



Editorial

Charging Ahead Needs More Than Cars

Pakistan's ambition to democratise electric mobility has taken a promising turn with plans for a sub-Rs1 million locally produced electric car. The vision is compelling. It speaks directly to millions of motorbike users who aspire to safer, more comfortable transport. Coupled with a Rs100 billion subsidy programme and rapid localisation of key components, the country appears to be laying the foundation for a domestic EV revolution.

Yet there is a gap that could slow this momentum. Manufacturing alone will not drive adoption at scale. Infrastructure will.

The government's plan to install around 3,000 charging stations is a step in the right direction, as are private sector initiatives such as the deployment of 500 chargers through new partnerships. However, these numbers must be seen against the ambition of the National Electric Vehicle Policy, which targets 30 per cent EV penetration by 2030. Without a dense, reliable and accessible charging network, even the most affordable EV will struggle to win consumer confidence.

Range anxiety remains real. For many potential buyers, especially in urban centres like Karachi, the question is not just affordability but convenience. Where will they charge? How long will it take? Will stations be available during peak hours? These concerns can only be addressed through a coordinated, nationwide rollout of fast charging infrastructure.

There is also an opportunity here. Investment in charging networks can stimulate new business models, from fleet electrification to smart energy management. It can create jobs, support SMEs and accelerate technology transfer, particularly as Pakistan partners with international firms.

The transition to electric mobility is not just about vehicles. It is about ecosystems. If Pakistan is serious about meeting its EV targets and reducing its reliance on imported fuels, it must prioritise infrastructure development with the same urgency as local manufacturing. Only then will the promise of an electric future move from policy to reality.

Watershed Project Benefits 12,000 in Rajanpur

Indus Consortium, in collaboration with Oxford Policy Management and with financial support from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, has implemented a watershed and rangeland management project in hill torrent areas of Rajanpur district, benefiting around 12,000 people.

The project was carried out in Union Councils Wah Lashari and Lundi Saindan of Jampur tehsil, focusing on sustainable water use, environmental restoration, and community resilience in vulnerable areas prone to seasonal flooding.

According to project details, a series of interventions were introduced to improve water access, strengthen livelihoods, and promote ecological sustainability.

Key interventions include:

- Installation of two solar-powered water filtration plants in Nawab Khan (UC Lundi Saindan) and Nizam Shah (UC Wah Lashari)



- Construction of 10 small Rod Kohi water storage structures to manage hill torrent flows



- Development of 10 small forests, each spread over one acre
- Establishment of 30 fodder plots, each covering one canal of land



- Setting up of one plant nursery to support local plantation efforts



- Distribution of 5,000 fruit plants among women in 15 villages to enhance household income and nutrition



- Formation of 15 community-based organisations, with capacity-building support on various development themes



The initiative aims to address water scarcity and land degradation while empowering local communities, particularly women, through livelihood support and resource management.

The project is part of broader efforts to strengthen climate resilience in southern Punjab's fragile ecosystems, where erratic weather patterns and water mismanagement have long affected agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods.