirus.....

[more >>](#)

**37,793 COVID-19 patients discharged after treatment in Rawalpindi so far**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-14

RAWALPINDI - As many as 37,793 COVID-19 patients had been discharged after getting treatment from the district's health facilities, out of which 34,805 belonged to Rawalpindi and 2,988 from other districts. According to data shared by the district health authority here Saturday, 12 more cases have arrived during the last 24 hours, including three each from Rawalpindi Cantonment, Rawal Town an.....

[more >>](#)

**Over 4.3 million people vaccinated against COVID-19 in Faisalabad**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-13

FAISALABAD - Over 4.3 million (4,305,573) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Friday 2,904,607 people were injected first dose while 1,339,118 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He said that 38,186 health workers were also given first dose while 23,662 received the second dose of vaccine. He said.....

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## Sindh

**17th Int'l Trade and Industrial Fair; Governor praises govt for taking steps to contain spread of Covid-19**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-17

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Imran Ismail has appreciated the measures taken by the government to control Covid-19 pandemic, which is evident from the participation of foreign delegations in the 17th International Trade and Industrial Fair. He was speaking at the inauguration of the exhibition on Tuesday. The three-day event will conclude on November 18, 2021. The diplomats from Iran and Belarus a.....[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims another life, infects 39 others**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-17

KARACHI - Coronavirus claimed another life in last 24 hours lifting the death toll to 7,605 besides 39 new cases reported among 3,318 tests conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Tuesday. Shah said that 3,318 samples were tested which detected 39 cases that constituted 1.2 percent current detection rate. He added that so far 6,585,204 t.....[more >>](#)

**No death reported due to Covid-19: CM Murad**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-15

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that fortunately today no death was reported due to Covid-19 in the province. He said that 47 new cases of Covid-19 emerged when 2,475 tests were conducted. The Chief Minister said this in a statement here. He said that 2,475 samples were tested, which detected 47 cases that constituted 1.9 percent current detection rate. He said that so f.....[more >>](#)

**Minister highlights criticality of IPEMC's role in dealing with Covid-19 challenge**

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-19

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood Thursday said that the IPEMC to play an instrumental role in developing a way forward for dealing with the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. He was presiding over 33rd Meeting of Inter-Provincial Education Minister's Conference (IPEMC) at a local hotel in Karachi, said the press release. Syed Sardar Ali Sh.....[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 claims 3 more lives, infects 68 others**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-14

KARACHI - As many as 3 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,603 and 68 new cases emerged when 3,611 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Saturday. He said that 3 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,603 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Murad .....[more >>](#)

**Hyderabad reports major drop in active Covid-19 cases**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-13

HYDERABAD - The District Health Officer Hyderabad Dr Lala Jaffar Khan has said that the cases of COVID-19 have been restricted to one percent in the district with the support of masses, however all efforts are being made to save the children from pandemic by vaccinating them at the earliest. Talking to traders and businessmen during his visit to the secretariat of Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce .....[more >>](#)

## International News

### Countries News

#### **Willing to get COVID jab!: Vienna brothel offers free entry to visitors**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-15

VIENNA: Austria, like much of the world, is grappling with how to convince reluctant citizens to get vaccinated against Covid-19 so the rest of the country can return to daily life. While its government prepares to impose a lockdown for the unvaccinated, one business has settled on an unlikely incentive. FunPalast, a brothel in the capital Vienna, has opted to inject some enthusiasm — .....[more >>](#)

#### **Austria locks down unvaccinated as Europe fights fresh Covid wave**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-16

VIENNA: Austria on Monday became the first country in the European Union to impose a lockdown on the unvaccinated and start inoculating children as young as five after coronavirus cases surged across the continent. Infection rates have zoomed, placing Western Europe once again at the heart of the global epidemic and governments are being forced to take action with the Netherlands already announ.....[more >>](#)

#### **Pfizer files for US authorisation of promising Covid-19 antiviral pill**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-17

Pfizer Inc said on Tuesday it is seeking US authorisation of its experimental antiviral Covid-19 pill that cut the chance of hospitalisation or death for adults at risk of severe disease by 89 per cent in a clinical trial. Pfizer said it completed submission of its application for emergency use authorisation (EUA) of the drug, Paxlovid, with the US Food and Drug Administration, including data f.....[more >>](#)

#### **Pfizer strikes global licensing deal for Covid pill: Munich cancels Christmas market over Covid surge**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-17

Munich, Germany: Munich on Tuesday became the first major German city to cancel its upcoming Christmas market, which usually draws some three million visitors, blaming the "dramatic" coronavirus resurgence. Munich mayor Dieter Reiter called it "bitter news" for the city's residents and stallholders, but said it would be irresponsible for the event to go ahead. ".....[more >>](#)

#### **China presses strict zero-Covid strategy**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-18

Beijing: Nearly two years into a pandemic that has seen China pursue some of the world's most stringent coronavirus measures. The zero-Covid approach is unrelenting -- with border closures, targeted lockdowns and mass testing triggered sometimes by just one case. The cost and pain of the strategy have been felt especially acutely by the 210,000 residents of Ruili, a Chinese city on the bo.....[more >>](#)

#### **Covid positive test linked to fatigue, sleep issues: Study**

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-18

People who tested positive for Covid-19 (confirmed by a PCR test) had an increased risk of mental illness, fatigue and sleep problems, found a new study. Researchers from the University of Manchester analysed the electronic primary care health care records of 2,26,521 people from across the UK between February 2020 and December 2020. The results, published in JAMA Network Open, showed that there .....[more >>](#)

**Political row snags German bid to tame Covid surge**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-19

Berlin: German leaders were debating on Thursday plans to impose tougher curbs on the unvaccinated, but a political row threatened to torpedo the country's bid to fight a ferocious wave of the coronavirus pandemic. New infections over the last 24 hours soared to another record of 65,371, data from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) showed, part of a spike Chancellor Angela Merkel has called .....[more >>](#)

**Austria locks down unvaccinated as Europe fights fresh Covid wave**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-16

VIENNA: Austria on Monday became the first country in the European Union to impose a lockdown on the unvaccinated and start inoculating children as young as five after coronavirus cases surged across the continent. Infection rates have zoomed, placing Western Europe once again at the heart of the global epidemic and governments are being forced to take action with the Netherlands already announ.....[more >>](#)

**Donors News**

**US to provide \$7m to mitigate Covid effects in Pakistan Covid positivity ratio rises to 1.11%**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-11-19

The United States government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will contribute \$7 million to the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) ongoing project to address the secondary effects of Covid-19 in Pakistan. In this regard, USAID Mission Director Julie Koenen and ADB Country Director Yong Ye attended a signing ceremony in Islamabad on Thursday. ADB will use.....[more >>](#)

## SDPI Engagements

### Dialogue

#### **Inflation control is SBP's role: experts**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-13

LAHORE: Experts have agreed that controlling inflation is the sole responsibility of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the blame is wrongly passed on to the government. Speaking at the Lahore Economic Journalists Association on Thursday, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) research fellow Sajid Ameen Javed was of the view that the central bank did not use all the tools available at it.....[more >>](#)

### Researchers Articles

#### **COP26: Away from rhetoric**

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, The News, International](#), 2021-11-14

Glasgow hosted the 26th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to achieve an extremely ambitious yet simple agenda i.e., stabilising the climate by reducing levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases (GHG) in the Earth's atmosphere. Before we discuss how far the 40,000 COP26 delegates – representing politici.....[more >>](#)

#### **The SBP and price stability**

Source: [Sajid Amin Javed, The News, International](#), 2021-11-14

Pakistan is in the headlines for high inflation. The Economist has ranked the country fourth highest inflation economy in the world out of 43 high-inflation economies. Headline inflation increased to 9.2 percent in October from 9 percent in September. Worryingly, the country is expected to experience higher inflation throughout 2022. Higher and volatile inflation has economic as well as social .....[more >>](#)

#### **Fossil fuel, beyond pledges**

Source: [Maryam Shabbir Abbasi, The News, International](#), 2021-11-14

There has been a breakthrough of sorts on coal, the single biggest contributor to global warming. At least 23 countries have made new commitments at the Conference of Parties (COP26) to phase-out coal power. They include South Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, Poland and Ukraine, which are among the top 20 coal power generating countries. Nations like Egypt, Spain, Nepal, Singapore and Chile have also ma.....[more >>](#)

#### **There is no Planet-B**

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, The News, International](#), 2021-11-18

The Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an annual ritual. The nearly universal members (197 countries) meet every year to discuss joint strategies to combat climate change. However, all the COPs are not equal. Among them the COP21 held in 2015 in Paris is given great importance. That was where the member countries agreed to take ini.....[more >>](#)

### SDPI's Related Articles

#### **Farmers face hefty challenges to AI adoption in agriculture sector**

Source: [M. Salman Raza](#), [APP](#), 2021-11-14

MULTAN, Nov 14 (APP): Farmers of Southern Punjab face challenges in effectively application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for increasing crops' cultivation which result in declining the overall crops yield followed by ultimate rising commodity prices in the country. Agriculture is a major industry in Pakistan which contributes around 20% to the overall GDP and employs almost 50% of it&rs.....[more >>](#)

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