

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

Government must act now to restore purchasing power

The World Bank's latest review confirms what most Pakistani households already know from bitter experience: nearly 70 per cent of the population has suffered a significant erosion of purchasing power as inflation continues to outpace incomes. Food, energy and transport costs have climbed steadily, forcing families to cut back on essentials and abandon whatever little cushion they once had.

At the heart of this squeeze lies the relentless rise in petroleum prices. The government has now moved from fortnightly to daily pricing, calculated on a rolling average of international oil prices, freight and currency movements. For ordinary citizens, this means fuel costs that shift almost by the day, leaving no room to plan a household budget, let alone save.

Transporters have been especially hard hit. With prices adjusted daily, fleet operators and goods carriers can no longer strike advance fare or freight agreements, since today's rate offers no guarantee for tomorrow. This uncertainty inevitably passes down the chain: to shopkeepers, to farmers moving produce to market, and ultimately to the consumer paying more for a loaf of bread or a kilo of vegetables. Rising poverty is the predictable outcome.

The government cannot treat this as a technical matter for OGRA and the Petroleum Division alone. It must urgently review the daily pricing mechanism's social cost, expand targeted subsidies and cash transfers for low-income households, stabilise transport fares through negotiated fortnightly floors, and pursue structural reforms that boost real wages. Purchasing power is not restored through promises. It requires immediate, visible relief before more families slip below the poverty line.

Experts seek broader EV financing framework



Policy makers, financial experts and industry leaders have called for a comprehensive approach to Pakistan's electric vehicle (EV) transition, urging the government to ensure EV charging is powered by renewable energy, expand green financing beyond vehicle purchases, and introduce stable long-term policies to accelerate adoption.

The recommendations emerged during a conference titled "Driving the EV Transition: Synergizing Policy, Grid, and Green Financing" held at the United States-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCAS-E), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad.

The event featured three panel discussions, presentations and an EV display, and was organised jointly by NUST, Indus Consortium and NEAN.

Speakers said green financing should not remain limited to car purchases but should also cover charging infrastructure, battery storage, battery recycling and local manufacturing. They stressed that EVs would only deliver full environmental benefits if charged using renewable electricity rather than fossil fuel-based power.

Participants urged the government to adopt consistent, long-lasting policies, saying that frequent shifts discourage investment and delay infrastructure development. They also called for prioritising electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers, calling them more affordable and practical than four-wheelers for wider adoption.

Banks trained on climate compliance rules



Indus Consortium (IC) held a training workshop on climate compliance in Pakistan's banking sector on 06 July 2026 at a local hotel in Karachi, bringing together mid-career professionals from commercial banks working in credit and risk management, ESG reporting, compliance and climate finance.

Hussain Jarwar, CEO of Indus Consortium, welcomed participants and outlined the objectives of the training. Rashid Azeem, Divisional Head and Senior Vice President for Group Compliance Policies, EWRA, Transformation and Governance at United Bank Limited, led sessions on ESG and climate risk in Pakistan, the domestic and international regulatory landscape, and the integration of climate risk into credit, market, operational, liquidity and capital risk.

Zohra Sarwar Khan, Joint Director, Team lead-Supervision Division, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), participated through an online link. She presented on Sustainability Reporting (compliance perspective).

Ms Aleena, Senior Manager, ESG and Climate Risk, and Ms Sumran, Assistant Manager, ESG and Climate Risk, conducted a session on integrating climate risk into credit risk assessment, followed by a practical risk assessment activity for participants. Sessions also covered the State Bank of Pakistan's Green Banking Guidelines, the Environmental and Social Risk Management framework, IFRS S1 and S2 sustainability disclosure standards, and Pakistan's Green Taxonomy. Ms Fiza Qureshi of Big Shift Global moderated the sessions.

Participants took part actively in interactive sessions and case-based exercises throughout the day, reflecting on the challenges of implementing climate risk frameworks within their institutions.

Journalists trained on climate finance reporting



Indus Consortium (IC) organised a one-day media workshop in Karachi to strengthen reporting on climate compliance in Pakistan's banking sector, bringing together journalists from Sindh covering business, banking, industry and climate beats.

Hussain Jarwar, CEO of Indus Consortium, welcomed participants and outlined the objectives of the workshop. Ms Fiza Qureshi of Big Shift Global led a session on Article 9 of the Paris Agreement. Rashid Azeem, Divisional Head and Senior Vice President for Group Compliance Policies, EWRA, Transformation and Governance at United Bank Limited, explained the climate and financial landscape in Pakistan, climate risks in banking portfolios, and compliance frameworks including the Green Banking Guidelines, the Environmental and Social Risk Management framework, and IFRS S1 and S2 standards, along with Pakistan's Green Taxonomy.

Two senior journalists shared their experience with participants, one speaking on sourcing and pitching climate finance stories and building contacts on the banking beat, and the other on the significance of investigative journalism in climate accountability.

Participants engaged actively throughout the interactive sessions and group discussions.

Empowering community voices for better health governance



To strengthen community participation in building resilient health systems, Indus Consortium organised a one-day Capacity Building Workshop for Community Leaders, Social Media Influencers, and Journalists in District Rajanpur. The workshop brought together local leaders and digital influencers to explore how informed citizens can contribute to improving health governance and promoting community resilience, with a special focus on Article 38 of the Constitution of Pakistan.

The interactive session was facilitated by renowned development expert Jami Chandio, who encouraged participants to reflect on the important role communities play in ensuring transparent, accountable, and people-centred health systems. Through practical examples and engaging discussions, he highlighted how community leadership and responsible use of social media can help amplify public voices, encourage constructive dialogue, and advocate for equitable access to quality healthcare.

Building lifesaving skills for Traditional Birth Attendants in riverine communities



Recognising the unique challenges faced by pregnant women in flood-prone riverine areas, Indus Consortium organised a three-day training workshop for Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) on Safe Delivery Practices. During the monsoon season, rising floodwaters often cut off entire communities from nearby health facilities, leaving expectant mothers with little or no access to skilled medical care. These disruptions can lead to preventable complications and, tragically, the loss of lives during childbirth.

The training was designed to equip Traditional Birth Attendants with essential knowledge and practical skills to provide safer maternal care when access to formal health services is limited. Through interactive sessions and hands-on demonstrations, participants learned safe delivery techniques, infection prevention and control, recognition of danger signs during pregnancy and childbirth, essential newborn care, and timely referral practices.

The workshop also emphasised the vital role TBAs play as trusted community caregivers, particularly during emergencies when they are often the first and sometimes the only source of support for pregnant women. By strengthening their capacity, the initiative aims to reduce maternal and newborn risks, improve birth outcomes, and ensure that women living in isolated riverine communities receive safer and more informed care, even during times of crisis.

Participants actively shared their experiences, exchanged ideas, and discussed the challenges facing local health systems. The workshop created an open and collaborative learning environment where participants deepened their understanding of constitutional rights, civic responsibilities, and the collective actions needed to strengthen health governance.

By the end of the session, participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to gain new perspectives. They reaffirmed their commitment to using their voices and platforms to promote healthier, more resilient communities.