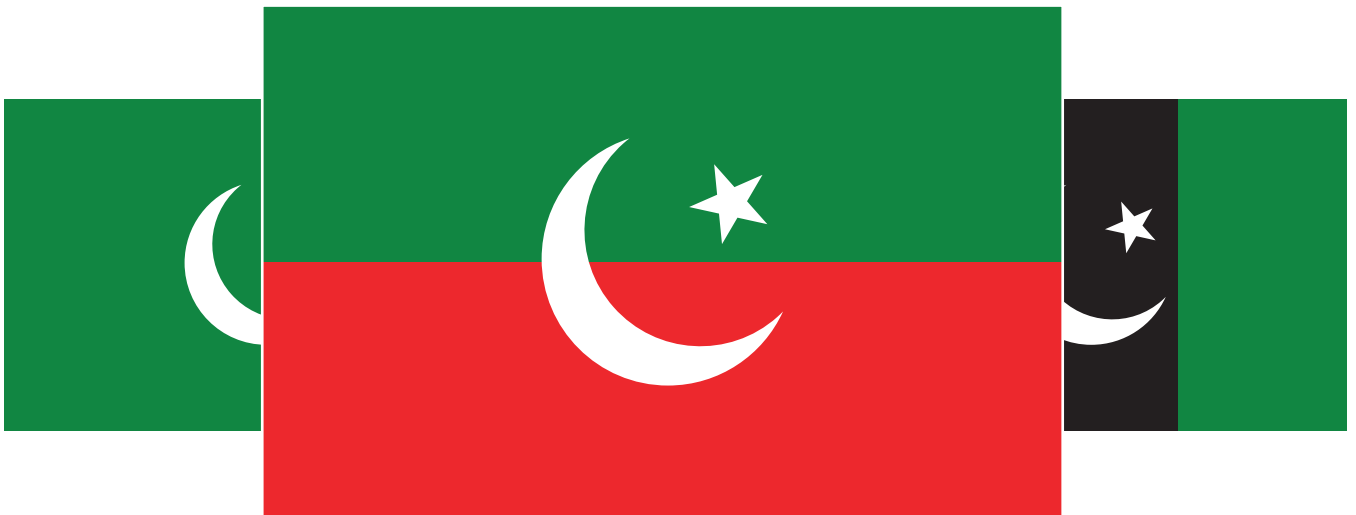




# NEWSLETTER

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August 2018



## About the Common Man Initiative

Common Man Initiative is a non-profit organization which aims to highlight the issues of the common man. Our goal is to understand why and how the needs of the common man are not being catered to due to a lack of efficient governance, policy implementation and a sound legal and judicial system.

The organization aims to provide a platform to the common man where they can voice the issues that they face; issues which are often dismissed by the State, amidst personal political and social motives. Issues which need to be brought forward, voices which need to be incorporated in the governance

## Editor's Note

For decades, Pakistan's global image has been tarnished due to the ever deteriorating, social, economic, and political situation. The 'common man' has taken the brunt of the regression that the country has been experiencing for the past few decades, and suffered the most.

The last military regime in Pakistan ended in 2008 that brought the two "democratic governments" to power. The common man expected this democratic dispensation to transform the society into an environment of peace, stability and progress. This unfortunately did not happen as the country has been caught in the quagmire of corruption, bad governance and poverty. Once again, the common man is facing a similar situation, deprived from his right to contribute to the narrative that forms the policies of the State.

A conversation with a house helper, reiterated this harsh reality. A day before the election, I asked her who she would vote for? Her answer was, "What's the point? It doesn't matter who wins, I will be sweeping the floors as I always have".

Would this change of those in power and creation of the "Naya Pakistan" help change the course of

and policy dialogue of the State and, the common man, who needs representation in order to reshape the relevant public policy narrative.

CMI's overarching goal is to present policy alternatives for a secure and prosperous Pakistan. To this end, CMI shall identify and highlight fundamental governance issues affecting the common man, in order to restructure pertinent State policies. Particularly, through a series of publications, outreach programs, academic collaborations and institutional alliances, CMI intends to present actionable ideas for implementation by private and public institutions.

destiny for the common man? Will the adversities faced by the **common man** be addressed? Will they ever be given hopes of achieving more? Will the new government help create a better State for the common man with better international standing? Although most of these questions will be answered with time only, our newsletter illustrates an analysis that might give us an insight on what we can expect.

The team at CMI hopes that you will appreciate our efforts and join us in our quest towards a prosperous, democratic and flourishing state of Pakistan. In particular, we request you to engage with our ongoing Water Campaign that aims to raise awareness regarding conservation of water resources, and propose measures for efficient utilization of water in the country.

For further information please visit CMI's website and Facebook page.

If you have any questions, feedback or suggestions, please feel free to contact us.

Zoya Rao

## Election Report



The 2018 General Elections have served as a watershed moment in the political history of Pakistan. For the first time, over the past seventy years, a political party other than (some faction of) the Muslim League or the Pakistan Peoples' Party has been democratically elected to form its government in the federation as well as (two) provinces.

Even more importantly, entrenched symbols of status quo political elite have been entirely uprooted from their traditional constituencies – evidenced in Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's loss from Lyari, and the loss of Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, Asfandiyar Wali Khan, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Siraj ul Haq, and Farooq Sattar from their home constituencies. In fact, there has been no election, since 1985, in which all of these individuals simultaneously lost their respective constituencies.

There has been tremendous speculation (even conspiracy theories) about the reasons behind such paradigm-shift in the electoral results of Pakistan.

While the losing political forces have alleged (pre-poll) rigging, independent EU observers have declared this election to be "credible" and "better" than 2013 General Elections. In the circumstances, the unprecedented results of 2018 General Elections can most likely be attributed to a more fundamental shift in the electoral choices of the participating voters.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning that a larger fraction of 'young' voters (less than 30 years old) participated in the 2018 General Elections compared to any other elections in Pakistan's history. Also, importantly, the 2018 General Elections were conducted in the shadow of Panama leaks and the ensuing verdict of the honorable Supreme Court, against Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Consequently, for the first time in recent history, all electoral campaigns were structured around the debate concerning financial corruption and accountability.

As such, the voters' choice seem to reflect a bend towards candidates who do not have historical baggage of corrupt governance. In fact, several heavyweights within Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf, who had tainted political legacies, also lost their respective seats.

This focus on financial accountability and good governance bodes well for the common man. It is hoped that the new political paradigm will focus its energies on alleviating the plight of the common man by concentrating on human development projects (as has been promised by Imran Khan, the Prime Minister in waiting).

CMI will continue its tireless efforts in highlighting the challenges concerning the common man, with an aim of identifying issues that require specific governmental and policy focus.

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## CMI Water Campaign – August 2018

### Each Drop Counts!



The past few months have seen an important issue come to the public's notice. Outcries of 'Pakistan could run dry by 2025' have finally been heard and are being taken seriously. To say that the issue of water shortage in our country should be our utmost concern is an understatement.

Various reports and articles have warned Pakistan of the extremely distressing situation. According to IMF (International Monetary Fund), Pakistan ranks **third** in the world, among countries facing **acute** water shortage. Reports by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) predict an equally distressing situation for Pakistan. Analysts have termed the scarcity of water as "posing a bigger threat to Pakistan than terrorism" (report by DW).

The causes that have led us to this extremely worrisome situation are numerous. Although climate change is a major cause; the situation has been worsened by a lack of water management. Water politics, mismanagement, depletion of natural resources, urbanization, population growth, water **wastage** and lack of policies to address the situation, have all played their part in bringing the country to the brink of 'running dry'.

Highlighting **why** water is important and why we **all** need to take steps to ensure that what we preserve is as important as it is obvious. Because no

matter how many dams are built, how many policies are formed, unless and until we, as the citizens of this country, realize the need of saving water, and start **acting** upon it, all the efforts by the State are futile. Understanding **why** we need to do this is easy. Water is a basic human necessity. It is also important for our Country as a whole, as it is for an individual.

To further spread awareness around the issue of **water crisis** and invoke a sense of social responsibility and awareness, CMI is launching its second campaign for water preservation - "Each Drop Counts". The initiative will comprise of awareness campaigns and activities that can enable the cause.

To kick-start the project you can conduct an activity to save water in your personal capacity, such as using a bucket of water to wash a car. Share your picture with your name, city and **#EDCCMI**, on your social media page; you will then be featured on CMI's social media; Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. This can help raise awareness among **your** social circle, and encourage others to begin activities in their own personal capacity to conserve water and contribute towards saving water. To be a part of CMI's campaign or contribute otherwise, please contact us. We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions.

## Launch Event at UCP – CMI's First Core Publications

What are the rights of the citizens of Pakistan? How is the Government responsible for providing quality and free education across all Provinces of the Country? How should these Provinces be governed? Does the country require further reforms for better governance at the district level and below? What are the faults within the administrative and legal frameworks of the Country that fail to incorporate the 'will of the people'?

These, and many other questions were discussed, analyzed and answered at the launch event of the first quarterly publication of Common Man Initiative (CMI).

The event was hosted by University of Central Punjab (UCP) on the 12th of July, 2018. Notable speakers consisted of, former IGP Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed, Ms. Fatima tu Zahra, Associate Director CMI, Mr. Sami Khan, an expert in the field of public policy, and Ms. Zainab Shahid who is pursuing her L.L.B

degree and working as a Research Associate at Lahore University of Management Sciences.

CMI conducted a successful and an interactive seminar at UCP where the speakers presented their papers and responded to the questions of the audience. It was refreshing to see the students take a keen interest in the policy issues of the country; their constructive comments and analyses proved to be invoking and inspiring. The seminar turned out to be a huge success as the debates and discussions formulated were exactly what the organization had envisioned and hoped for.

CMI would like to acknowledge the efforts of the UCP faculty and its students. Especially, the Dean, head of the Student Affairs Department, Director Tahir Ashfaq and the professors who attended the event and added value to it, by giving thoughtful and constructive feedback.





