NIC PESHAWAR

NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

February was a month of momentum at NIC Peshawar, marked by new opportunities, meaningful conversations, and stronger ecosystem engagement. From the launch of Cohort 15 applications and a high impact AI Summit to Startup Connect sessions, outreach activities, strategic partnerships, and media visibility, the month reflected our continued commitment to supporting innovation and entrepreneurship across the region.
This edition captures some of the key highlights that brought founders, students, industry leaders, and institutions together to build what's next.



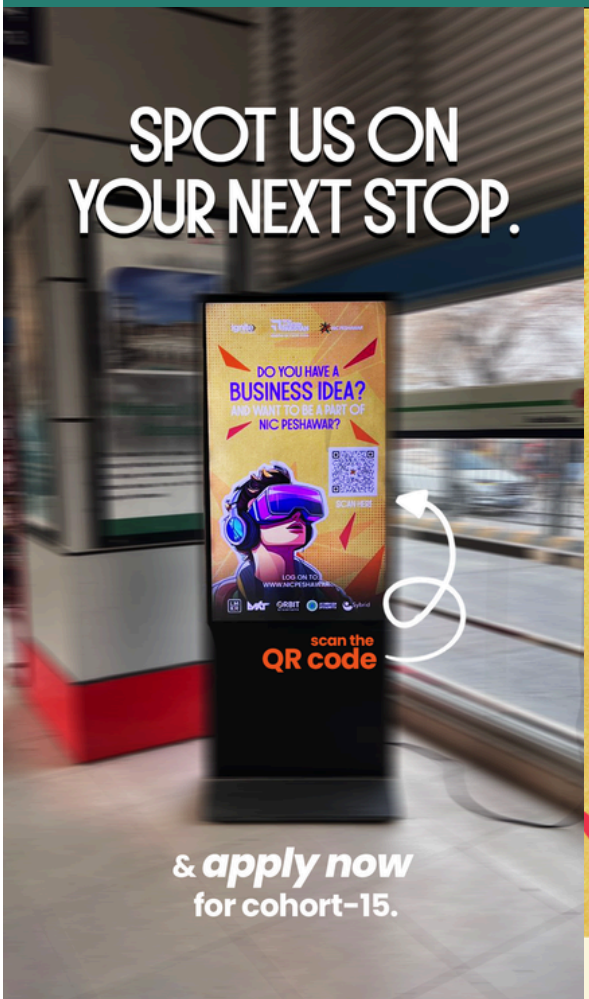
MAIN EVENTS

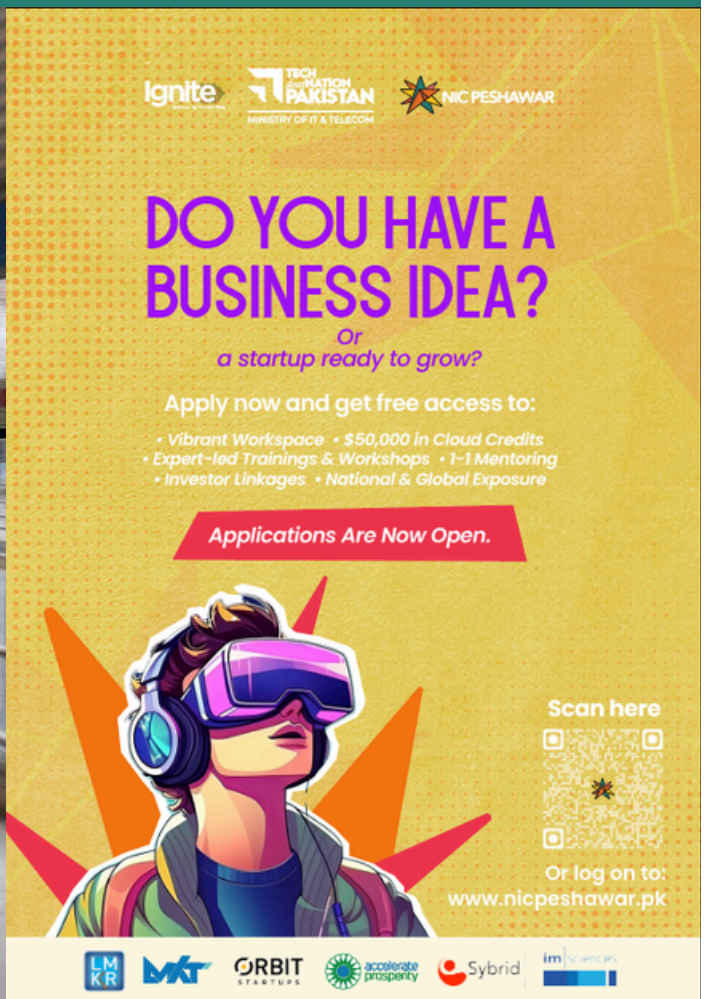
COHORT 15

Campaign Launch

In February, NIC Peshawar officially opened applications for Cohort 15, inviting aspiring founders and growing startups to take the next step in their entrepreneurial journey. The launch marked the beginning of a new opportunity for innovators looking to access structured incubation support, dedicated workspace, expert mentorship, investor connections, and national and international exposure.

Through this call for applications, NIC Peshawar continued its mission of supporting promising startups with the tools, guidance, and ecosystem they need to grow into sustainable businesses. As applications opened, founders from across the region were encouraged to apply and become part of a community that has helped hundreds of startups move from idea to impact.





Peshawar AI Summit

In February, NIC Peshawar hosted the AI Summit as part of Indus AI Week, bringing together founders, builders, researchers, and startup teams for important conversations on the future of artificial intelligence. The event explored how AI is shaping smarter products, stronger startups, and real world impact.
A key highlight was the fireside chat on AI Challenges, Opportunities, and the Road Ahead, moderated by Laraib Farhat and featuring leading voices from industry and academia. The summit was further strengthened by the support of Techkhwa as Community Partner, along with CECOS University and City University of Science and Information Technology as Academic Partners, helping create a strong platform for collaboration, learning, and innovation.



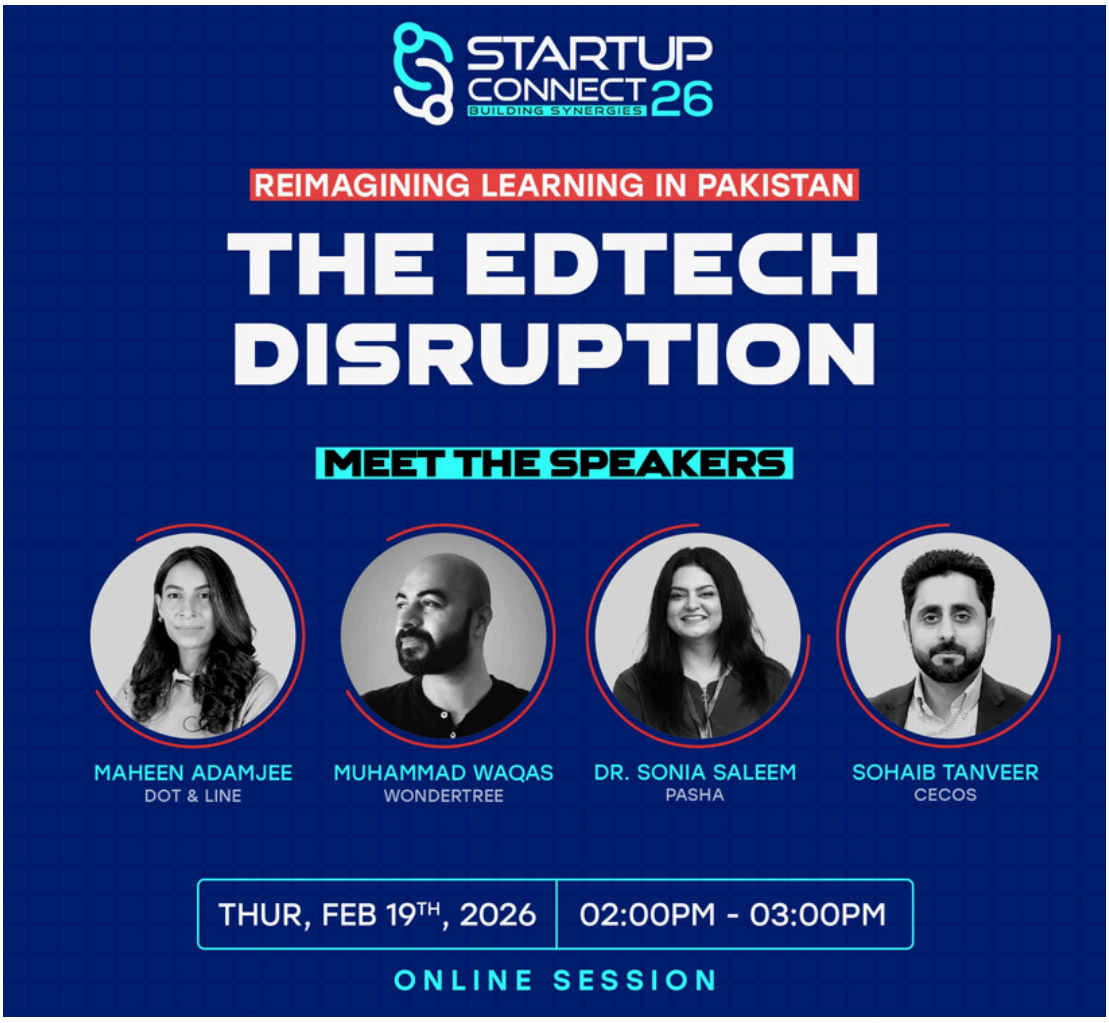




Startup Connect

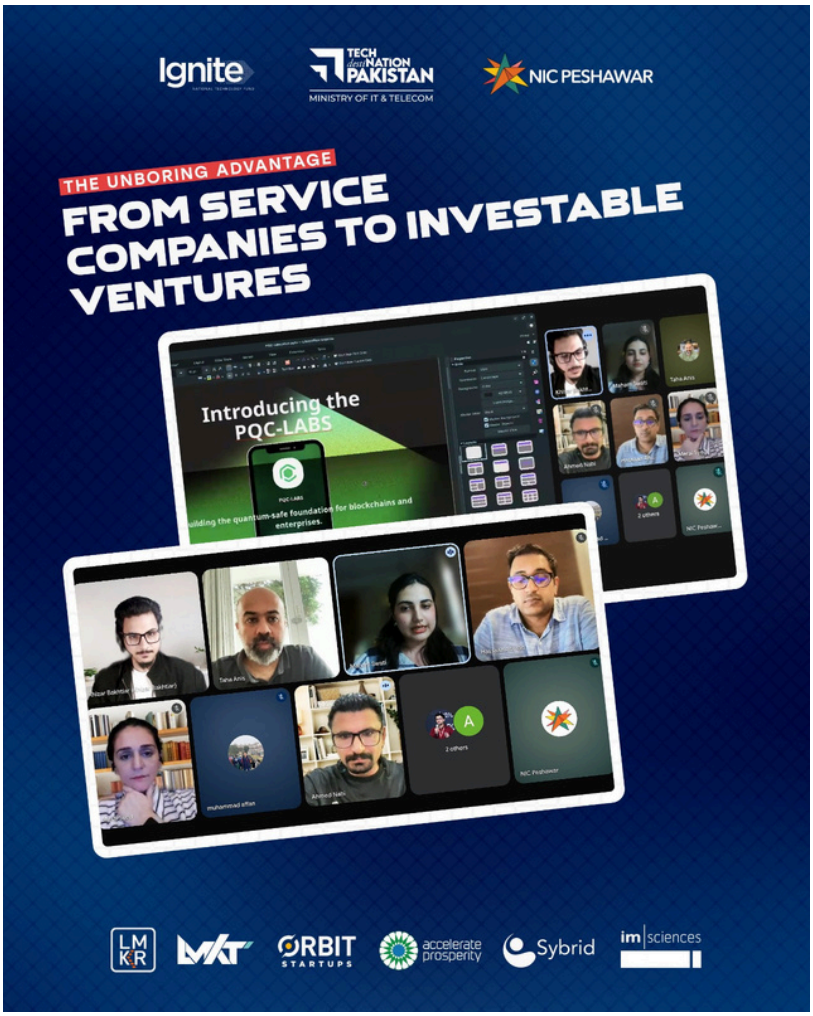
Startup Connect Explored EdTech Disruption

In February, NIC Peshawar hosted a Startup Connect session on EdTech Disruption, featuring leading voices from across Pakistan's education and innovation ecosystem. The session brought together Maheen Adamjee of Dot & Line Learning, Muhammad Waqas of WonderTree, Dr. Sonia Saleem from P@SHA, and Sohaib Tanveer from CECOS University.
The discussion explored how inclusive learning solutions, immersive technologies, and evolving institutional models are reshaping the future of education. Open to founders, educators, students, and innovators, the session created space for meaningful dialogue on the opportunities EdTech is unlocking across the ecosystem.



STARTUP CONNECT FOCUSED ON BUILDING INVESTABLE VENTURES

In February, NIC Peshawar hosted a Startup Connect session on From Service Companies to Investable Ventures, featuring Taha Anis, Merai Syed, and Hassaan Ahmad. The session explored how service based businesses can transition from steady revenue models to scalable, investment ready ventures. Designed for founders thinking about growth and funding, the conversation offered practical insights on scale, business evolution, and building ventures that are ready for investment.



STARTUP CONNECT UNPACKED SUSTAINABLE ECOMMERCE GROWTH

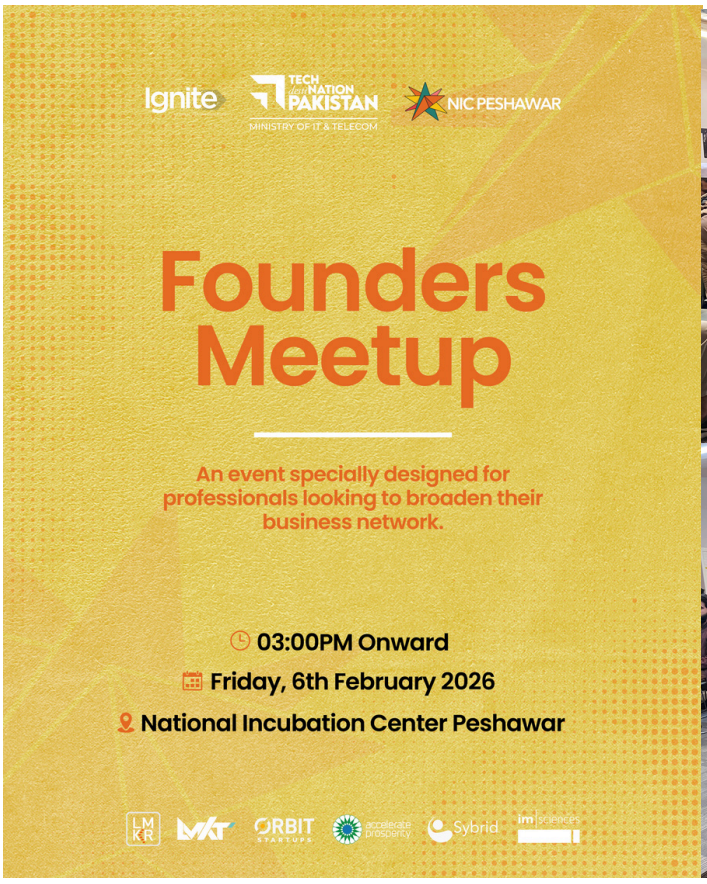
In February, NIC Peshawar hosted a Startup Connect session on Winning in Pakistan's Ecommerce Without Burning Cash, bringing together founders and operators to discuss sustainable growth strategies in the ecommerce space. Featuring Sukaina Abbas of Enchante, Umair Aslam of Markaz Technologies, Asma Khalil, formerly of Daraz and Careem, and Shehram Akram of Granny's Organic, the session focused on practical insights for building without overspending.
The conversation explored key themes including unit economics, community driven growth, lean operations, and revenue first strategies that are shaping smarter ecommerce businesses in Pakistan.



CURRICULUM & OPEN SESSIONS:

Founders Meetup

We hosted a Founders Meetup, an open networking session that brought together freelancers, founders, and professionals under one roof. The session created space for meaningful conversations, fresh connections, and valuable exchange across the startup ecosystem.
Designed as an open community gathering, the meetup encouraged participants to share ideas, explore opportunities, and build collaborations that can lead to future growth.





PARTNERSHIPS, OUTREACH, AND IMPACT

OUTREACH SESSION PAGEPAKISTAN

Engaged with the bright minds at PAGE Pakistan in an interactive session focused on how startups are built, how incubation works, and how the right ecosystem can turn an idea into a scalable venture. The session introduced participants to the startup journey and the value of structured support for early stage founders.
The strong energy in the room reflected the growing ambition of the next generation of entrepreneurs and reinforced the importance of creating pathways for young innovators to build with confidence.



OUTREACH SESSION AT GOVERNMENT SUPERIOR SCIENCE COLLEGE PESHAWAR

NIC Peshawar held an outreach session at Government Superior Science College Peshawar, engaging with ambitious students, future founders, and young problem solvers. The session introduced participants to how incubation works and highlighted the opportunities available within the startup ecosystem. It served as an insightful exchange that encouraged students to think bigger and explore how their ideas can grow into real ventures.







OUTREACH SESSION AT GOVERNMENT POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE CHARSADDA

As part of our cohort 15 campaign, NIC Peshawar conducted an outreach session at Government Postgraduate College Charsadda, engaging with aspiring founders and curious young innovators. The session focused on how incubation works, what it takes to build a startup, and the kind of support available within the NIC ecosystem.
The interaction encouraged students to think beyond ideas and explore how academic projects and early concepts can grow into real ventures.





OUTREACH SESSION AT IMSCIENCES PESHAWAR

As part of its Cohort 15 outreach campaign, NIC Peshawar held an engaging session at IMSciences Peshawar to connect with aspiring founders and introduce them to the startup ecosystem. The session highlighted how NIC supports early stage ventures through mentorship, industry linkages, workspace, and growth opportunities. With strong student interest and active participation, the session reflected the growing entrepreneurial potential emerging from campuses across the region.





NIC Peshawar Featured on HUM TV

NIC Peshawar was featured on HUM TV, where the Project Director shared the center's vision, role, and impact in supporting startups and entrepreneurship. The feature highlighted how NIC Peshawar is enabling founders through incubation, mentorship, industry linkages, and ecosystem support.

It served as a valuable opportunity to showcase the center's work and amplify its mission to build and strengthen the region's startup landscape.



MoU Signing

MOU SIGNING STRENGTHENED SUPPORT FOR WOMEN IN INNOVATION

Signed an MoU with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University to strengthen collaboration in entrepreneurship, innovation, and startup development. The partnership aimed to create new opportunities for students through mentorship, incubation, and greater access to the startup ecosystem.
This collaboration marked an important step toward enabling more women to lead, innovate, and build impactful ventures.

