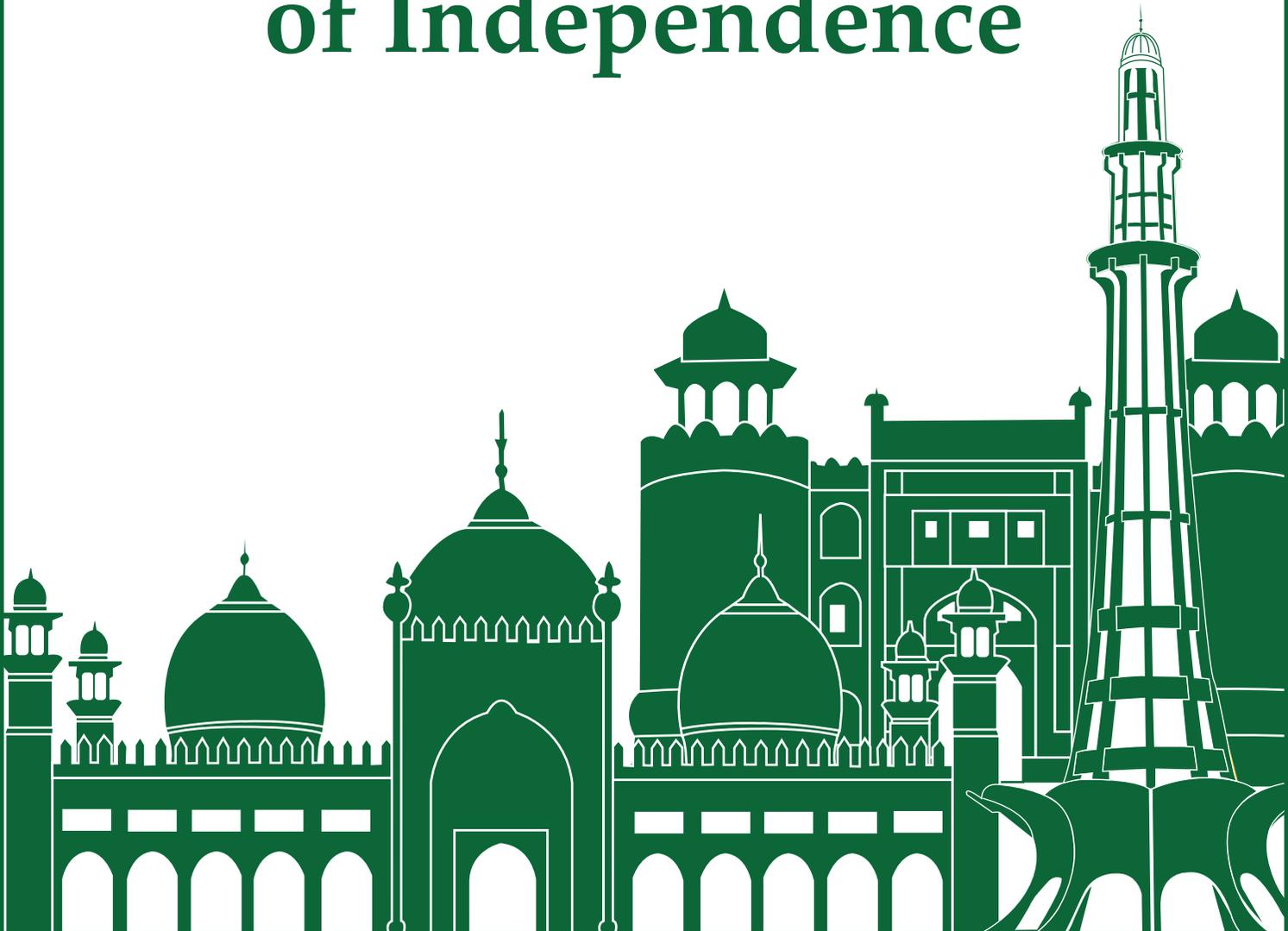




# NEWSLETTER

September 2018

## Celebrating 71 Years of Independence



# About the Common Man Initiative

Common Man Initiative is a non-profit organization that 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 that 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 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.

## Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

After years of struggle, the common man of our country has high hopes for a strong, corruption-free, progressive and secure Pakistan, as promised by Imran Khan with regards to the "Naya Pakistan" mandate. During the past years, our country and every common man of Pakistan has faced issues concerning the economy, environment, water infrastructure, health and education services, and internal security. The promised version of "Naya Pakistan" is presumed to reform the framework of state institutions towards increased transparency and accountability.

On the 14th of August 2018, Pakistan celebrated its 71st anniversary of Independence in full swing. The main flag-hoisting ceremony in Lahore was held at Hazoori Bagh, near the Lahore Fort, where a large number of school children sang national songs in high spirits. Special stalls with national flags, bunting, badges, caps, t-shirts, stickers and other decorative items were set up everywhere in the city.

In addition to the recent developments in our political landscape, the former Prime Minister appeared before the accountability courts, whereas, on the other hand, members of a new Parliament took oath of office, a new Prime Minister (Imran Khan) sworn in, new cabinets were formed (at the Federal and Provincial level), establishing a new sense of promise and commitment towards our motherland!

I am glad to see that the common man of our nation has actively voiced his opinions, by utilizing the power of vote, towards achieving solutions to Pakistan's multi-faceted issues. To facilitate this positive wave of change after the General Elections 2018, and to work towards encouraging public awareness and social responsibility, CMI is actively organizing several campaigns and initiatives. This newsletter aims to further contribute towards the welfare of the common man, and make a difference!

In the last month, CMI published a report on the General Elections 2018 and started the Each Drop Counts (EDC) campaign, to raise awareness regarding conservation of water resources, in Pakistan.

The team at CMI hopes that you will appreciate the efforts and join us in our journey towards a prosperous, democratic and flourishing state. In addition to the same, we wish to continue these efforts and contributions for a better Pakistan. Particularly, CMI requests you to engage with our ongoing Water campaign and "Selfie for a Cause".

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

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

Zoya Rao

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## Naya Pakistan : "First 100 days"

Earlier this year, in May, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) released its agenda for the 'first 100 days' if they are voted into power.

The agenda was divided into six broad themes: **transformation of governance, strengthening the federation, economic growth, uplift of agriculture and conservation of water, revolutionizing social services, and ensuring national security.**

### Transformation of Governance

PTI prioritized transformation of governance on its agenda. Mr. Imran Khan, through his speeches, has reiterated the need for across the board accountability. Mr. Khan and his party seek to ensure this transformation with the aid of, inter alia, a fully functional, independent, and autonomous NAB.

Pakistan has had its 'more than a fair share' of corrupt politicians, bureaucracy, businessmen and other elements of vested interests; money that could have been used for the emancipation of the masses has been stashed away in foreign lands. By establishing a special task force, the next government pledges to recover wealth for the alleviation of poverty and national debt reduction.

For the 'common man', PTI has promised representation by way of devolution, down to the village level, based on their model in Khyber Pakhtunkwa, and justice, by way of judicial reforms and depoliticizing the police. The implementation of these ideas is contingent to civil service reforms: by appointing suitable officers in the federal bureaucracy on merit, ensuring tenure protection and accountability mechanisms, PTI seeks to actualize their goals.

### Strengthening the Federation

Pakistan has faced criticism for being a fragmented society. Residing in one country, its people are divided on the lines of race, religion, culture, and geography. PTI believes that integration of FATA, creation of South Punjab, reconciliation of Balochistan presents a way forward; as development projects aimed at poverty alleviation will translate into a stronger Federation. These also close in on the gap created by years of neglect, estrangement and lack of representation.

### Economic Growth

Pakistan's economy is in need of a dire uplift. Depleting foreign reserves, poor tax to GDP ratio and high foreign debts, are just some of the reasons for Pakistan's debilitated economy. PTI has prepared a ten point economic plan to tackle these changes. Notable mentions include a Job Creation Strategy, tax reduction for SMEs, Labour Policy to safeguard worker rights, a Prime

Minister's Housing Scheme, and boosting the tourism industry.

### Agriculture and Water Conservation

Agriculture – Pakistan's crown jewel, contributes to almost 24% to Pakistan's economy. PTI intends to impose an "agricultural emergency" to increase farmer profitability. However, the claim of maintaining a viable agro-based economy, in absence of water, will remain to be a hollow ambition, unless the water crisis is solved. To this end, Mr. Khan plans to upgrade and implement a National Water Policy. PTI seeks to prioritize the construction of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam, and complete it by 2028.

### Revolutionizing the Social Services

A thorough reform of social services, in Pakistan, is a fundamental element of Imran Khan's agenda. PTI will retain the BISP Card and, additionally, Sehat Insaf Card will be provided to the deserving families. A step-by-step plan will be laid out, to depoliticize the Health and Education services.

### National Security

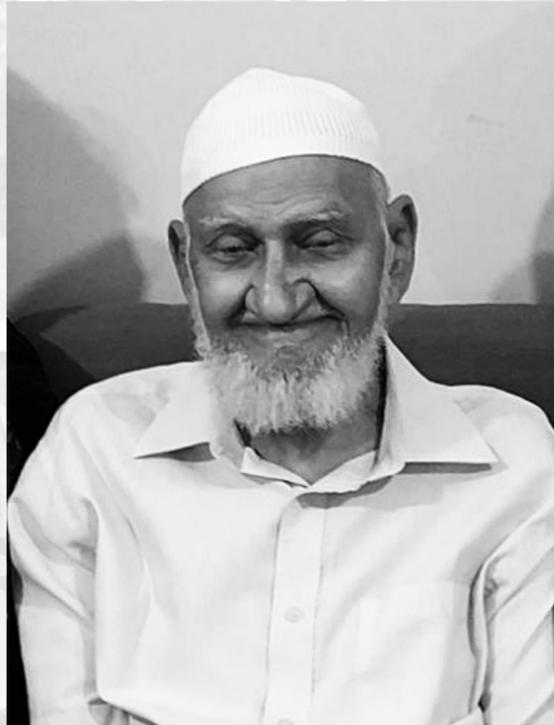
Forming an effective foreign policy, healing frayed relations with key international players, and promoting peace, both externally and internally, would require the next government's undivided attention. PTI proposes the formation of a National Security Organization. Internally, PTI will adopt the policy to "Expose, Enforce, Eliminate and Educate". They plan on curtailing the spread of extremist ideologies by restructuring the syllabi of mainstream madrassas. Externally, a conflict resolution policy will be initiated to promote peace in the region.

Mr. Khan, during his post elections address to the nation on 26th July, also emphasized on improving diplomatic relations with India. Furthermore, foreign relations will be utilized to bolster Pakistan's economy. This will be achieved by cooperation between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Asad Umar, at the first official press conference said that the first 100 days would not see a decision that would change the destiny of the nation, but a clear direction on what "we promised and where we are headed for stock-taking".

## Common Man Story - Waris Ali

...“We must sink individualism and petty jealousies and make up our minds to serve the people with honesty and faithfulness. We are passing through a period of fear, danger, and menace. We must have faith, unity, and discipline” ...



As we move forward with a new government and a sense of rejuvenated patriotism, it is important to revisit the ideologies Pakistan was incepted upon and appreciate the struggles undertaken for the creation of an independent State. The sentiments and hardships of the people during 1947 are unimaginable. We, at CMI, were lucky enough to hear the story of independence from someone who went through the experience himself. Our team interviewed Mr. Waris Ali (who is he? His designation, city etc.). Born in 1930, he was seventeen years old when he witnessed the creation of Pakistan. In 1947, he migrated to Lahore from Delhi. Detailed below is his inspiring narration of the events of 1947 and his hopes from the future.

### What was the scenario like, before 1947?

As the subcontinent neared partition, riots started erupting across the land. People who had previously lived together in harmony, were suddenly sworn enemies of each other. At the time I was living in Delhi; our house was called Chatta Khan Ali Khan. I was seventeen years old and was sure that the partition had become a necessity, in light of the increasing tensions between the Hindus and the Muslims. In 1946, news reached us of the Noakhali riots. These had erupted just days after Eid ul-Fitr, in Bengal. There were attacks against Muslims and soon the Muslims retaliated. What followed was a series of murders, brawls, looting and arson. The riots spread to the United Provinces, and in November 1946, when in a riot in Garhmukteshwar, Hindu pilgrims attacked Muslims; the death toll reached thousands.

### When traveling to Pakistan, what difficulties did you face?

Through Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's efforts, Pakistan, even before it came in to being, had a national airline, Orient Airways. Orient Airways had three Douglas DC-3 aircrafts in possession which were used for relief missions to move refugees from India to Pakistan, in 1947. My father, Asghar Ali, on the eve of the 14th August, 1947 rushed us out of our haveli, we were fortunate enough to get a place on one of the flights. The planes did not have seats as modern aircrafts do now. We, like many others, with our meager belongings sat on the floor of the aircraft, thinking of new beginnings, in a new country.

### Do you remember any migration stories you heard from other people?

1947 saw the biggest migration in human history. Of the millions that migrated, what everyone experienced was beyond words. I remember my cousin's experience, who narrated it to me, when we met in Pakistan. After migrating to Pakistan, he had settled in Lahore. They thought of using the train to leave Delhi. However, news of the attacks reached them in time, the passengers were attacked by Sikhs and taken away; they were outraged that Punjab was being split into two. My Uncle opted to use a bus. After maghrib they left their house, to set out for Pakistan. The bus journey did not start until later in the night because there were reports of violence on the route towards Pakistan. Hiding between the luggage, on the roof of the bus, they finally reached Lahore. They got off at Model Town, which was too far from the city at that time. Back then, there was only one bus that would go from Model Town, to what is now, the Old City. Hence, they decided to settle in Santnagar.

### What were your hopes and expectations for Pakistan?

Pakistan was supposed to be a land of freedom. A place where the rights of individuals were guaranteed. Jinnah in his speeches had reiterated the need for a society that was free from prejudices of any sort. After all, it was a country that had been formed as a sanctuary for the minorities of the sub-continent. The idea of Pakistan, then, was that of a utopia, a Paradise. It was supposed to be a land where all dreams materialized. As idealistic as it sounds, to a seventeen-year-old boy, with a life a head of him, Pakistan was supposed to be all that - it had to be all that. The emotions were running high, so were the spirits, the efforts of All India Muslim League had finally bore fruit. Jinnah did his famous address in December, 1947, in which, he said the following words, “We are going through fire: the sunshine has yet to come. But I have no doubt that with Unity, Faith, and Discipline, we will compare with any nation of the world.” These words got

imprinted on my mind, and though they were a motto for Pakistan, they also became the governing principles of my life.

### How much do you think we are following Quaid's dream?

Jinnah had laid the foundation of a model state. I doubt we are on the track Jinnah would have wanted to see us on. I do agree that we are on the road towards betterment, but we are a long way off. Somewhere down the lines, we went off-track and it has been an uphill struggle since. Jinnah had wanted us to focus on the youth, their education, as they are the nation builders, but Pakistan still struggles with low literacy rates. He had wanted a state where the rights of man were safeguarded, and a lot of work needs to be done, to this day, on that front.

### What should Pakistan do to succeed?

We need not look far, there is no complicated recipe to fix Pakistan. These times require us to do a concerted effort on ourselves. To fix ourselves first, and then help others. To move forward as a community. We should take a lesson from the very person who gave us this country, in Jinnah's words, “We must sink individualism and petty jealousies and make up our minds to serve the people with honesty and faithfulness. We are passing through a period of fear, danger, and menace. We must have faith, unity, and discipline.”

Syed Muhammad Raza Ali

## Water Crisis: the gun to our head!

The last couple of months have witnessed a surge in the general populace's concern for the impending water shortage. Remaining true to our nature, we have waited till the last minute to address a crisis. The water crisis is not something around the corner; we are actually going through one. According to PCRWR (Pakistan Council of Research for Water Research), Pakistan had reached the water stress line by 1990. By 2005, we had touched the water scarcity line, and by 2025, experts predict multiple droughts, or at worst, no water. PCRWR's claims are backed by a similar report by UNDP, which predicts Pakistan will have no water, by 2025.

This predicament is exacerbated by climate change, poor water management, lack of political will, and an acute shortage of water storage facilities. Pakistan has not constructed a dam since the 1960s. Consequently, our water storage capacity remains mere 30 days. An agricultural economy - Pakistan is ranked 4th in water usage, and has the highest water intensity rate in the world, that being the water usage in cubic meters per GDP.

Not only are we short of water, but the soupcon of what's left, is wasted. One of the contributing factors to high wastage of water is attributed to underpriced canal water, with the Government being able to recover only one fourth of annual operating and maintenance costs. Furthermore, the agricultural sector, the biggest consumer of water, is vastly under taxed.

The leadership scapegoats India for Pakistan's woes, while the world blames Pakistan for its water scarcity, which is partly man-made. Pakistan heavily opposed the construction of Kishanganga Dam, built upon the upstream of River Neelum in the Indian administered Kashmir, which has minimal impact on water flow. Rightly so, Michael Kugleman, the Deputy Director and Senior Associate for

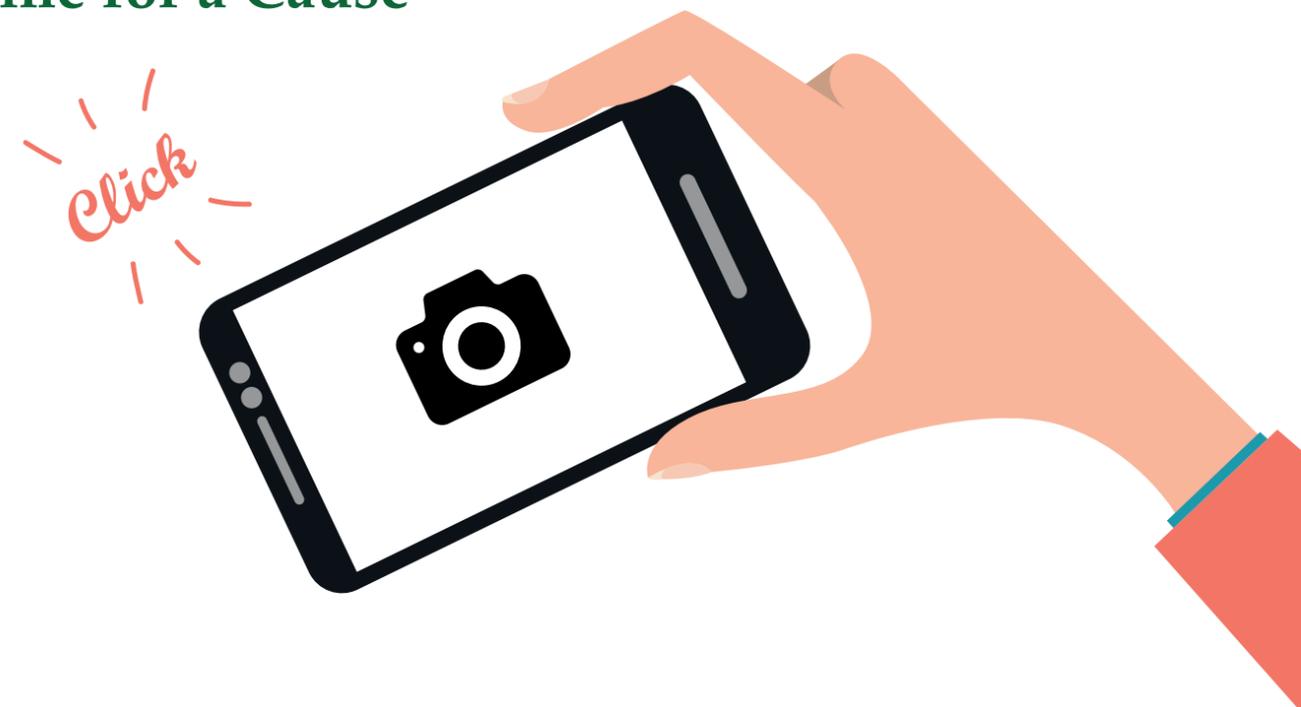
South Asia, at Wilson Center, argues, "Pakistan's leaders and stakeholders need to take ownership of this challenge and declare their intention to tackle it. Simply blaming the previous governments or blaming India, for the crisis won't solve anything. Next, the government needs to institute a major paradigm shift that promotes more judicious use of water."

Ranked 3rd in water shortages in the world, the water crisis poses problems other than just 'lack of water'. Scarcity of water carries economic ramifications, which in turn cause security conflicts, increasing the divide between the society. Three out of four provinces blame Punjab for the lack of water in their province. However, Sindh's struggles with water are not just related to a lack of water, as much as they are attributed to a lack of clean water. At present, not a single sewerage plant is working in Sindh, and polluted water is being dumped into clean rivers, canals and the sea. If and when matters come to their worst, "No person in Pakistan, whether from the north with its more than 5,000 glaciers, or from the south with its hyper deserts, will be immune to this," says Neil Buhne, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, Pakistan.

While the upper class indulges in intellectual and fanciful conversations about the impending water shortage, for the 'common man', such as the one living in Ghaziabad in Karachi, there is no water, as he has not had access to tap water for the past decade. If we do not work towards addressing the water crisis on an urgent basis, much like the famous legal maxim, delay defeats equity, any efforts in the future, to grant relief, would produce inequitable results.

*Syed Muhammad Raza Ali*

## Selfie for a Cause



In this campaign, the craze of clicking a 'selfie' will be used as a harbinger of social change and to raise awareness with regards to the issues faced by the common men in our country.

This will be perceived as a unique attempt to create awareness in relation to the Pakistan's multi-faceted issues.

To facilitate this positive wave of change, and to work towards encouraging public awareness and social responsibility, CMI encourages you to join in our campaign by following these steps:

1. Answer the question: What is the common man's greatest concern in Pakistan?
2. Write the answer down on a piece of paper.
3. Take a 'selfie', with the paper covering their face.
4. Post that selfie on your social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), with our hashtag **"#SelfieforaCause #CMI"**.
5. We will feature it on CMI's social media; Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

Let's come together and contribute towards raising awareness among your social circle, and encourage others to begin activities in their personal capacity to resolve the alarming situations encountered by the common men of our country.

CMI's team is determined to make a difference, that is, to ensure maximum utilization of the present resources in order to develop a better public policy narrative, which solves the issues of the common man.

CMI endeavors to fulfill its objectives through active awareness campaigns, outreach programs and various collaborations with promising institutions.

