



Information Technology & Telecommunications

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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

5G / 6G Technologies

1. Vivo V70 5G debuts in Pakistan

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-03

LAHORE - Vivo Monday officially unveiled the Vivo V70 5G, the latest evolution of its V Series portrait lineup. Co-engineered with long-standing partner ZEISS, the V70 5G is built around the philosophy of "ZEISS Portrait So Pro," bringing professional telephoto precision and stage-ready clarity into everyday moments of expression. Beyond its standout portrait capabilities and sophistic..... [more >>](#)

2. The data we don't own Despite the apps, the hype, the 5G towers, Pakistani citizens in 2026 are still digital ghosts

Source: [Iqra Bano Sohail](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-03

It's 2026, and if you listen to the digital discourse in Islamabad or Karachi, you would think that we have finally cracked the code. We are a nation of 120 million internet users. We are the world's buzzing hive for freelancers. We have just launched our first National AI Policy, complete with dreams of smart cities and automated governance. But look closer at the "Digital Pakistan&..... [more >>](#)

3. All cellular operators set for 5G auction today as govt accepts demands

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-10

ISLAMABAD: The government has fulfilled major demands of the cellular operators, and all three companies are now set to participate in the spectrum auction scheduled to be held today (Tuesday) for the launch of 5G technology. The mock exercise with three participants, including Jazz, Zong and Ufone, was successfully conducted, during which all the parties expressed confidence in the process. In a..... [more >>](#)

4. 5G spectrum auction today

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-10

ISLAMABAD: The government has clarified that the 5G spectrum auction will proceed as scheduled on Tuesday (today), and mock exercises with all three participants — Jazz, Zong, and Ufone — have been completed. During a background briefing held on Monday, Shaza Fatima, the Minister of IT and Telecom, stated that efforts have been made to ensure that all three stakeholders benefit from t..... [more >>](#)

5. 5G spectrum auction today

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-10

ISLAMABAD: The government has ruled out any delay in the Fifth Generation (5G) telecom spectrum action and said that it will be held as per schedule on Tuesday morning as mock exercises with all the three participants – Jazz, Zong and Ufone – have been successfully completed. During a background briefing on Monday, Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatim..... [more >>](#)

6. Pakistan raises \$507m in 5G spectrum auction

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-11

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has successfully completed a spectrum auction for launch of long-awaited 5G technology, as the government on Tuesday sold 480 MHz of spectrum to three cellular operators through the country's first-ever digital bidding process, generating \$507 million for the national treasury. Out of 480 MHz sold, Jazz acquired 190 MHz, Ufone 180 MHz and Zong 110 MHz, from a total 597 M..... [more >>](#)

7. Pakistan steps into 5G era with \$507m spectrum sale

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-11

KARACHI: The government completed its 5G spectrum auction on Tuesday, with 480 megahertz (MHz) sold for \$507 million at the end of the third round of bidding. The three bidders — Zong, Jazz and Ufone — competed heavily for the 2,600MHz band, a key frequency range for 5G services. Zong acquired 110MHz, Ufone 180MHz and Jazz 190MHz during the auction. Pakistan offered spectrum acro..... [more >>](#)

8. 5G spectrum auction fetches USD507m

Source: [Tahir Amin / Nuzhat Nazar](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-11

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday raised USD507 million in its long-awaited 5G spectrum auction, selling 480 MHz of spectrum to telecom operators Jazz, Zong and Ufone against a projected revenue of USD634.5 million from 597.2 MHz on offer, marking a key step toward launching next-generation mobile services and strengthening the country's digital economy. The auction, conducted by the Pakis..... [more >>](#)

9. PTML

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-11

ISLAMABAD: Pak Telecom Mobile Limited (PTML), operating under the brand name Ufone, alongside its digital telecom brand onic, and a wholly owned subsidiary of Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), has successfully acquired 5G spectrum in the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's (PTA) 5G spectrum auction held in Islamabad. This milestone marks a significant step toward u..... [more >>](#)

10. Jazz World

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-11

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading connectivity provider from Jazz World, on Tuesday announced that it has secured 190 MHz of additional spectrum in Pakistan's latest spectrum auction for a total sum of USD239.375 million, reinforcing its long-term commitment to strengthening the country's digital infrastructure. The latest acquisition triples Jazz's spectrum holdings &ndash..... [more >>](#)

11. 5G rollout Pakistan has finally taken a long-delayed step into the fifth-generation mobile era

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-13

Pakistan has finally taken a long-delayed step into the fifth-generation mobile era. This week's spectrum auction, which raised about \$507 million through the sale of 480 megahertz of frequencies to telecom operators —is being projected as a watershed moment for the country's digital future. Yet the question that millions of frustrated internet users are asking is, will 5G actu..... [more >>](#)

12. 5G rollout: opportunity ahead

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-14

After years of delay, the holding of the long-awaited 5G spectrum auction on March 10, resulting in the sale of 480MHz of spectrum for USD 507 million, marks a significant step towards expanding Pakistan's digital infrastructure, and enabling the rollout of next-generation connectivity and technologies. The auction had been repeatedly stalled by legal and regulatory hurdles, with telecom ope..... [more >>](#)

13. 5G pilot launch in major cities next week

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-13

ISLAMABAD: IT Minister Shaza Fatima on Thursday announced that 4G services are set to improve, and work on launching 5G has begun. She was speaking at a ceremony where 480 MHz spectrum was released to three operators, boosting the country's total spectrum to over 7,500 MHz. "Our capacity has now increased three times from today," she said, adding "5G pilot launch will..... [more >>](#)

14. 5G is here

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#) , 2026-03-13

This week, Pakistan finally pulled off its 5G spectrum auction. The exercise, which had been delayed for a long time, raised \$507 million, with the government selling 480 MHz of spectrum against the targeted 597 MHz. Spectrum politics is a little difficult to explain. It is an invisible yet highly useful commodity. Spectrum relates to the full range of electromagnetic frequencies, of which a porti..... [more >>](#)

15. Pakistan completes 5G spectrum auction, set to launch next-gen services

Source: [News Desk, The News, International](#) , 2026-03-13

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan generated \$510 million (Rs142.6 billion) from the landmark auction of Next Generation Mobile Services (NGMS) spectrum, while the telecom regulator on Thursday completed the position assignment auction to determine the exact placement of 5G spectrum blocks acquired by operators. The announcement was made by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Chairman Hafeez Ur Rehman..... [more >>](#)

16. Spectrum leap

Source: [Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-12

THE sale of 480 MHz of fifth-generation telecom spectrum for \$507m is a major milestone in Pakistan's digital journey. Despite being one of the world's largest telecom markets by population, the country remains a spectrum-starved market, with consumers facing poor voice and mobile internet connectivity. Even Bangladesh has around 600 MHz of spectrum available, compared with Pakistan&rs..... [more >>](#)

17. Selected cities; Pilot launches of 5G mobile services next week

Source: [Nuzhat Nazar, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-13

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will begin pilot launches of fifth-generation (5G) mobile services in selected cities next week, Information Technology Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja announced on Thursday, marking the country's first concrete timeline for introducing next-generation high-speed mobile internet. The development comes days after Pakistan raised about USD510 million (around Rs142 billio..... [more >>](#)

18. A 5G future ahead

Source: [Mutaher Khan, Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-16

If there were ever a book written on Karachi's bazaars, Empress Market would undoubtedly feature on the cover. Perhaps the most interesting part of the shopping experience is the once-live auctions conducted outside: a crowd gathers around a man shouting into a loudspeaker, bids called out in the open — striking just the right balance between amusing and shady. That scene may have f..... [more >>](#)

19. 5G Ready?

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-17

Pakistan has taken an important step by entering the 5G era through the recent auction of spectrum bandwidth. With 480 MHz of spectrum sold, the country has more than doubled its previously available bandwidth of just 274 MHz, which itself was among the lowest in the region. In the process, the government has also managed to raise over \$507 million in revenue, a welcome fiscal boost at a time when..... [more >>](#)

20. 5G auction to ease 4G congestion, reshape telecom competition, says expert

Source: [Jawwad Rizvi, The News, International](#) , 2026-03-18

LAHORE: The immediate impact of Pakistan's 5G spectrum auction may not be visible to consumers, but the additional spectrum is expected to ease congestion on existing 4G networks and lay the groundwork for future 5G rollout, starting in major cities before expanding nationwide, according to a telecom expert. Expert Aamir Atta said that Pakistan's telecom sector has entered a new compe..... [more >>](#)

21. Launch of 5G service in country on Eidul Fitr

Source: [Sajid Chaudhry](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-19

ISLAMABAD: Preparations for the launch of 5G service in the country on the occasion of Eidul Fitr have been completed. Companies that have acquired 5G spectrum will be formally issued licences today (Thursday), paving the way for launch of next-generation mobile services in the country. According to sources, a special ceremony will be held at Prime Minister's House for issuance of 5G licen..... [more >>](#)

22. Telecoms awarded licences for 5G spectrum, announce launch of services in some cities

Source: [News Desk / Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-19

ISLAMABAD: Telecommunication companies announced on Thursday the launch of 5G services in some parts of the country after they were awarded licences for 5G spectrum at a ceremony in Islamabad, where Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also spoke. The government completed its spectrum auction in Islamabad last week, in which 480 megahertz (MHz) were sold for \$507 million. The three bidders — Zon..... [more >>](#)

23. Pakistan launches 5G services

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-20

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said the launch of 5G spectrum marked a major milestone for Pakistan, benefiting sectors including agriculture, technology and industry. Addressing the signing ceremony of license agreements for the 5G spectrum, the prime minister said the auction process was conducted in a transparent manner despite legal challenges. He appreciated the efforts [more >>](#)

24. 5G rollout to boost youth empowerment, innovation: Shehbaz

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-20

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said the launch of 5G spectrum marked a major milestone for Pakistan, benefiting sectors, including agriculture, technology and industry. Addressing the signing ceremony of license agreements for the 5G spectrum, he said the auction was conducted in a transparent manner despite legal challenges. He appreciated the efforts of Minister for Law a..... [more >>](#)

25. PTA issues 5G licences to three operators Zong, Jazz begin phased rollout as Ufone to follow in coming days

Source: [Irshad Ansari](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-20

ISLAMABAD: The formal launch of 5G services across the country has begun, paving the way for the introduction of advanced internet services in Pakistan, as the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) issued licences to three major telecom companies, with services starting in phases from Thursday. The PTA granted 5G licences to three mobile operators during a ceremony held at the Prime Ministe..... [more >>](#)

26. PTML (Ufone) enters 5G race with largest share of global standard 3.5GHz spectrum

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-20

KARACHI: Pakistani telecom operator, Pak Telecom Mobile Limited (PTML), operating as Ufone, has formally entered Pakistan's 5G landscape armed with the largest share of the critical 3500MHz frequency band, a global standard in 5G connectivity. Subject to regulatory approvals, the planned amalgamation of Telenor Pakistan into Ufone is expected to position the combined entity, MergeCo, as the [more >>](#)

27. Youth as 5GW fuel

Source: [Amir Jahangir](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-24

In classical warfare, the battlefield was visible, defined by borders, armies and physical confrontation. Today, conflict has moved into far more complex and less visible domains. Wars are increasingly fought through

information, perception and psychological influence, giving rise to what is widely described as the Fifth Generation Warfare (5GW). In this evolving landscape, societies themselves b..... [more >>](#)

28. 5G rollout gains momentum in Pakistan with new investments, expansion

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-28

Pakistan has entered a new phase of digital development with the rollout of 5G services under the strategy of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). More than 300 5G sites have been activated across the country, with services launched in major cities and key locations, marking significant progress in next-generation connectivity. In a statement, Khurram Schehzad, Advisor to the [more >>](#)

Artificial Intelligence

29. Iran vs smart tech

Source: [Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-06

According to the sacred Hindu epic Ramayana, when Ravana failed to safeguard his defensive secrets due to internal divisions, his kingdom fell despite all its strength. From that time onward, the proverb “When the insider betrays, even Lanka falls” became widely known, emphasising that when a trusted confidant leaks confidential information to the enemy, even the strongest of states ca..... [more >>](#)

30. Tech Power

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-07

While global attention remains fixed on the escalating war involving Iran, a quieter but equally consequential development has unfolded in the technology world. Sam Altman, the chief executive of OpenAI, has moved swiftly to secure a partnership with the United States Department of Defense, placing the company’s artificial intelligence tools within the orbit of the Pentagon’s military [more >>](#)

31. The age of AI warfare

Source: [Hina Ayra](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-07

War has always been shaped by technology. From gunpowder to nuclear weapons, each technological shift has altered not only the battlefield but also the moral and political calculations that govern conflict. Yet the integration of artificial intelligence into modern warfare may represent a transformation far more profound than previous military revolutions. The unfolding confrontation involving Ir..... [more >>](#)

32. Surreal History

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-17

What was once dismissed as fearmongering in the early days of the artificial intelligence boom has begun to materialise in troubling ways. Major conflicts around the world are increasingly shaped by the disruptive effects of AI, turning what should be concrete evidence of events or atrocities into contested probabilities. Images and videos that once served as definitive proof are now subjected to [more >>](#)

33. Education in AI era

Source: [Asad Zaman](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-18

CONVENTIONAL university education is obsolete. The typical student earning a Bachelor’s degree studies the equivalent of roughly 40 textbooks over eight semesters. Today, however, any intelligent teenager with access to ChatGPT — trained on millions of books and articles — can surpass that graduate in a contest of factual knowledge. Attempting to ban such tools misses the point. [more >>](#)

34. What AI windfall? Debt will still weigh on big economies

Source: Reuters, [The News, International](#), 2026-03-01

LONDON: An AI productivity boom, if it materialises, may help buy major economies more time to clean up their strained public finances, economists say, although it won't do the heavy lifting. The stakes couldn't be higher. Debt is above 100 per cent of output across most rich economies and set to rise given ageing population costs, interest bills and pressure to spend more on defence [more >>](#)

35. Worrying inroads in academia

Source: Syed Javed Nazir, [The News, International](#), 2026-03-01

An ominously quiet threat is sweeping across Pakistani universities. AI and its various manifestations pose a challenge unlike any experienced in recent times. While the campuses across the world are deluged by the new technologies and their unquestioned threat to creativity, especially writing, there is at least a growing conversation on how to creat..... [more >>](#)

36. An incomplete future

Source: Shmyla Khan, [The News, International](#), 2026-03-01

The last two weeks saw two major AI summits in the region. The AI Impact Summit in India drew most of the attention as it was attended by world and industry leaders who flocked to New Delhi to be part of the new frontier of AI development. The Indus AI Week during which the government of Pakistan promised to invest \$1 billion in AI by 2030 was less noticed. No details were provided about the f..... [more >>](#)

37. Publishing's turning point

Source: Aameena Saiyid, [The News, International](#), 2026-03-01

AI is rapidly changing the world of book publishing. For an industry built on human creativity, imagination and storytelling, this moment is both exciting and unsettling. AI offers powerful new tools to make publishing more inclusive and efficient, but this also raises questions about creativity, fairness and the future of writers. Like many technolo..... [more >>](#)

38. AI in the corporate sector

Source: Mohiuddin Aazim, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-02

The story of artificial intelligence (AI) in Pakistan's corporate sector is no longer a tale of a distant future — it is a narrative of the present. What began as isolated experiments by a few tech-forward companies has, over the last decade, evolved into a broad-based movement toward digital transformation. Today, backed by government policy and private sector investment, AI is shi..... [more >>](#)

39. India seeks AI rewards

Source: Shahid Javed Burki, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-02

In the article I wrote last week, I recounted a conversation I had with Field Marshal Ayub Khan a few months before he died of a heart attack at his residence in the foothills of Islamabad. He was the first military president in Pakistan's history and was followed by three others. He lamented the fact that he didn't opt for American help to build technology infrastructure, as was done by [more >>](#)

40. Data Vault to explore AI collaboration with Punjab govt

Source: Press Release, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-02

LAHORE: Senior leadership from Data Vault Pakistan, the country's first sovereign AI data centre, held a high-level meeting with Ali Mustafa Dar, the newly appointed Advisor to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Artificial Intelligence and Special Initiatives, to present collaboration proposals aimed at accelerating the province's AI transformation agenda with the office of AI Punja..... [more >>](#)

41. True impact to be measured by trust AI earns: JazzWorld CEO

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-05

ISLAMABAD: "Artificial Intelligence is transforming finance, but its true impact will be measured by the trust it earns, the inclusivity it fosters, and the scale at which it reaches the underserved," said Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz World. He stated this during the session "AI x Fintech: The New Rules of Intelligent Finance" at Mobile World Congress 2026, organized by t..... [more >>](#)

42. In the AI era

Source: [Mujeeb Ali/Faraz Otho](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-04

Latest inventions have always stirred discomfort. There is something ironic about the fact that humans are often unsettled by what they themselves create. The current wave of automation and artificial intelligence poses a familiar anxiety: that machines are not only tools but also rivals, encroaching on labour, creativity and relevance. From teaching spaces to global markets, from routine tasks to..... [more >>](#)

43. AI tools used to unearth competition law breaches

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-07

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has detected more than 200 potential competition law violations and merger cases during the past two years using artificial intelligence and automated digital tools developed by its Market Intelligence Unit (MIU). A paper titled "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Detecting Anti-Competitive Activities: Pakistan's Journey toward..... [more >>](#)

44. Automated inequality

Source: [Van Nguyen](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-08

ARTIFICIAL intelligence is no longer a distant promise whispered in tech conferences. It is here, in our phones, our banks, our classrooms, in the decisions that quietly shape our lives. It is often described as the new electricity. But electricity lights homes equally. AI does not. Across the world, governments are moving from experimenting with AI to embedding it in the architecture of govern..... [more >>](#)

45. The new grammar of power

Source: [Amir Jahangir](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-09

Statecraft has always evolved alongside technology. The compass enabled maritime empires, industrial machinery powered economic dominance and nuclear weapons reshaped global deterrence. In the twenty-first century, artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as the next transformative force in how states govern, compete, and exercise influence. Unlike earlier technological revolutions, AI is no..... [more >>](#)

46. AI and the child

Source: [Wardah Iftikhar](#), [The News, International](#) , 2026-03-09

Artificial intelligence is quietly shaping a generation's thinking. Children are increasingly using AI tools to answer questions, complete assignments and tackle problems that once required reflection and research. What appears to be efficiency may also be altering the way thinking itself develops. This shift is unfolding within a generation shaped by a uniquely digital start. Many of today..... [more >>](#)

47. This AI moment needs data governance

Source: [Muhammad Aslam Hayat](#), [The News, International](#) , 2026-03-11

Pakistan's Indus AI Week marked a national shift in how artificial intelligence is being viewed, not as a distant innovation reserved for labs and startups, but as a strategic tool for economic growth, public service reform and institutional modernisation. The conversations were ambitious: AI for productivity, AI for jobs, AI for government efficiency, AI for competitiveness. For a country [more >>](#)

48. Punjab eyes AI superiority

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-13

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved Punjab's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Roadmap, setting a target to transform the province into South Asia's leading AI-driven region by 2029. Under the initiative, the world's first AI Delivery Unit will be established in Punjab to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence across governance and public services. Th..... [more >>](#)

49. CM Maryam approves Punjab's first AI roadmap

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-13

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the province's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Roadmap, setting an ambitious goal to transform Punjab into South Asia's leading AI-driven region by 2029. Under the initiative, the world's first AI Delivery Unit will be established in Punjab to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence across governance, p..... [more >>](#)

50. Can we defend ourselves from AI?

Source: [M Zeb Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-14

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly moved from the realm of science fiction into the centre of human affairs. Some scholars have begun referring to it as "Alien Intelligence" —not because it originates from another world, but because its internal workings are increasingly opaque even to those who design it. Algorithms learn, adapt and produce outcomes in ways that humans often..... [more >>](#)

51. CM approves first AI roadmap

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-13

LAHORE: Punjab's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) roadmap was approved by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz here on Thursday. "It's goal is to make Punjab the leading AI province in South Asia by 2029," the CM said while chairing a meeting in this regard. Provincial Adviser for AI Ali Dar, who is a brother-in-law of Maryam Nawaz, gave a detailed briefing on the AI road ma..... [more >>](#)

52. AI's Cost

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-15

Reports that Meta is planning sweeping layoffs as the cost of its aggressive push into artificial intelligence rises should surprise no one. According to recent coverage, the company is weighing further workforce reductions while simultaneously pouring vast sums into AI infrastructure and development. The justification, predictably, is the pursuit of technological leadership and future growth. [more >>](#)

53. Meta plans major layoffs as AI costs mount

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-15

NEW YORK: Meta is planning sweeping layoffs that could affect 20 per cent or more of the company, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters, as Meta seeks to offset costly artificial intelligence infrastructure bets and prepare for greater efficiency brought about by AI-assisted workers. No date has been set for the cuts and the magnitude has not been finalised, the people said. To..... [more >>](#)

54. The Digital Sovereign

Source: [Ahsan A. Munir](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-18

In the quiet corridors of Copenhagen, a legislative shift is occurring which may well offer the antidote to the digital anarchy currently plaguing the social media landscape of Pakistan. As of early 2026, Denmark has pioneered a move to amend its Copyright Act, effectively categorising a citizen's physical likeness; their face, body, voice, and unique persona, as personal intellectual proper..... [more >>](#)

55. The illusion of learning in the age of AI

Source: [Dr Asghar Zaidi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-18

Walk into almost any university in Pakistan and you will see students producing assignments, presentations and exam scripts that look impressively neat and complete. Yet beneath this appearance lies a quieter question: how much real learning has taken place? Over time, our academic incentives have gradually shifted toward the polished output, the essay submitted, and the test score achieved, rather..... [more >>](#)

56. Beware of AI in education

Source: [Naveed R Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-18

The recent initiatives from the Sindh and Punjab provinces to introduce AI in government schools for teachers and students mark an important moment for Pakistan's education system. This is the first time AI is entering schools at scale. Yet this bold step also reveals a critical gap. Pakistan is deploying AI in education without a dedicated governance policy that outlines how such technology should..... [more >>](#)

57. Age of AI: humans go upmarket

Source: [Muhammad Abubakar Umer, The News, International](#) , 2026-03-18

A couple of years ago, I co-founded an AI startup in Pakistan. We build practical, accessible solutions for the local market, grappling with low digital literacy, basic smartphones and patchy internet connectivity. We use AI not as a grand disruptor but as a quiet enabler, trying to make it work where it was never really designed to. So, when I say that the fear of AI making humans obsolete is over..... [more >>](#)

58. AI tools raise risk for freelancers

Source: [Usman Hanif, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-19

KARACHI: The rapid rise of "vibe coding," a practice where users build applications by simply describing ideas to artificial intelligence (AI) tools that generate and execute code, is lowering barriers to cybercrime, which carries new vulnerabilities for Pakistan's growing freelance and IT export sector. Speaking about his recent findings on vulnerabilities in AI coding platforms, [more >>](#)

59. 'China's open-source dominance threatens US AI lead'

Source: [Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-24

BEIJING: The dominance of China's open-source artificial intelligence is creating a "self-reinforcing competitive advantage", allowing it to challenge US rivals despite restricted access to advanced AI chips, a US congressional advisory body said on Monday. Driven by their cheaper cost, Chinese large language models from firms including Alibaba, Moonshot and MiniMax now dominate..... [more >>](#)

60. Artificial Intelligence and Punjab: the emerging gateway of Pakistan

Source: [Saif Awan, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-25

Over the past two decades, the world has witnessed an unprecedented surge in science and technology. Nations that quickly recognised and embraced this transformation surged ahead, leaving others behind. From the early days of telephones, computers, mobile phones, and the internet—technologies once underestimated—to their universal adoption today, the pace of change has been remarkable..... [more >>](#)

61. Study highlights uneven global impact of generative artificial intelligence on jobs

Source: [Amin Ahmed, Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-27

ISLAMABAD: A joint study released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank on Friday has stated that generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is set to reshape labour markets worldwide, but with uneven impacts across countries. The background study for the forthcoming World Development Report 2026 examined labour market exposure to GenAI across 135 countries, covering..... [more >>](#)

62. AI surveillance helps arrest robbery gang

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-28

LAHORE - The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has facilitated the arrest of an organised robbery gang involved in multiple street crime incidents across Lahore by using advanced AI-powered surveillance technology, achieving a significant 74 per cent reduction in crime rate in the city. According to a PSCA spokesperson, the accused were wanted by police for their involvement in snatching mobile..... [more >>](#)

63. Losing agency to thinking machines

Source: [Naveed Razaqat Ahmad](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-29

Only a few years ago, artificial intelligence was something that most people barely noticed. It worked quietly in the background—suggesting songs, correcting spelling or helping businesses sort their data. It was seen as a tool, something humans used to make work easier and faster. Today, that is changing. AI is no longer just assisting humans; [more >>](#)

64. Open Claw creator says AI agent future is coming

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-30

Peter Steinberger's artificial intelligence agent tool OpenClaw has taken the tech world by storm with its ability to execute real-life tasks such as checking him in for his flight to Tokyo. AI is not yet a ubiquitous personal assistant for ordinary people, but "you'll see much more of that this year because this is the year of agents", Steinberger told AFP in the Japan..... [more >>](#)

Cybersecurity & Information Security

65. Punjab CM approves province's first cybercrime investigation unit

Source: [Zulqernain Tahir](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-02

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Monday approved the establishment of the province's first cybercrime investigation unit and made e-tagging mandatory for all vehicles, including motorcycles. According to an official press release, during a special meeting to crack down on digital terrorism and bring cyber networks under strict surveillance, the Punjab CM said the state's [more >>](#)

66. Hacking of Channels Pakistan must begin by hardening its broadcast infrastructure.

Source: [Aamir Zulfiqar Khan](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-03

It was late evening on 1 March 2026. While surfing through TV channels, it came as a shock to see that GEO TV was displaying a highly inappropriate message against our valiant armed forces. The first instinct was that something might be wrong with the television. But then the same message appeared on ARY and SAMAA News. After some time, GEO News went off air. The disruptions affected satellite [more >>](#)

67. NCERT issues high-alert advisory over rising cyber threats

Source: [Jawwad Rizvi](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-03

LAHORE: The National Cyber Emergency Response Team (NCERT) has issued a high-priority advisory warning of elevated cyber threats amid escalating regional tensions, cautioning that state-sponsored actors, hacktivist groups and cybercriminal networks may seek to exploit the volatile environment to target critical infrastructure. The alert calls for immediate defensive measures across government dep..... [more >>](#)

68. CERT investigates cyberattacks on TV channels, websites

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-03

ISLAMABAD: Multiple Pakistani television channels, websites and mobile applications came under coordinated cyberattacks on Sunday night, prompting the National Computer Emergency Response Team

(CERT) to launch a formal investigation. Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima presided over a meeting of the National CERT, which was held in Islamabad on Monday to assess the cybera..... [more >>](#)

69. Mobile banking cyberattacks rise by 56pc in 2025: report

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-06

ISLAMABAD: The number of Trojan banker attacks on Android smartphones increased by 56 per cent in 2025 compared to the previous year, 2024. The claim was made by cybersecurity firm Kaspersky in a report titled "Mobile Malware Evolution." This type of malware is designed to steal user credentials for online banking, e-payment services and credit card systems. Cybercriminals commonly [more >>](#)

70. Cyber threat: IBCC suspends certificate verification

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-07

KARACHI: The Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) has temporarily suspended the verification of matriculation and intermediate certificates across Pakistan following a cybersecurity advisory issued after recent cyberattacks targeting government and media websites. Officials said the precautionary measure was taken after guidance from the National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), whic..... [more >>](#)

71. Pakistanis warned to safeguard children's data

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-12

ISLAMABAD: A global cybersecurity company Wednesday warned Pakistanis to safeguard their children's data while posting photos, videos, or updates about their children on social media platforms to avoid identity theft/social engineering/frauds. Kaspersky "Growing up online" survey revealed that almost half (48 percent) of parents regularly post photos, videos, or updates abou..... [more >>](#)

72. CERT warns of cyber threat to critical systems

Source: [Irshad Ansari](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-25

ISLAMABAD: The National Computer Emergency Response Team (National CERT) on Tuesday sounded a stark warning that hostile actors could exploit supply chains to infiltrate critical national infrastructure, urging immediate system-wide audits and tighter cybersecurity controls. In a detailed advisory, the authority directed all public and private institutions to conduct urgent audits of softwa..... [more >>](#)

73. Defence, banking and power systems; National CERT flags cyber threats

Source: [NNI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-25

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's critical installations face an increased risk of cyberattacks, the National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) has warned in a fresh cybersecurity advisory issued on Tuesday, urging institutions to adopt stringent preventive measures to safeguard sensitive systems. According to the advisory, all public and private sector organisations have been directed to imp..... [more >>](#)

Educational Technology

74. The new literacy

Source: [Baela Raza Jamil](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-01

I n 2024, three Grades 7 and 8 students of a trust school for the marginalised said they wanted greater exposure to machine learning courses. They were generously placed by the Information Technology University

in a summer programme. The students had already obtained online course certifications using shared mobile phones a..... [more >>](#)

75. **Changing workplaces, the Gen Z way**

Source: [Dr Ayesha Razzaque](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-28

Post-Covid, employers in the world's largest economies over-hired. As the pandemic wound down, OpenAI's ChatGPT made its debut in December 2023, kicking off the Large Language Model (LLM) race. It immediately ignited global interest in computer science and, for a while, university degree programs in other technical disciplines (notably, engineering) struggled to recruit. Even here at h..... [more >>](#)

76. **Education in AI era**

Source: [Asad Zaman](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-18

CONVENTIONAL university education is obsolete. The typical student earning a Bachelor's degree studies the equivalent of roughly 40 textbooks over eight semesters. Today, however, any intelligent teenager with access to ChatGPT — trained on millions of books and articles — can surpass that graduate in a contest of factual knowledge. Attempting to ban such tools misses the point. [more >>](#)

Information Technology

77. **Governor honours young IT expert**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-02

LAHORE: In a remarkable feat that has drawn praise from across the province, nine-year-old Syed Jagir Ali Akbar has emerged as Pakistan's youngest web development expert, earning recognition as the second youngest in the world to achieve the distinction. The fourth-grade student was honoured by Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider, who termed the accomplishment "extraordinary & rdqu..... [more >>](#)

78. **Number of individuals benefitting from digital banking surpasses 127m, PM told**

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-03

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was informed on Tuesday that the number of individuals benefitting from digital banking in the country had exceeded 127 million. The update came as the prime minister chaired a review meeting on the promotion of cashless economy in the country. The prime minister commended the economic team and the State Bank of Pakistan for shifting salaries, pensions and vendo..... [more >>](#)

79. **IBCC reviews progress on IT projects**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-10

Islamabad: A meeting was held at the office of the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) to review the progress of ongoing and upcoming IT projects aimed at strengthening digital services and enhancing public facilitation. IBCC Executive Director Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah chaired the meeting. Deputy Director (IT) Muhammad Kashif, along with his team, presented a comprehensive briefing on ongoing..... [more >>](#)

80. **Students develop App for routes, timings for Punjab electric buses**

Source: [Asif Mahmood](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-17

LAHORE: Two students have developed a mobile application to help passengers of Punjab's electric bus service access route and schedule information, addressing a common problem: commuters often struggle to find timely bus timing details. Muhammad Ghayas, one of the developers, said the idea came to him after he waited at a bus stop for nearly half an hour to get to his hostel, only to dis..... [more >>](#)

81. FBR to launch digital e-Bilty system, end paper documents

Source: [Sohail Sarfaz](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-17

ISLAMABAD: The flagship project of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), i.e., Cargo Tracking System (CTS), will replace the paper document with a digital e-Bilty generated on a central portal. Sources told Business Recorder that the current reliance on paper Biltys and manual physical check-posts creates significant bottlenecks for legitimate trade and leaves room for systemic malpractices. [more >>](#)

82. IT exports rise 20pc, miss monthly pace

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2026-03-18

KARACHI: Information technology (IT) exports rose sharply in February 2026, posting a 20 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase, though they slipped slightly on a monthly basis, reflecting mixed momentum in the sector. IT exports stood at \$365 million in February, up from the same month last year but down 2.0 per cent compared to January. The figures highlight continued resilience in external deman..... [more >>](#)

83. Reimagining airwaves

Source: [Mohammad Javed Pasha](#), [The News, International](#) , 2026-03-22

Radio remains one of the most widely consumed information mediums globally. It reaches the widest audience of any mass media, especially in remote or developing areas, where internet access may be limited. In the age of technological transformation, radio has the potential to promote peace, interfaith harmony and regional cooperation. Radio is still a trustworthy source of information..... [more >>](#)

84. IT exports hold momentum

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-25

Pakistan's information technology sector has continued its impressive growth trajectory, recording monthly IT exports of \$365 million in February 2026. This represents a 20 percent increase year-on-year, though it reflects a slight 2 percent decline on a month-on-month basis. The latest figures reinforce the sector's position as one of the dynamic contributors to Pakistan's foreign exc..... [more >>](#)

85. Digital Addiction

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2026-03-26

The verdict against Google and Meta, holding them liable in a social media addiction case, should not be viewed merely as a legal development. It highlights a structural problem that countries like Pakistan have yet to even begin addressing in any meaningful way. While the evidence around digital addiction continues to mount globally, Pakistan remains largely absent from the regulatory conversatio..... [more >>](#)

IT & Telecom Policy & Regulations

86. \$1bn AI fund to empower youth, drive future-ready economy: PIDE VC

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-03

ISLAMABAD - Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Dr Nadeem Javaid has expressed optimism that the federal government's recently announced \$1 billion fund for Artificial Intelligence (AI) would help build a future-ready digital economy and create meaningful opportunities for Pakistan's youth. The initiative envisages establishing a robust AI ecosyste..... [more >>](#)

87. Govt enacts law to regulate virtual assets

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-07

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has fulfilled another key condition set by the IMF by establishing a new legal framework for the country's digital financial sector. Parliament recently approved the Virtual Assets Act 2026, which formally established the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (Pvara). Pvara was initially created in July 2025 through a presidential ordinance, but the legislation no..... [more >>](#)

88. Pakistan needs UltraApps

Source: [Faizan Siddiqi](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-19

Every few months, another breathless announcement: Pakistan is getting its own super app. The pitch is always the same – one app combining payments, shopping, entertainment and services. The reference point is always WeChat in China, Grab in Southeast Asia & Gojek in Indonesia. And the outcome is always the same: nothing that actually changes how Pakistanis live their digital lives. He..... [more >>](#)

89. PTA gives go-ahead for Telenor, Ufone merger

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-24

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) has granted technical approval for the merger of Telenor Pakistan and Ufone, and the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) will be informed of the development on Tuesday. Since the Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd (PTCL) is a listed company and Ufone is its key subsidiary, the company secretary will inform the PSX that Ufone was technical..... [more >>](#)

Mobile & Wireless Communication

90. Vivo Pakistan launches Y31d, featuring company's largest battery yet

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-31

LAHORE - Vivo has officially introduced the Vivo Y31d, a well-rounded smartphone designed for users who value long-lasting battery performance, dependable durability, and smooth everyday usability. Built around Vivo's largest battery so far, the Y31d brings a new level of endurance, supporting both productivity and entertainment with confidence and consistency. Positioned as an everyday com..... [more >>](#)

Telecommunication Networks

91. Firewall confusion

Source: [Usama Khilji](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-07

RECENT press reports indicated that the 'firewall' that was set up in Pakistan in 2024 by the government was being rolled back due to its impact on the quality of internet services in the country. However, when the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecom met on Feb 26, the secretary of the IT & telecom ministry clarified that the firewall was not [more >>](#)

92. CERT warns 'hostile actors' could exploit supply chains to target national infrastructure

Source: [Khaleeq Kiani](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-24

ISLAMABAD: The National Computer Emergency Response Team (National CERT) on Tuesday issued a cybersecurity advisory warning that hostile actors may exploit supply chains to target critical national infrastructure, including power, banking, and defence systems. The advisory highlights that even minor lapses during the delivery of hardware and software could trigger large-scale system failures. [more >>](#)

93. Broadcasters urge EU to tighten rules for Big Tech in smart TV standoff

Source: [Foo Yun Chee](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-03-24

Google, Amazon, Apple and Samsung's smart TVs and virtual assistants should fall under the EU's toughest tech rules because of their growing market power, the world's largest broadcasters told EU antitrust chief Teresa Ribera on Monday. The call by the Association of Commercial Television and Video on Demand Services in Europe (ACT) whose members include Canal+, RTL, Mediase..... [more >>](#)

94. The Rs5.6 trillion question

Source: [Faizan Siddiqi](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-03-31

Dr Sohail Munir, founding chairperson of the Pakistan Digital Authority, recently argued that Pakistan needs to build an operating system, not another app. He generously cited my earlier piece on Ultra Apps in making his case. We agree on the architecture. But I want to pose a question that neither of us has fully addressed(yet): Who exactly are we building this for? The assumption, implicit in mo..... [more >>](#)

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