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Faisalabad Accelerates Smart Water Meter Rollout


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The Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Faisalabad has mandated strict adherence to deadlines for its ambitious Smart Water Meter Project, with Managing Director Sohail Qadir Cheema demanding zero tolerance for delays. The first phase targeting Gulistan Colony No.2 and G-Block will deploy 8,400 advanced meters starting November 2025, marking a technological leap in urban water management. This initiative forms part

of a broader modernization drive to curb water losses and improve billing accuracy in Pakistan's third-largest city. WASA leadership emphasizes that reliable water services remain non-negotiable, with smart technology serving as the cornerstone for operational upgrades.

Cheema's directives during the review meeting stressed accountability across all project tiers, reflecting growing public impatience with infrastructure shortcomings. The selected neighborhoods represent strategic test cases mixed-income areas where water theft and meter tampering have historically strained municipal resources. Smart meter  will enable real-time consumption monitoring, automated billing, and rapid leak detection through integrated sensors. "This isn't just hardware installation but a complete service paradigm shift," explained a WASA engineer familiar with the technical specifications. The agency plans intensive public awareness campaigns to ensure resident cooperation during the transition.

Faisalabad's project mirrors successful smart water implementations in Lahore and Karachi, where similar systems reduced non-revenue water by 18-22%. However, WASA faces unique challenges including an aging distribution network and resistance from unauthorized users benefiting from the current system. The agency is countering these hurdles through parallel pipe replacement initiatives and coordinated enforcement with local authorities. Independent urban planners commend the phased approach, noting that gradual expansion allows for troubleshooting before citywide deployment.

As Faisalabad positions itself as a model for smart water governance, all eyes will be on these initial installations. Success could prompt accelerated funding for subsequent phases, while setbacks may fuel

criticism of technological solutions to systemic problems. For citizens long accustomed to erratic supply and estimated billing, the meters represent more than efficiency they promise transparency in a sector plagued by distrust. WASA's ability to deliver on schedule will test whether Pakistani utilities can indeed bridge the gap between infrastructure ambitions and on-ground execution.

