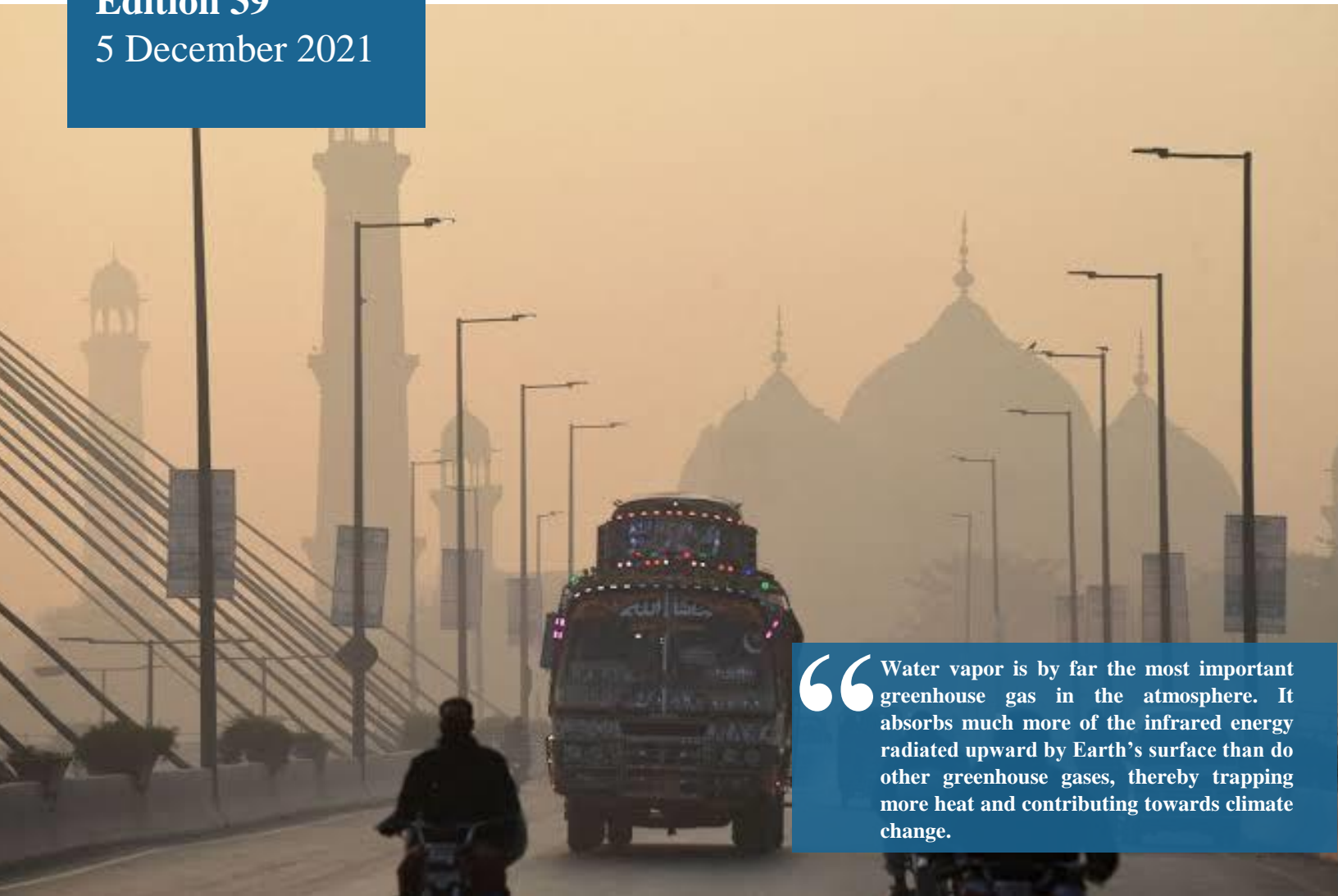


# NEWS LETTER

Edition 39

5 December 2021



“Water vapor is by far the most important greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. It absorbs much more of the infrared energy radiated upward by Earth’s surface than do other greenhouse gases, thereby trapping more heat and contributing towards climate change.”

**Editor in Chief:** Dr. Ejaz Sandhu

**Editor:** Aiman Adnan

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## Highlights

- From the Desk of Chairman
- Message of the Month

## Focus Areas

- Research and Consultancy Wing
- Education and Learning Wing
- Think Tank Wing
- Knowledge Management Wing



**Shahid Javed Burki**

**Chairman**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute  
of Public Policy at NetSol

## Looking at Global Warming from the South Asian Perspective

Counting Afghanistan as a South Asian country, the sub-Continent had six delegations attending the climate summit in Glasgow that was in session during the second half of October. Judging from the coverage in the Western press, contributions made by only two delegations had some impact. These were by Bhutan and India.

The head of the Bhutanese delegation made an impassioned plea for helping his country and several other that shared Bhutan's situation. He said that given the small size of the Bhutanese population and the small size of its economy, it did not make any contribution to global warming. That was done mostly by large countries that developed their economies by getting energy for industrialization by burning fossil fuels. However, the warming of the planet is already resulting in melting the ice that covers good part of the Bhutanese space. This is causing enormous floods in the rivers that flow through its territory. To deal with that situation, his nation, along with dozens of other small countries, need financial assistance.

The Indian contribution to the summit was much more dramatic. On the last day of the conference, the Indian delegation refused to accept the wording on the use of fossil fuels for producing energy. The statement that had been crafted by the delegates working on the final document would have called on countries to "phase out" coal power and government subsidies for oil and gas. Fossil fuels have never been explicitly mentioned in a global climate agreement before, even though they are the main reason for global warming and would remain the case for years to come. In the end, at the urging of India, the phrase "phased out" with reference to the use of coal was change to "phase down." The change involved a great deal of delicate maneuvering. As *The New York Times* put it in its report of the final day of the summit: "John Kerry, the U.S. climate envoy, entered the plenary hall Saturday evening with his arm around the shoulder of Xie Zhenhua, China's chief climate negotiator. Last minute deal-making could be seen taking place on the floor as Mr. Xie and Mr. Kerry huddled mask to mask, with Alok Sharma, the British politician who led the U.N. summit." But not all the delegates were happy with the change in wording. Switzerland's representative Simonetta Sommaruga assailed the change, saying, "We do not need to phase down, but phase out."

Glasgow offered an opportunity for the South Asian nations to develop a joint position with respect to the sub-Continent's approach to global warming. Of the

six South Asian nations, only one – Sri Lanka – is not affected by the melting of the glaciers that feed water to the major rivers in the region. The ice covers in the Himalayan and Hindukush Mountain ranges are melting more rapidly than is normal in summer months. This has already begun to produce large floods. However, as the World Bank pointed out in a report it wrote and published a few years ago, the more than normal glacier melt will begin to reduce the ice-cover and ultimately diminish the amount of water that flows down the rivers. Pakistan would be deeply and negatively affected as its massive irrigation system begins to see a reduction in the quantity of water that is available to sustain life in the country. The northern areas of India would be similarly impacted while increased floods in the country's delta regions and encroaching sea would render millions of people homeless in Bangladesh. A joint action plan needs to be developed by the South Asian nations and Glasgow offered an opportunity to do that but was not taken. This plan would have the affected countries build water storage facilities as large as normal flows work their way down the rivers. There is precedence for joint international action to solve regional problems. This was done in 1960 when the leaders of India and Pakistan signed the Indus Water Treaty. The treaty involved the World Bank and a number of rich nations that had the financial resources and technical know-how to build dams on the Jhelum (the Mangla Dam) and Indus Rivers (the Tarbela Dam) and transfer water from one river to another.



*Image: Hindu Kush Himalayan mountain ranges*



**Muhammad Abdullah Khan Sumbal**  
Chairman, Planning and Development  
Board (P&D)

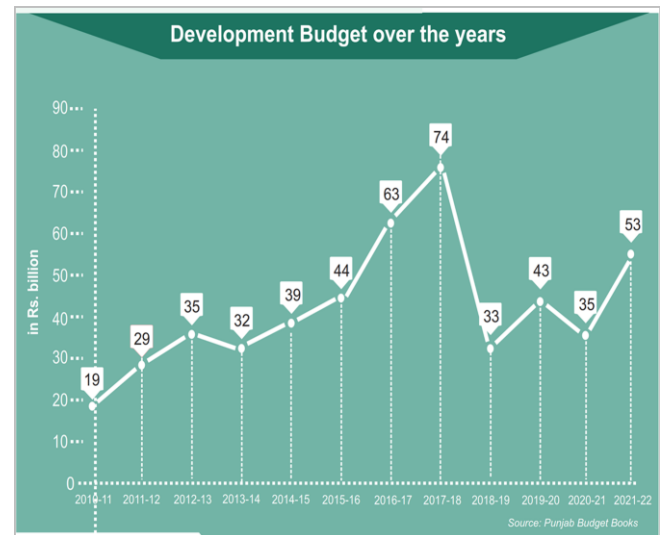
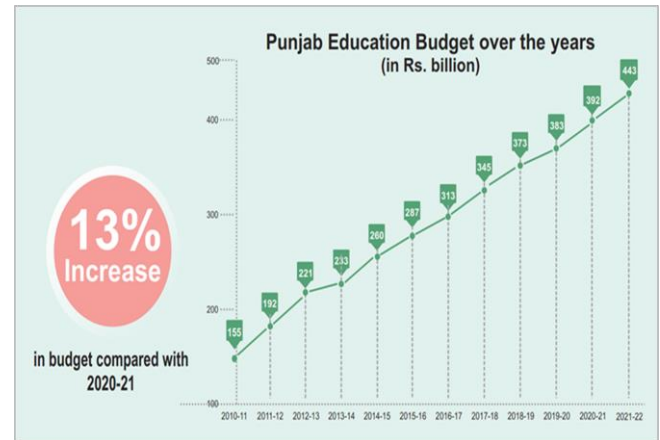
### Development through Education

Pakistan is the fifth-largest populous country in the world. Around 63 percent population of the country comprises youth aged between 15 and 33. There is a global consensus that youth is harbinger of change and growth, in fact, a tangible asset for a country.

The demographic asset, however, if not harnessed can have the consequence of major unemployment and resulting poverty, crises that are not surmountable easily. To equip our youth with the necessary skills, it is imperative that the education system imparts meaningful and purposive education. Education that is conducive to learning does not only enable the aspirations attached to individual goals and objectives but also aligns them with national imperatives of economic growth.

Government of the Punjab is cognizant of this fact and its seriousness is reflected through its substantial funding for the education sector. This year a total sum of Rs.441 billion has been allocated for education. This includes Rs.54 billion for the “Development” and Rs.387 billion for the “Non-Development” budget. The largest share has been given to the School Education Sector that evidently remains a top priority. It is pertinent to mention that this year’s budget making was an inclusive process and based on stakeholder consultations. This empowering experience has proved to be very productive and marks a good precedent for the future activities. It is indicative of the fact that gradually we are striding towards a progressive framework where public and private stakeholders are well prepared to align their

expertise with a view to making Development a truly participative experience.



Source: Punjab Budget Books



**Shahid Najam**  
**Vice Chairman**  
 The Shahid Javed Burki Institute  
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## Private Sector as Development Partner

A number of developing countries have witnessed a significantly high rate of economic development and growth in the recent decades. Yet, the incidence and intensity of poverty continues to delude them despite some gains. One of the major constraints in their effort towards poverty alleviation is too large a role of the public sector envisaged under their development paradigm and very little space for private sector engagement. The scale and size of the poverty reduction challenge is indeed massive and the government on its own and alone cannot sustainably address it. The role of the private sector in the development space is therefore critical which needs to be channelized, and engaged in a manner that it does not only create wealth and capital to disproportionately benefit the already rich and upper class but must also lead to poverty alleviation and disparity reduction by integrating the poor both as producers and consumers.

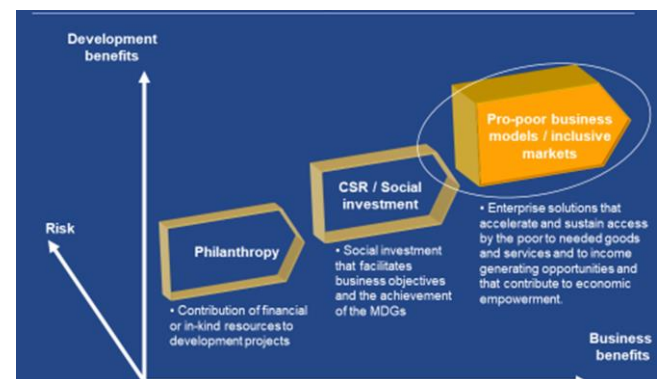
This can only be achieved if the government pursues a conducive development paradigm that stimulates growth of inclusive markets. This should be accompanied by provision of infrastructure, financial services, communication and information technology, electricity and access to clean water, education and basic health services to the low income segments.

In the 70/80'sies, business was not considered a relevant or important player in economic development with poverty reduction problem being exclusively the government's domain. The private businesses would generally be involved in philanthropic activities to

help the poor which had neither big impacts on development nor on business development.

Subsequently, the idea of "Corporate Social Responsibility gained momentum in 1990s, and the first decade of 2000 witnessed businesses carrying out and improving, mostly in a peripheral manner, their social and ecological responsibility. In recent years, however, there is a growing realization that social and environmental factors are not only a means to reduce risk but indeed offer new opportunities for doing business to seize enormous potential of poor segments' markets both in terms of their access to goods, services, work and entrepreneurial ventures through Inclusive Business Models. These models present an enterprise solution that accelerate and sustain access of the poor to needed goods and services as well as income generating activities and economic empowerment. The result is win-win-win situation- businesses benefit (investments directly contributing to core objectives i.s. growth and profits), development benefits (sustainable, economic empowerment of the poor), and revenues (taxes etc.) for the government. The Figure below depicts the evolution of businesses towards inclusive business model.

### Evolution towards Inclusive Business







**Tariq Hussain**  
**Member, Board of Directors**  
 The Shahid Javed Burki Institute  
 of Public Policy at NetSol

## Climate Change and Water Vapors

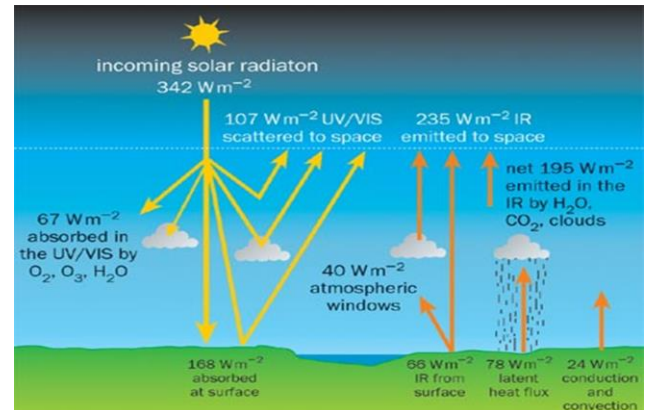
The summer of 2021 was exceptional. In mid-July rain storms in Germany and Belgium dropped eight inches of rain in two days producing flood waters which ripped roads and buildings across European countries in the path of the flood waters. A week later two feet of rain was dumped in the Henan province of China in three days. In mid-August seventeen inches of rain was dumped in Tennessee in twenty-four hours. None of these three events was a hurricane or a tropical depression. The common element in these destructive events was water vapor-lots of it. Water vapor is playing the main role in creating these destructive storms as well as accelerating climate change. As the oceans and the atmosphere warm, additional water evaporates into the air. Warmer air can hold more of that water vapor before it condenses into cloud droplets that can create flooding rains. The amount of water vapor in the atmosphere has increased about four percent globally in the past few decades. This does not sound big, but it is a big deal to the climate system. Physics predicts that warmer air would create more airborne vapor fueling vapor storms. The following table illustrates the relationship between air temperature and absolute **vapor content** of the air.

Temperature - Fahrenheit	Grams of Water Vapor per cubic meter
32	4.8
50	9.3
61	13.5
68	17.2
86	30.1

At 32-degree Fahrenheit the water content is 4.2 grams per cubic meter.

At 86-degree Fahrenheit it is **six times more** at 30.1 grams per cubic meter. So, when it rains, it pours and human built infrastructures are swept away with the attendant human distress.

In addition, water vapor is making global warming worse. Even though carbon dioxide is getting the most attention, water vapor is by far **the most important greenhouse gas** in the atmosphere. It absorbs much more of the infrared energy radiated upward by Earth's surface than do other greenhouse gases, thereby trapping more heat. Unfortunately, we cannot directly control the amount of it in the atmosphere. But it is contributing more to the warming of the earth.



We can only control it indirectly by raining in the warming caused by our emissions of carbon dioxide and methane; and by slowing deforestation since trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air. Since the water vapor feed-back loop is both vicious and is felt NOW by the flood-affected populations it is potentially a more effective lever for influencing climate change policy.

The weak Agreement from COP 26, and from the preceding COPs strongly suggest that the “distant” effects of global warming have not been effective in persuading the political system to act with sufficient strength to try to keep temperature increase below 1.5 degrees.

The floods are affecting humans now. And those effects will increase in intensity in the next year and so on.



**Atr un Nisa**  
**Senior Research Fellow**  
 The Shahid Javed Burki Institute  
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## Omicron- A New Covid Variant

Amidst Covid-19 pandemic many variants have arisen. Some variants have spread around the world and helped to draw out the pandemic, while others have faded away or been supplanted by other variants. Recently, the Delta variant is dominant around the world, but researchers are monitoring other variants of concern, including the currently discovered variant - identified as B.1.1.529 that has been declared a variant of concern by the World Health Organization and assigned the name “Omicron”.

Omicron variant was first discovered in South Africa on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Preliminary tests suggest that it has been spreading rapidly in South Africa and so far, travelled to Botswana and Zimbabwe, as well as in travelers to Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Réunion, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. Britain, Canada, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Portugal and Spain have also reported small numbers of cases in people who did not travel internationally. In the United States, the variant was detected in travelers who returned to California, Colorado and New York from South Africa, and in a Minnesota resident who visited New York City. Hawaii reported a case in a person with no recent travel.

Omicron is a variant with an unusually high number of mutations, or changes in the virus’s genetic material. Health experts and scientists don’t know much about Omicron, including whether it causes more

severe illness than other variants. It may take few weeks to determine its severity, transmissibility and whether it evades current vaccines. Early evidence reveals that the Omicron variant may spread easier than other COVID-19 variants. That is very concerning because Delta, which is the dominant variant in the U.S. and around the world, is already extremely contagious. So, if this is even more contagious, it could displace the Delta variant.

### Current variants of concern

Name	Lineage	Status
<b>Omicron</b>	B.1.1.529	Identified in southern Africa in Nov. 2021.
<b>Delta</b>	B.1.617.2	Emerged in India in late 2020 and spread around the world. Delta carries the L452R spike mutation, among others.
<b>Gamma</b>	P.1	Emerged in Brazil in late 2020.
<b>Beta</b>	B.1.351	Emerged in South Africa in early 2020.
<b>Alpha</b>	B.1.1.7	Emerged in Britain in late 2020.
<b>Source: The New York Times</b>		

We can minimize the risk of Omicron by observing the same things we’ve been doing all along. For instance Get vaccinated (and get a booster if you’re eligible), Get tested if you have symptoms, Wear a well-fitting mask in public places, Choose outdoors over indoors whenever possible, Wash your hands frequently, Practice physical distancing and Disinfect high-touch surfaces.

Now we have to learn to live with the virus, and take a holistic view on the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic on economic, societal, educational, mental health and livelihoods of strategies to dealing with the ongoing pandemic threatens. We have also learnt from mistakes of the past, and be bold in the next steps.



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### What COP26 Gave Us

Greta Thunberg felt cheated again last month, and called the COP26 held at Glasgow nothing more than a PR event. Her angst is towards the world leaders, and major industrial states that have not been honoring their pledges of reducing their carbon footprints and climate change perils for the posterity.

The 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference of Parties (COP26) was held in Scotland, UK for being one of the greenest European cities, from 31 October to 12 November 2021, with the theme of *Net Zero: Make a Plan for our Future*. According to a Carbon Management Plan summary for the UK government, the event was attended by 39,000 delegates, 12,000 more than the last time. Yet, the outcome of this summit garnered mixed reviews.

The meeting was seen as a critical moment for commitments and action after richer nations had failed to rise the \$100bn annual climate funding they had promised to vulnerable countries. Also, the gap to staying below 1.5C loomed large. The discussions revolved around the Paris Agreement “rulebook”, including regulations around carbon markets and regular reporting of climate data by all countries. One outcome of the summit was the “Glasgow Climate Pact” i.e. commitment to doubling adaptation finance and requesting countries to present more ambitious climate pledges next year. Also, a report by a British advisory firm ARUP estimated that the COP26 meeting has been twice as polluting as the previous climate summit, COP25, which was staged in Madrid, with carbon footprint for the UN COP26 being equivalent of 102,500 tons of carbon dioxide.

151 countries had responded by submitting new or updated “nationally determined contributions”

(NDCs) to the UN – including China, just days before COP26 started. Whereas, Algeria, Iran and India, had stopped short in this regard. India in particular announced new targets at COP26, but has so far refused to formally submit them to the UN, along with creating controversy by extending the net-zero carbon emissions deadline for itself to 2070. This means the leaders of today would not be able to seek accountability if the aspirational goal was missed half a decade later. This is a lofty target for a country that is the world’s third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, after China and the US. India also chose to change and dilute the language of the summit by opting to “phase down” rather than “phase out” the use of fossil fuels. Additionally, India along with China and Russia did not become a signatory to neither *Global Methane Pledge* nor *Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forest and Land Use*.

However, some outcomes were positive which are as follows:

1. There were promises, from countries and private-sector actors alike to limit global warming to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels.
2. World governments have understood the need to bring climate change in their national development strategy and develop linkages with all key policy areas e.g. education, agriculture, finance, transport.
3. Unabated use of fossil fuels was addressed- the US and more than 20 other countries agreed to stop financing most new oil and gas projects.
4. The private sector is taking ownership of facilitating energy transition in the economy with focus on finances and innovation e.g. commitments for electric vehicles.
5. Some vulnerable countries forced a discussion on the need for rich countries to provide greater financing for developing countries to adapt to the effects of climate change as well as to pay a form of climate reparations.



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## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Climate Action Plan

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In light of the overseeing of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Government the climate change related expenditures, it is of vital importance how the Government manages the budget from an effective climate change responsiveness plan.

The citizens of KP are exposed to the dangerous climate change hazards not only because of its geographical location but also due to the major increase in international and domestic tourism. The government adheres to the SDGs 2030 and is trying to implement policies that target the rise in temperatures and changing climatic conditions in the region but is it going to sustain if the people of the nation are not educated alongside and made to realize the critical role they play in over exploitation of resources?

Effective climate response requires linking the policy, resources as well as the people. The region where the economy is heavily reliant on tourism, rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns is further going to have a negative impact on the KP region.

Realizing this threat, the government must gauge the domestic climate response. The citizens understanding of the issue is limited. Even though the International non-governmental organizations (INGOS) and government departments are working in collaboration on the Climate Action Plan and almost all provinces have made policies, allocation of financial funds and the adaptability of the people are at the heart of the successful climate action plan.

To curb greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and the Climate Action Plan to be applicable, the government should:

- Introduce responsive, informative, intelligent and educational programs to raise awareness about responsible tourism and climate change.
- A regulatory framework should be made to enforce of a conscious travel routines.
- State should only register those travel and tour operators for business that have added environmental protection techniques in their policies in accordance with the UNWTO travel ethics.
- A fully funded research and development entity related to travel and tourism industry should be established with the mandate to create the mindset of a conscious traveler to sustain the implemented policies for climate action. The R&D entity should also be able to surveil responsible tourism.
- At the household level, people need to be sensitized to adopt sustainable and responsible mediums of habitat.
- Respect for culture, space and environment should form a part of school curriculum and adult teaching programs to nurture responsible tourism and sustainable development goals.

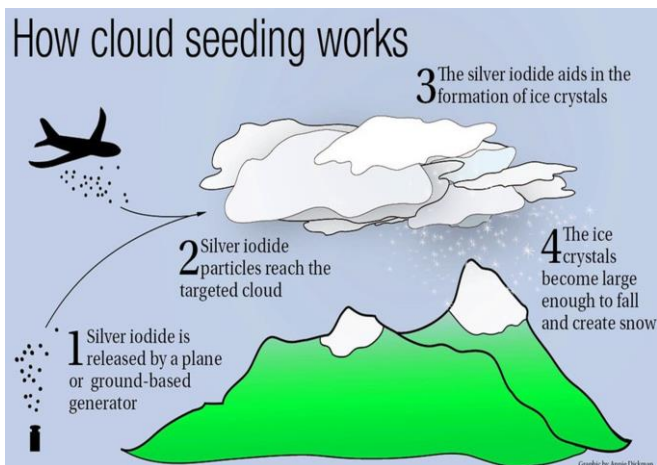




**Mamonah Sattar**  
**Research Intern**  
 The Shahid Javed Burki Institute  
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## Combating Smog through Artificial Rain

Smog has been gripping Pakistan's provincial capital Lahore for the last several weeks. Punjab University's (PU) Centre for Integrated Mountain Research on countering smog, has set to carry out an experiment of artificial rain for the first time in the history<sup>1</sup>. The experiment will take place in an area of one square kilometer of Khanspur mountainous area. Artificial rain will be carried out through cloud seeding, a process adopted to overcome hot weather, drought and air pollution.



Cloud seeding is a technique for weather modification that improves a cloud's ability to produce rain or snow artificially by adding condensed nuclei to the atmosphere, providing a base for snowflakes or raindrops to form. The three techniques of artificial rain are salt sprinkling, electric charge infusion and infrared laser pulses. Met department in similar footsteps will adopt the international procedure of salt sprinkling on clouds. One needs to understand that

these are typical type of clouds that can be seeded, which will grow vertically. They are called convective clouds, while the other clouds are horizontal-stratified clouds, and cannot be seeded<sup>2</sup>.

Countries like US, China, India, UAE and Thailand have adopted multiple techniques of cloud seeding for artificial rains in order to counter their climate issues. India experimented artificial rain first in 1980s, and is still using the same technique for three decades. Indian cities e.g. Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, Kanpur, Delhi, and Lucknow are amongst the exceedingly polluted cities of the world. However, among others, China is a natural contender and a world's leading cloud-seeder because of its high levels of air pollution- with Hotan, Kashgar, Anyang, Puyang and Handan making it to the World's Most Polluted Cities List 2020 of IQ Air- and acute shortage of water<sup>3</sup>. Pakistan being partner to China in CPEC can also benefit in countering climate challenges by experimenting with the Chinese techniques.

Artificial rain will be a newer phenomenon that is being adopted by the climate regulatory authorities in Pakistan, but this too is a temporary solution. Silver iodides salts are toxic and there is evidence that cloud seeding damages marine life as well. The research institutes and regulatory authorities in Pakistan need to look into greener alternatives to counter smog, which also includes mechanism that facilitates public transport to decrease excessive traffic, environment friendly vehicles, prohibiting the bricks kilns, and long term management of climate problems. It is high time that Pakistan's government take notice and actions for the mitigation of smog.

<sup>1</sup> "Artificial Rain Planned to Fight Smog," The Express Tribune, last modified November 10, 2021, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2328822/artificial-rain-planned-to-fight-smog>.

<sup>2</sup> "Vajiram IAS App for UPSC Aspirants," UPSC Daily Current Affairs, last modified March 11, 2019, <https://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/cloud-seeding/5c862d5c1d5def18d99ed610/>.

<sup>3</sup> Gwynn Guilford, "China Creates 55 Billion Tons of Artificial Rain a Year—and It Plans to Quintuple That," Quartz, last modified October 22, 2013, <https://qz.com/138141/china-creates-55-billion-tons-of-artificial-rain-a-year-and-it-plans-to-quintuple-that/>.



**Hasnain Awan**  
**Research Intern**

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## Delivering Economic Equity in Southern Punjab

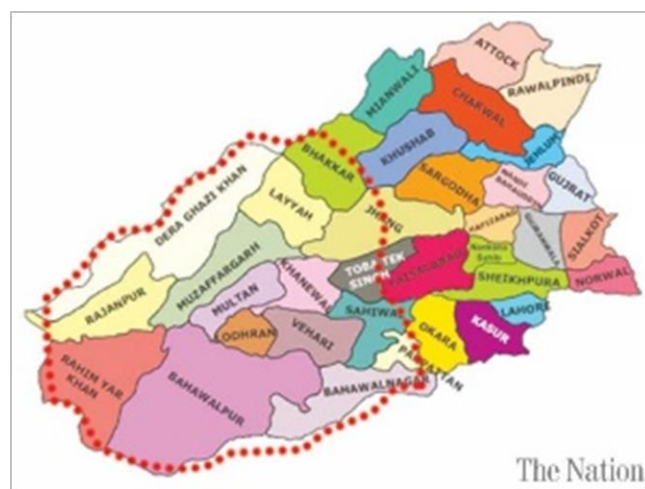
Socio-economic deprivation is a burning issue of Southern Punjab. It is highly important to understand the socio-political set up of the region than the region itself to locate the roots of deprivations among 39.14 million<sup>1</sup> people.

Economic inequality between Saraiki region and the rest of Punjab is the key factor behind the material deprivation of South and is constructing a socio-economically alienated Saraiki identity under the umbrella of socio-political and cultural circumstances.<sup>2</sup> Social marginalization is associated with social exclusion from development which is characterized by multi-dimensional poverty, gender and language discrimination, and is resulting in sense of injustice, isolation, and radicalization amongst the youth. The deprived South is getting 35 percent<sup>3</sup> of the total Annual Development Program (ADP) of the province but issue is the under-allocation and fictitious disbursement of funds for social development of the wasaib (saraiki reference to the south). This 35 percent of total sum is just a fancy number for securing the vote bank in the socially backward region. It is still neither enough for this region nor is it a treatment of chronically felt alienation in Southern Punjab.<sup>4</sup>

Many Saraiki nationalists argue that there is an urgent need to bridge the gap between cultural and economic deficits of the region with a quest for a separate province. There lie two major arguments in the quadrant of demand e.g., division for equal economic resources distribution, and division for social recognition. This inevitability is due to its large size

and the issues of administration and local governance within the province. Rather than purely ethnic, the movement for making Southern Punjab a province primarily aims at economic justice and improved administration; therefore, the proponents of the new province will have to work hard in order to develop the region and to achieve economic stability and sustainability.<sup>5</sup>

Would it not be more fruitful if the government considers the division of Punjab into two regions on the basis of operational, governance and administrative needs and also works collaboratively with proponents of the new province to develop the region and to achieve economic sustainability?



*Image source: The Nation, 06 May 2012/ South Punjab: larger in size, less in population*

<sup>1</sup> SME Business Facilitation Centre (SMEBFC) Multan

<sup>2</sup> Muhammad A. Z. Mughal (2020) Ethnicity, marginalization, and politics: Saraiki identity and the quest for a new Southern Punjab province in Pakistan, *Asian Journal of Political Science*, 28:3, 294-311, DOI: 10.1080/02185377.2020.1814360

<sup>3</sup> Hussain, K., 2021. 35 per cent of ADP goes to south Punjab. *The Dawn*, [online] Available at: <<https://www.dawn.com/news/1629370>> [Accessed 19 November 2021].

<sup>4</sup> Langah, N. T. (2011). Call for Siraiki province. In *Ottawa and Islamabad: Forum of Federations and Centre for Civic Education Pakistan*.

<sup>5</sup> Muhammad A. Z. Mughal (2020) Ethnicity, marginalization, and politics: Saraiki identity and the quest for a new Southern Punjab province in Pakistan, *Asian Journal of Political Science*, 28:3, 294-311, DOI: 10.1080/02185377.2020.1814360



**Samra Naz**  
**Assistant Manager IT/  
Knowledge Management**  
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute  
of Public Policy at NetSol

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 11th October 2021 between The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP), and Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS) on the visit of Prof. Dr. Waqar Mahmood (Director KICS) to the BIPP office.

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation between the Parties, in the areas of mutual interest on a non-exclusive basis especially relating to research, development, and dissemination of knowledge in the Research and Development and to promote industry-academia collaboration in Pakistan under Triple Helix Model and establish the innovative capacities of local industries and advance industry-driven research and innovation.



A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) and the School of Strategic Studies (SSS) on Monday, 18th October 2021.

The document was duly endorsed with the signatures of Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu (Director, Operations, Education and Learning BIPP) and Dr. Naveed Elahi (Chairman SSS). The purpose of this MOU is to modulate a framework of cooperation between the Parties, in the areas of mutual interest. Additionally, cooperative initiatives and exchanges particularly in areas of Education, R&D, Training and Development, Food Security, Women and Children security, Climate Change, Policing, and Security Strategy will be encouraged.



The second phase of Khalid Sherdil Scholarship Program (KSSP) started on 17th September 2021 and BIPP received around 345 applications in this cycle from students either currently enrolled in 1st semester or to be enrolled in an undergraduate program fall session 2021, in an HEC accredited institute or



university of Punjab province.

The shortlisted deserving students had come for the test and interviews from far flung areas i.e., Gilgit, Taunsa, Jaffarabad (Balochistan), Mardan Nankana Sahib and ; etc. in the pursuit of their dreams to win a scholarship and acquire education in diverse fields such as political science, microbiology, psychology, and computer/software engineering. BIPP is in process of final shortlisting and soon will announce the list of students selected for scholarship.



On 2nd December 2021, the launching ceremony of the BIPP's 14th Annual Report, "The State of the Economy: Changing World- Pakistan Reset" was held at The Lahore Chamber Commerce and Industries (LCCI).

Mr. Noman Kabir, President LCCI presided over the event which was attended by eminent scholars, researchers, members of the academia, and prominent citizens.



Lt Gen. (Retd) Gulam Mustafa, renowned security analyst and Prof. Dr. Javed Akram (Vice Chancellor University of Health Sciences) provided their invaluable appraisal of the Annual Report.





Following the welcome and the opening remarks by Mr. Shahid Najam, Dr. Farrukh Iqbal, the former Executive Director of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi provided an appraisal of the economy and while dwelling on the major challenges of current account deficit, balance of payment, enormous debt burden and the rising incidence of inflation, noted that with the macro-economic measures being pursued by the government and the commendable management of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are visible signs for the positive growth of the economy in the long run. Ms. Aiman Adnan, Research Fellow- BIPP thereafter presented the gist, key findings and recommendations of the report. This was followed by an active Q & A session. The launch ceremony came to a close with remarks of gratitude by the President of LCCI and Mr. Shahid Najam. It may be added that BIPP in its Report “The State of the Economy: Changing World -Pakistan Reset” has provided an objective overview of the economic situation of Pakistan and the pathway ahead in the wake of geo strategic/geo political and geo economic dynamic in the region and pursuant to the consecutive waves of the Covid-19 pandemic. It highlights the need for Pakistan to “Reset” to be able to respond effectively to the emerging challenges both nationally and globally given its geo-strategic location.

The major issues covered by the report include: the evolving situation in Afghanistan and possible repercussions for Pakistan, the state of S&T governance in the country, the rising trade deficit, agriculture-food-health nexus, significance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and the COVID-19 pandemic impact on economic and social sectors including a fundamental shift in the traditional context of decision- making and management.





## Mission Statement

BIPP's mission is to improve the welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive, people-centered growth with equity, political stability and sustainable development besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration of the country. BIPP primary areas of interest encompass social, economic, environmental and political development and security, trade and foreign policy-related issues.

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