



Information Technology & Telecommunications

Vol. 1, No. 1

January 2026



Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

About SDPI

SDPI was founded in August 1992 on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), also called Pakistan's Agenda 21. The NCS placed Pakistan's socio-economic development within the context of a national environmental plan. This highly acclaimed document, approved by the Federal Cabinet in March 1992, outlined the need for an independent non-profit organization to serve as a source of expertise for policy analysis and development, policy intervention, policy and programme advisory services and training. SDPI is registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860.

Mission

To catalyze the transition towards sustainable development, defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations.

Vision

To be a center of excellence on sustainable development policy research, capacity development and advocacy in Pakistan.

About Newsletter

To keep abreast of emerging issues relating to 'Information Technology & Telecommunication' at the national, international and local levels, SDPI brings out a Monthly E-Newsletter.

This E-newsletter is the outcome of public and private dialogues on the emerging issues related to the subject organized by the SDPI's Study Group. It includes planning and policy recommendations, which are framed by the SDPI's IT and Telecom team. It further carries references from the news items/comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading national and international dailies.

About Study Group on Information Technology and Telecommunications

This group comprises consultants, scientists, educationists and economists who meet periodically to discuss and evaluate current developments in the rapidly evolving fields of telecommunications, computers, data processing, networking, mass media and other issues related to the generation, processing, management and use of information. The purpose of these meetings is to create awareness among different stakeholders belonging to both public and private sectors regarding the importance of exploiting useful information resources, address existing difficulties in this respect, and foresee future developments, which might have an impact on the national economy and society at large. The group also undertakes the preparation of policy and planning recommendations that could subsequently be pursued by the agencies concerned.

[The Study Group has been sharing policy and planning recommendations on the above issues for the last three decades or more. Most of its recommendations are implemented by the government.]

Newspapers Covered:

Dawn	The News	The Express Tribune
The Nation	Business Recorder	Daily Times
Pakistan Observer	Pakistan Today	Urdu Point

Themes Covered

Major Theme:

- Information Technology & Telecommunications

Sub themes/Related topics

- Information Technology
- Telecommunications
- Cybersecurity & Information Security
- Telecommunication Networks
- Mobile & Wireless Communication
- 5G / 6G Technologies
- Broadband & Fiber Optics
- Educational Technology
- IT & Telecom Policy & Regulations

Information Technology & Telecommunications Technology

Information Technology & Telecommunications Technology

1. Nawaz Sharif IT City to empower every daughter of Punjab: CM

Source: [Muhammad Saleem](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-15

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif paid rich tribute to Arfa Karim, Pakistan's youngest Microsoft Certified Professional, on her 14th death anniversary, saying that the launch of the Nawaz Sharif IT City would empower every daughter of Punjab to follow in her footsteps. The chief minister said, "Arfa Karim, who became the world's youngest Microsoft Certified P..... [more >>](#)

2. PTA blocks over one million illegal web links in Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-16

More than one million web links and URLs have been blocked in Pakistan for spreading illegal and inappropriate digital content, according to a report by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) submitted to the Lahore High Court. The report revealed that social media platforms Facebook and TikTok faced the highest level of enforcement action. On Facebook, around 229,000 links were reviewed..... [more >>](#)

3. PTA's cracks down on illegal digital content

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-17

LAHORE - More than one million web links and URLs were blocked in Pakistan for spreading illegal digital content. A comprehensive report on the crackdown by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has been issued on Friday. According to the PTA report, the highest number of blockings were made on Facebook and TikTok for sharing illegal and inappropriate content. The PTA checked and reported 22..... [more >>](#)

4. Moot showcases emerging tech research

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-11

ISLAMABAD: The 3rd International Conference on Recent Advances in Computing, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (CAIDS-2025) concluded successfully at Riphah International University (RIU), Islamabad, bringing together national and international experts to deliberate on emerging trends in computing, artificial intelligence and data science. The conference aimed to strengthen collaboration [more >>](#)

5. PTA tells IHC its attempts to block Imran's X account failed

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-23

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Thursday submitted a report to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on measures to block the X-account of PTI founder. According to the report, social media companies are registered in their own countries and do not consider themselves bound by the laws of other countries. The PTA report presented in the High Court said that it wrote to X at..... [more >>](#)

6. LHC seeks govt response on plea seeking to ban social media for under-16s

Source: [Wajih Ahmad Sheikh](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-28

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday sought replies from the federal government and other authorities on a petition seeking a ban on the use of social media by children under the age of 16. LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum heard the petition filed by Aliya Saleem and others through Advocate Shiza Qureshi on Tuesday. Justice Neelum observed that it was an important matter and a poli..... [more >>](#)

7. Use of social media by children: LHC seeks replies from govt, other stakeholders

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-29

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Wednesday sought replies from the federal government and other authorities on a petition seeking a ban on the use of social media by children under the age of 16. Chief Justice Aalia Neelum heard a public interest petition filed by Aliya Saleem, a minor student, and Kausar Abbas, the executive director of an NGO. The chief justice observed that this is an importa..... [more >>](#)

8. The cost of digital noise

Source: [Shahrukh Nawaz Raja](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-04

The unfolding arc of the higher military-diplomatic engagements comes at a moment when Pakistan's external environment is both unusually fluid and unusually unforbearing. From a tense eastern frontier to an unstable western neighbourhood, and amid a rapidly fragmenting global order, the country's strategic bandwidth is under relentless strain. Yet paradoxically, just as Pakistan appe..... [more >>](#)

9. Summit highlights productive use of social media to drive positive change

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-04

Peshawar - A three-day Youth Social Media Change Makers Summit concluded at the Baragali Campus of the University of Peshawar, bringing together young digital enthusiasts from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to examine how social media can be harnessed for youth empowerment and social development. The summit was organized by WQ Software, in collaboration with the Department of History, University of Pe..... [more >>](#)

10. NHA, FWO to prepare database on motorways

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-07

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Tuesday directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) and the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) to prepare a joint report within 15 days for improving the Motorway database and addressing pending issues, particularly the up-gradation of rest areas so that sustainable solutions to the problems being faced on Motorways can be ensured..... [more >>](#)

11. QAU rolls out e-office system

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-07

Islamabad: In a move towards institutional modernisation, the Quaid-i-Azam University has launched its Digital Office Management System, also known as the e-office system, accompanied by a comprehensive training workshop for faculty and administrative staff. The deployment and workshop were inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor QAU, Prof Dr Niaz Akhtar, and attended by alumni and senior management of..... [more >>](#)

12. PTA issues information memo for 5G auction

Source: [Mateen Haider](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-10

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Friday night issued an information memorandum (IM) for the auction of Next Generation Mobile Services (NGMS)/5G technology in Pakistan. According to an IM issued by PTA, the NGMS/5G auction will offer 597.2 MHz of spectrum below 6 GHz. This includes additional spectrum in two existing IMT bands (1800 and 2100 MHz) and newly available spec..... [more >>](#)

13. Punjab set to utilise Pakistan's own satellite for high speed internet

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-10

LAHORE: Senator Anusha Rehman said that Punjab will become the first province in Pakistan where citizens will benefit from broadband services through Pakistan's own satellite. She said this while chairing a high-level meeting at the Chief Minister's Office to review plans for providing high-speed broadband services to the people of Punjab. During the meeting, detailed consultations were..... [more >>](#)

14. Punjab to launch satellite-based broadband services under CM Maryam Nawaz's directions

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-10

Lahore - On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a high-level meeting was held at the Chief Minister's Office under the chairmanship of Senior Adviser to the Chief Minister Senator Anusha Rehman to review plans for providing high-speed broadband services to the people of Punjab. During the meeting, detailed consultations were held on the provision of ultra-fas..... [more >>](#)

15. Smart Capital

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-11

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's engagement with the UAE leadership, aimed at attracting investment into IT, reflects an understanding that growth in the twenty-first century is driven less by smokestacks and more by servers, skills and systems. For too long, Pakistan's engagement with foreign investors has been narrowly transactional, centred on short-term inflows rather than long-ter..... [more >>](#)

16. PM reaffirms commitment to IT education, youth empowerment

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-12

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that providing Pakistani youth with internationally competitive education and training in the information technology sector is among the government's top priorities. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting on Sunday with the parents of the late IT prodigy Arfa Karim Randhawa, Samina Amjad and Amjad Karim Randhawa, also..... [more >>](#)

17. Turning country into regional IT hub; PM firmly expresses strong will

Source: [Muhammad Saleem](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-12

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said concerted efforts are being made to transform Pakistan into a regional hub for Information Technology. He said this during a meeting with Samina Amjad and Amjad Karim Randhawa, parents of late IT expert Arfa Karim Randhawa, here Sunday. Chief Executive of the Arfa Karim Foundation Tabinda Islam was also present on the occasion. The Prime Min..... [more >>](#)

18. Nawaz Sharif IT City to carry forward Arfa Karim's legacy: CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-15

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the Nawaz Sharif IT City (NSIT) will open new avenues of opportunity for the youth, particularly girls, enabling them to follow the path blazed by Arfa Karim and compete at the global level in information technology. In a message on the 14th death anniversary of Arfa Karim, Pakistan's youngest Microsoft Certified Professional,..... [more >>](#)

19. Power in the Palm

Source: [Omay Aimen](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-16

For years, India has projected itself as a confident digital democracy, presenting technological expansion as proof of modern governance and economic maturity. That image, however, is beginning to fracture. Recent policy decisions emerging from New Delhi suggest a fundamental shift in how technology is perceived by the state: not as a neutral enabler of opportunity, but as an instrument of authori..... [more >>](#)

20. Telecommunications sector; '12.79pc of users encountered web-threats; 20.76pc faced on-device threats'

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-17

ISLAMABAD: A leading cybersecurity company on Friday disclosed that 12.79 percent of users in the telecommunications sector encountered web-threats and 20.76 percent faced on-device threats during 2025. According to the latest report of Kaspersky Security Bulletin, the company reviewed what shaped telecom cybersecurity in 2025 and what is likely to persist in 2026. Advanced Persistent Thr..... [more >>](#)

21. PITB receives 14,000 requests for global IT certifications

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-21

LAHORE: The Punjab Information Technology Board has received more than 14,000 applications for international certifications under its Global IT Certification Programme since September 2024. The progress was reviewed during a meeting chaired by PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf. PITB Director General e-Governance Sajid Latif, Director Skills Development Wing Chaudhry Ahmad Islam and other senior offici..... [more >>](#)

22. AIUO signs MoU with Cisco NetAcad to promote IT skills

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-23

Islamabad: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday between Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) and the globally renowned technology company Cisco's educational platform, Cisco NetAcad to promote educational collaboration. The purpose of this agreement is to equip students with modern IT, networking, cybersecurity and digital skills so that they can effectively compete in b..... [more >>](#)

23. Pakistan's first banking industry-wide Cyber Drill concludes in Karachi

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-24

Karachi - As a joint initiative of the Pakistan Banks Association (PBA) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Pakistan's banking sector concluded its first-ever Industry-wide Cyber Drill, a week-long exercise held from 12 to 19

January 2026 in Karachi and Lahore, with a closing ceremony in Karachi. SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest, and Chairman PBA Zafar Masu..... [more >>](#)

24. PTA warns public against illegal online content

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-25

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has warned users to remain vigilant against illegal content circulating online. In a statement, the PTA said that freedom of expression on digital platforms is a fundamental right of every individual; however, the promotion or dissemination of unlawful content under the guise of free speech is entirely unacceptable. The authority stressed that c..... [more >>](#)

25. Power, privacy and governance

Source: [Muhammad Aslam Hayat](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-26

Framework governing data remains fragmented and heavily skewed in favour of state control rather than citizen rights. In today's Pakistan, data has quietly become one of the most powerful instruments of governance. From identity cards and voter rolls to tax records, telecom metadata and social media activity, the state now sees its citizens increasingly through databases. Used [more >>](#)

26. Ten broadband connectivity projects completed in Balochistan, KP, Punjab

Source: [News Wire](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-26

ISLAMABAD - The Universal Service Fund (USF) has completed a total of 10 broadband connectivity projects under its 4G Access Programme and Tourist Destination initiatives during 2025. According to a document available with Wealth Pakistan, the completed projects aim to empower unserved and underserved communities by expanding access to high-speed and affordable internet services across remote a..... [more >>](#)

27. An Ethical Future The idea of storytelling is as old as humans have existed on earth.

Source: [R Umaima Ahmed](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-27

As I entered the hall of the Government Graduate College for Women, Wahdat Colony in Lahore, there was pin-drop silence; only the storyteller, an expert from Storykit, could be heard. He asked the students if they had social media profiles. Majority students raised their hands and mentioned the platforms they used and for what purpose. Three stories on the ethical usage of online spaces were na..... [more >>](#)

28. Platform Shift

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-31

Upscroll's sudden rise, fuelled by creators migrating from TikTok amid concerns over content moderation and algorithmic opacity, signals a growing fatigue with the concentration of power in Big Tech. The platform's positioning as a freer, less surveilled space has struck a chord with users who view mainstream social media as increasingly aligned with state and corporate interests. T..... [more >>](#)

29. Senators for keeping tabs on social media usage by under-18s

Source: [Iftikhar A. Khan](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-17

ISLAMABAD: Senators on Friday called for keeping tabs on the use of social media platforms by children under 18, with the chair proposing a special committee to develop safeguards in consultation with relevant ministries. The issue was raised through a calling-attention notice moved by Senators Falak Naz, Fawzia Arshad, Aimal Wali Khan, Saadia Abbasi and Dilawar Khan. Presiding over the..... [more >>](#)

30. PM says committed to IT edu, empowerment of youth

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-12

LAHORE - Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that providing Pakistani youth with internationally competitive education and training in the information technology sector is among the government's top priorities. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting on Sunday with the parents of late IT prodigy Arfa Karim Randhawa, Samina Amjad and Amjad Karim Randhawa, along w..... [more >>](#)

31. Punjab shifts e-Biz Portal services fully online from Feb 1

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-10

LAHORE - The Punjab government has announced that all services available on the e-Biz Portal will be offered exclusively online from February 1, eliminating the need for citizens to physically visit government offices and marking a major step towards paperless governance. The decision is part of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's digital governance vision, under which the provincial..... [more >>](#)

32. Cabinet calls for developing digital infrastructure Members suggest half of spectrum proceeds be allocated to USF for fiberisation

Source: [Zafar Bhutta](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-11

ISLAMABAD: Cabinet members have suggested that half of telecom spectrum auction proceeds should be deposited with the Universal Service Fund (USF), the entity responsible for developing digital infrastructure in the country. The suggestion came in a recent meeting of the cabinet, chaired by the prime minister. While discussing the upcoming spectrum auction, the cabinet members suggested transfer..... [more >>](#)

33. Power, privacy and governance

Source: [Muhammad Aslam Hayat](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-26

In today's Pakistan, data has quietly become one of the most powerful instruments of governance. From identity cards and voter rolls to tax records, telecom metadata and social media activity, the state now sees its citizens increasingly through databases. Used responsibly, this data can drive development, transparency and inclusion. Used carelessly or coercively, it can deepen inequality, [more >>](#)

34. Senator briefs US diplomat on Punjab's IT initiatives

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-22

LAHORE: Senior Adviser to Punjab CM, Senator Anusha Rahman, held a meeting with United States Consul General Stetson Sanders, who called on her along with his delegation. The delegation included Head of Political and Economic Affairs William Campbell, Political and Economic Affairs Specialist Ms Sadaf Saad, Senior Commercial Specialist Hassan Raza and Economist Amina Anis. During the meeting,..... [more >>](#)

35. Nexus or confluence?

Source: [Dr Zafar Ullah Koreshi](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-28

What's the nexus between AI, data centres (DC) and Micronuclear Reactors (MNR)? Aren't they very different monsters? Well, one of them is definitely central to your life, while the other may soon be. Do the rivers of AI data centres and micronuclear reactors have anything in common? Well, with over 12,000 data centres worldwide, many operated by major cloud and AI infrastructure provi..... [more >>](#)

Artificial Intelligence

36. NCCIA launches AI tool to combat online child abuse

Source: [News Wire](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-29

ISLAMABAD - The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has launched 'Katalyst', an AI-enabled investigative tool aimed at strengthening Pakistan's response to online child sexual exploitation and abuse, amid a surge of nearly one million digital referrals annually. Developed in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control and the UK-Pakistan S..... [more >>](#)

37. Can machines make music?

Source: [Aimen Siddiqui](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-01

The writer heads the Business Desk at The News. She tweets/posts @manie_sid and can be reached at: aimen_erum@hotmail.com If I were to ask any LLM to write an article for me to say goodbye to the year 2025, it might have got one thing right: the article would have centred around AI. This year, my focus was not on my intelligence but on that of the widely unknown machine that is silently creeping [more >>](#)

38. Students showcase AI, robotics projects

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-04

KARACHI: Thousands of students attended the one-day TechnoFest 3.0 at Karachi Expo Centre on Saturday, where over 200 stalls showcased artificial intelligence-based projects developed by university and college students. The festival was inaugurated by Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman. Students guided visitors through their projects and conducted robotics competitions, demonstrating pr..... [more >>](#)

39. 8th Int'l Multi-topic ICT Conference highlights AI innovations

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-04

The Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) and the Mehran University of Engineering & Technology (MUET) organised the closing ceremony of the 8th International Multi-topic ICT Conference (IMTIC) at the SSUET campus. This year's conference theme, "AI Driven Innovations Across Disciplines for a Resilient and Sustainable ICT Infrastructure," attracted a div..... [more >>](#)

40. A high-stakes digital turn

Source: [Mohiuddin Aazim](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-05

The promise of digitisation and artificial intelligence (AI) for Pakistan is unmistakable: a path to modernised governance, efficient services, and new economic frontiers. Yet as the country accelerates its digital transformation, 2026 is shaping up to be a decisive year in which policy visions must confront hard operational realities. A dual pressure — an epidemic of financial scams and a [more >>](#)

41. Your AI panic is 200 years' old

Source: [Yumna Zahid Ali](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-07

People love to panic. Every time something new is invented, someone screams, "Oh my God...This will destroy everything!" And now, that loud scream has a new name —Artificial Intelligence. Everywhere you go, people say machines will take over all the jobs, all the creativity, all the power. But here's the truth: machines don't destroy humanity...laziness does. Fear does. The..... [more >>](#)

42. Research in the age of AI

Source: [Dr Yasir Ahmad](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-11

Being part of academia, I have pondered upon the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on research. I have attended various seminars and spoken with professors and research students to learn about their perspectives on the prospects of AI. There is still considerable scepticism about the use of this new technology. While some adopt it as..... [more >>](#)

43. Going offline?

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-12

The recent wave of concern that has gripped many education institutions was largely expected. The latest fear is that the use of AI tools by students could negatively impact the credibility of online examinations. This has made at least the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the world's largest accounting body, to pull back from online examinations. The institute recently..... [more >>](#)

44. AI skills to learn in 2026

Source: [Dr Imran Batada](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-14

Artificial Intelligence has taken center stage in today's world. It is now deeply embedded across the modern workforce, powering virtual assistants, recommendation engines, facial and voice recognition, traffic prediction on Google Maps and intelligent customer support. AI is transforming marketing, social media management, data analysis, automation and content creation, including images, vide..... [more >>](#)

45. Pakistan's AI policy lacks enforceable safeguards to protect rights: study

Source: [Myra Imran](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-15

ISLAMABAD: While Pakistan's National AI Policy 2025 prioritises innovation and growth, it lacks enforceable safeguards to protect rights, allowing monitoring, censorship, algorithmic bias, and technology-facilitated harms to flourish unchecked, revealed a study "Emerging Technologies in Pakistan: Towards a People-Centred Policy Framework" conducted by Digital Rights Foundation (D..... [more >>](#)

46. The reading and writing crisis in the age of AI

Source: [Tayyaba Saeed](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-16

THINK PAD In the weeks leading up to the new year, I read many articles on education. They often refer to a reading and writing crisis, but they rarely examine it carefully. This issue deserves attention because it shapes how students think, learn, and express ideas. Technology has changed classrooms. I accept these changes, and I still measure them against my experience as a student. That c..... [more >>](#)

47. Country announces 'Indus AI Week 2026'

Source: [Nuzhat Nazar](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-17

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has announced Indus AI Week 2026, a week-long national initiative aimed at accelerating artificial intelligence adoption across government, industry, academia and startups, as Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja unveiled the programme on Friday. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, l..... [more >>](#)

48. Indus AI week 2026 unveiled

Source: [News Wire](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-17

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Friday announced the launch of Indus AI Week 2026, a flagship national initiative on artificial intelligence, scheduled to take place from 9 to 15 February 2026. Indus AI Week 2026 positions Pakistan as a country committed to advancing artificial intelligence at scale. The initiative is designed [more >>](#)

49. 'AI threatens press freedom amid regulatory vacuum'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-18

Islamabad: The Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) convened a high-level national roundtable on Emerging Technologies in Pakistan, bringing together over 40 stakeholders from the government, media, civil society, international organisations and the technology sector to confront the growing gap between rapid technological adoption and human rights protections in the country. Held with support from th..... [more >>](#)

50. The horrors of AI

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-19

The year 2026 started on an alarming note regarding the use of artificial intelligence. One of the viral cases these days is Britain's media regulator investigation into Elon Musk's X over concerns its Grok AI chatbot was creating sexually intimate deepfake images in violation of its duty to protect people in the UK from illegal content. This problem is not limited to one country. The [more >>](#)

60. Google launches new AI frontier

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-22

Islamabad: Google has announced a major update to Gemini with the launch of Personal Intelligence, a new way for AI to help you manage your daily life by organising and processing the various information across your favorite Google apps. Unlike traditional AI that only knows what it finds on the internet, Personal Intelligence understands people's own personal worlds by analyzing the apps [more >>](#)

61. ADB warns Pakistan's AI reforms outpacing state capacity

Source: [Usman Hanif](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-23

KARACHI: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has identified that Pakistan's push to modernise public services through artificial intelligence is confronting deep structural barriers, as fragmented data systems, weak inter-agency coordination, low digital literacy and limited institutional capacity continue to constrain access to government services and tax administration, raising concerns that t..... [more >>](#)

62. All is set for 'Indus AI Week 2026'

Source: [Nuzhat Nazar](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-24

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has announced Indus AI Week 2026, a week-long national initiative aimed at accelerating artificial intelligence adoption across government, industry, academia and startups, as Federal Minister for

Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja unveiled the programme on Friday. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, I..... [more >>](#)

63. Why AI won't wipe out white-collar jobs: report

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-28

WASHINGTON: The warnings are piling up. In the past week or so Kristalina Georgieva, head of the IMF, has said that artificial intelligence is "hitting the labour market like a tsunami"; Jamie Dimon, boss of JPMorgan Chase, has forecast that America's biggest bank would soon need fewer employees; and Dario Amodei, who runs Anthropic, has predicted the technology his company is at..... [more >>](#)

64. AI Policy 2025 targets large-scale commercialisation

Source: [Nuzhat Nazar](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-31

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2025 is designed as a phased transition from ecosystem formation to large-scale commercialization and global integration, with early implementation focused on governance, infrastructure readiness, and market creation rather than immediate security-led deployment, according to officials and policy insiders familiar with the ro..... [more >>](#)

65. Pluribus and Islam

Source: [Imran Jan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-29

Pluribus is the latest show by Vince Gilligan, the creator of Breaking Bad. As best as I understand, Pluribus is about a future when AI has taken over the planet or has become the overwhelmingly large presence in humanity's lives or whatever is left of it. It is indeed a bleak future, rendering humanity's existence as a reflection of AI. In the show, all humanity has become one-minded, wh..... [more >>](#)

66. Moot showcases emerging tech research

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-11

ISLAMABAD: The 3rd International Conference on Recent Advances in Computing, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (CAIDS-2025) concluded successfully at Riphah International University (RIU), Islamabad, bringing together national and international experts to deliberate on emerging trends in computing, artificial intelligence and data science. The conference aimed to strengthen collaboration [more >>](#)

67. AI-based smart tracking system for crime prevention introduced

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-23

LAHORE - The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has introduced an advanced artificial intelligence-based smart tracking system aimed at strengthening crime prevention, improving the identification of suspects and enhancing real-time monitoring of suspicious activities across the province. According to a PSCA spokesperson, the state-of-the-art system has the capability to identify suspects by anal..... [more >>](#)

68. Government introduces artificial intelligence training for CSS officers

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-09

The federal minister for IT inaugurated an Artificial Intelligence 101 module at the Civil Services Academy, integrating AI training into the civil services curriculum. Addressing a special CSS batch at the academy, the minister said the initiative was part of the government's Digital Nation Vision and aligned with the Digital Nation Pakistan Act, which she described as a governance refor..... [more >>](#)

69. PSCA uses AI technology in crackdown against vehicles

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-18

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has launched a comprehensive crackdown against vehicles using fake, cloned and tampered number plates by effectively utilising advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. The initiative aims to prevent crime, improve traffic discipline and ensure public safety across the province. According to a spokesperson of PSCA, AI-based cameras installe..... [more >>](#)

70. Punjab govt forms AI cell to nudge adaption

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-19

LAHORE: The Punjab government has set up an institutional framework for artificial intelligence by creating a cell comprising AI, data and software experts. According to sources in the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), AI has been formally integrated into government policy to improve governance, with engineers from the field and data scientists included in the initiative. The governme..... [more >>](#)

71. AI based tracking system

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-23

LAHORE: Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has introduced an advanced AI based smart tracking system which is playing a vital role in crime prevention, timely identification of suspects and effective monitoring of suspicious activities. According to a PSCA spokesperson, state-of-the-art system encompasses exceptional capability to identify suspects based on their physical features, clothing, movem..... [more >>](#)

72. Protection of society through use of AI and ML in Customs

Source: [Sanaullah Abro](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-26

It is challenging for any Customs administration to strike a balance between compliance and facilitation. In increasingly challenging operational environment Pakistan Customs runs on a tightrope putting equal focus on its core functions like revenue collection, trade facilitation, protection of society and security. Advance use of technology and modern application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) a..... [more >>](#)

73. Punjab mandates AI education as CM Maryam Nawaz launches first-ever AI training for Ministers

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-27

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has made the use of artificial intelligence mandatory in schools across the province, marking a major step toward digital transformation in education and governance. In a first for Pakistan, AI training for Punjab's ministers has been formally launched under the direct leadership of the chief minister. The cabinet-level workshop, titled "Emp..... [more >>](#)

74. PM says AI must be aligned with national priorities

Source: [Our Special Correspondent](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-28

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Tuesday that the government is working on a priority basis to leverage new technologies for national and economic development. He was speaking during a meeting with a high-level delegation of leading artificial intelligence experts during his private visit to the United Kingdom last week. The PM emphasised the need to benefit from global expertise, p..... [more >>](#)

75. Tech Valley, Google experts empower Punjab Cabinet with AI-Driven governance tools in Lahore

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-29

LAHORE - Under the special directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a high-profile workshop titled "Google AI for Public Sector: Strategic Governance & Enterprise Impact" was held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. The session, conducted by Tech Valley Pakistan, brought together international experts to equip the Provincial Cabinet and the CM Office with adv..... [more >>](#)

76. IGP Rizvi reviews AI, digital tools to boost smart policing

Source: [News Wire](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-01-30

ISLAMABAD - Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chaired an important meeting on Thursday to review the use of artificial intelligence (AI), digital tools and modern technology to further improve policing and public service delivery in the federal capital. A police official told APP that the meeting was attended by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Muhammad Jawad..... [more >>](#)

77. Hospitals are a proving ground for what AI can do

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-01-08

AI tools have significantly reduced report-writing time for radiologists and cut staff time on denied insurance claims by as much as 23 percent. Despite efficiency gains, AI can produce fabricated information. Samir Abboud, chief of emergency radiology for Northwestern Medicine, thought he was already working at maximum speed. In a carefully honed routine, aided by voice dictation, he could finis..... [more >>](#)

78. Daily AI chatbot use linked to 30% higher depression risk, US study finds

Source: [Anadolu](#), [The Nation](#), [Islamabad](#), 2026-01-22

Americans who chat with artificial intelligence (AI) daily face significantly higher depression rates than occasional users, according to a study published Wednesday. "Greater levels of AI use were associated with modest increases in depressive symptoms," researchers wrote in JAMA Network Open, noting that odds of at least moderate depression jumped 30% among daily users. The survey..... [more >>](#)

79. SDPI, AI Geo Navigators sign MoU to integrate AI, geospatial intelligence into policy research

Source: [APP](#), [Associated Press of Pakistan](#), 2026-01-21

ISLAMABAD, Jan 21 (APP): Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and AI Geo Navigators on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a collaborative framework that aimed at integrating artificial intelligence (AI), geospatial technologies, and advanced modelling into evidence-based policy research and sustainable development planning. The MoU was signed by Dr Abid [more >>](#)

80. Digitizing Ahmed Salim Archives for Public Access

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Peak Point](#), 2026-01-28

Speakers at a Sustainable Development Policy Institute event in Islamabad on 27 January 2026 eulogized Ahmed Salim's lifetime of intellectual resistance and called for the urgent digitization of his archives to ensure wider public access and preservation. Former Senator Farhatullah Babar described Ahmed Salim as a national asset who authored more than 150 books and freely shared his knowledge..... [more >>](#)

81. Ahmed Salim Remembered on 81st Birth Anniversary

Source: [News Desk](#), [Islamabad Mail](#), 2026-01-27

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute brought together scholars, poets and family members to mark the 81st birth anniversary of Ahmed Salim and to press for the digitization of his extensive archives so they remain accessible to researchers and the public. Farhatullah Babar recalled Ahmed Salim as a national asset who authored more than 150 books and freely shared his knowledge. Mr Babar..... [more >>](#)

82. Speakers eulogize Ahmed Salim's intellectual resistance, call for digitization of his archives

Source: [Asif Farooq](#), [Daily Asian Sun](#), 2026-01-28

..... [more >>](#)



A Product of ASRC–SDPI

Team:

Data Managed by: Shahid Rasul, Abid Rasheed

Layout Design: Ali Aamer Javed Associate Coordinator ASRC

Sustainable Development Policy Institute

10-D West, 3rd Floor, Taimoor Chamber, Fazl-ul-Haq Road, Blue Area, Islamabad. Pakistan,

Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135, ©2023 All rights reserved

Newsletter generated and disseminated by ASRC Team SDPI