



SDPI
Sustainable Development Policy Institute

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Information Technology & Telecommunications

CONNECTING TODAY
EMPOWERING TOMORROW



INFORMATION



INNOVATION



CONNECTIVITY



IMPACT

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 the Newsletter

SDPI publishes this **Monthly E-newsletter** to keep researchers, practitioners, and policymakers informed about emerging issues, trends, and developments in the field of Information Technology and Telecommunications at the national, regional, and international levels.

This e-newsletter is an outcome of the public and private policy dialogues organised by SDPI's Study Group on emerging issues in the ITT field. It presents analysis, planning perspectives, and policy recommendations developed by SDPI's IT and Telecom team. The newsletter also consists of relevant references from news reports, commentaries, and Op-Eds published in leading national and international media outlets.

About the Study Group on Information Technology and Telecommunications

SDPI's Study Group on Information Technology and Telecommunications brings together a multidisciplinary network of consultants, scientists, academics, economists, and policy practitioners who periodically convene to deliberate on emerging developments in the rapidly evolving domains of telecommunications, digital technologies, data processing, networking, mass media, and information systems. The Group serves as a platform for informed policy dialogue and evidence-based analysis on issues related to the generation, management, governance, and utilisation of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The Study Group aims to strengthen awareness and informed decision-making among stakeholders from the public and private sectors by identifying opportunities for harnessing digital and information resources, addressing institutional and regulatory challenges, and anticipating technological transformations that may shape Pakistan's economy, governance systems, and society. Through its deliberations, the Group contributes to policy discourse on digital inclusion, innovation, connectivity, knowledge economies, and technology-driven development.

A key outcome of the Study Group's work is the development of policy and planning recommendations grounded in research, stakeholder consultations, and sectoral analysis. Over the past three decades, the Group has consistently contributed to national policy discussions on ICTs and telecommunications, with many of its recommendations informing government strategies, regulatory frameworks, and sectoral reforms. Its long-standing engagement has positioned the Study Group as an important knowledge and policy resource for advancing Pakistan's digital transformation agenda.

Media Sources

The e-newsletter draws upon reporting, analysis, and commentary published in leading national media outlets, including:

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

Thematic Focus Areas

Core Theme: Information Technology & Telecommunications

Key Sub-Themes

- Information Technology and Digital Innovation
- Telecommunications and Connectivity
- Cybersecurity and Information Security
- Telecommunication Infrastructure and Networks
- Mobile and Wireless Communications
- Emerging Technologies, including 5G and 6G
- Broadband Expansion and Fiber Optics
- Educational Technology and Digital Learning
- IT and Telecom Policy, Governance, and Regulation

Information Technology & Telecommunications Technology

Broadband Expansion and Fiber Optics

1. No fibre, no future

Source: [Muhammad Aslam Hayat, The News, International](#), 2026-07-21

The recent controversy surrounding the proposed amendments to the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organisation) Act, 1996, generated alarming headlines. Critics claimed that Sections 27A and 27B would allow telecom operators to “seize private property”, “override housing societies”, and “impose telecom towers without consent”. Such characterisations may make good..... [more >>](#)

Cybersecurity and Information Security

2. Over 33,300 cyber attacks detected on SMBs

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-03

ISLAMABAD: A global cybersecurity company detected over 33,300 attacks on Small and Medium-sized Businesses (SMBs), in which malicious or unwanted software for PCs were disguised as popular Artificial Intelligence (AI) services. From January to April 2026, this number has surged by almost five times when compared to the same period in 2025. A new Kaspersky report revealed threat analysis..... [more >>](#)

3. Data privacy

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2026-07-05

Several months back, policymakers in Pakistan faced a pressing issue: sensitive information of thousands of accounts was lying unprotected on cloud. Before that, during the India-Pakistan war, a couple of government official accounts were hacked to spread misinformation. These instances uncover the importance of having strong data protection. Today, almost every government service uses digital inf..... [more >>](#)

4. Social media hacking, extortion loot users

Source: [Khalid Rasheed, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-06

LAHORE: Incidents of fraud through hacking accounts on major social media platforms WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram have been increasing steadily across Pakistan, raising serious concerns about cyber security and public awareness. The trend has continued even after the establishment of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) in 2025, which replaced the cybercrime wing of the Fed..... [more >>](#)

5. Cybercrime Test

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-14

The case unfolding in a Lahore sessions court may do more to define Pakistan's response to cyber harassment than any public awareness campaign. At its centre is a familiar allegation: a woman rejects a marriage proposal and is subsequently subjected to intimidation, blackmail and online harassment. Variations of this story play out across Pakistan with alarming regularity. What makes this..... [more >>](#)

6. Social media accounts: Senate panel concerned at data discrepancies presented by NCCIA

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2026-07-16

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting Wednesday expressed concern over discrepancies in the data previously presented by the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) on social media accounts. The panel members pointed out that the NCCIA had

subsequently disowned the figures shared by their officials during an earlier meeting of the subcommittee. The f..... [more >>](#)

7. Cybercrime Test

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-14

The case unfolding in a Lahore sessions court may do more to define Pakistan's response to cyber harassment than any public awareness campaign. At its centre is a familiar allegation: a woman rejects a marriage proposal and is subsequently subjected to intimidation, blackmail and online harassment. Variations of this story play out across Pakistan with alarming regularity. What makes this c..... [more >>](#)

8. Global SIM card scams exposed; Pakistan also included

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-24

ISLAMABAD: A global cyber security company uncovered scams that target anyone purchasing mobile connections or SIM cards worldwide including Pakistan. A report of the company issued on Thursday revealed that the fraudsters create counterfeit websites that look like the portals of major regional and international telecom providers to trick users into revealing their phone numbers, personal det..... [more >>](#)

9. FIA sets up investigation unit to trace criminals operating on the dark web

Source: [Iftikhar A. Khan](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-25

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has set up a dedicated dark web investigation unit to track and prosecute criminals operating in the shadowy realm, to effectively counter threats to the country's interests emanating from encrypted online platforms, officials said on Saturday. Housed in the state-of-the-art National Command and Control Centre (NC3) at FIA headquarters, th..... [more >>](#)

10. Invisible Criminal

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-26

The establishment of a specialised investigation unit by the Federal Investigation Agency to trace criminals operating on the dark web is a critical acknowledgement that traditional policing is obsolete in the face of modern cybercrime. By expanding its reach into the encrypted layers of the internet, the FIA is finally attempting to address a void where criminals have operated with near-total imp..... [more >>](#)

11. No single platform exists to address social media complaints, says Pemra DG

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-30

ISLAMABAD: While the general public remained unaware of the complaint mechanism, there was also no single platform available to lodge complaints regarding social media content, resulting in most aggrieved persons not reporting violations related to digital media. This was highlighted by Ikram Barkat, Director General of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra), while speaking on..... [more >>](#)

12. Local Cybercrime Policing

Source: [Zaigham Sana Warraich](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-31

The phone rings. A man introduces himself as Inspector Khalid from a local police station and asks for the father by name. He says his son has been arrested with two friends in a serious moral offence involving a girl. Wireless chatter crackles in the background—a carefully staged detail that makes the call sound authentic. Then the caller offers to let the father speak to his son. A frigh..... [more >>](#)

Educational Technology and Digital Learning

13. Teaching machines fairness

Source: [Shaza Fatima Khawaja / Jamshed M Kazi](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-07-29

The greatest risk of artificial intelligence is not that machines will outthink us. It is that they will inherit our oldest inequalities and write them into the infrastructure of the future, at a speed and scale no technology has ever matched. Across the world, AI is already deciding who is shortlisted for a job, approved for a loan, prioritised for medical care or recommended for a scholarship. [more >>](#)

Information Technology and Digital Innovation

14. Technology that improves lives: The next chapter of financial inclusion

Source: [Mohammad Hasan Ayaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-03

As the world accelerates toward digital transformation, technology is often celebrated for its speed, scale, and sophistication. Yet in emerging markets like Pakistan, the true measure of technology is not how advanced it is - but how meaningfully it improves lives. At Easypaisa, we have seen firsthand how technology can bridge long-standing gaps in financial inclusion. From pioneering Pakistan&r..... [more >>](#)

15. Internet restored across country, submarine cable fixed

Source: [NNI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-04

ISLAMABAD: The technical fault in the international SMW-5 submarine cable has been fixed, restoring internet speed and connectivity across Pakistan, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said. According to PTA officials, internet services are now continuing without interruption in all areas. Users in Pakistan had faced slow internet speed and connectivity issues after a fault d..... [more >>](#)

16. Thousands attend Khanpur's first technology summit

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-06

PESHAWAR - Thousands of students, entrepreneurs and young professionals attended the inaugural Metrix Pakistan Khanpur Tech Summit on Sunday, where speakers urged young Pakistanis to develop digital skills, embrace innovation and prepare for an increasingly technology-driven economy. Organised by Metrix Pakistan in collaboration with the Directorate of Youth Affairs, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa..... [more >>](#)

17. Kayani chairs review meeting to assess 1-year progress of 'Cashless Pakistan' initiative

Source: [Imran Ali Kundi](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-07

ISLAMABAD - Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani reviewed key milestones achieved during the first year of implementation of Cashless Economy initiative, noting significant progress across the digital payments' ecosystem, with annual digital transactions rising from Rs6.9 billion to Rs11.3 billion. The active digital payment merchants increased from 0.5 million to over 2 million, supported b..... [more >>](#)

18. The dilemma of underage social media use

Source: [Omay Aimen](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-10

Social media was once celebrated as the great equaliser of the digital age, being a space where knowledge could travel without borders, families could remain connected across continents, and young minds could access opportunities unimaginable to previous generations. That promise has faded in today's digital world. For millions of children, social media is no longer just a communication tool b..... [more >>](#)

19. EU tells Instagram, Facebook to change addictive features or risk fines

Source: Reuters, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-10

The EU charged Meta Platforms' Instagram and Facebook on Friday with breaching its tech rules, with regulators targeting features they say are designed to keep users hooked and demanding changes to autoplay and infinite scroll or risk fines. The European Commission's preliminary findings follow a two-year investigation under the European Union's landmark Digital Services Ac..... [more >>](#)

20. The dilemma of underage social media use

Source: Omay Aimen, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-10

Social media was once celebrated as the great equaliser of the digital age, being a space where knowledge could travel without borders, families could remain connected across continents, and young minds could access opportunities unimaginable to previous generations. That promise has faded in today's digital world. For millions of children, social media is no longer just a communication tool b..... [more >>](#)

21. Rawalpindi aims for swift digital birth, death certificates

Source: Aamir Yasin, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-12

RAWALPINDI: The divisional administration on Saturday asked all district administrations of Rawalpindi, Murree, Attock, Chakwal and Jhelum to make the process of issuing birth, death and other registration certificates transparent and timely. This was directed by Divisional Commissioner Salman Ghani while reviewing the performance of Local Government Department and progress of e-Biz Portal, in a [more >>](#)

22. Going digital

Source: Editorial, [The News, International](#), 2026-07-15

Pakistan's digital economy has long remained a promise rather than a reality. For decades, cash has dominated daily transactions while digital financial services struggled to gain widespread acceptance. Against this backdrop, the government's announcement that annual digital transactions have increased from Rs6.9 billion to Rs11.3 billion under its cashless economy initiatives is certa..... [more >>](#)

23. Internet quality poor even in major cities, NA panel told

Source: Kalbe Ali, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-15

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the unsatisfactory state of internet services in the country, noting that poor connectivity was affecting not only remote areas but also major cities such as Karachi. Committee Chairman Syed Aminul Haque observed that users frequently experienced slow int..... [more >>](#)

24. A data policy without a spine

Source: Mohsin Saleem Ullah, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-16

Read the new Data Governance Policy, 2026, by the Ministry of IT & Telecom, and it is genuinely hard to find fault with the ideas inside it. The Federal Government calls itself a custodian of citizens' data rather than an owner. It talks about privacy by design instead of privacy as an afterthought bolted on once something goes wrong. It promises people the right to know who, inside the go..... [more >>](#)

25. Pakistan takes major step forward in digital payments

Source: Our Correspondent, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-16

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad has welcomed the launch of the HBL, UnionPay International and PayPak co-badged debit card, describing the partnership as an important milestone in Pakistan's journey towards a modern, resilient and inclusive digital payments ecosystem that supports the vision of a "Cashless Pakistan". Speaking at the launch ceremony, the [more >>](#)

26. The digital divide

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-18

A cashless economy cannot be built on unreliable internet. That uncomfortable reality sits at the heart of two developments that emerged on the same day. On one hand, the prime minister recently, and very proudly, highlighted Pakistan's progress towards digitising payments and urged authorities to accelerate the country's transition towards a cashless economy. On the other, a parliament..... [more >>](#)

27. Facebook, Instagram hit by global outage

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-20

ISLAMABAD: Meta-owned social media platforms Facebook and Instagram briefly experienced outages on Sunday, according to reports from real-time outage monitor Down detector. According to Downtdetector.com, which tracks outages by collating status reports from several sources, users in Pakistan began reporting problems with Facebook at around 12:30pm. Outage reports peaked at 196 at 1:40pm before th..... [more >>](#)

28. previous next news SBP chief outlines vision for more inclusive, digital, resilient payments ecosystem

Source: [News Wire](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-20

KARACHI - Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad has welcomed the launch of the HBL, UnionPay International and PayPak co-badged debit card, describing the partnership as an important milestone in Pakistan's journey toward a modern, resilient and inclusive digital payments ecosystem that supports the Prime Minister's vision of a Cashless Pakistan. Speaking at the launch ce..... [more >>](#)

29. Pakistan gets first industrial AI hub

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-24

ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to establish Pakistan's first-ever Center for Industrial Innovation and AI (CIINAI) at the National University of Technology (NUTECH), Islamabad, according to a statement on Thursday. The MoU was signed between the Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), NUTECH and NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi. Spe..... [more >>](#)

30. Cashless public transport facility: Punjab launches; eTransit App, T-Cash card

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-07-25

LAHORE: The Punjab government has launched the eTransit Punjab App and T-Cash Card to provide citizens with a modern, secure, and cashless public transportation experience, further advancing the province's digital transformation agenda. Developed jointly by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), the Transport Department, and the Punjab Mass Transit Authority (PMTA), the electronic [more >>](#)

31. Digital roll call Success of the e-transfer system offers reason for optimism about the digital enrolment system

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-26

This year, the Sindh government has been making impressive strides in education by introducing reliable, transparent systems through widespread digitisation. First, under the Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project, it launched an initiative to shift examinations from manual marking to e-marking, alongside wider digitisation of the exam process. Then it launched an e-transfer system for gove..... [more >>](#)

32. Punjab launches cashless payment system for public transport

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-26

LAHORE: The Punjab government has introduced a cashless payment system for its public transport network by launching the eTransit Punjab App and the T-Cash Card, allowing commuters to travel on metro and electric bus services without using cash or waiting in long queues. The initiative, announced by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), has been launched in collaboration with the Punjab..... [more >>](#)

33. Digital system ensures efficient registration of foreign nationals, says CCPO

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-26

LAHORE - Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana on Saturday said the timely registration of foreign nationals was essential for an effective immigration and comprehensive security system. In a statement, the CCPO said the registration and document verification of foreign nationals was being carried out through a modern digital system, while all legal facilities, including..... [more >>](#)

34. Meta's AI spending spree lays bare its compute dilemma

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-30

Meta can simultaneously advance its own artificial intelligence ambitions while renting out scarce computing capacity to boost returns, Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg signalled on Wednesday. Investors, however, are not convinced. The Facebook and Instagram owner is spending billions of dollars on AI infrastructure, including chips, servers, energy and data centres, leaving it with free cash fl..... [more >>](#)

35. Sindh to establish provincial data centre to accelerate digital transformation

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-07-31

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in a high-level meeting with the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) on Thursday, discussed plans to establish a state-of-the-art provincial data centre in Sindh. The CM directed the relevant departments to collaborate with the NTC and submit a comprehensive proposal and implementation plan for the project. The decision was finalised during a mee..... [more >>](#)

36. CM Afridi launches KP Open Wi-Fi initiative to expand digital access

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-11

Peshawar - Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi has formally launched the Community Driven Digital Access (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Open Wi-Fi) Initiative, describing it as a major milestone in the Province's digital transformation agenda and a significant step towards strengthening digital governance and expanding citizens' access to modern public services. Addressing the inaugu..... [more >>](#)

37. COMMENT: Is AI killing India's IT future?

Source: [Dr Farrukh Saleem](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-07-08

For 30 years, India sold one product to the world: low-cost, English-speaking, technically trained labour. Call centres. Coding. IT services. Back-office processing. This year's projection: the industry will cross \$315 billion in revenue, contributing nearly 10 per cent to India's GDP. Total direct employment: 6 million, indirect 24 million. Bengaluru alone once accounted for 38 per c..... [more >>](#)

38. Meta to train 1,000 SMEs in AI, digital business

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-24

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan has welcomed Meta's initiative to train 1,000 Pakistani small and medium-sized enterprises in digital business and artificial intelligence, while inviting the company to engage with Pakistan's digital economy agenda, according to a statement on Thursday. The minister expressed these views during a meeting with a Meta delegation led by Asia-Paci..... [more >>](#)

IT and Telecom Policy, governance and Regulations

39. Pakistan jumps 27 places in ITU's ICT index

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

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recorded a significant improvement in the International Telecommunication Union's ICT Development Index 2026, jumping 27 places with a 20% increase in its score, according to an official statement issued on Friday. According to the latest data, Pakistan's ICT Development Index score increased from 56.4 in 2025 to 67.7 in 2026, showing a 20% relative improvement. T..... [more >>](#)

40. Qaiser Khan urges digital reforms to unlock telecom potential

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-05

LAHORE - Veteran telecommunications executive Qaiser Khan has called for accelerated digital transformation, emphasising that emerging technologies, supportive policies, and greater public-private collaboration are essential to unlocking Pakistan's telecom potential and driving long-term economic growth. Currently serving as Group Head, People Experience South Zone at PTCL Group, Khan bring..... [more >>](#)

41. Telecom bill protects private land: ministers

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-06

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Sunday clarified that the proposed Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) (Amendment) bill, 2026 would not allow anyone to occupy private land. Addressing a press conference alongside Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, she said the proposed telecom amendment bill so..... [more >>](#)

42. Data Vault to provide sovereign AI services to NTC

Source: [News Wire](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-20

KARACHI - Data Vault Pakistan has signed a three-year contract with the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) to deliver Sovereign AI Services for the federal government of Pakistan, marking a milestone in Pakistan's journey toward secure, sovereign, and nationally controlled artificial intelligence infrastructure. Under the contract, Data Vault Pakistan will deploy enterprise-grade N..... [more >>](#)

43. Violations of QoS;PTA imposes Rs3.41bn penalties on CMOs

Source: [Tahir Amin](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-24

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has imposed cumulative financial penalties of Rs3.41 billion on Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) over the last four years for violations related to Quality of Service (QoS) and coverage obligations, according to official documents. The documents reveal that the regulator initiated a broad enforcement drive, issuing 20 warning letters, 86 S..... [more >>](#)

44. Pakistan's ICT boom

Source: [Eeman Taimur](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-26

Pakistan's digital economy is becoming one of the country's biggest economic success stories. While traditional sectors struggle with structural problems, the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector has shown strength, competitiveness, and steady export growth. The Economic Survey of Pakistan (2025–26) shows that technology is no longer just a support sector —..... [more >>](#)

45. Meta Monopoly

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-13

Meta's latest foray into artificial intelligence, which allows the company to utilise user photographs to generate content, is a textbook example of the unethical trajectory of big tech. By implementing a system where consent is often an afterthought or buried in complex terms of service, Meta continues to treat the personal data of billions as a free commodity. This persistent drive to feed..... [more >>](#)

Mobile & Wireless Communications

46. Ufone, Telenor seek rebranding after merger

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-07

ISLAMABAD: The new management of Ufone-Telenor Pakistan has decided to rebrand the merged telecom company and has filed an application with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in this regard, it emerged on Monday. Earlier this month, the Telenor Pakistan was formally amalgamated into Pak Telecom Mobile Ltd (PTML) — the legal name for Ufone — after final approval by the Isla..... [more >>](#)

47. PTA issues 47 district-level internet licences

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-11

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has issued 47 district-level Class Licences for internet services this year as part of its efforts to expand broadband infrastructure across the country. According to PTA documents, the first district-level internet licence was issued in February this year. During March, the authority granted 12 new district-level licences, followed by 14..... [more >>](#)

48. PTCL Flash Fiber surpasses 900,000 subscribers

Source: [Press Release, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-11

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has achieved another significant milestone as PTCL Flash Fiber, the company's flagship fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) service, surpassed 900,000 subscribers. The achievement reflects the growing trust that customers across Pakistan continue to place in PTCL's high-speed broadband services and further strengthens the company'..... [more >>](#)

49. Mobile phones worth USD1.889bn imported during 2024-25

Source: [Tahir Amin, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-17

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan imported mobile phones worth USD 1.889 billion in fiscal year 2025-26 compared to USD 1.492 billion during 2024-25, registering a growth of over 26.55 percent. Official data revealed that, in terms of rupees, the total value of mobile phone imports stood at Rs 530.492 billion during fiscal year 2025-26, compared to Rs 416.937 billion in the last year, registering a 27.24 p..... [more >>](#)

50. Mobile and internet services begin returning to Mirpur after 45-day suspension

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-23

Mobile phone and internet services have started to resume in Mirpur and nearby areas of Azad Kashmir after a 45-day disruption, offering relief to residents and businesses affected by the prolonged outage. According to local reports, telecom and internet connectivity began returning in parts of Mirpur and surrounding localities on Wednesday. Authorities are continuing the restoration process, w..... [more >>](#)

51. 'Smartphone affordability key to digital growth'

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2026-07-30

KARACHI: Pakistan's next digital challenge lies in making smartphones more affordable, industry leaders said, as the country prepares for the next phase of digital connectivity following this year's spectrum auction.

The issue was raised during the GSMA Digital Nation Pakistan Ministerial Roundtable in Islamabad on Tuesday, which brought together government officials, regulators, deve..... [more >>](#)

52. Internet back in parts of AJK after 54 days

Source: [Tariq Naqash](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-30

MUZAFFARABAD: Internet services were restored in parts of the Muzaffarabad division on Wednesday after remaining suspended for 54 days, bringing relief to residents who had repeatedly demanded an end to the blanket shutdown. The authorities imposed the curbs on June 5, hours after the JAAC was outlawed. Although tensions remained centered in the Poonch division, the situation in Muzaffarabad and..... [more >>](#)

Telecommunication Infrastructure and Networks

53. PM Shehbaz inaugurates country's 'largest' data centre, AI cloud Sky47 in Islamabad

Source: [News Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-24

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday inaugurated the country's "largest" data centre and Sky47 AI cloud in Islamabad, terming the facility "awe-inspiring". The project has a capacity of 8.5 megawatts, the PM noted in his speech. Sky47 is also developing a 5MW data centre at Karachi's Port Qasim, slated for completion in September. Speaking on the occasi..... [more >>](#)

54. Police move to modernise telecom network for faster response times

Source: [Our crime correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-07-21

Islamabad: The Islamabad Police have initiated a comprehensive overhaul of their telecommunication system, aiming to integrate field units and enhance operational response across the federal capital. The decision was finalized during a high-level review meeting chaired by Director General Safe City and DIG Traffic Islamabad, Muhammad Haroon Joya, alongside technical and telecommunications official..... [more >>](#)

Telecommunications and Connectivity

55. CM Afridi launches KP Open Wi-Fi initiative to expand digital access

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-11

Peshawar - Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi has formally launched the Community Driven Digital Access (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Open Wi-Fi) Initiative, describing it as a major milestone in the Province's digital transformation agenda and a significant step towards strengthening digital governance and expanding citizens' access to modern public services. Addressing the inaugu..... [more >>](#)

56. Submarine cable fault disrupts internet

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-03

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said on Thursday it was closely monitoring internet traffic disruptions caused by a fault in the SEA-ME-WE 5 (SMW5) international submarine cable system, which was likely to cause intermittent degradation in service quality and connectivity. The telecom authority said that Transworld Associates (TWA) is coordinatin..... [more >>](#)

57. Pakistan jumps 27 places in ITU's ICT index

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

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recorded a significant improvement in the International Telecommunication Union's ICT Development Index 2026, jumping 27 places with a 20% increase in its score, according to an

official statement issued on Friday. According to the latest data, Pakistan's ICT Development Index score increased from 56.4 in 2025 to 67.7 in 2026, showing a 20% relative improvement. T..... [more >>](#)

58. Telecom's AI moment

Source: [Amir Jahangir](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-07-13

Across the world, telecom operators are increasingly being viewed as strategic enablers of AI ecosystems, digital infrastructure, sovereign technology frameworks and digital freedoms. In many ways, the telecom sector is now becoming the nervous system of the digital state. For Pakistan, this transition carries profound implications. The country has more than 197 million telecom subscribers and ov..... [more >>](#)

Artificial Intelligence

59. COMMENT: Is AI killing India's IT future?

Source: [Dr Farrukh Saleem](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-07-08

For 30 years, India sold one product to the world: low-cost, English-speaking, technically trained labour. Call centres. Coding. IT services. Back-office processing. This year's projection: the industry will cross \$315 billion in revenue, contributing nearly 10 per cent to India's GDP. Total direct employment: 6 million, indirect 24 million. Bengaluru alone once accounted for 38 per c..... [more >>](#)

60. Meta to train 1,000 SMEs in AI, digital business

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-24

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan has welcomed Meta's initiative to train 1,000 Pakistani small and medium-sized enterprises in digital business and artificial intelligence, while inviting the company to engage with Pakistan's digital economy agenda, according to a statement on Thursday. The minister expressed these views during a meeting with a Meta delegation led by Asia-Paci..... [more >>](#)

61. Telecom's AI moment

Source: [Amir Jahangir](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-07-13

Across the world, telecom operators are increasingly being viewed as strategic enablers of AI ecosystems, digital infrastructure, sovereign technology frameworks and digital freedoms. In many ways, the telecom sector is now becoming the nervous system of the digital state. For Pakistan, this transition carries profound implications. The country has more than 197 million telecom subscribers and ov..... [more >>](#)

62. Meta Monopoly

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-13

Meta's latest foray into artificial intelligence, which allows the company to utilise user photographs to generate content, is a textbook example of the unethical trajectory of big tech. By implementing a system where consent is often an afterthought or buried in complex terms of service, Meta continues to treat the personal data of billions as a free commodity. This persistent drive to feed..... [more >>](#)

63. Who gave AI the right to remove hijab!

Source: [Mohsin Saleem Ullah](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-04

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the way we work, communicate and present ourselves online. Yet beneath the promise of innovation lies a quieter, more troubling reality: AI systems are making decisions about women's identities without their consent. For many Muslim women, that decision begins with the removal of the hijab. Pakistan is already witnessing the darker side of [more >>](#)

64. Balancing AI risks

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-04

Artificial intelligence is advancing at a pace that governments can scarcely comprehend, let alone regulate. That, more than the technology itself, is the real danger. The United Nations' latest report has warned that the world is sprinting into the age of AI without first deciding where the finish line ought to be. The temptation is to view AI through extremes, either as humanity's great.... [more >>](#)

65. AI Paradox

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-04

The UN report highlighting the staggering environmental toll of Artificial Intelligence, specifically its depletion of water and land resources, reveals a disturbing contradiction in the modern pursuit of progress. By framing AI as a tool for global efficiency, the industry has conveniently ignored the ecological devastation required to power its servers. The unchecked expansion of AI at the expense.... [more >>](#)

66. The surrender to algorithmic control

Source: [Faran Mahmood, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-06

ISLAMABAD: Imagine a digital landscape where algorithms are optimised to capture human attention, only to feed that data back into generative models that create endless, hyper-personalised feeds of synthetic media. The content is perfectly engineered for an audience that is increasingly losing the desire to create indigenously. Imagine a scenario where job seekers use AI to tailor their ATS-comp.... [more >>](#)

67. Unprepared for artificial intelligence

Source: [Afshan Subohi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-13

It is no longer a matter of choice: artificial intelligence (AI) has arrived. While the world acknowledges its transformative potential, even experts and business leaders in advanced economies are still grappling with its full implications and remain far from confident of managing them. Pakistan, still at an early stage of digitisation with weak, fragmented data systems, appears largely unprepared.... [more >>](#)

68. When AI decides

Source: [Muhammad Omar Iftikhar, The News, International](#), 2026-07-14

"AI is not just another tool; it is an agent. It can learn and change by itself and make decisions..." These were profound yet frightening words by Yuval Noah Harari when he spoke at Davos 2026 earlier this year in January. Harari opened his speech with a sentence that shook the audience. His example of referring to an AI agent as a knife caught the audience's attention. He.... [more >>](#)

69. Pakistan to become founding member of global AI cooperation body

Source: [Shafqat Ali, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-16

ISLAMABAD - Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar will undertake a two-day visit to Shanghai, China, from July 16-17 to participate in the establishment of the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO), marking Pakistan's entry as a founding member of the new global AI platform. The visit is being made at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi,.... [more >>](#)

70. Global AI summit set to open in Shanghai from July 17-20

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-14

The 2026 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance is set to be held in Shanghai, China, from July 17 to 20, with analysts saying the event will offer a major platform for international cooperation, technological innovation and global rule-making in the fast-evolving AI sector, according to Anadolu Agency. Being held under the theme "AI.... [more >>](#)

71. Charter for AI

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-17

AI is not merely another technological advancement. Like nuclear technology or the discovery of carbon fibre, it has the capacity to alter the global balance of power dramatically. Those who control the most advanced models, computing infrastructure and data will possess an immense economic, military and political advantage. Predictably, this technology is already being jealously guarded by states..... [more >>](#)

72. 29 states sign agreement to establish global AI cooperation body

Source: [Reuters](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-17

BEIJING: Twenty-nine countries on Thursday signed an agreement to establish the World AI Cooperation Organization, an intergovernmental body China says aims to promote international cooperation and global governance in artificial intelligence. Representatives from the 29 countries, including Russia, Belarus, Serbia, Cuba, Brazil and Venezuela, as well as 10 African and 12 Asian countries, sig..... [more >>](#)

73. Pakistan joins global AI organisation as founding member

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-17

KARACHI: Pakistan on Thursday became a founding member of the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO) after Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar signed the agreement establishing the forum in Shanghai. Mr Dar "signed the agreement on the establishment of the WAICO on behalf of Pakistan at the signing ceremony held today in Shanghai, China", the F..... [more >>](#)

74. Dumbing down?

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-17

THE awesome power of generative AI has raised concerns in academic and scientific circles about the impact the technology may be having on human cognitive development and whether it could lead to the 'dumbing down' of human society. A study, still under peer review, conducted by a joint American-British team of researchers asserts that using AI tools to solve arithmetic or reading comp..... [more >>](#)

75. Embrace AI

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-18

Pakistan's decision to become a founding member of the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO) should be seen as more than another diplomatic milestone. It presents an opportunity to reposition the country within one of the most consequential technological revolutions of the century. Membership of a global AI platform has little value if it remains confined to official c..... [more >>](#)

76. Humans Rising Above AI The world is now more interested in cyberspace than in genuine human relations and everyday affairs.

Source: [Sadam Hussain](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-23

During the last century, we have seen a sharp increase in the tech industry, while genuine human connections have begun to decay. We are living in a world where creativity, according to many reports, is being replaced by AI. From completing students' assignments and projects to making creative pictures for us, AI proves to be available at a single prompt. However, we cannot say that all stud..... [more >>](#)

77. PM calls for national innovation ecosystem to advance indigenous robotics tech

Source: [Mateen Haider](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-23

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday urged all stakeholders to become part of a unified national innovation ecosystem, stressing the need to develop indigenous knowledge and technological capabilities in Pakistan. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the "Indus RAS – Robotics and Autonomous Systems Expo 2026", the prime minister said Pakistan must embrace the..... [more >>](#)

78. AI reckoning has arrived

Source: Editorial, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-25

OpenAI's recent admission that its AI models went rogue, broke out of its test environment and hacked another AI company's systems seemed to be a cyberpunk story come to life. Unfortunately, the debate has mostly focused on how this could happen, rather than how this could be allowed to happen. The attacks reportedly took place with no human direction - GPT-5.6 Sol and an even more powerf..... [more >>](#)

79. Adopting AI may cut banking fraud

Source: Usman Hanif, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-26

KARACHI: As scams are increasing day by day, the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) could significantly reduce fraud and cyber scams in Pakistan's banking sector by enabling financial institutions to detect suspicious transactions in real time and prevent financial losses for customers and banks, industry experts say. According to the Banking Mohtasib Pakistan, complaints related to ba..... [more >>](#)

80. New AI tools let readers chat with books

Source: AFP, [The News, International](#), 2026-07-27

NEW YORK: Imagine a world where you could ask a book a question as you read it. That's the pitch from a wave of new AI tools letting readers do exactly that. "You are dealing with a book as if it is a living object -- it's totally different," says Ahmed Kamel, CEO of Sinai.ai, a platform now in testing. With these tools, users get access to an e-book or audiobook alongside an [more >>](#)

81. Ambitious AI steps

Source: Mohiuddin Aazim, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-27

Pakistan's information technology sector has reached a milestone that deserves appreciation. During FY26, IT and information and communication technology export earnings reached a record \$4.6 billion, rising 21 per cent from \$3.8bn in FY25. The sector generated a trade surplus of \$3.9bn in this sub-sector of services trade, according to Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Shaza Khawaja..... [more >>](#)

82. Shifting geopolitics of tech

Source: Nasir Jamal, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-27

The development and governance of artificial intelligence should be a global effort. It should not be a solo performance by any single country, but rather "a symphony of global cooperation", Chinese President Xi Jinping said at the opening of the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai on July 17. The remark encapsulated the broader message that extended well beyond techn..... [more >>](#)

83. Punjab's AI future begins with people

Source: Ali Mustafa Dar, [The News, International](#), 2026-07-28

Every technological revolution arrives with a familiar cycle of anticipation, anxiety and exaggerated expectation. Artificial Intelligence is no exception. Depending on whom you ask, it is either destined to solve every challenge confronting society or to disrupt every profession we know. Neither view is particularly helpful. Throughout history, transformative technologies have never altered the..... [more >>](#)

84. PM Shehbaz inaugurates country's 'largest' data centre, AI cloud Sky47 in Islamabad

Source: News Desk, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-07-24

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday inaugurated the country's "largest" data centre and Sky47 AI cloud in Islamabad, terming the facility "awe-inspiring". The project has a capacity of 8.5 megawatts, the PM noted

in his speech. Sky47 is also developing a 5MW data centre at Karachi's Port Qasim, slated for completion in September. Speaking on the occasi..... [more >>](#)

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