



NEWSLETTER

October 2018



COMMON MAN
INITIATIVE
POLICY. GOVERNANCE. PROGRESS.

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 and policy dialogue

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,
Former cricket icon, Imran Khan has sworn in as the 22nd Prime Minister and has laid the foundation of the much awaited "Naya Pakistan". In the past decades, our motherland and its common man has faced problems pertaining to the economy, environment, water infrastructure, health and education services, and internal security. Imran Khan being armed with a strong mandate, youth expectations of nepotism/corruption-free governance and army support, nevertheless will face formidable political and economic challenges to transform our motherland into a stable, democratic welfare state.

However, Prime Minister Imran Khan needs to implement a carefully calculated and an efficient plan in order to restore the credibility of the state institutions, operationalize fair and effective governance and restore faith of the common man in the government.

Just as "Naya Pakistan" is presumed to reform the framework of state institutions towards increased transparency and accountability; it is important for the elected government to bring their attention to the alarming situation of the water shortage in Pakistan and have their undivided attention towards implementation of policies for better usage of water.

On the contrary, the start of the "100 days" has not shown much as per the promises due to lack of policy direction. Events over the past demonstrate lack of clear vision; such as pursuant to the formation of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC), the government asked Professor Atif Mian to step down from the council on the basis of his religious beliefs!

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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.

A democratically elected leader was unable to take a stand on his own decision because he appeared to be afraid of religious extremists within and outside his party; seems to be a disappointing start rather regressive in nature. However, now is the time to focus on better decision making before it's too late.

Furthermore, to facilitate the positive wave of change in the future and to work towards encouraging public awareness and social responsibility; CMI is actively organizing several campaigns and initiatives.

This newsletter aims to focus on the challenges such as in the health sector faced by the new government in the making of Naya Pakistan, secondly to further contribute towards the welfare of the common man, and most importantly highlight the need for mega projects such as Diamer Basha Dams!

The team at CMI hopes that you will appreciate the efforts and join us in our journey towards a prosperous, democratic and flourishing state. Additionally, I wish for you to continue all the efforts and contributions towards the making of dams which is the need of the hour.

Particularly, CMI requests you to engage with our ongoing campaign combating Global Warming, "Seeds to Sow", by sowing the packet of seeds delivered to your doorstep!

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

Naya Pakistan: "First 100 days"; Medicine Sector has daunting challenges!

After many years of political struggle, Imran Khan has assumed the highest office of Pakistan and has taken charge of the highest office in Pakistan and is expected to direct his government in the next 100 days with regards to the making of "Naya Pakistan".

Prime Minister Imran Khan won his mandate successfully on the basis of eradicating corrupt practices and better governance in public office. Imran Khan's promise of 100 days is being scrutinized closely, in order to prove his competence as well as have a realistic understanding of the situation.

However, it is not right to expect an overnight change on the basis of Naya Pakistan as Prime Minister Imran Khan is bound to face extremely daunting challenges in various sectors of Pakistan which need constant attention and careful decision making to ensure transformation towards growth.

Keeping in mind the medicine sector, the situation doesn't bode well as there is an urgent need for attention towards maintenance and improvisation of the present facilities, medicines, vital tools and supplies that are essential in the health sector. Moreover, for the common men of Pakistan many of these facilities are unaffordable, unsafe as the present facilities are improperly handled. It is a major reason that corruption in this sector is the root cause of these loopholes found in the system; such as from the prescriptions written by doctors to the unfair bribes with regards to approvals for registration of manufacturing facilities, medical products, and their quality assurance during production.

Similarly, there are persistent inadequacies and inefficiencies in the medical sector such as; overcrowded tertiary hospitals, under-utilized primary healthcare units, atrocious quality compromises in the services/medicines provided, shortages in healthcare workers, corruption and collusion in regulatory agencies, governance challenges, and tenuous relationships between Federal-Provincial health agencies. The former has resulted in the breakdown of policy and law enforcement along with a negative impact on the health of the

nation which leads to a weak and an unresponsive health system giving rise to poor health indicators of the people of Pakistan.

The 'health vision' of the new Prime Minister includes a strong commitment towards health. During his five-year tenure, the aim should be major improvements in the public sector, a paradigm shift towards preventive healthcare through sustained preventive programs, increased health allocations in the budget, decentralized and depoliticized health governance, prioritized primary healthcare and development of a robust and reliable health information system for evidence-informed planning and decision-making.

Primarily, Imran Khan should establish a strong governance framework with transparent regulatory bodies in order to minimize corruption in the medicines sector; as well as engage the provincial governments, to reach unanimity on the 'health vision' which must be aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals relating to maternal, neonatal, infant and child mortality, a fully devolved national health governance system with solid links to the community. It will sustain a robust primary healthcare network in rural areas and ensure availability of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities across rural and urban areas of Pakistan.

The new vision must also envisage strengthening the regulatory authorities with regard to medical services and provision of quality and affordable medicines to the masses. Health protection and promotion through various initiatives and adequate environmental safeguards need to be a priority.

Therefore, time will tell whether our new Prime Minister and his respected cabinet will be able to face these challenges and still bring about the "change!" under the hopes of Naya Pakistan.

Diamer-Bhasha Dam Project

A brief history

The Diamer-Bhasha Dam project site is situated near Gilgit Baltistan's district Diamer, hence the name Diamer-Bhasha. The dam will be built on the Indus River about 315 kilometers upstream of Tarbela dam. As proposed, it is a concrete filled gravity dam in the preliminary stages of construction. According to experts, this dam will be able to store 8.1 million acre feet of water, which will be used for irrigation and drinking. The power unit will produce over 4,500 megawatts of energy through environmentally friendly hydropower generation. It will control the flood damage done by the river Indus during high floods.

Ground breaking for this dam was conducted by the then President, Pervez Musharraf in 2006. It was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, on 18th October 2011.

When Pervez Musharraf first laid the foundation of this project, he had announced the construction of 5 multi-purpose storages in the country, in the next 10 to 12 years. The former Prime Minister of Pakistan, in the tenure of Pakistan People's Party re-initiated the project. Work began on the project by purchasing land from native people, this allegedly became a nuisance due to massive corruption.

According to experts it takes a gestation period of an estimated 11 years to build a dam, during that time an annual cash flow for the construction is required. However, in the past the government has not been providing enough funds for the dam in its public-sector development allocations.

Why this dam?

According to a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan ranks third in the world among countries facing acute water shortage. Similar reports by the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) and Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) also warned the authorities, that Pakistan would reach absolute water scarcity by 2025. Researchers predict that Pakistan is on its way to becoming the most water stressed region by 2040.

"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 the scarcity," said Neil Buhne, UN humanitarian coordinator for Pakistan.

With the growing increase in water consumption the ability to store water is decreasing. Pakistan has the world's fourth-highest rate of water use. The amount of water used as per unit of GDP in cubic meters, is the world's highest. This study suggests that no country's economy is more water-intensive than Pakistan's.

Up to 90% of the country's water is used in agriculture. However, it is estimated that half of that water is lost due to defects in irrigation systems. The IMF states that this irrigation canal system is highly underpriced, recovering only a quarter of annual operating costs. Meanwhile, agriculture that consumes almost all annual available surface water, is largely untaxed.

Due to these daunting reasons, shortage of water in Pakistan would be a means for an economic disaster and famine. Water scarcity can also become a matter of national security since water sources have historically caused a lot of tension with the neighboring rival India. Experts say the economic impact of the water crises is immense. Water scarcity is triggering security conflicts in the country and the citizen of this country are fighting for resources.

The financial aspect

Dams are large projects that take years to plan, finance and build. In the past 17 years, almost every government has performed the ground-breaking ceremony of the project but civil work could not begin due to lack of financial resources. For the dam to be a water reservoir the estimated cost is Rs.625 billion. There is an external cost for the dam to generate power and that is Rs.744 billion. The total cost of a project of this magnitude is said to be around Rs.1.4 trillion and is likely to increase.

Pakistan has withdrawn the request to include Rs.1.4 trillion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The reasons for this withdrawal were strict conditions placed by Beijing, these conditions include the ownership of the project.

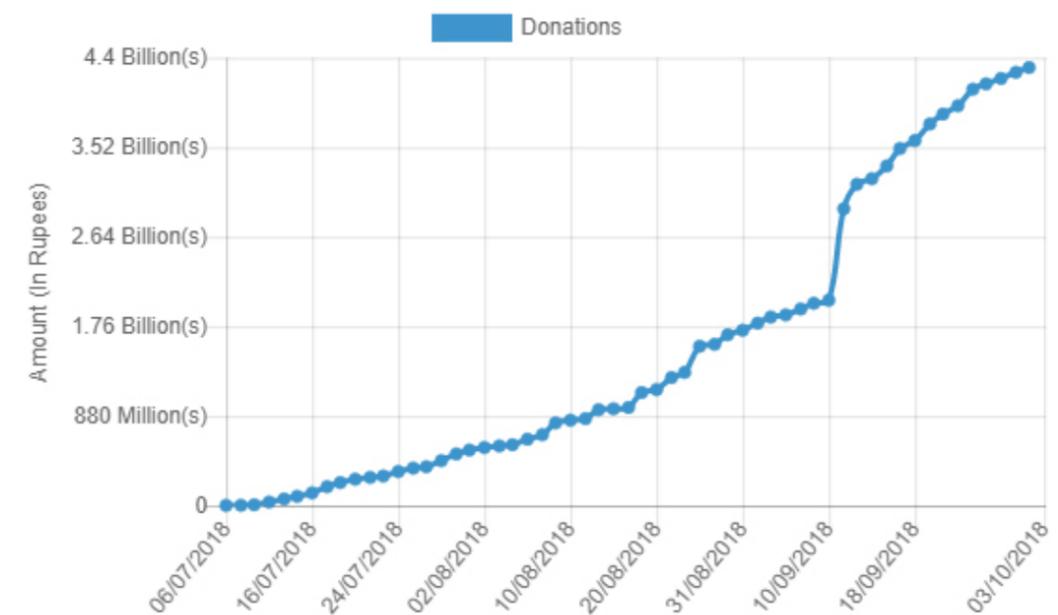
According to WAPDA Chairman Muzammil Hussain, "Chinese conditions for financing Diamer Bhasha dam were not doable and against our interests," Hussain stated to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

All water and power projects that are underway in the northern areas and the AJK, will not be funded by the World Bank. It was due to Indian opposition that The World Bank refused Pakistan's request for funding.

Pakistan has been struggling to raise money for the project through international institutions. Meanwhile, the Planning Commission, the Economic Affairs Division and the Finance Ministry are coordinating the issue of raising the finances.

Different propositions are being made as to how the financial aspect of this project will be tackled.

One of the proposed ideas are that one-fourth of the amount required, will be obtained through the surcharge on electricity consumption. One-fourth through



supplier's credit, one-fourth will be raised by market loans, and one-fourth through private sector stocks and investment.

Another more recent proposition was proposed by Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC). It was proposed that the government should launch Diamer-Bhasha Dam (DBD) public limited company. This proposition suggests that in order to generate funds for the dam, the government should allow the public to invest through public shares. The Chairman of PEC engineer, Jawad Salim Qureshi, stated that the donations of the dam fund should be used as seed money for the Diamer-Bhasha Company. He claimed that the component cost of the Diamer Bhasha dam, which is estimated Rs.500 billion can be reduced to Rs.200 billion by issuing the shares through the pattern of Sukuk (Islamic Bonds).

The Dam Fund

In order to deal with the present crisis, the Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar, initiated a dam fund for the construction of the Diamer- Bhasha and the Mohmand dams. While hearing a report prepared by the PCRWR on water scarcity in Pakistan, the court was told that no new dam had been built in the country for the last 48 years. In July 2018, the Chief Justice suggested that the government should construct other dams immediately. Nisar ordered the Ministry of Finance on 4th July, to open a bank account under the title of "Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand Dam fund-2018", to generate funds from the public for the construction of the two dams. The account was open for public donors on 6th July, 2018. All commercial and micro-finance banks opened the fund account to receive donations in cash, and through pay orders and demand drafts at all their branches all over the country. The Chief Justice of Pakistan initiated the drive by depositing Rs.1 million in the dam fund through his personal account. This action influenced other judges, armed forces officials, bureaucrats, media houses and other organizations

which donated to the dam fund.

In his second speech to the nation, the current Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan took over the dam fund, saying it was not the Chief Justice's job to ask for donations. He appreciated Nisar's efforts but said it was the job of the civilian government who had neglected the task for years. In the same speech the Prime Minister urged overseas Pakistanis to contribute generously to the cause. "If every overseas Pakistani donates 1,000 Dollars for the dam, we will have enough to build the dam ourselves," the Prime Minister said. He later explained that he knew it was not easy to donate such a hefty sum for the dam, especially those who live and work in the Middle East, yet those who live and work in the United States and Europe should donate generously.

On the other hand, a large number of national and international experts and analysts do not agree with some of the measures currently being taken to tackle the threat of water and power shortage. The country surely needs more dams to increase its water storage capacity and provide water for future generations, but a harsh truth needs to be confronted. That truth is that the new dams alone cannot solve Pakistan's water crises. Water wastage is a serious issue that feeds into this threat of water scarcity. According to the view point of analysts, water wastage and mismanagement takes place at many levels. Pakistan needs to focus on reforms in water management systems and water pricing along with the construction of new dams. After years of blurred vision we can now finally see the problems the country is facing and strive on towards fixing them, this is an individual struggle that we must go through. On behalf of the Common Man Initiative I request the reader to conserve water at a personal level and care for this depleting necessity, and also to donate generously to the Supreme Court and Prime Minister's fund for Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams. It is time for us to change as individuals and eventually as a progressive nation.

Seeds to Sow Campaign

A campaign for our future, “**Seeds to Sow**”, by CMI with regards to growing a tree from sowing seeds, in order to contribute as well as leave a mark in Pakistan, for potentially centuries ahead.

This campaign aims to engage all the common men of Pakistan towards the positive wave of change and to create awareness with regards to their social responsibility towards our motherland!

CMI requests you to join in our campaign by following these steps:

Open the pack of different types of seeds delivered by CMI.

Prepare to Sow - to place a seed in soil or compost.

Well-prepared soil - soil that has been dug over, weeds removed, compost added, raked and leveled.

Germinate/Germination - the process of a seed starting to grow, developing a small root and seedling leaves.

To Plant - to dig a small hole and place a plant into the hole, bringing soil back around the plant.

Seed drill - a channel or groove made into the soil, to sow the seeds along. The depth of the drill is determined by the size of the seed. Small seeds like carrots and lettuce are sown in drill about 13mm deep (length of finger nail). Whereas large seeds like a broad bean are sown in deeper drills 5cms deep (length of second knuckle of index finger).

Wide bottomed drill - a channel that is wide as a hand (usually at least 10cms wide), and flat bottomed – not V shaped. Peas are sown in flat-bottomed drills, in a zigzag pattern.

Sow direct - to sow seeds into the soil, usually outside in beds or large containers.

Sow thinly - small seeds are sown by sprinkling the seeds sparingly, so that there is visible space between each seed. Remember each seed will grow into a plant so if you sow seeds too closely together they will be crowded and not thrive.

Row - seeds are sown in drills to form a row or a line of vegetables or flowers; seeds are sown in a

row to help identify the sown seedlings from weeds. Also it allows you to give the correct amount of space for the crops to grow well. It is important to know the distance between rows.

Spacing - The distance between seeds along the drill and also distance between adjacent rows. This is determined by the size of the seed and size of the plant it will grow into. So large plants will need wider spacing between seeds along the drill and between adjacent rows. Smaller seeds may need closer spacing along the seed drill.

Seedling - a tiny plant, usually only with its first leaves growing.

Thin out seedlings - to remove carefully seedlings that are growing too close together – often the result of sowing too many small seeds and so too many grow up together. Water the row of seedlings well and then simply pull out the seedlings, leaving one healthy seedling at the correct spacing. Sometimes you can re-plant the thinned seedlings somewhere else in the garden.

Prick out - the careful moving of a very young seedling from the pot it germinated in to a larger pot or module of its own, to grow on into a bigger plant.

Transplant - the planting of a small plant, usually from a pot into the final position in the garden, where it will grow as a tree!

Let's come together and contribute towards raising awareness among your social circle, and encourage others to engage in 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 such as 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.

Akhtar Nawaz - Common Man Story



I am 29 years old. I was blind by birth but I could always see. I can see my surroundings in detail but not as a whole. I think that's the only difference between my sight and yours. I can see the world in fragments, I can see in textures, in sounds and smells.

My story is an amalgamation of lots of other stories. I remember being a child and hearing different tales from my mother and my uncle. As I grew up, I realized that I was surrounded by these stories.

In the mosque before the Friday prayer you heard about the Prophets and their followers and in Muharram you heard about Imam Hussain and what happened in Karbala. These stories all made me feel like I wasn't bound in this body that I had been given. They were epic tales with messages of valor, sacrifice and devotion to God. All of the words that I have come across have one way or the other influenced my own thinking and perception.

I learned to read at a young age. I got help from an institute that helps the blind. I started to learn by touching the inscribed letters (braille) through my fingertips.

After that I got a formal education, I did my bachelors, and now I'm doing my masters in Islamic studies.

There is an organization called 'Bright Future For The Blind' that is helping us set up local businesses; they are the ones who provided me with a book stall. After study hours, I sell books to earn money and provide for my family.

After completing my masters, I would like to write a book of my own. That would be a big accomplishment for me. I want my writing to remind people that anything is possible. I also want people to be thankful for what they possess; I think it's important to be thankful of all the senses that we're given.

