Indus Consortium
Humanitarian Environment and Development Initiatives

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2026

Editorial

Charging Ahead, But to Where?

The Federal Budget 2026-27 talks a confident game on electric mobility, yet it reads less like a roadmap and more like a holding pattern. The headline measures are real enough. Sales tax exemptions on completely knocked down kits have been extended to June 2027, plant and machinery for local manufacturing draws zero customs duty, charging equipment is duty-free, and a tiered excise duty now leans on luxury imports while sparing affordable models priced under Rs20 million. Electric buses and trucks keep a concessional one percent rate. Read together, these are sensible signals to assemblers.

The trouble is what sits beneath the signalling. Almost every concession expires in mid-2027. No serious original equipment manufacturer commits to a plant on an eighteen-month horizon, and the absence of a ten-year framework undercuts the very localisation the budget claims to court. The promised auto policy may fill that gap, but a budget should not lean on a document that does not yet exist.

The consumer is the larger blind spot. The PAVE (Pakistan Accelerated Vehicle Electrification) programme offers subsidised financing, but it stops at e-bikes, scooters and rickshaws. For the family weighing a first electric car, there is no purchase subsidy and no cheap credit to close the gap with a petrol equivalent. Nor is there a federal plan to build the public fast-charging network that would make such a car usable beyond a single city.

Two further silences are striking. The budget incentivises battery manufacturing but says nothing about recycling or disposal, storing up an environmental problem that the climate levy is meant to address. And mass adoption will strain a grid already buried in circular debt, a link the budget leaves unmade.

Incentives without infrastructure produce showrooms, not a transition.

NED University Hosts World Environment Day seminar

Indus Consortium, in collaboration with NED University of Engineering and Technology and UBL Bank, marked World Environment Day with a seminar at the university.

A good number of faculty members and students attended the event, which brought academia, civil society, and the banking sector together on a shared platform.

Speakers discussed the environmental challenges confronting Pakistan and their growing relevance to the country, noting the pressures of climate change, water stress and the need for sustainable practices. They stressed that the worsening environmental situation demanded urgent and coordinated action across sectors.

The speakers underlined the role of universities in driving research and awareness, and called on young people to take the lead in protecting the environment.

Indus Consortium is a civil society platform working on climate, water and just energy transition across Pakistan.

World Food Safety Day 2026


To mark World Food Safety Day 2026, Indus Consortium, in collaboration with PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, jointly organised an awareness walk and knowledge-sharing session under the global theme “From Burden to Solutions: Safe Food Everywhere.”

The event brought together representatives from the Punjab Food Authority, academia, civil society, students and food sector experts to discuss practical solutions for ensuring safer food systems and raising awareness about food safety as a shared responsibility.

Experts Urge Policy Consistency to Boost EV Growth

Experts called for long-term policy consistency, stronger infrastructure and increased research investment to accelerate Pakistan's electric vehicle (EV) industry, during a webinar on the federal budget 2026-27 organised by Indus Consortium.

Yasir Hussain, Director of the Climate Action Centre, said feared tax hikes on new energy vehicles had not materialised, though levies on luxury vehicles worth over Rs20 million were raised. He said subsidies for electric two and three-wheelers would continue, EV bike sales had risen 61 per cent, and two battery plants were under development in Karachi.

Dr Aazir Khan of the University of Lahore's IECE termed it a stabilisation budget with a Rs7 trillion fiscal deficit. He warned that incentives extended for only one year, and limited subsidies, left the sector uncertain, and stressed grid stabilisation as EV adoption grew.

Saif Muhammad Shah of the FPCCI said the one-year framework risked deterring investors, urging a three to five-year horizon and greater research funding. He also called for charging infrastructure and a heavy-duty vehicle policy.

Dr Majid Bilal and Jamshaid Farid of Indus Consortium also spoke.

Rainfall Fills Community Rod Kohi Pond in Rajanpur




A community-based Rod Kohi water pond in Muhammad Husain Nokani village, Union Council Wah Lashari, has been replenished with hill torrent water following recent rainfall in the Koh-e-Suleiman range.

The pond is part of an Indus Consortium initiative promoting hill torrent water conservation through the construction of community-based Rod Kohi ponds across District Rajanpur in Punjab.

Rod Kohi channels seasonal floodwater from hill torrents to recharge ponds and farmland in the arid foothills, where communities depend on erratic monsoon flows for drinking water, livestock and cultivation.

The recent inflow demonstrates how such structures capture rainwater that would otherwise run off, helping build local resilience to water scarcity and climate variability in one of the country's most drought-prone regions.

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Indus consortium pledges to highlight the environmental, disaster risk, and development issues of riverine communities living along the river Indus basin and its tributaries in Pakistan.