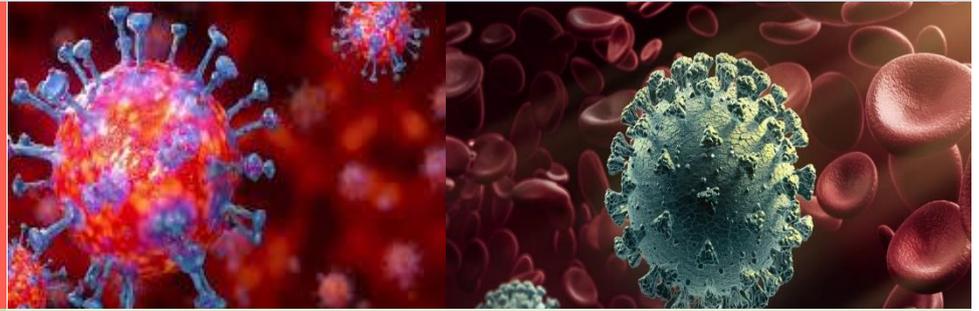


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 02



Issue: 02-04 January, 2021

.....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

Contents.....

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Op-Eds

[Articles/Editorials/News comments02](#)

National News

• Islamabad	• Punjab
• Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	• Gilgit Baltistan
• Sindh	• AJK
• Balochistan	•

International News

• Countries News	• Donors News
----------------------------------	---------------

SDPI Engagements

• Webinars News	• Researchers Articles
• Urdu Newspapers coverages	• SDPI: Other Engagement

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

It's capitalism once more

Source: [Hussain H Zaidi](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-02

The writer is an Islamabad-based columnist. As the sun set on the year 2020, the energies of governments and people around the world remained consumed with coping with the biological and economic challenges thrown up by the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic has turned out to be one of the severest of tests that humankind has been put to over the past one millennium. The world will either fi.....

[more >>](#)

The first jab

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-02

The first dose of the vaccine against Covid-19 may soon be administered in Pakistan, with the country having reached an agreement with China to import 1.2 million doses of the vaccine manufactured in China by the state-owned Sinopharm Company. The country is expected to begin its use with frontline healthcare workers, then persons over 65 years and then other health workers. After a meeting by the.....

[more >>](#)

Construction incentive

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-02

Prime Minister Imran Khan has announced an extension for one year in the incentive given to the construction sector at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose is to allow the construction sector to lead growth in the economy by boosting the production of various items required to build homes, while also providing employment to people engaged to carry out the actual work on properties a.....

[more >>](#)

Trusting science

Source: [Raja Khalid Shabbir](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

The road towards achieving immunity is not going to be smooth, at least for Pakistan. I realised how weak a Covid-19 vaccine would be for us at a barber shop. On December 9, the same day England became the first country to inject its people with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, I entered the shop where a corona conversation was in full swing. The talk took an unexpected turn when one person said, &ld.....

[more >>](#)

The silent killer; With the new vaccines coming in, the Covid-19 crisis will fade with time but air pollution is here to stay

Source: [Eric Shahzar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

When it comes to mitigating climate change, South Asia's and specifically Pakistan's track record has been well below par. We are the fifth most vulnerable country to climate change, two places up from last year. Global climate change is having an adverse impact on already climate-stressed regions; and with the second Covid-19 wave disrupting economies and crippling healthcare systems,.....

[more >>](#)

Muslims and technology

Source: [Pervez Hoodbhoy](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

EXCEPT for some defiant holdouts, most Muslims have come to accept the printing press, loudspeaker, weather forecasts, cameras and television, blood transfusions, organ transplants, and in-vitro fertilisation. Earlier fears that

technology will destroy their faith are disappearing. Although religious extremists have killed polio vaccine workers by the dozens, Pakistanis are likely to accept the Co.....

[more >>](#)

Space, online

Source: [Shmyla Khan](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-03

The Covid-19 pandemic has centred the importance of digital spaces in our lives, irrevocably changing the way we work, study, communicate and access basic services. As schools and universities across the country shut down to stymie the spread of the virus, the problem of unequal access to technologies and internet services was underscored by the experience of students from lower-income back.....

[more >>](#)

Hindsight 20/20

Source: [Dr Alia Haider](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-03

2020 has been the year of fear, not only due to the coronavirus pandemic but also due to turbulence in world politics. The whole world went into a complete lockdown as human survival appeared to be in jeopardy. Conditions that were hitherto perceived as normal don't seem to be normal now. As we were all fighting an invisible enemy, a virus that needed a human host to rip through populations.....

[more >>](#)

Leap forward

Source: [Dr Athar Ahmed Saeed](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-03

The King Edward Alumni Association of the UK has been holding an annual symposium on Universal Healthcare Access, with the help of the King Edward Medical University. We had our third symposium on December 20. We consider free or affordable access to healthcare and education a basic human right and a duty that the state and the society owe to the citizens. There is a need for healthcare profession.....

[more >>](#)

A continuation of hybrids

Source: [Raaid Masood](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-03

As with every passing year, a lot seems to have fallen into perspective for most people, with the end of 2020. A year marked by a global pandemic also brought ingenuity, innovation and introspection, as much as it did hardship and suffering. Thought leaders predict that our lifestyles have now changed forever — from transport to shopping to the environment. In some ways, the same can be said.....

[more >>](#)

Nursing superstars

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

In the gloom of our corona-filled world, bits of good news periodically brighten our day. Just as we were about to ring in the New Year, we received a heart-warming report about some of our nurses making a splash on the world stage. Eight Pakistani nurses and midwives have featured in the global 100 Outstanding Women Nurse and Midwife Leaders 2020 list. All eight nurses and midwives from Pakistan

[more >>](#)

Supply chain disruptions; The domino effect

Source: [Ali Khizar](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

2020 was a year of volatility. Global prices and indices moved down and up like anything. Trends are yet to normalize. Oil futures went down to negative for a short time, and now reverting to normalcy. The story of coal and RLNG is no

different. Global food price index is showing a V-shaped pattern with prices in December higher than at the start of COVID-19 outbreak. The shipping business is not[more >>](#)

Preparing for vaccination administration

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

As the death toll from Covid-19 crossed the grim 10,000 mark the National Command and Operation Centre held a special meeting on Thursday to discuss the availability and efficient administration of Covid-19 vaccine. A day earlier, the government had announced its decision to book 1.1 million doses of the vaccine from a Chinese state-owned company, which would be in addition to non-disclosure agre.....[more >>](#)

Punjab reels from pandemic and its impact

Source: [Muhammad Ilyas, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

LAHORE: Punjab, Pakistan's largest province in terms of population, reeled from the coronavirus pandemic that brought the entire world to a standstill and altered the course of lives in a year. The densely populated province had to face severe difficulties on several fronts such as health, economic and social activities. In the first phase of the pandemic, the province faced an acute situa.....[more >>](#)

Harsh lessons: After a year of suffering, life seeks normalcy amid pandemic

Source: [Aamir Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

KARACHI: In Karachi's lower middle class neighbourhood, Liaquatabad, 55-year-old Shahnaz Khan fondly recalled the time when her two sons went to work daily and derived decent monthly wages to sustain their household. Almost a year into the pandemic, Khan's sons, who provided pick-and-drop service to students, are on the lookout for a substantial means of sustenance. "Running a.....[more >>](#)

Money talks

Source: [Zarrar Khuhro, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

JUST like we as individuals like to believe certain stories, myths and narratives about ourselves, so do states. For America, one such narrative, a declarative statement actually, has always been 'we're number one!' It's easy to believe because for the most part, it has been the truth. America has enjoyed unprecedented military dominance for decades, complemented and suppl.....[more >>](#)

Moving ahead in 2021

Source: [Kamal Siddiqi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

This week, our federal minister for education and the provincial heads of education departments across the country will once again go into a huddle to decide whether to re-open educational institutions in January. Once again there are calls for re-opening schools, colleges, and universities so that in-person instruction can resume. Schools have suffered greatly because of the closures. But so hav.....[more >>](#)

Global reset and the new world order

Source: [Saad Rasool, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

Just one year ago, in the first few days of January 2020, no one could have predicted or imagined that the world would go through such tectonic changes within a period of just 12 months. No one, in their reasonable mind, could have foreseen the spread and impact of COVID-19 across the world. No one could have imagined that, in the wake of COVID-19, entire industries (like airlines and tourism) wou.....[more >>](#)

National News

AJK

AJK records over 2,900 ceasefire violations by India amid Covid-19

Source: [Tariq Naqash, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

MUZAFFARABAD: Indian troops committed more than 2,900 ceasefire violations across the restive Line of Control (LoC) last year, leaving as many as 33 innocent civilians martyred and another 260 wounded in different parts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), said a cabinet member on the last day of 2020. As many as 28 civilians in AJK were martyred and another 172 injured in 2018, while the number of I.....

[more >>](#)

Islamabad

Revellers welcome New Year with hope for corona-free life

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-02

Islamabad : Revellers in the twin cities bid farewell to a gloomy year marred with coronavirus pandemic and welcomed New Year with a hope that life would return to normal after suffering from long pain and agony. Scores of people took to the streets to mark New Year celebrations involving spectacular fireworks, fun galas, and musical concerts. The moment when the clock struck 12'o clo.....

[more >>](#)

71 virus deaths, 2,463 new cases in single day: NCOC

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

ISLAMABAD - The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Friday amid beginning of New Year reached 34,773 with 2,463 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,156 people recovered from the coronavirus during the last 24 hours. Seventy One corona patients, 61 of whom were under treatment in hospital and 10 in their respective homes or quarantines died on Monday.....

[more >>](#)

Ehsaas scheme empowering weak segments of society, says annual report

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

ISLAMABAD: The Ehsaas programme touched the lives of half of the country's population amid Covid-19 crisis last year and it continues to empower the weakest segments of society through its multi-faceted initiatives, an annual report of the programme said on Friday. According to the report, released by the Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Division, headed by Special A.....

[more >>](#)

Sad start of New Year as Covid-19 casualties mount in twin cities

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

RAWALPINDI: For some families, the new year started on a tragic note as seven people lost their struggle against Covid-19 in the twin cities while another 223 were infected on Friday. In Rawalpindi, five patients succumbed to the virus and 37 people tested positive. As many as 18 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovering. Shamshad Begum, 66, a resident of Dhoke Chaudhrian, Farooq-.....

[more >>](#)

Country reports 82 virus deaths, 2,184 new infections

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday said that the highest positivity rate in the country was recorded in Karachi at 15.7 percent followed by Peshawar at 15.5 percent and Mirpur at 9.2 percent. The national positivity rate was recorded at 5.8 percent, according to the officials. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the rate was recorded at 8.5 percent, Sindh 8.1 per.....

[more >>](#)

National Covid positivity surges to 5.12%; 2,284 patients critical

Source: [news Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

The national Covid-19 positivity ratio on Sunday was recorded 5.12 percent while 2,284 coronavirus patients are in critical condition across the country with the number of critical patients rising at a fast pace. The positivity ratio was determined on the basis of positive cases appearing in 100 samples of Covid-19 patients. The highest positivity ratio was observed in Mirpur which was 15.69 perc.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 patients advised to consult doctors before using oxygen at home

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

ISLAMABAD: As seven more people lost their struggle against Covid-19 on Sunday, the capital administration has advised coronavirus patients to seek medical help and avoid self treatment at home. "It has been observed that Covid-19 patients who were in very critical state were being brought to hospitals as majority preferred to isolate themselves in their homes and use oxygen cylinders, Dist.....

[more >>](#)

Renowned pathologist Dr Farooq dies of Covid-19

Source: [NNI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

ISLAMABAD: Another doctor on Sunday succumbed to deadly novel coronavirus in Islamabad after days of battling for his life on the ventilator. The deceased, Dr. Umar Farooq was the former head of the Pathology Department at the KRL Hospital in Islamabad. He had been undergoing treatment for the virus at a private hospital in Islamabad. Dr Umar Farooq, a senior pathologist was on the venti.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports 1,895 new COVID cases in 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

Pakistan has reported 39 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 488,529. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 10,350 on Monday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 1,895 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pand.....

[more >>](#)

53 more die of corona during last 24 hours

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

ISLAMABAD - As many as 53 more deaths and 2,272 new positive cases of coronavirus were reported in the country during the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, Punjab's caseload has crossed 140,000 with more than 800 new infections reported during the past 24 hours. Punjab recorded 847 new coronavirus cases and 24 deaths during the last 24 hours, according to the government's Covid-19 portal.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Coronavirus claims 12 more lives in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-02

PESHAWAR: Coronavirus on Friday claimed 12 more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, taking the toll 1,661 in the province. Also, KP recorded 322 more positive cases that brought the total number of infected people in the province to 59,054. Of 12 fatalities, nine people died in Peshawar and one each died in Swabi, Abbottabad and Dera Ismail Khan. Peshawar has lost 811 people as a result of coron.....

[more >>](#)

Doctor, 11 others die of Covid

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 12 deaths, including a doctor, and 322 new Covid-19 cases on Friday as Peshawar continued to register bulk of the mortalities and incidence. The deceased included nine from Peshawar, one each from Swabi, Dera Ismail Khan and Abbottabad, according to a daily Covid-19 report released by the health department. The province's tally of fatalities due to cor.....

[more >>](#)

Nowshera reports 32 more Covid-19 cases

Source: [Mushtaq Paracha](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-03

NOWSHERA: The number of confirmed Covid-19 infected patients reached 1,719 as 32 more tested positive for the viral infection in the district on Saturday, officials said. Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgan, District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and Dr Yaseen Khan said during a media briefing that the surge in the number of the coronavirus-infected patients continued as people were ignorin.....

[more >>](#)

11 more succumb to Covid in K-P

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

PESHAWAR: Eleven people have succumbed to Covid in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province during the past 24 hours, pushing the total death toll to 1,672. Around 232 new cases have also surfaced in the past 24 hours while 441 have recovered during this time. The total number of active cases stands at 3,231 in the province while around 54,283 have fully recovered so far. As per the Health Department report.....

[more >>](#)

Jl leader, wife again test positive for Covid-19

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-04

PESHAWAR: Quarantined for the last 10 days, provincial ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan and his wife tested positive for Covid-19 again on Sunday. In a post on his social media portal, the JI leader said he and his wife had tested positive for the viral infection for the second time during the last 10 days. He appealed to his followers to remember him in their prayers.

[more >>](#)

Punjab

29 more die from COVID-19 in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-02

LAHORE: Around 29 patients died from COVID-19 while 659 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department Punjab on Friday, the death toll reached 4,042, while confirmed cases reached 138,608 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at the P&SH Department Punjab, 16,61.....

[more >>](#)

29 people succumb to coronavirus in Punjab 659 new infections reported during 24 hours

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

LAHORE: The Covid-19 pandemic has claimed another 29 lives in the province whereas 659 new cases were reported on Friday. As per the data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (PP&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 138,608 while the total deaths were recorded 4,042. The PP&SHD confirmed that 330 new cases of Covid-.....

[more >>](#)

Virus claims three more lives in Multan

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

MULTAN - Another three patients fell prey to coronavirus at Nishtar Hospital within the last 24 hours bringing the tally to 355 since March this year. Nishtar focal person for infectious diseases, Dr Irfan Arshad said that M. Ashraf (60) GH Muhammad (81), and M.Aamar Khan Iqbal(50) passed away at ICU of Nishtar hospital. Ashraf and Aamar belonged to Multan while GH Muhammad hailed from Jhang ,he i.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 29 more lives, 659 new cases reported in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

LAHORE - The COVID-19 claimed another 29 lives in the province whereas 659 new cases were reported on Friday. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (PP&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 138,608 while the total deaths were recorded 4,042. The PP&SHD confirmed that 330 new cases of COVID-19.....

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Shops, restaurants sealed over SOPs violation Share:

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

LAHORE - The district administration sealed 44 shops, restaurants and shopping malls during an action over violations of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Friday. Various teams imposed heavy fines on violators and issued warnings, said a spokesperson for the district administration. He said Assistant Commissioner Model Town Zeshan Ranjha sealed four restaurants and A.....

[more >>](#)

29 more die of Covid-19, 659 new cases reported

Source: [staf reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

LAHORE: The Covid-19 death toll reached 4,042 in Punjab after 29 more patients succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours across the province. According to the official update released by the Punjab government on Friday, 659 new infections were reported in the province. The total number of the positive cases in Punjab reached 138,608 and Lahore was on the top of the list by having the maxim.....

[more >>](#)

Kashf Foundation wins UN Women's Asia-Pacific WEPs award for Covid-19 action

Source: [news desk, Daily Times](#), 2021-01-02

Kashf Foundation earned the recognition of being the only Pakistani organization to be honored at the recently held first edition of Asia-Pacific Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Award hosted by UN Women and funded by the European Union. These awards recognized the efforts of business leaders across the globe for their efforts in advancing gender equality based on excellence in six cate.....

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Business as usual despite coronavirus guidelines

Source: [Abid Mahmood, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

NAROWAL: The violation of coronavirus SOPs continues openly in bazaars, markets, hospitals, and other places. The Punjab government issued specific SOPs for the public and vendors in bazaars under which shopkeepers are to wear face masks and arrange sanitisers and social distancing for the visitors. Dawn observed citizens and shopkeepers are equally violating guidelines, especially in the market.....

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43 corona patients die

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-03

LAHORE : Around 43 patients died from COVID19 and another 733 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Saturday, the death toll reached 4,085 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 139,341 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P.....

[more >>](#)

With 733 new cases, Covid-19 on upward trajectory since last week

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

LAHORE: The last week saw a persistent rise in the number of new cases of Covid-19 in Punjab and the upward trend has perturbed health and medical experts. According to official figures released on Saturday, 733 new infections surfaced in the day, taking the total number of Covid-19 cases in the province to 139,341. On Friday, the number of fresh cases was 659, 654 on Dec 31 and on Dec 30 the num.....

[more >>](#)

Capital reports 186 new Covid infections Five people die of coronavirus in Rawalpindi

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: At least five people died of the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in Rawalpindi on Friday pushing the death toll to 694 in the district. Another 37 people have tested positive for the virus while there are at least 1,288 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Rawalpindi district. The novel coronavirus (Covid19) cases continued to surge in the federal capital on Friday as 186 n.....

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Punjab reports 43 deaths, 733 new Covid-19 cases

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

LAHORE: There is no let up in the spread of coronavirus, as Punjab has reported 733 fresh Covid-19 cases and 43 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally of cases to 139,341 and death toll to 4085. With recovery of 527 more patients, the number of recovered patients in the province has reached to 124,125. Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid in a briefing said, "A.....

[more >>](#)

Smart lockdown extended in three cities

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-04

LAHORE : The Punjab government has extended smart lockdown in three cities till January 14, 2021 in hotspot areas with maximum emergence of COVID19 cases amidst the rising second wave of dreaded novel corona virus in the province. According to separate notifications issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), Punjab, on Sunday, the smart lockdown has been imposed in

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24 more die from COVID19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-04

LAHORE : Around 24 more patients died of COVID19 and another 847 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. The P&SHD report issued here on Sunday said the death toll reached 4,109 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of corona virus reached 140,188 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, 20,.....

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Covid-19 restrictions boost online shopping

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

MULTAN: The coronavirus lockdown and other related restrictions imposed over the past year boosted online shopping and created job opportunities for youth in the sector. A large number of youngsters were employed for delivery services, which not only provided jobs to youth but also increased sale of different products. Fast food outlets, hotels, shopkeepers and women entrepreneurs started online.....

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Punjab sees twice as many Covid deaths as Sindh

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

ISLAMABAD: Punjab on Sunday reported twice as many coronavirus deaths, as compared to Sindh. According to the data released by the National Command and Operation Centre, 24 people lost their lives in Punjab, 12 in Sindh, 11 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, three in Islamabad, two in Azad Kashmir and one in Balochistan. The number of deaths across the country surged to 10,311 while active cases across the

[more >>](#)

Mixed prospects of agriculture

Source: [Mohiuddin Aazim](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

In 2019-20, agricultural growth of 2.7 per cent helped contain the decline in GDP to 0.4pc in the wake of the first wave of Covid-19. For 2020-21, the government has set a 2.8pc growth target for agriculture and 2.1pc for the overall economy. Achieving overall economic growth may not be difficult due to the low-base effect. But meeting the agricultural growth target can be as it is supposed to co.....

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Lockdown in 10 Covid hotspots of three Punjab cities

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

LAHORE: The Punjab government has imposed lockdown in 10 'hot spots'(streets) in Lahore, Gujranwala and Multan because of the increasing number of coronavirus positive cases being reported there. The province has recorded 24 deaths during the past 24 hours, as compared to the 43 reported a day earlier. With the latest deaths, the total Covid-19 death toll in Punjab has reached 4,109.

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'Covid-19 restrictions boost online shopping, create jobs for youth'

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

MULTAN: Covid-19 restrictions boosted online shopping and created job opportunities for youth by accommodating a large number of youngsters in job of delivery services which not only provided jobs to youth but also increased sale of different products. Different fast food points, hotels, shopkeepers and women have started online sale of their products by signing agreement with private deliver.....

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Another corona patient dies in Faisalabad Share:

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

FAISALABAD - Another patient of coronavirus died in the city while 34 fresh cases were reported during the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for the Health department said that 1218 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sectors laboratories in the district during the 24 hours. At present, he said that total active cases of COVID-19 were 641 in Faisalabad, while the number of recovery

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Sindh

Covid-19 kills 22 more, infects 953 others in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-02

Twenty-two more people have died from the novel coronavirus and another 953 positive cases have surfaced in Sindh. As many as 11,771 samples were tested for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday. With the new 22 deaths, the total number of confirmed deaths from the viral disease has reached 3,582 in the province. The fatality rate from Covid.....

[more >>](#)

Covid vaccines to arrive in Sindh by mid Jan

Source: [Sameer Mandhro/Rija Fatima](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

KARACHI: The Sindh Health Department confirmed on Friday that frontline health workers - those working in Covid-19 wards - would be administered the first dose of coronavirus vaccine by the mid of January. However, in the first stage of the initial phase of the trial, 125,000 of 150,000 health workers in Sindh's private and public healthcare facilities will be vaccinated. The remaining will

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Covid-19 action Kashf Foundation wins UN Women's Asia-Pacific WEPs award

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

KARACHI: Kashf Foundation wins UN Women's Asia-Pacific Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) award for Covid-19 action. Kashf Foundation is the only Pakistani organisation that has been honoured at the recently held first edition of Asia-Pacific WEPs Award hosted by UN Women and funded by the European Union. These awards recognised the efforts of business leaders across the globe

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COVID-19 claims 22 lives, infects 953 others in Sindh: CM Murad

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

Karachi - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 22 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll 3,582 and 953 new cases emerged when 11,771 samples were tested. In a statement issued from CM House on Friday, he said that 22 more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,582 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. He said that 11,7.....

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COVID-19 claims 22 lives, infects 953 others: CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 22 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll 3,582 and 953 new cases emerged when 11,771 samples were tested. In a statement issued from CM House on Friday, he said that 22 more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,582 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. He said that.....

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Sindh govt sets up coordination cell for COVID-19 vaccine

Source: [Abdullah Zafar](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

KARACHI - In a positive news on the first day of 2021, the Sindh Minister for Health Azra Fazl Pechuhu on Friday announced that the province would be able to get nearly 250,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine after the second week of the ongoing month of January. Azra Fazl said this while chairing a meeting to finalise arrangements for COVID-19 vaccine, where she established a coordination cell for.....

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Covid kills 12 as 1,004 more test positive in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-03

Twelve more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 1,004 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,594 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Saturday that 13,886 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 1,004 people, or 7.....

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12 Covid-19 deaths reported

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday said that 12 more Covid-19 patients died overnight and 1,004 new cases emerged when 13,886 tests were conducted. In a statement issued here from CM House, Mr Shah said that currently 17,365 patients were under treatment, of them 16,548 were in home isolation, 12 at isolation centres and 805 at different hospitals. "The condition of 726.....

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Covid patient gives birth to healthy baby girl at LUH

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

HYDERABAD: A young Covid-19 infected mother gave birth to a healthy baby girl at Liaquat University Hospital's city branch on Saturday morning, the first such operation since the outbreak of the pandemic last year in February. The mother was shifted to Covid-19 isolation unit and the baby was transferred to a private hospital for care. "The mother was quite scared after learning she

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Study suggests educational interventions to motivate people to follow Covid-19 protocols

Source: [Faiza Ilyas](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

KARACHI: A recently conducted study highlights the need for disseminating correct information about Covid-19 through educational interventions aiming at safe health practices to help motivate and encourage people to follow preventive protocols. Titled Knowledge, attitude and perception of Pakistanis towards Covid-19; a large cross-sectional survey, the study was conducted by a researchers'

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Sindh reports over 1,000 new Covid cases 12 more persons succumb to coronavirus

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

Another 12 coronavirus-related deaths have been reported in the province, in addition to 1,004 new Covid-19 cases, said Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday. Following this, the infection tally in the province climbed to 217,636 and the Covid-19 death toll to 3,594, according to the statement issued by the CM. He said the results of 13,886 samples screened for the virus were.....

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COVID-19 claims 12 more patients, infects 1,004 others: CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 12 more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,594 and 1,004 new cases emerged when 13,886 tests were conducted raising the tally to 217,636. This he said in a statement issued from CM House on Saturday. He added that 12 more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,594 that consti.....

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A COVID-infected woman gives birth to baby

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

HYDERABAD - A coronavirus infected woman has given birth to a baby in Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) on Saturday. The LUH's spokesperson informed that both the mother and children were perfectly healthy. He informed that the baby was born in a c-section surgery to Iqra, wife of Ali Muhammad, who was admitted to the hospital on December 31, 2020. The woman was tested positive with the.....

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'Tis the season of subsidies

Source: [Kazim Alam, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

The pandemic has caused a disaster, and big industrialists are not letting it go to waste. Look closely and you'll notice that Covid-19 has only fortified what Canadian author Naomi Klein calls the disaster capitalism complex. There's wartime-like exuberance in Islamabad. Q Block has turned into a shopping strip for big industrialists. All kinds of 'packages' are on offer.....

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17 Covid-19 patients die overnight in Sindh

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that 17 Covid-19 patients lost their lives overnight and 961 new cases emerged when 11,473 samples were tested. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that with the fresh deaths, the toll rose to 3,611, constituting 1.7 per cent death rate. Mr Shah said that 11,473 samples were tested which diagnosed 961 cases that const.....

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Around 115,000 frontline health workers in Sindh to get Covid-19 vaccine in first phase

Source: [Imran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

KARACHI: As the Sindh government waits for first supply of 250,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses by mid-January, the authorities have identified some 115,000 frontline health workers across the province who would be inoculated in the first phase of the programme in two major centres, becoming the first province in the country that had already designed such a strategy to meet the challenge, officials and

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Covid-19 claims 17 more lives, infects 961 others in Sindh

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 17 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,611 and 961 new cases emerged when 11473 samples were tested. A statement issued here from CM house on Sunday, he said that seventeen more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,611 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah said that 11473 sa.....

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COVID-19 claims 17 more lives, infects 961 others: CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 17 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,611 and 961 new cases emerged when 11,473 samples were tested. In a statement issued from CM house on Sunday, he said that seventeen more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,611 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Murad Ali Shah sai.....

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25 more tested COVID-19 positive in Hyderabad

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

HYDERABAD - As many as 25 patients have tested positive for COVID-19 during the last 24 hours, taking the tally of coronavirus cases to 9,191 in Hyderabad district on Sunday. According to health authorities, 104,522 tests so far conducted in the district and 8,134 were fully recovered while 201 had lost their lives since outbreak of the contagion in March 2020. Out of 899 active COVID-19 patients,.....

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International News

Countries News

WHO okays Pfizer vaccine for emergency use

Source: [Agencies](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

UNITED NATIONS: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has approved the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for emergency use, paving the way for it to be distributed to countries in need. It is the first vaccine to be added to the UN organisations' Emergency Use Listing (EUL). Regulatory experts convened by WHO from around the world and its own teams reviewed the data on the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine and

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African free trade bloc opens

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

JOHANNESBURG: African countries began officially trading under a new continent-wide free trade area on Friday, after months of delays caused by the global coronavirus pandemic. But experts view the New Year's Day launch as largely symbolic with full implementation of the deal expected to take years. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to bring together 1.3 billion people

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India approves AstraZeneca Covid vaccine

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-02

NEW DELHI: India's drug regulator on Friday approved a coronavirus vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University for emergency use, two sources with knowledge of the matter said. The decision clears the vaccine's rollout in the world's second-most populous country which, after the United States, has the highest number of Covid-19 infections. India wants to start admini.....

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India allows emergency usage of 2 coronavirus vaccines

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-03

India on Sunday allowed the emergency usage of two coronavirus vaccines developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and by local pharmaceutical firm Bharat Biotech, said the country's drug regulator. "The... vaccines of Serum Institute (AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine) and Bharat Biotech are being approved for restricted use in emergency situations," the Drugs Controller General of In.....

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Revellers booked in France for violating Covid curbs

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

RENNES: Hundreds of revellers were booked for breaking coronavirus restrictions as an illegal rave in northwestern France ended on Saturday after more than two days of partying that saw clashes with the police. Police had failed to stop the underground event, which drew around 2,500 people from Thursday night in two disused warehouses in Lieuron, south of the city of Rennes in Brittany. Such mas.....[more >>](#)

Pfizer, BioNTech to offer vaccine to volunteers who got placebo

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

Pfizer Inc and its partner BioNTech Se plan to give volunteers who received a placebo in its Covid-19 vaccine trial an option to receive a first dose of the vaccine by March 1, 2021, while staying within the study. The trial's Vaccine Transition Option allows all participants aged 16 or older the choice to discover whether they were given the placebo, "and for participants who learn t.....[more >>](#)

Bangkok imposes partial lockdown to combat virus

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-03

BANGKOK: Bangkok's nightlife will go quiet as a ban on bars, nightclubs and restaurant alcohol sales goes into effect, among a raft of restrictions aimed at curbing the kingdom's rising coronavirus toll. Thailand initially appeared to have escaped the worst of the virus, registering just under 4,000 total cases in November, despite becoming the second country to detect an infection, e.....

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Lockdowns, curfews, alcohol bans as nations fight resurgent virus

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

countries across the world tightened restrictions on their populations Saturday to fight a resurgence in the coronavirus, as the European Union offered to help drug companies expand vaccine production to improve distribution "bottlenecks". From local curfews to alcohol bans and complete lockdowns, governments are trying to tackle a surge in cases. The coronavirus has killed

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US cities, left behind in Covid-19 aid, look for lifeline in Biden era

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

In Washington's months-long political slugfest over who should get aid to counter the financial damage from the Covid-19 pandemic, there was at least one clear loser: local government. In the midst of cutbacks in workforce and emergency services and growing poverty, US cities, especially the smaller ones, are hoping the next round of stimulus includes them and that President-elect Jo.....

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Stricter lockdown restriction likely on the way, says UK PM Johnson

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Sunday that tougher lockdown restrictions were probably on the way as Covid-19 cases keep rising, but that schools were safe places and children should continue to attend where permitted. Cases of Covid-19 in Britain are at record levels and increasing, fuelled by a new and more transmissible variant of the virus. That has already forced the governm.....

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'Overwhelmed' Zimbabwe tightens Covid-19 restrictions, orders most businesses closed

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

Zimbabwe extended a nationwide curfew, banned gatherings and ordered non-essential businesses closed for a month on Saturday in an effort to curb a surge in coronavirus infections. Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, who is also health minister, said some of the tighter restrictions were effective immediately and included a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew and a ban on inter-city travel. From Tuesday, non-.....

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Kenya extends night curfew to March to curb Covid-19 spread

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

Kenya is extending its nightly curfew to March 12 as part of measures aimed at taming the spread of Covid-19, President Uhuru Kenyatta's office said on Sunday. In early November, Kenyatta extended the nightly curfew that was in place, and it had been due to expire on Sunday. It runs between 10 p.m and 4 a.m. A ban on political and roadside gatherings that could turn into super spreader eve.....

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Thailand reports 315 new coronavirus cases in second wave

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

Thailand confirmed 315 new coronavirus cases on Sunday in a second wave of infection where the majority of the cases were local transmission. The new cases include 21 cases imported from abroad, the government's Covid-19 taskforce said. Thailand has confirmed a total of 7,694 coronavirus cases and 64 deaths since its first case last January. The government is eyeing tougher measures to rest.....

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India's approval of homegrown vaccine criticised over lack of data

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

India on Sunday granted emergency approval to Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN but faced questions after taking the step without publishing efficacy data for the homegrown coronavirus vaccine. The news, announced by the drugs controller general of India (DCGI) who did not take questions, was hailed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ministers as a success in India's self-reliance push. The

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As nations fight virus resurgence India okays two vaccines

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

NEW DELHI: India on Sunday approved emergency use of two Covid-19 vaccines to kick off one of the world's biggest inoculation drives, while the European Union offered to help drug companies expand production to ease distribution bottlenecks. India, the second-worst affected country, has authorised use of shots developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and by local pharmaceutical firm B.....

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Britain set for tougher virus rules as cases surge

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday warned the country to expect tougher restrictions to combat spiralling coronavirus cases, as a row flared over whether schools should reopen. "It may be that we need to do things in the next few weeks that will be tougher in many parts of the country," Johnson told the BBC's The Andrew Marr Show. "I'm fully, ful.....

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Saudi Arabia reopens borders after two weeks

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Sunday announced the reopening of borders and the resumption of international flights after a two-week suspension aimed to stem the spread of a new Covid-19 strain. The government ordered the lifting of "precautionary measures related to the spread of a new variant of coronavirus", the Ministry of the Interior said, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.....

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SDPI Engagements

Researcher Articles

Another year, another opportunity

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-03

If the year 2020 was anything to go by, the states investing in public healthcare infrastructure, social protection and food security will have a comparative advantage in mitigating the pain of Covid-19. Governments across the world seem to be aware of this. Most of them have doled out — and are still doling out — trillions of dollars to their citizens to reduce the suffering caused b.....

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