

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

Powering a Green Future with E-Bikes and E-Taxis

The recent initiatives by the Sindh government and the State Bank of Pakistan to promote electric mobility mark an important step towards a cleaner, more sustainable future. The launch of interest-free loans for e-bikes and e-rickshaws, alongside the ambitious plan to introduce Pakistan's first government-run electric taxi service, reflects a forward-looking vision that places environmental responsibility, public convenience, and women's empowerment at the heart of transport policy.

The Pink Scooty Scheme, providing free electric scooters to women, and the upcoming Pink Taxi Service are particularly commendable. These measures not only ease mobility but also open doors to employment and independence for women, challenging long-standing social barriers. Similarly, the interest-free financing model, with generous subsidies and digital lending platforms, ensures affordability and accessibility for ordinary citizens. These projects are examples of governance that blends inclusivity with innovation, setting the stage for wider adoption of electric vehicles in Pakistan.

However, the success of these schemes will depend heavily on infrastructure. Without a reliable and widespread network of charging stations, the vision of electric mobility risks stalling. Charging facilities must be developed at a fast pace, covering both urban and rural areas, to ensure uninterrupted operations of e-bikes, rickshaws, and taxis. The government, in partnership with the private sector, should prioritise this infrastructure, offering incentives to investors and ensuring that charging points are easily accessible, affordable, and safe.

The global shift towards electric mobility is irreversible, and Pakistan must not lag behind. With the right infrastructure, the government's bold initiatives can transform urban transport, reduce fuel dependency, cut emissions, and improve the quality of life for millions. It is now time to match vision with action by accelerating the development of the essential backbone of the electric vehicle revolution—charging stations.

SBP Launches Interest-Free Loans for E-Bikes, Rickshaws



The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has rolled out an interest-free loan scheme to promote electric bikes and e-rickshaws, aiming to accelerate the shift towards greener transport solutions. Under the cost-sharing initiative, around 116,000 e-bikes and 3,170 e-rickshaws/loaders will be financed in the current fiscal year.

According to the SBP, at least 25 per cent of e-bikes will be reserved for women, while up to 10 per cent will go to those using them for business purposes such as courier and delivery services. Additionally, 30 per cent of e-rickshaws/loaders will be allocated for fleet operators.

The scheme will be implemented in two phases, starting with 40,000 e-bikes and 1,000 rickshaws/loaders. Buyers will benefit from government capital subsidies of up to Rs50,000 for e-bikes and Rs200,000 for rickshaws/loaders, provided under an 80:20 debt-to-equity ratio. In cases where the subsidy fully covers the equity portion, no upfront payment will be required.

Borrowers will repay only the principal and insurance over two years for e-bikes and three years for rickshaws/loaders, as the government will bear the markup cost. The scheme will be managed digitally, with approved models and after-sales services ensured by the Engineering Development Board.

Pink Scooty Scheme Launched for Women in Sindh



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari handed over keys to women beneficiaries of the Sindh government's "Pink Scooty Scheme," which provides free electric scooters to women to improve mobility and access to jobs.

Addressing the ceremony, Bilawal said women's participation was vital for national progress and reiterated PPP's commitment to women's empowerment. He highlighted previous initiatives, including electric buses and the Pink Bus Service, noting that the scooters would ease daily commutes and boost employment opportunities.

Quoting Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he stressed that no nation could achieve glory without women working alongside men.

He thanked KFC Pakistan for supporting training and licensing under the scheme and urged more private sector partnerships. Bilawal reaffirmed PPP's broader commitment to development, from Thar uplift to farmer aid through the Benazir Hari Card.

Sindh to Launch Pakistan's First EV Taxi Service



The Sindh government has fast-tracked plans to introduce Pakistan's first government-run taxi service, with an electric vehicle (EV) taxi fleet expected to hit the roads by December 2025.

The decision was reviewed at a meeting chaired by Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon, attended by senior officials of the Transport Department and Sindh Mass Transit Authority.

Memon said the initiative will provide eco-friendly and high-quality travel services, with some EV taxis reserved exclusively for women in the initial phase.

He noted that Sindh has already pioneered EV buses and the Pink Bus service for women, alongside the pink electric scooter scheme. Infrastructure, including charging stations, is also being developed to ensure sustainability.

Memon added that investment opportunities exist in Karachi's transport sector, with the government ready to facilitate international investors.

Over 1,000 Dead in Pakistan's 2025 Monsoon Floods



The 2025 monsoon floods in Pakistan have claimed 1,006 lives and injured 1,063 people between June 26 and September 19, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The disaster damaged or destroyed 12,569 households, swept away 1,981 kilometres of roads, collapsed 239 bridges, and killed 6,509 livestock.

NDMA reported that 6.9 million people have been affected nationwide, including 4.7 million in Punjab, 1.6 million in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 356,000 in Gilgit-Baltistan, and 185,000 in Sindh. Punjab remains the worst hit, with 2.7 million displaced and large areas of Multan and Muzaffargarh still submerged.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department said monsoon activity has largely withdrawn, with hot and dry weather forecast in Punjab and Sindh. The Indus River at Kotri is expected to remain at medium flood level until the end of September.

Local NGOs, including Indus Consortium members, are providing food, safe water, medical aid, and shelter to thousands daily. Relief groups have urged the government to exempt NGOs from regulatory approvals for six months, grant temporary relief on household bills, and support farmers with subsidies and tax waivers. Aid agencies were also urged to prioritise local NGOs for faster and culturally sensitive response efforts.