



## Editorial



Another year, another chance to improve ourselves individually and collectively, think positive and keep testing negative. Covid-19 has cumbersome effects on our daily lives, mental wellbeing and economies around the world. Entering a new year, we wish this to be a splendid year for everyone around the globe.

**Wishing everyone a pleasant and successful 2021. Happy New Year!**

Talking about how Covid-19 has affected the economies for the worse, we have seen silence in the cities that never slept, we have seen the roads calm and streets empty, finding the silver lining of it we have witnessed the sky more blue and water more clear just because the urban business was halted; the environment blossomed. Why can't this be the new normal? Why can't we try to make our environment clean and less noisy by, may be, promoting less cars on the roads and more public transport in order to lessen the pollution and congestion. More cars on the roads make it hard for the walking majority, making urban life difficult for the poor. The less congested roads always extend the city experience. The more public transport on roads makes economic as well as environmental sense.

Multiple housing societies and single unit houses have also added to the congestion of the cities and increased the urban sprawl unknowingly. The master plans for the cities have mostly failed as they were made with "in the present" scenario, thus failing to forecast future of the cities. We really need to go back and revisit those plans and make changes NOW in order to survive and make cities and urbanization an experience to cherish and boost economy rather burdening it.

The PIDE P&R this month is focusing on what is wrong with the cities and what is to be done. Let us not forget that cities were made for the ease of humans, but they have taken another shape. In this issue, key thinkers and researchers in the field shed light on the multifaceted issues in Pakistan's urban development. It is an attempt to enlighten citizens and communicate to the policymakers, what good cities and urbanization have to offer. "I have an affection for a great city. I feel safe in the neighbourhood of man, and enjoy the sweet security of the streets"