

# MULTAN DECLARATION

## Siraiki Lok Saanjh

We, the silenced voices of Siraiki Wasaib - students, journalists, lawyers, intellectuals, artists, activists, and the dispossessed-gather here in Multan not as petitioners but as witnesses to a slow, systematic erasure. This is not merely a protest; it is an unmasking of the violence done through Punjab's internal colonialism, masked by the language of "development" and "unity." Since our region was merged into Punjab in the mid-19th century, we've seen endless land-grabs, resource extraction, denial of autonomy, and complete neglect in employment and human development.

The colonial gaze didn't end with the British - it changed form. Punjab inherited that role and now enacts its own assault. Our land, rich in water, culture, and resources, has been turned into a sacrifice zone - exploited to fuel Lahore's shine while our children suffer. The British extracted; Punjab extracts and erases. Punjab's so-called development is a spectacle of humiliation. As Lahore thrives with metros and smart cities, we are left among the ruins of our ancient civilization. The 2025-26 budget is not about inclusion; it is a manifesto of exclusion - a clear reminder that Siraiki Wasaib exists only to be mined, drained, and forgotten.

**Wasaib Vanj Seminar, Multan**

**June 22, 2025**

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### Issues

If constituted today, a Siraiki province would get 17.99 percent of the NFC pool, around Rs 1,500 billion every year, to invest in our hospitals, schools, and irrigation instead of feeding North and Central Punjab. But the Punjab government under Maryam Nawaz has reversed even the limited autonomy of 2019. The South Punjab Secretariat has no powers, and the promised 35 percent ADP share has disappeared into vague Punjab-wide projects.

In the 2024-25 budget, only Rs 34 billion of Rs 842 billion is traceable to Siraiki Wasaib. It should have been at least Rs 294 billion. Our region has one-third of Punjab's population but only 29 percent of hospital beds and 16 percent of healthcare funds. In the 2025-26 budget, a child in Lahore gets Rs 4,200 for schooling. A child in D G Khan gets zero.

The transparency under Usman Buzdar is gone. No separate ADP volume, no district-tagged schemes. Citizens are filing RTIs just to know their rights. This proves that without a constitutionally recognised Siraiki province, our development will always depend on Lahore's mercy.

This is not just economic injustice but cultural genocide. Punjab's hegemony has erased Siraiki identity since 1955. It gave away our river in 1960 and robs Sindh and Balochistan of gas to fuel its industries. Punjab is the oversized belly fed at the cost of others.

We reject Punjab's control over our future. It must be divided. Only a Siraiki province can guarantee justice, decentralisation, and dignity. To Sindh, Balochistan and Pakhtunkhwa — your chains are ours. This is a joint struggle against centralized oppression.

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### 6 Demands

- Central Punjab's monopoly over federal and provincial decision making must be cut to its proper size.
- Immediate steps should be taken to create the Siraiki province—complete with its own elected assembly, transparent budgeting and its rightful share of NFC award (Which is presently Rs 1500 billion).
- During the run up to establishing Siraiki province, The South Punjab Secretariat in Multan must be restored.
- All languages of Pakistan must be declared National Languages and primary education in mother tongue be made mandatory.
- Budgetary Accountability and Transparency: Punjab Government must allocate the promised ring-fenced 35% of its Annual Development Plan (ADP) to the 14 Siraiki districts and transparently declare district-tagged schemes in a separate South Punjab ADP as per previous government's practice.
- In case of any future water negotiations, Pakistan must prioritize reclaiming Sutlej River and rehabilitating agricultural/ irrigation networks around it that historically irrigated the Bahawalpur region.

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# سرائیکی لوک سانجھ سیمینار

پریس کلب ملتان

22 جون 2025

1. سنٹرل پنجاب، 76 سالین دے آپ موہار تھیون دے وتیرے کون بدلے۔ آئے میچے وچ راوھے۔ پنجاب سرکار، صوبئیں۔ دی اتیں ملک۔ پاکستان دی عملداری۔ پالیسی۔ سٹریٹیجی اتیں کرتن۔ ایڈمنسٹریشن دئیں معاملیں وچ، آپنا پیر پچھوہاں کرے۔ آئے میچے پاڑے وچ راوھے۔
2. سرائکی صوے دی ترت اوسرائت ؛ صوے دی آپٹی نوکلی سوبائی اسمبلی، انجھ بجٹ (اچوک موجب 1500 بلیئن)، نویکلے صوبائی سرکاری 'ویبھاگ۔ محکمے'، صوے دی 'بئیند۔ مدت' کیتے 'سرائکی صوبہ سیکریٹیریٹ' دی جوڑت
3. پاکستان دئیں سارئیں دھرتیل زبانیں دی منوت اتیں سکشا۔ ویدیا/ لینگوئج ڈیولپمنٹ۔ ملکی نرمائٹ دے سگویی آرٹیکل وچ اے گالھیں۔ متے حکمن اکھرئیت ہووین: اجو وستی۔ دیہات تیں چماندل پاکستان دیاں ساریاں زبانان قومی زبانان ہن؛ قومی۔ مادری زبانیں دا 'نانواں۔ پنا۔ لسٹ'؛ مادری زبانیں وچ شکشا؛ مادری زبانیں دی سکشا، اتیں مادری زبانیں وچ میڈیا الائٹ۔
4. بجٹ۔ روکڑا۔ پکش: بجٹ دا 'ویپی کھاتہ' ؛ حساب گنتر، نشابری، ولداگیری ؛ پنجاب سرکار دا، سرائکی وسیب دے 14 ضلعیاں کیتے متھیا۔ طے تھیئا 35% 'سالانہ ڈیولپمنٹ پلان' ڈیکھلائٹ۔ نشابر۔ اکھرئیت۔ الائٹ ہووے۔
5. اگائت وچ، پاکستان سرکار پاٹی دے ایشوز: دریا ستلج دی وہیند، راہی۔ واہی جوگی آبپاشی دی گزریل ریت۔ سسٹمز، اتیں خاصکر بہاولپور ریجن دے حقوق دی سدھی تیں سودھی الائٹ تیں اکھرئیت کرے۔
6. اگائت وچ، جیکر۔ جڈاں وی پاٹی دے موددے تیں ڈوملکی، یا ودھ۔ ملکی گالھ۔ موہاڑ تھیوے، پاکستان، دریا ستلج دی ولیج۔ بحالی اتیں بہاولپور دی نہر۔ کاری اتیں سیرابی کون اول گئے۔