

MESSAGE



Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh
Minister for Energy

Through a successful public-private partnership model, we have demonstrated that it is possible to execute large-scale energy and infrastructure projects in the country, as long as the will is there. The country has been transitioning from one crisis to another, but it is through sheer hard work and dedication of all stakeholders that we have been able to generate more than 2600 MW of electricity from Thar Coalfield and have coal mines in place that can produce more than 16 million tons of coal every year. Over the last one decade, we have converted a small portion of the mighty Thar Desert into an indigenous resource supplier, a strategic national asset that can add tremendous value to the country's economic development for years to come.

The country is going through economic stress right now, and a key reason behind that is excessive reliance on imported sources of energy. The country's energy requirements are mostly met by imported energy sources, whether that is petroleum products, LNG, or coal.

We are at the cusp of the next phase of growth in Thar Coalfield. That will be about scaling up Thar Coalfields to triple, or even quadruple production of coal from Thar Coalfield, and benefit from economies of scale. It is entirely possible to completely substitute demand of imported coal with indigenous Thar Coal, and not only save precious foreign exchange reserves in the process, but also reduce cost of production.

The Government of Sindh requires support to steer the country towards an export-oriented economy, and a key prerequisite for the same is affordable, and cheap energy, that can be provided by Thar Coalfield. We need to come up with a strategic vision, with an executable plan to convert the coal into high value added export-oriented products, and steer the country towards a middle-income country over the next two decades.