

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

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Managing Covid-19

Source: [Palitha Mahipala](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-06

THE Covid-19 pandemic has adversely impacted even the most resilient health systems — from individuals to communities, from daily wagers to accomplished professionals. However, Pakistan, a developing country of nearly 220 million inhabitants has fared well in its fight against Covid-19. This success is embedded in multiple factors which have contributed towards effectively managing the pande.....[more >>](#)

Learning from the NCOC

Source: [Fahd Husain](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-06

IN times that are grim, there are things that are less so. With the Covid-19 infection hitting new lows, it may be useful to look back and see what we did right, and whether we can learn the right lessons from the experience of these last two years. The National Command and Operation Centre has been the nerve centre for the country's anti-Covid measures. Constituted by the PTI government in.....[more >>](#)

A job well done

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-06

CREDIT must be given where it is due, and the government's efforts to curb Covid-19 infections and ramp up vaccination no doubt deserve praise. Though there were several moments in our Covid-19 trajectory where it appeared we were on the brink of a healthcare collapse, data-driven and logical decisions prevented an all-out disaster. The work of the NCOC here is significant, as it has diligen.....[more >>](#)

Meta narratives and Facebook

Source: [Shmyla Khan](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-07

o say that Facebook has had a difficult month would be an understatement. The company, which has become synonymous with everything wrong with the internet, has been here before with the Cambridge Analytica scandal and the countless string of revelations regarding a litany of failures. In the midst of its latest, and perhaps defining, crisis, it announced in a series of bizarre videos by its founde.....[more >>](#)

College admission policy Studies have already suffered due to the coronavirus pandemic

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-07

The Sindh government's new policy on admission to intermediate class has elicited both positive and negative response. The encouraging thing in the policy is that it will help stop college admissions on the basis of fake domicile, as now students will have to submit his or her parent's domicile papers too. However, the condition to submit primary school certificate might make students[more >>](#)

How a pandemic changed education

Source: [Yusra Salim](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-07

KARACHI: To promote the English language and encourage teachers' training, the Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT) arranged its 37th edition this year. The two-day conference was in virtual format in 2021, consisting of the keynote presentation, panel discussions, and plenary sessions. This year's idea was to discuss and learn from the experiences teachers have gained i.....[more >>](#)

Vaccination drive

Source: [Huma Khawar](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-11

IN addition to Covid-19, many other infections are taking a toll on people in Pakistan, especially children, in 2021. A large increase in measles cases was recorded this year with up to 70 districts reporting outbreaks, and the numbers are increasing. According to the WHO's measles risk assessment, reported cases in Pakistan until last month were thrice as many as those reported in 2020. The.....

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Mixed bag for Biden

Source: [Azim M Mian](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-11

Since taking over as the 46th president of the US, Joseph Biden has been facing challenges on various fronts – some of which he inherited from his predecessor Donald Trump, and some what he promised during his election campaign for presidency and which now face the harsh realities and results of the Congressional elections with a thin majority for his Democratic Party. The increased influ.....

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Jumping the gap — how to undo inequality?

Source: [Mashal Hassan](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-11

The rent-seeking and unproductive usage of resources has exacerbated inequality in Pakistan. Even in times of higher growth, pervasive inequality had made it difficult for people with low incomes to survive. The Covid-19 pandemic has furthered the inequality with economic slow-down, manufacturing halt, and a massive chunk of the labor force getting unemployed. UNDP's latest Pakistan Nat.....

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National News

Islamabad

Experts ask people to get vaccinated as soon as possible

Source: [Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-06

ISLAMABAD: Although the Covid-19 positivity rate has fallen to 2.2 per cent over the past two weeks, experts have asked people to adopt safety measures and get themselves vaccinated as soon as possible. Member of the Scientific Task Force on Covid-19 Dr Javed Akram told Dawn that chances of a fifth wave of Covid-19 in the country could not be ruled out if the people did not adopt the required saf.....[more >>](#)

Three lose battle against Covid-19

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-06

ISLAMABAD: Three patients succumbed to Covid-19 whereas 51 people were found infected on Friday. The positivity ratio in Islamabad and Rawalpindi was recorded at 1.3pc and 0.5pc, respectively. One of the deceased was identified as Zubaira Bibi, 40, a resident of Dhoke Awan, who was brought to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) on Nov 4. On the other hand, officials of the capital adm.....[more >>](#)

NCOC to enhance vaccination in schools

Source: [Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-06

ISLAMABAD - The National Command Operation Center (NCOC) on Friday reviewed the special measures to enhance vaccination in schools. NCOC National Coordinator Major General Zafar Iqbal and Special Assistant to Prime Minister Dr Faisal Sultan attended the meeting. The Forum was presented the post-vaccination global pandemic scenario for evaluation of national strat.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 loses steam in Pakistan as cases decline 10 times since August

Source: [Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-07

ISLAMABAD: While 11 patients succumbed to Covid-19 and 567 people got infected during the last 24 hours, the number of coronavirus cases has decreased 10 times since August this year. In another development, the department, which handles campaigns against poliovirus, dismissed a worker on charges of sexual harassment. Covid-19 has largely been controlled through the collective efforts of decisio.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims two more lives

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-07

ISLAMABAD: Two patients died of Covid-19 while 47 people tested positive in the last 24 hours in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Officials in Islamabad said a resident of Rawat aged 70-79 years passed away while 40 new cases emerged in different parts of the capital. During the last 24 hours, 3,621 tests were conducted and the positivity rate remained 1.1 per cent. In Rawalpindi, seven people tested[more >>](#)

Labs issuing 'fake' Covid-19 test results face action

Source: [APP, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-07

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has launched a crackdown on private laboratories for allegedly issuing fake Covid-19 test results in collaboration with some travel agents. "These laboratories are unlawfully giving wrong PCR test reports of coronavirus as per the desire of the people with the involvement of some travel agents," IHRA Chief Executive Offic.....[more >>](#)

Pakistan confirms 567 new Covid cases, 11 more deaths

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-07

ISLAMABAD - There is continuous decline in corona virus pandemic in Pakistan as the country reported 567 cases of Covid-19 and 11 deaths due to infection during the last 24 hours. According to the latest data released by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the reported cases have been detected out of as many 46,918 tests conducted in a day. The overall positivity rate of infection remain.....

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Country reports 471 more Covid-19 cases, 20 patients die

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-08

ISLAMABAD: With the positivity rate of Covid-19 cases remained at 1.08 per cent, 20 more people died of the virus and 471 infections were reported in the country over the past 24 hours. Pakistan continued to remain on 33rd position in terms of most number of Covid-19 cases across the globe. Data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday showed that overall 142 ventil.....

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Ratio of traders satisfied with current business activity increasing: Gallup Pakistan

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-08

ISLAMABAD: The ratio of traders satisfied with the current business activity in Pakistan has increased but the traders community has expressed deep anxiety over future of business and the country moving in the direction. The Gallup Pakistan released the fourth quarterly report of Business Confidence Index (BCI), the survey of which was conducted from nearly 580 respondents, belonging to the cou.....

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Corona claims 20 lives in 24 hours

Source: [Online](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-08

LAHORE: As many as 20 people died in the last 24 hours due to novel coronavirus, bringing the tally of fatalities to 28,538 on Sunday. According to the latest figures released by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), about 471 persons tested positive for Covid-19 in the past 24 hours, steering the total number of positive cases to 1,276,711. Till now, 12,946 individuals have lost the.....

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New normal: Living with the superspreader

Source: [Tufail Ahmed](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-08

KARACHI: Two years on since the onset of the coronavirus and the new normal involves inoculation certificates, increased focus on sanitation, and the unprecedented power of the internet to keep everything ticking. The raging pandemic which originated in neighboring China, first hit the country in February of 2020 after which curtailing its spread became a nightmare. While the superspreader wrea.....

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PM's food subsidy programme: A historic initiative to ebb away inflation

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-08

Peshawar - The coronavirus pandemic have killed over 5.04 million people while inflicting billions of dollars losses to the economies, food, tourism, hospitality industries and petroleum exports worldwide. Following lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions, the grim situation in most parts of the world and regional countries including Pakistan have returned to normalcy with a massive increase in

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Steps on to further strengthen DRAP: Dr. Faisal

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-09

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) is emerging as a modern regulatory authority as per Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision and its ultimate objective is to ensure availability of quality therapeutic items in the country. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan said this during formal inauguration of DRAP's central drugs laboratory at Karachi on.....

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NCOC shifts campaign focus to second Covid jab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-10

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday stressed the need for stepping up efforts for administering the second Covid jab during the ongoing national vaccination campaign and urged stakeholders to implement the obligatory vaccination regime. The NCOC, which met with Planning Minister Asad Umar in the chair, appreciated the synergistic efforts of all stakeholders for

[more >>](#)

Federal capital reports lowest Covid daily cases since August

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-09

ISLAMABAD - The health officials on Monday reported only 20 new Corona virus cases in the federal capital, making it the lowest single-day tally in three months. According to an official of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), as many as 28 cases were reported on Sunday while 40 cases were reported on Saturday. He said so far 107,151 cases were reported from the federal capital

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Good news for Pak travellers

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-10

ISLAMABAD: Britain has added Chinese vaccines to its list of approved jabs for travellers, British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner said, terming it "good news" for Pakistani travellers. In an updated travel advisory, the UK said from November 22 4am, World Health Organisation's Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) vaccines — Sinovac, Sinopharm Beijing, and Covaxi.....

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UK adds Sinopharm and Sinovac to approved vaccine list

Source: [Ikram Junaidi | Atika Rehman](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-10

LONDON / ISLAMABAD: The British government on Tuesday said it had added Sinopharm, Sinovac and Covaxin Covid-19 vaccines to its approved list starting November 22. British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner shared the update on Twitter and said it was "good news for Pakistani travellers". The update means that travellers from Pakistan who have received the full doses

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Rawalpindi registers seven new corona cases

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-10

Rawalpindi : As many as seven more were tested positive of deadly coronavirus, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,066 in the district, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.42 per cent during the last 24 hours in the district. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Tuesday, the total infected cases included 36,073 from Rawalpindi and 2993 from other

[more >>](#)

ADB plans to lend \$10 billion to Pakistan in fresh assistance

Source: [correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-10

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has plans to provide Pakistan with about \$10 billion in fresh assistance for various development projects in addition to \$700 million financing currently available to procure Covid-19 vaccines under the bank's APVAX facility. The disclosure was made by Eugenie Zukhov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department of ADB during a call he mad.....

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NCOC all praise for stakeholders in tackling corona

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-10

The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) Tuesday paid tribute to the frontline healthcare workers, including doctors paramedics and nursing staff, who have been endangering their lives to save others from the calamitous coronavirus. The NCOC session, chaired by Chairperson Asad Umar, was attended by the National Coordinator Major General Zafar Iqbal and Special Assistant to the Prime Mini.....

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Industrialization for economic growth top priority of Pakistan: envoy

Source: [Inp](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-10

Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moin UI Haque said that rapid industrialization in Pakistan for sustained economic growth is one of the top priorities of the Pakistan government. According to China Economic Net, addressing Pakistani community in Yiwu city in Zhejiang province, he said that Pakistan is trying to establish a digital corridor under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), while tou.....

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Pakistan's Covid positivity rate drops below 1pc

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-10

ISLAMABAD - The country's Covid-19 positivity rate, for the first time since March 2020, has been recorded less than one percent during the last 24 hours. The cases of the deadly virus have been on the decline over the last three weeks as less than 1000 cases are being reported in a day since October 15. According to latest data released by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC),.....

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At least one dose given to half the population: minister

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

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday achieved another milestone as half of its population eligible for coronavirus vaccine has received at least one dose. Moreover, the country made another record by administering 1.7 million doses in a single day. According to the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 45,986,932 people have been fully vaccinated whereas 76,139,355 others have received at le.....

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Covid-19 surveillance conducted in Islamabad

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

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad, on the directives of the national health services ministry, conducted Covid-19 surveillance of several areas of the capital to prevent the disease from spreading in selected sectors and took action against violators. Furthermore, 38 people - 29 in Islamabad and nine in Rawalpindi - were diagnosed with the disease while nine were discharged from.....

[more >>](#)

29 fresh COVID-19 cases reported in capital

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

Islamabad: Health officials on Wednesday said that 29 new coronavirus cases were reported in the federal capital during the last 24 hours. According to National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), as many as 18 cases were reported on Tuesday while 20 cases were reported on Monday. He said so far 107,198 cases were reported from the federal capital and 947 deaths were reported from Islamabad C.....

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Pakistan making investment worth millions of dollars in ecosystem restoration

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

Islamabad : Pakistan is making investments worth millions of dollars in climate resilience initiatives to protect socio-economic sectors, particularly water, energy, and agriculture from fallouts of climate change that would greatly help mitigate the country's overall climate vulnerability and protect the lives and livelihoods of the people. According to the details shared by the climate

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Covid-19: Over 53pc population of Punjab vaccinated

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

LAHORE: Inaugurating the corona virus vaccination centre here at Special Education Department, Garden Town; Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said that all special children of 12 years of age would be vaccinated while they had vaccinated more than 53 per cent population of the province. Punjab Minister for Special Education Chaudhry Muhammad Ikhlaq, Primary and Secondary Department (P&a.....

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COVID- SSGC's contribution acknowledged

Source: Press Release, [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-11

The SSGC has been conferred with a token of appreciation for its role in controlling COVID-19 pandemic. The Company's contribution was acknowledged in an impressive ceremony organized by Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS) Pakistan, United Nations Office for the Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration.....

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QAU reports genome sequences of over 150 coronavirus samples in country

Source: Rahul Basharat, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-11

ISLAMABAD - The Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) top scientist in collaboration with National Institute of Health (NIH) and Chinese scientists have reported the largest genomic and epidemiological data of coronavirus COVID-19 in the country. The data reveals initial introductions and transmission of the virus in Pakistan and has identified 29 over-represented mutations/variations in Pakistani sa.....

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Covid cases again show slight uptick

Source: APP, [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-12

covid-19-picThe national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Thursday was recorded at 23,270 as 637 more people tested positive for the deadly virus while 316 people recovered from the disease. Nine patients died on Thursday, eight of whom were under treatment in different hospitals, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deat.....

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EPI receives 23 vaccination vans from UNICEF

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-12

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Thursday handed over 23 vans to the Federal Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI) to be used for expanding essential immunization coverage in high-risk five mega cities and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services, Dr. Faisal Sultan received the vans from UNICEF Representative in Pak.....

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NCOC approves two Chinese vaccines for children aged 12-18 years

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-12

ISLAMABAD: While 5.5 million teenage people have been vaccinated with American vaccine Pfizer, Pakistan on Thursday decided to start inoculating those in the age group of 12-18 years with two Chinese vaccines. The announcement was made by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on social media. "Chinese vaccines Sinopharm and Sinovac have been approved by the NCOC Health Experts C.....

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Pakistan approves Chinese vaccines for children above 12

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-12

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan approved on Thursday two Chinese vaccines — Sinopharm and Sinovac — for children above 12 years of age, as the country continues its battle against COVID-19. So far, the country has administered more than 5.5 million vaccines to students between the ages of 12-18 years. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), in a tweet, said the forum's expert com.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Covid vaccination emphasised

Source: [The Newspaper's Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-06

BATTAGRAM: The district administration on Friday urged residents to cooperate with health teams for their vaccination against coronavirus. Deputy commissioner Ashfaq Khan told Dawn that a door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination campaign had been launched in the district and it would continue until Nov 14. He said dedicated health teams along with administration officials would visit remote mountainous.....

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'Corona marking' bars many students from securing admission in KP colleges

Source: [Shahid Khan](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-09

Peshawar - Mismanagement on the part of KP Education Department and wrong marking of papers by the Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISEs) have led to a higher merit lists at colleges and many students believe that their right has been usurped due to wrong marking and they may not get admissions. The worst sufferers are those students who had passed their 10 grade exam last yea.....

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Teaching hospitals stopped from treating unvaccinated patients

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-10

PESHAWAR: The health department instructed all the medical teaching institutions to refuse treatment to unvaccinated people except emergency patients as part of plan to speed up Covid-19 immunisation as four more died of the virus and 86 new cases were recorded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday. A letter issued by the health secretariat described the vaccination rate in all MTIs of the province be.....

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Covid vaccination camps set up at Swat entry points

Source: [The Newspaper's Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-11

SWAT: The health department has set up 13 vaccination camps at the entry points of the Swat district to achieve 100 per cent inoculation target against Covid-19. Briefing media persons, deputy commissioner Junaid Khan said the points were established as part of the compulsory Covid vaccination in the district. He said two vaccination points were set up each in Babuzai, Matta, Khawazakhela and Ka.....[more >>](#)

Punjab

Corona claims another life, 10 new cases reported

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-06

Rawalpindi: Ten more COVID-19 positive cases were reported during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,037 in the district while one lost his battle of life against the deadly virus. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Friday, the total infected cases included 36,048 from Rawalpindi and 2989 from other districts. Among the new cases, th.....[more >>](#)

Vaccination of students at Faisalabad institutes under way

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-06

FAISALABAD - Vaccination of students at educational institutes is under way in the district, under the aegis of the District Education Department. According to the department sources, the anti-corona vaccination has been administered to thousands of children at educational institutes. The vaccination is being administered to children between the ages of 12 to 18 years. They said that on Nov 6, th.....[more >>](#)

Shops sealed over flouting of corona SOPs

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-07

LAHORE - The inspection teams of the district administration carried out an operation in various parts of the provincial capital to ensure implementation of coronavirus related standards operating procedures (SOPs), as notified by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The inspection team visited various areas to inspect SOPs implementation and sealed three mega cash-and-carry stores, i.....[more >>](#)

Rawalpindi's Covid-19 positive rate drops to 0.7pc

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-07

ISLAMABAD - Rawalpindi district's coronavirus positivity ratio was recorded at 0.7 per cent on Saturday, while only seven patients were tested positive during the last 24 hours. According to new data released by the District Health Authority, two cases were reported from Rawalpindi Cantt and Potohar Town while one each case has arrived from Gujjar Khan, Taxila and Rawal town. "Pre.....[more >>](#)

133 Covid cases, three deaths reported

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-08

LAHORE: Punjab reported 133 Covid-19 cases and three deaths during the last 24 hours. The deaths were reported from DG Khan, Muzaffargarh and Sargodha. The total number of cases has risen to 441,051 and the death toll is 12,946. As many as 421,075 people have recovered from the disease and the number of total active cases in the province is 7,043. During the last 24 hours, 73 people tested posit.....[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims another life in Rawalpindi

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-08

Rawalpindi-The coronavirus claimed another life while 11 new cases were reported during last 24 hours raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,055 in the district. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Sunday, the total infected cases included 36,065 from Rawalpindi and 2990 from other parts of the district. Among the new cases, the report said six belong.....

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Two lives lost to Covid-19

Source: [APP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-09

RAWALPINDI: Two people succumbed to Covid-19 during the last 24 hours whereas four people tested positive for the disease. Positivity rate in the district was recorded at 0.5 percent. As per latest data released by District Health Authority on Monday, 1,585 people have died in the district since the start of the pandemic, out of which 1,205 were residents of Rawalpindi and 380 belonged to other d.....

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Yasmin inaugurates corona vaccination centre

Source: [Staff Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-10

Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid Tuesday inaugurated a new coronavirus vaccination centre, as part of the "Reach Every Door" (RED) campaign at the Special Education Department, Garden Town, Lahore. Punjab Minister for Special Education Chaudhry Muhammad Ikhtlaq, Primary and Secondary Department (P&SHD) Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch, Special Education Department Secretary S.....

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Over 4.17m vaccinated in Faisalabad

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-10

FAISALABAD - Over 4.17 million (4,176, 420) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Tuesday 2,837, 028 citizens were injected first dose while 1,278, 920 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 37,002 health workers were also given first dose while 23,470 received the second dose of v.....

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Over 90.1m children to be vaccinated against rubella, measles, says Yasmin

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-12

Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Thursday SAID that Pakistan was going to organize history's most extensive vaccination campaign for children of 9 months to 15 years of age, adding that more than 90.1 million children would be vaccinated across the country while 46.6 million would receive the injection in Punjab with a daily target of over 3.7 million children per day. She urged t.....

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Dr Yasmin for mobilising people to help eradicate chronic diseases

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-12

Rawalpindi : Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Thursday urged the media to mobilise populations and raise awareness about the use of vaccines to protect the new generation against crippling diseases. Addressing a workshop titled 'Role and responsibility of media in measles-rubella catch up campaign 2021' organised by District Health Authority in collaboration with Punjab Go.....

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Sindh

13 die of Covid-19 overnight

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-07

KARACHI: As many as 13 more patients of coronavirus died overnight and 236 new cases emerged when 13,407 tests were conducted. In a statement on Saturday, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the death of 13 patients lifted the death toll to 7,595 constituted 1.6 per cent death rate. The CM said that currently 12,044 patients were under treatment, of them 11,819 were in home isolation, 2.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims 13 more lives

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-07

KARACHI - As many as 13 more patients of coronavirus died overnight taking the death toll to 7,595 and 236 new cases emerged when 13,407 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Saturday. He said that 13 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives taking the death toll to 7,595 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims one more life

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-08

KARACHI: At least one more patient of Covid-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,596 and 225 new cases emerged when 13,653 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He added that one more patient of Covid-19 lost his life lifting the death toll to 7,596 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah sai.....[more >>](#)

Sindh reports 2 new Covid-19 deaths, 250 fresh cases

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-09

KARACHI: As many as two more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,598 and 250 new cases emerged when 14,130 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Monday. He added that two more patients of Covid-19 lost his life lifting the death toll to 7,598 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah s.....[more >>](#)

Campaign against measles, Covid-19 to start from 15th

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-09

HYDERABAD: Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Mohammad Abbas Baloch has said that measles is a contagious disease and it is the duty of all officers to take effective and concrete steps to protect our future generations from this disease. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting at his office at Shahbaz Building, Hyderabad regarding the arrangements for the campaign against meas.....[more >>](#)

Sindh chalking out plan to mitigate Covid impact: Murad

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-10

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Tuesday that the provincial government was framing an effective policy to mitigate the negative impact of Covid-19 and explore opportunities in the post-pandemic world. "Post-Covid international scenario has lowered the risk outlook for Pakistan and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) opportunities have made Sindh a better de.....[more >>](#)

Murad for framing policy to minimize Covid impact

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-10

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Tuesday said the Sindh government was framing an effective policy to mitigate the negative impact of the Covid-19 and to encash opportunities in the post-Covid world. "Post-Covid international scenario has lowered risk outlook for Pakistan and CPEC opportunities have made Sindh a better destination promising healthy returns on investment, ease of doi.....

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'Govt trying to mitigate pandemic affects'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-10

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that his government is framing an effective policy to mitigate the negative impact of the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and to take advantage of the opportunities emerging in the post- pandemic world. "Post-Covid international scenario has lowered risk outlook for Pakistan and CPEC opportunities have made Sindh a better desti.....

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Sindh govt trying to mitigate negative impacts of COVID-19: CM Murad

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-10

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that his government is framing an effective policy to mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 and to encash opportunities in the post-COVID world. "Post-COVID international scenario has lowered risk outlook for Pakistan and CPEC opportunities have made Sindh a better destination promising healthy returns on investment, eas.....

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396 new cases of Covid-19 detected; no death reported

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

KARACHI: Fortunately no death stemming from Corona virus reported on Wednesday; however 396 new cases emerged when 17,889 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Wednesday. Shah said that fortunately no death was reported on Wednesday. He added that till last Tuesday the number death and was 7,599. Shah.....

[more >>](#)

396 new cases of corona detected, no death reported in Sindh

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

KARACHI - Fortunately no death stemming from coronavirus was reported on Wednesday, however 396 new cases emerged when 17,889 tests were conducted in Sindh. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House. Murad Ali Shah said fortunately no death was reported on Wednesday. He added that till last Tuesday the number of deaths was 7,599. He

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Covid-19: SSGC's contribution acknowledged

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-12

KARACHI: SSGC has been conferred with a token of appreciation for its role in controlling Covid-19 pandemic. The Company's contribution was acknowledged in an impressive ceremony organized by Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS) Pakistan, United Nations Office for the Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), in collaboration with the International Organization for Mигра.....

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International News

Countries News

Controversial French Covid doctor in disciplinary hearing; Covid pill 89pc effective against severe disease, says Pfizer

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-06

Washington: Pfizer said Friday that a clinical trial of its pill to treat Covid-19 had shown it is highly effective. Pfizer's is the second anti-Covid pill after that of Merck, which is actually an influenza medicine rebranded to fight the coronavirus. Pfizer's has been created specifically to fight Covid. The Pfizer drug called Paxlovid achieved an 89 percent reduction in risk of h.....[more >>](#)

Iceland tightens Covid rules as cases surge

Source: [AFP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-06

Iceland on Friday said it would tighten its Covid rules as it battles a rise in new cases, including capping gatherings and mandating masks in crowded areas. The new measures were announced after the World Health Organization said Thursday that Europe was facing an alarming surge in cases, warning another 500,000 could die by February. Iceland has recorded 179 new infections in the past 24 hours,[more >>](#)

Russia hit by record virus cases despite paid holiday

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-07

MOSCOW: Russia on Saturday reported a record number of daily coronavirus cases as the country reaches the end of a nationwide paid holiday introduced to curb the spread of infections. Saturday's official tally registered 41,335 new cases in the past 24 hours, the highest number for new infections since the beginning of the pandemic. The country also reported 1,188 coronavirus deaths duri.....[more >>](#)

Russia shutdown ends despite coronavirus wave; French schoolchildren mask up again as Covid rises

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-09

Paris: Schoolchildren in large parts of France were ordered on Monday to again wear face masks in class, less than a month after being allowed to remove them, as the country tries to tamp down a surge in Covid cases. Primary schools in 40 of France's 101 departments or administrative areas, which had been mask-free for weeks, are affected by the order, which comes a day before President E.....[more >>](#)

UK adds Sinopharm and Sinovac to approved vaccine list

Source: [Ikram Junaidi | Atika Rehman](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-10

LONDON / ISLAMABAD: The British government on Tuesday said it had added Sinopharm, Sinovac and Covaxin Covid-19 vaccines to its approved list starting November 22. British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner shared the update on Twitter and said it was "good news for Pakistani travellers". The update means that travellers from Pakistan who have received the full doses[more >>](#)

WHO warns of massive syringe shortfall in 2022; Germany's unvaccinated defiant as rules tighten

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

Radeberg, Germany: The eastern German state of Saxony may have ordered tough curbs on the unvaccinated to push them to get the Covid-19 jab, but shop assistant Sabine Lonnatzsch, 59, is unmoved. The new rules are "discriminatory" because they are "pushing the unvaccinated further into a corner," she tells AFP. She won't change her mind about getting inoculated -- she j.....[more >>](#)

Data reveals five distinctive clusters during pandemic

Source: [Afshan S. Khan](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-10

Islamabad: Almost two years into the pandemic, Pakistan has fought three major waves that have swept across its main urban centres with approximately 1.27 million confirmed cases and 28,500 deaths so far. The viral population of COVID-19 causing coronavirus or SARS-CoV-2 is continuously diversifying due to different geographical locations and varying environmental conditions. The ever-increasing

[more >>](#)

UK approves Chinese Covid vaccines

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-10

Britain has added Chinese vaccines to its list of approved jabs for travellers, British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner said on Tuesday, terming it “good news” for Pakistani travellers. In an updated travel advisory, the UK said from November 22 4am, World Health Organisation’s Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) vaccines – Sinovac, Sinopharm Beijing, and Covaxi.....

[more >>](#)

Covid booster demand surges after Macron’s speech; Covid cases spike in Greece, hospitals buckle

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

Athens: Greece is experiencing a fourth wave of Covid, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis warned on Wednesday, as daily infections hit their highest since the pandemic began, with hospitals starting to buckle under the pressure of rising infections. The country notched up a record 8,613 new Covid-19 cases in 24 hours, the National Organisation of Public Health said, after cases more than double.....

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Xi calls for US cooperation ahead of Biden talks

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

Washington: Chinese President Xi Jinping called for cooperation with the United States ahead of long-awaited talks with Joe Biden that comes amid a slew of disputes between the two powers. The two presidents, who have not met in person since Biden’s election, are expected to hold a virtual summit soon, diplomats said. CNN quoted sources as saying the talks could take place next week. Xi

[more >>](#)

World must fulfil collective responsibility on Afghanistan

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-12

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said that Pakistan has always stood by the Afghan people in their time of need and urged the international community to fulfil its collective responsibility and do the same. The prime minister’s remarks came amid a visit to Islamabad by acting Afghan foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, who was extended an invitation to attend the Troika Plus meeting. &l.....

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Xi warns against ‘Cold War-era’ tensions in Asia-Pacific

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-12

WELLINGTON: Chinese President Xi Jinping warned against a return to Cold War-era divisions in the Asia-Pacific Thursday as tensions mounted over the security of Taiwan. In the run-up to an anticipated virtual summit with US President Joe Biden as early as next week, Xi said countries in the region must work together on common challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to trade. “Attempts to

[more >>](#)

Donors News

WHO warns of massive syringe shortfall next year

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-10

The World Health Organization warned Tuesday there could be shortfall of up to two billion syringes in 2022, which threatens to hamper vaccine efforts globally if production does not improve. The shortages are the result of Covid-19 vaccine campaigns, with billions more syringes than normal being used worldwide, badly denting global supplies. Lisa Hedman, the WHO's senior advisor on access.....

[more >>](#)

SDPI Engagements

Dialogue

'Govt should incorporate inclusive fiscal-monetary policy'

Source: [Staff Reporter, BQL News](#), 2021-11-11

LAHORE: The government should incorporate evidence-based and inclusive fiscal-monetary policy to achieve the sustainable development goals target. "The government departments dealing with [the] monetary and fiscal sides of [the] economy should incorporate better coordination mechanisms. This can be carried out by inclusion of social implications in the monetary policy decision making by the.....[more >>](#)

Moot discusses social implications of monetary policy

Source: [Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-11

KARACHI: State institutions should find correlations of social implications of all policies of the country's central bank, particularly the monetary policy, which will enhance its importance in socio-economic dimensions and influence over the graph of poverty and development at a national level. This was discussed by speakers at a roundtable organized by Sustainable Development Policy Insti.....[more >>](#)

WB official, P&D head discuss projects

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-11-12

LAHORE: A meeting with World Bank's Practice Manager Stefano Paternostro, for Social Protection and Jobs for the South Asia region, was held at Planning and Development Complex, Lahore under the chairmanship of Planning and Development Board Chairman Abdullah Khan Sumbal. The objective of the meeting was to discuss World Bank's ongoing support to strengthen the federal an.....[more >>](#)

Autonomy of public sector institutions stressed

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-12

LAHORE: Participants in a seminar on Thursday were of the view that the public sector institutions should be given autonomy to operate independently to devise schemes and policies for welfare of the public. The seminar on 'understanding social implications of monetary policy in Pakistan' was held at the Government College University (GCU) on Thursday. Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Z.....[more >>](#)

SBP should be insulated from political intervention: expert

Source: [Hassan Abbas, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-12

LAHORE: Research Fellow Sustainable Development Policy Institute Dr Sajid Amin on Thursday said that the State Bank of Pakistan should act as autonomous body which is answerable to parliament. While giving briefing to the Lahore Economic Journalists Association on understanding social implications of monetary policy in Pakistan Sajid said that central bank should operate independently through.....[more >>](#)

Researchers Articles

Why do food prices keep going up?

Source: [Dr Vaqar Ahmed](#), [Geo News](#), 2021-11-10

Consumer prices have shown a stubbornly upward trend, with a 9.2% increase recorded in October alone. A worrisome development is that the data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on inflation has not indicated this slowdown in food prices. In fact, statistics from October to date indicate that prices of most essential food items have increased including cooking oil (1.8%), vegetables (15%), wh.....[more >>](#)

SDPI's Related News

ILO, UNICEF Join Hands To Curb Child Labor

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point](#), 2021-11-10

ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 10th Nov, 2021) :International Labour Organization (ILO) has joined hands with Asia Regional Child Labour (ARC) and UNICEF to combat the child labour. ILO has organized a number of trainings workshop on the theme of child labour and now in collaboration with ARC, UNICEF more workshops and seminar would be arranged to get rid of child labour, said an ILO off.....[more >>](#)

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