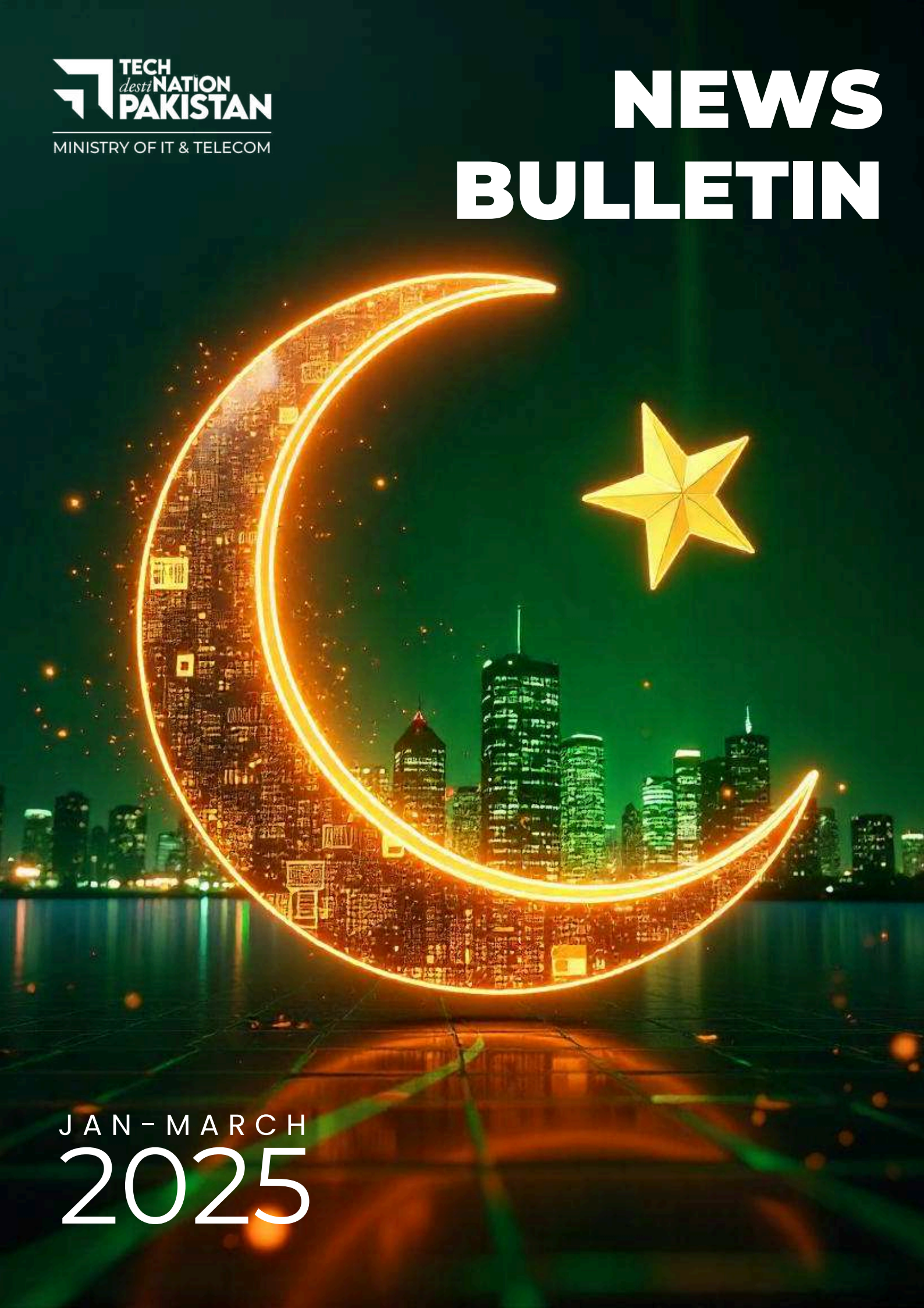
TECH destiNATION PAKISTAN

MINISTRY OF IT & TELECOM

NEWS BULLETIN



JAN-MARCH

2025

PAKISTAN
PSEB
SOFTWARE EXPORT BOARD

About PSEB

Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) is an apex Government body mandated to promote Pakistan's IT Industry in local and international markets. PSEB facilitates the IT industry through a series of projects and programs in infrastructure development, human capital development, company capability development, global marketing, strategy and research, and the promotion of innovation and technologies.

PSEB REGISTRATIONS

We are delighted to share that we have also started registering freelancers.

REGISTERED COMPANIES
13,161

REGISTERED CALL CENTERS
6,698

dfdi | Digital Foreign Direct Investment Forum 2025

Digital Cooperation Organization

Pakistan to Host the Digital Foreign Direct Investment (DFDI) Forum 2025

on April 29-30, 2025

Pakistan is set to make history as the first country to implement the Digital Foreign Direct Investment (DFDI) Initiative, a project led by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO). The initiative aims to foster cross-border digital investment in emerging markets, spurring global innovation and collaboration. As part of this vision, Pakistan will host the DFDI Forum 2025 in Islamabad on April 29-30, 2025. The forum, organized in collaboration with the DCO, WEF, and Pakistan's Ministry of IT & Telecommunication, will bring together global thought leaders, policymakers, and investors from 16 countries to drive the future of digital investment. Through the Digital FDI-Enabling Policy (DEP), Pakistan is leading efforts to enhance digital infrastructure, innovation, and digital services exports, positioning itself as a hub for fintech, AI, and cybersecurity. The DFDI Forum 2025 will be pivotal in unlocking investment opportunities and advancing Pakistan's digital transformation, reinforcing its status as a global leader in technology and innovation.



SHAZA FATIMA KHAWAJA APPOINTED AS FEDERAL MINISTER FOR IT & TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Shaza Fatima Khawaja has been appointed as Pakistan's Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunications, bringing dynamic leadership to the country's tech sector. Her appointment comes at a crucial time as Pakistan accelerates its push toward a connected, innovation-driven future. Focused on empowering youth, expanding digital infrastructure, and fostering tech growth, Minister Khawaja is set to lead the Ministry in shaping Pakistan's digital destiny.

STARLINK GRANTED PROVISIONAL NOC IN PAKISTAN!

STARLINK

The Ministry of IT & Telecom announces that Starlink has received a Provisional No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from SUPARCO, marking a major milestone in expanding high-speed satellite internet in Pakistan. This decision, backed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directive, highlights the collaborative efforts of key stakeholders, including Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja. Starlink's entry into the market is set to bridge the digital divide, create economic opportunities, and propel Pakistan toward a more connected future.

GOOGLE WALLET LAUNCHES IN PAKISTAN – A NEW ERA OF DIGITAL PAYMENTS!



Google Wallet has officially launched in Pakistan, revolutionizing digital payments to be faster, safer, and smarter. Now, whether shopping, commuting, or booking services online, users can tap, pay, and go—without the need for cash. This milestone, driven by the Ministry of IT & Telecom, marks a significant step toward a cashless, tech-enabled economy, offering a new level of convenience and a glimpse into the future of digital transactions in Pakistan.

THE DIGITAL NATION PAKISTAN ACT IS NOW OFFICIAL!



The Digital Nation Pakistan Act has been officially enacted, marking a significant step in the country's tech-driven transformation. The Act establishes a National Digital Commission, chaired by the Prime Minister, and outlines a National Digital Master Plan to be implemented by the Pakistan Digital Authority. It also promotes collaboration among key national entities like NADRA, PTA, FBR, and SECP for a unified digital strategy. This legislation sets the foundation for Pakistan's journey toward becoming a fully connected and empowered Digital Nation.

Industry News

Launch of ZahanatAI: Pakistan's First Indigenous GPT Platform



Data Vault Pakistan has launched ZahanatAI, Pakistan's first indigenous GPT platform, marking a significant milestone in the country's AI ecosystem. Designed to meet local needs, ZahanatAI supports multiple languages, including English, Urdu, and regional dialects, enabling wider accessibility. The platform offers innovative solutions across various sectors, including healthcare, coding, and history. ZahanatAI is set to revolutionize how Pakistan leverages artificial intelligence, driving advancements in local tech solutions. This launch highlights Pakistan's growing capabilities in AI development, showcasing the nation's potential in the global tech landscape.

BIONIKS WINS ZERO PROJECT AWARD 2025



Bioniks has made history as the first Pakistani startup to receive the prestigious Zero Project Award 2025 for its groundbreaking contributions in assistive technology. This achievement highlights Pakistan's immense potential in driving innovation and developing impactful solutions to address global challenges. The award recognizes Bioniks' commitment to improving accessibility and creating transformative technologies for people with disabilities. This milestone showcases the growing strength of Pakistan's tech ecosystem and its increasing recognition on the global stage. Bioniks' success is a testament to the country's ability to deliver cutting-edge solutions that make a real difference.

EDUFI WINS LEAP ROCKET FUEL PITCH COMPETITION

EduFi, Pakistan's pioneering woman-led EdTech startup, has triumphed at the Leap Rocket Fuel Pitch competition, surpassing over 2,500 global startups. This victory underscores the immense potential of Pakistan's IT industry, showcasing its ability to compete on a global scale. EduFi's innovative approach in the EdTech space has garnered international recognition, highlighting the talent and vision emerging from Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem. This win not only elevates EduFi's global presence but also reflects the growing strength of Pakistan's tech sector. It's a significant milestone for both the startup and the country's overall digital advancement.



Industry News

Zeeshan Shahid Wins Digital Prosperity Award Global



Motto Vest and Zeeshan Shahid have been recognized for their dedication to ethical digital innovation, with Zeeshan Shahid making history as the first Pakistani to win the Digital Prosperity Award Global. This prestigious recognition highlights his contributions to the digital landscape, demonstrating his commitment to promoting sustainable and responsible technological advancements. Zeeshan's achievement not only celebrates his individual excellence but also positions Pakistan as a growing force in the global tech industry. His win is a testament to the power of ethical innovation in shaping a prosperous digital future.

MYCO.IO SECURES SPOT IN MEET THE DRAPERS GRAND FINALE

Pakistani entrepreneur-led startup myco.io has achieved a remarkable feat by securing a spot in the Meet the Drapers Grand Finale as the most voted startup globally, with over 100K votes! This extraordinary achievement highlights the strength, innovation, and global appeal of Myco, marking a significant milestone for Pakistan's tech ecosystem. Myco's success in a global competition showcases the immense potential of Pakistani startups on the world stage. This recognition not only amplifies Pakistan's growing presence in the tech industry but also serves as an inspiration for future innovators.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

The World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting 2025 took place from January 20-24 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, under the theme "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age." Over 2,500 global leaders from government, business, and civil society addressed challenges such as geopolitical shocks, economic growth, and the energy transition. The event focused on reimagining growth, investing in people, and safeguarding the planet, with speakers including Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen. Key topics also included global public debt and the role of technologies like AI in shaping the future. Livestreamed sessions were made publicly accessible.



The Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) played a vital role in fostering international collaborations and offering export enablement, capacity building, and global market access, enhancing Pakistan's position in the global tech ecosystem.

AI EVREYTHING GLOBAL 2025

Pakistan made a significant impact at AI Everything Global 2025, held from February 15–18 at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai, UAE, one of the world's leading AI and digital transformation events. Leading IT companies from Pakistan showcased their innovative AI solutions, demonstrating the country's growing expertise in the global AI landscape. CEO of Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), Mr. Abu Bakar, engaged in high-level discussions with global technology leaders, focusing on strategic alliances and investment opportunities. Pakistan's participation was further recognized with TechDestination Pakistan being named a Global AI Partner. PSEB played a key role by offering export enablement, capacity building, and global market access, helping position Pakistan as a competitive hub for AI innovation. The connections made and initiatives launched at AI Everything Global 2025 are expected to drive Pakistan's AI adoption, digital growth, and long-term success in the global technology space.



PAKISTAN AT LEAP, 2025

Pakistan made a powerful impact at LEAP 2025, held from February 4–7 at the Riyadh Exhibition and Convention Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. the world's most-attended tech event. Marking its largest-ever participation in an international tech conference, Pakistan was represented by over 100 companies and more than 1,000 delegates, showcasing the strength of its rapidly growing IT sector. The event opened with the Pak-Saudi Business Forum, attended by over 400 participants, setting the tone for bilateral cooperation. The Pakistan Pavilion was inaugurated by key dignitaries including Minister of State for IT & Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja and CEO PSEB Mr. Abu Bakar, and featured top IT firms and startups offering solutions in AI, cloud computing, and cybersecurity. Several MoUs and contracts were signed between Pakistani companies and global tech leaders. PSEB played a central role by facilitating business development, networking, and showcasing Pakistan's tech talent. Through services in export enablement, capacity building, and global market access, PSEB is helping position Pakistan as a dynamic player in the global tech ecosystem. LEAP 2025 marked a milestone in accelerating Pakistan's journey toward digital transformation and innovation-led growth.





WEB SUMMIT QATAR 2025

Pakistan made a strong mark at Web Summit 2025, held from February 23–26 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC) in Qatar, one of the world's premier technology conferences. With 11 leading Pakistani companies showcasing cutting-edge solutions in software development, AI, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies, the Pakistan Pavilion—jointly inaugurated by H.E. Muhammad Aamer, Ambassador of Pakistan to Qatar, and Mr. Abu Bakar, CEO of Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), became a hub for international collaboration and investment. PSEB played a central role by facilitating high-impact B2B meetings, hosting an exclusive meetup of over 60 Pakistani tech professionals and investors, and enabling CEO Abu Bakar's participation in a key panel on building collaborative tech ecosystems. A major milestone was a $10 million investment pledge by Mr. Suleyman Khan, a Hong Kong-based Pakistani CEO, signaling rising global confidence in Pakistan's tech potential. Through its continued efforts in export enablement, capacity building, and global market access, PSEB is reinforcing Pakistan's position as a growing digital powerhouse and a serious contender in the global innovation economy.







GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE (GDC) 2025

The Game Developers Conference (GDC) 2025, held from March 17–21, 2025, at the Moscone Center in San Francisco, California, will feature Pakistan's largest-ever delegation of 60+ gaming leaders, developers, and innovators, showcasing the country's rapidly growing gaming ecosystem. Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), in collaboration with TDAP, is setting up a 37-square-meter Networking Lounge at GDC, positioning it as a key hub for global connections. The global gaming industry is expanding at a 10% CAGR and is expected to reach $424 billion by 2033. Pakistan's gaming sector is thriving, with the U.S. being its top export market, accounting for over 50% of ICT exports. Previously, Pakistani companies generated over 540 leads worth $5.5 million at GDC, with multiple networking opportunities lined up in Silicon Valley. With a 9% annual growth rate, Pakistan's gaming industry is ready to connect with industry pioneers, investors, and publishers, demonstrating the innovation and creativity driving the sector forward













Pakistan Gaming Meetup – A Night of Networking and Collaborations

The Pakistan Gaming Meetup, organized by PSEB and OPEN SV, marked the beginning of Pakistan's dynamic presence at GDC 2025. The event brought together industry leaders, developers, and investors to discuss cross-border partnerships and business expansion, setting the tone for a highly productive week.

In addition to insightful discussions, Pakistani gaming studios engaged in exclusive B2B networking sessions, forging valuable connections with global industry players, publishers, and investors. The meetup generated strong interest in Pakistan's rapidly growing gaming industry, opening doors for strategic collaborations and investment opportunities.

Through this event, Pakistan reinforced its position as an emerging hub for game development and innovation, showcasing its commitment to global expansion and industry growth.







DOMESTIC EVENTS

PAKISTAN TRAVEL MART (PTM) 2025

Pakistan Travel Mart (PTM) 2025, happening in Karachi from January 31st - February 2nd, 2025, is Pakistan's pioneering & largest travel and tourism event, connecting regional and global stakeholders with a focus on inbound, outbound, and domestic tourism.

PSEB is setting up the Tech Destination Pakistan Pavilion to accommodate 10 IT companies at a special discounted rate of only Rs. 70,000 for PSEB members. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to showcase your business at this key event for networking, knowledge-sharing, and growth in the tourism sector. PTM serves as an ideal platform for networking, knowledge-sharing, and fostering partnerships that drive growth within the tourism sector.





PSEB'S INDUSTRY VERTICAL COVERAGE

Industry Vertical Coverage is a project by PSEB aimed at positioning Pakistan's IT industry as a leading global tech hub. The initiative collects data from tech firms and startups from Pakistan across 30 verticals, including categories such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning & Data Science, Blockchain, Cyber Security, HealthTech, FinTech, EdTech, Internet of Things (IoT), and many more. This data is used to produce comprehensive reports highlighting the products and services offered by these companies, which are then promoted internationally through PSEB's website, global conferences, and Pakistan's embassies and consulates.

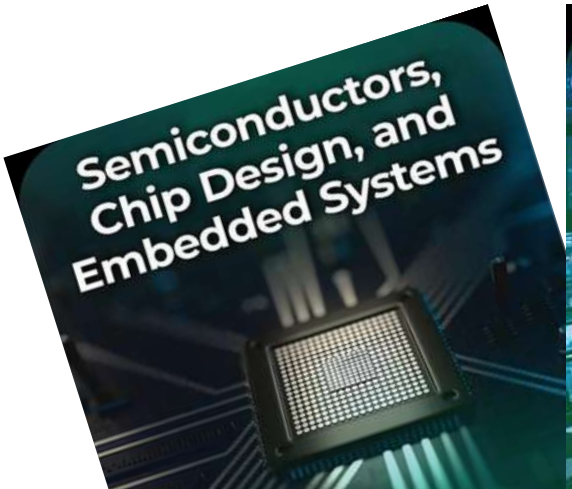
In line with this effort, PSEB conducted two focus group sessions to provide guidance to companies and participants on the value of these roundups and the crucial role they play in promoting Pakistan's IT industry globally. Participants were also briefed on how their contributions could ensure that their innovations and services are properly shown to an international audience. These discussions helped companies understand how to position themselves as key players in the global tech landscape. Through ongoing collaboration and support, the project aims to foster a stronger, more competitive IT ecosystem in Pakistan.

We invite tech firms and startups across Pakistan to contribute to the roundups and highlight their innovations. Your participation will ensure that your offerings are prominently featured in reports shared with international stakeholders, expanding your reach and boosting your business growth.













PSEB PROJECT UPDATES

SKILLS & CAPACITY BUILDING

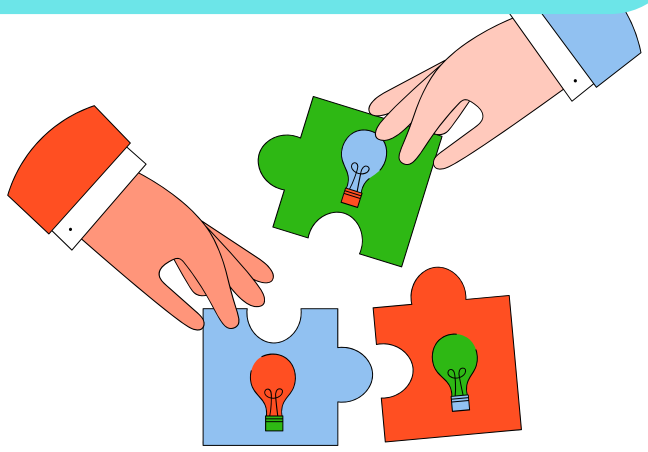
Certification of IT Professionals

The Certification of IT Professionals (CIP) program, led by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), strengthens Pakistan's IT workforce by offering globally recognized certifications in areas like AWS, PMP, Python, and Data Science. The initiative addresses the demand for skilled professionals, enhancing employability, career growth, and bridging industry needs with workforce capabilities. With over 5,700 certified professionals, the program has boosted job placements, career advancement, and global competitiveness, positioning Pakistan as a leader in technology and innovation. It also provides nationwide access to training, including special provisions for public sector employees.

e-Rozgaar Initiative

The launch of 16 e-Rozgaar Centers across Pakistan has significantly bolstered the country's freelancing and startup ecosystem by providing accessible co-working spaces that foster collaboration and productivity. These centers aim to enhance digital skills and promote freelancing, aligning with the government's vision to support economic growth. In addition, 62 Open House events were held nationwide, raising awareness and engaging the public with the e-Rozgaar Centers, encouraging more individuals to explore freelancing. The program's geographic coverage expanded to 31 districts, spanning major regions like Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring equal access to resources and training. These efforts collectively aim to empower youth across the country, bridging regional disparities and enhancing the digital workforce





Prime Minister's Initiative for Skills Building

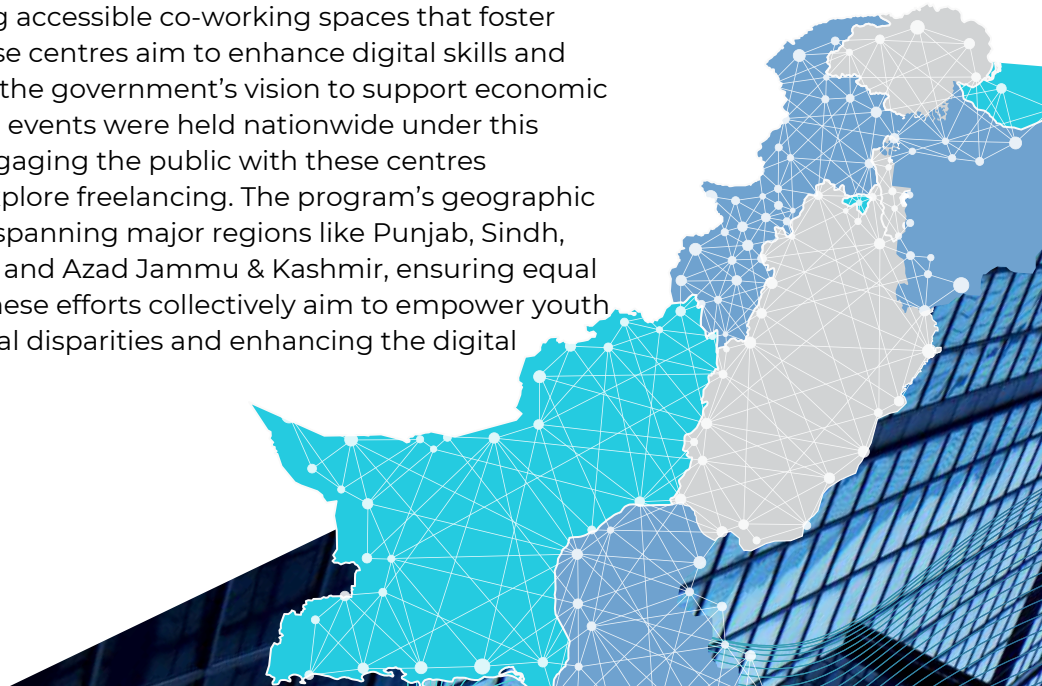
The Prime Minister's Initiative for Skills Building aims to develop a skilled, industry-ready IT workforce in Pakistan. Targeting 8,679 individuals, the program offers certifications, soft skills training, IT bootcamps, and internships. Key components include 1,350 reimbursable IT certifications, 2,700 soft skills certifications, 3,380 bootcamp participants, and 1,000 paid internships. This initiative is designed to enhance employability and support the growth of Pakistan's IT and IT-enabled Services sector, positioning the country as a competitive player in the global tech economy.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

ESTABLISHMENT OF IT PARK KARACHI (The Biggest IT Park of Pakistan)
IT Park Karachi will provide a world-class space for IT companies, startups, and freelancers to operate, collaborate, and grow. This infrastructure project, due to be completed by June 2027, is a significant step towards transforming Karachi into a technological hub. The design phase is completed for this mega project. Furthermore, a boundary wall has been constructed around the site and physical progress of around 10% has been achieved. The tendering process for selection of Korean Contractors has been initiated and it is expected that construction work shall be started in First quarter of next financial year. This project aims to have a lasting impact on the local economy by creating job opportunities, contributing significantly in the IT exports, attracting foreign investment, and fostering innovation in the IT and software development sectors. It is expected that with this project Pakistan shall have have an IT park that rivals other global tech centers, ultimately contributing to a substantial boost in Pakistan's IT exports and technological advancements

ESTABLISHMENT OF 25 SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY PARKS (STPS)
The establishment of all 25 Software Technology Parks (STPs) has been successfully completed in line with the PC-1 requirements, marking a significant milestone within the project's timeline. These STPs are set to play a vital role in supporting Pakistan's growing IT sector, particularly startups and SMEs. Designed to provide an enabling environment for IT businesses, these STPs offer facilities such as IT enabled office space, meeting rooms, training spaces, and high-speed internet with 24*7 uninterrupted power supply. This initiative is expected to boost employment, drive tech entrepreneurship across Pakistan while promoting development and fostering a competitive digital economy in various cities. This project has generated around 5000 jobs out of which 20% are women IT professionals as well as these STPs are contributing more than USD 20 million of IT exports as reported by 3rd party audit of this project.

LAUNCH OF NATIONAL CO-WORKING SPACE PROGRAM
The PSEB has successfully launch National Co-working Space Program (NCSP) previously named as e-rozgaar program. Under this project. Currently, 16 Centres has been established across Pakistan which are significantly boosting freelancing and startup ecosystem by providing accessible co-working spaces that foster collaboration and productivity. These centres aim to enhance digital skills and promote freelancing, aligning with the government's vision to support economic growth. In addition, 62 Open House events were held nationwide under this initiative, raising awareness and engaging the public with these centres encouraging more individuals to explore freelancing. The program's geographic coverage expanded to 90 districts, spanning major regions like Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring equal access to resources and training. These efforts collectively aim to empower youth across the country, bridging regional disparities and enhancing the digital workforce.



IT PARK ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S FIRST DEDICATED IT HUB

The IT Park Islamabad, a flagship project by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) under the Ministry of Information Technology, is set to open in 1st Quarter of next financial year.. Located in Chak Shehzad, Islamabad, it is a 12-storey building (including two basements), offering office space for over 120 startups and SMEs, along with facilities like testing labs, classrooms, and an industry-academia linkage center. The park also features a latest level-III data center. The project, supported financially by Exim Bank of Korea, aims to foster industry-academia collaboration, drive technology commercialization, and enhance Pakistan's IT exports and global competitiveness. It will also focus on R&D, innovation, and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), contributing to the growth of Pakistan's IT sector. After completion it shall contribute annually around USD 70 million IT exports and shall create thousands of direct and indirect jobs.



Upcoming Events

JAPAN IT WEEK
TOKYO, JAPAN 2025

APRIL 23-25, 2025

Japan IT Week Spring 2025, one of the country's largest IT trade fairs, will be held from April 23–25 at Tokyo Big Sight, focusing on key sectors like AI, Cloud, IoT, and Digital Marketing. The event attracts global IT professionals and offers opportunities for innovation and business networking. The Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) will participate to promote Pakistan's IT sector, targeting Japan's growing demand for skilled outsourcing solutions in the APAC region.

26TH ITCN ASIA, LAHORE
LAHORE, PAKISTAN
9-11 MAY 2025

ITCN Asia 2025, Pakistan's largest tech event organized by Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan, will be held in Lahore in May. Spanning three days, it will feature innovations in AI, cybersecurity, and ecommerce, along with conferences, panels, and networking sessions. The event will spotlight technological advancements in sectors like banking, healthcare, and education, positioning itself as a major platform for collaboration and shaping Pakistan's tech-driven future.

GITEX EUROPE
BERLIN, GERMANY,
MAY 21-23, 2025

GITEX Global, the largest and most influential technology exhibition in the world, attracts key stakeholders from over 170 countries and showcases the latest trends and technologies in the industry. PSEB, in collaboration with the TDAP, will feature a 156-sqm Tech Destination Pakistan pavilion, showcasing 25 leading IT companies. PSEB is also offering a 60% subsidy on exhibition costs. This year, Pakistan has been recognized as the "TechdestiNation of the Year," which comes with enhanced branding and visibility at GITEX Global. This honor includes extensive marketing on both digital and print platforms, as well as multiple speaking opportunities at concurrent conferences.

LONDON TECH WEEK 2025
LONDON, UK
JUNE 09 – 13, 2025

PSEB, in collaboration with TDAP and PASHA, is taking Pakistani IT companies to exhibit at TechCrunch Disrupt with at subsidized exhibition costs. TechCrunch Disrupt, renowned for connecting investors, innovators, and tech founders, plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of the global tech ecosystem by highlighting the latest trends and advancements in technology. As the U.S. remains one of the largest export destinations for Pakistan's IT and IT-enabled services, participation in such a high-profile event is expected to significantly amplify Pakistan's IT exports to the U.S. market. TechCrunch Disrupt will offer valuable exposure, allowing Pakistani companies to showcase their innovations on an international stage.

WEBINARS

GDC 2025 INTRODUCTORY WEBINAR

PSEB hosted a series of insightful webinars to help Pakistani IT companies expand globally. The GDC 2025 Introductory Webinar, held on January 16, 2025, at 3:30 PM (PKT), provided an overview of collaboration opportunities at the Game Developers Conference (GDC) 2025. The session was led by Luuk Fokke, GDC Organizer, Raheel Iqbal, Vice Chairman of P@SHA, and Shahbaz Hameed, Director of Business Development & Partnerships at PSEB. Attendees received valuable guidance on how to maximize their impact at GDC 2025.



PAKISTAN-NETHERLANDS IT TRADE & INVESTMENT WEBINAR

On January 22, 2025, at 3:00 PM (PST) / 11:00 AM (CET), the Pakistan-Netherlands IT Trade & Investment Webinar will explore the potential for IT trade and investment between Pakistan and the Netherlands. The session will bring together experts from both countries to discuss new avenues for collaboration, innovation, and growth in the IT sector. Attendees will gain key insights into building strategic partnerships and expanding their global reach.



WEBINARS

ENTERING THE JAPAN MARKET FOR PAKISTANI ICT COMPANIES

The Entering the Japan Market for Pakistani ICT Companies webinar, scheduled for January 6, 2025, at 11:00 AM (Pakistan Time), will focus on business opportunities at Japan IT Week 2025. This session will provide valuable insights into the Japanese market, highlighting potential for networking, collaboration, and business development. Participants will learn how to strategically utilize the platform to connect with global tech leaders and investors in diverse industries, driving growth and international expansion



If you have a success story you'd like to share, please email us at **mrp@pseb.org.pk** for a chance to be featured in the upcoming editions