



Dr. Rifaat Hussain

- 1.** COVID-19 will lead to shift in global priorities. Combating Pandemics will top the new agenda. It would also induce changes in government's approach to safeguarding their national interest. Common security and cooperative security approaches would be needed to cope with the threat of Pandemics that would require learning from each other. Pakistan should take the lead in stressing the need for a regional and global response.
- 2.** Islamabad must pay greater attention to its poor public health infrastructure to be better prepared for occurrence of next Pandemic. We have to increase public health awareness and allocate at least 4 to 5 per cent of our GDP to Health Sector.
- 3.** The fault-lines in our Health Sectors exposed by the COVID-19 have to be fixed. Shortage of doctors, nurses, health professionals have to be addressed on a war-footing. Pakistan must improve its abysmally low score on Health safety and security.
- 4.** The biggest challenge for Pakistan would be to deal with the aftermath - how long would that be, I do not know - of COVID-19. In all probability, Pakistan economy would be severely hit with rise in unemployment, social unrest and depressed economic growth. Pakistan must think of the aftermath pre-emptively and be prepared to deal with the economic and social stress resulting from COVID-19.



Dr. Maleeha Lodhi

"The COVID-19 global crisis has created the urgent need for unity both at the national and international levels. The pandemic has reminded us of how important multilateralism - international cooperation - is to contain and defeat this virus.

Nationally we have to come together to ensure that we successfully weather this raging storm. Apart from the obvious economic repercussions of the pandemic, we must be ready to navigate through and address the social and political disruption this could cause over time."



Dr. Tughral Yamin

"The changes that COVID-19 has brought in human thinking are already visible. **On the diplomatic front**, it has reinforced friendships among time tested friends like Pakistan and China; and it has got old enemies talking. SAARC which had become a moribund organization because of Indian intransigence has witnessed a revival. The SAARC COVID-19 FUND announced by the members has given hope that the 1.5 billion population of South Asia can come together in a moment of crisis to fight a common enemy – in this case a disease. **On the security side** military and law enforcing agencies in many countries are being deployed to enforce the lockdown and military health resources have been diverted in aid of civil power. **On the economic front**, it has provided a window of opportunity to impoverished countries to seek debt relief from major donor agencies. If national economies are destroyed there will be nothing to pay back. The resources would be better spent in building inadequate health facilities, training more medical staff and finding cure for this deadly disease instead of building weapons and bombs. Last but not the least it has given our world a respite from climate change as unnecessary travel has been curtailed and carbon imprint drastically reduced."



Senator Nisar Memon

"Every crisis has a silver lining. If we analyze, comprehend, articulate this crisis and respond unitedly in a befitting manner to improve our public health system and create self-sufficiency by import substitution, we can strengthen our national security and sovereignty."