NIC PESHAWAR

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

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INTRODUCTION

The year opened with strong momentum across the ecosystem, marked by focused learning, meaningful collaborations, and notable milestones for startups. From strategy driven curriculum sessions to national platforms that expanded visibility and opportunity, the month reflected steady progress and purposeful growth.

This edition captures the key moments that shaped the journey forward, highlighting how ideas continue to translate into impact, innovation, and opportunity.



MAIN EVENTS

PITCHING LEAGUE

From Preparation to Podium.

The Pitching League brought together weeks of preparation, iteration, and relentless execution into two defining moments: the preliminary round and the grand finale. Founders stepped forward not only to present their ideas, but to test their clarity, conviction, and readiness for what comes next.

The competition culminated in a strong and competitive finale, where OPA Academy secured the top position, Al Futriyaat claimed second place, and Fleur earned third. Each pitch reflected disciplined refinement, clear value propositions, and confident storytelling.

Gratitude goes to the distinguished panel of judges including Bilal Ahmed, Ibtisam Babar, Ahad Wazir, Amna Bano, and Tahira Kaleem, whose insights and thoughtful feedback added depth and direction for participating startups.
The preliminary and final rounds together showcased more than competition. They demonstrated growth, resilience, and the power of founders willing to refine their story and raise the bar. The journey continues from here.

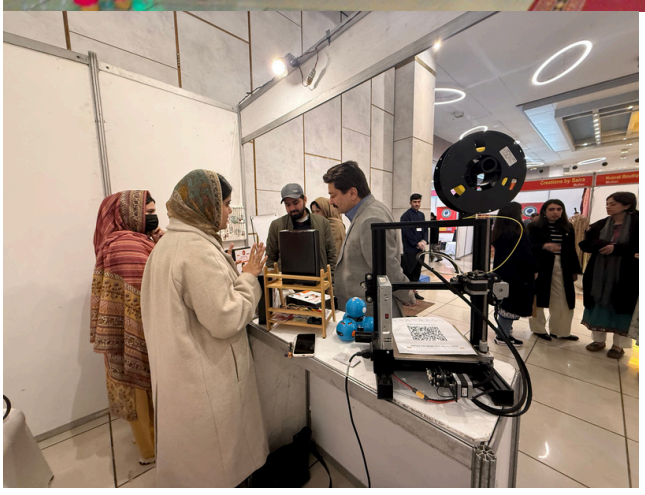




Strengthening Women Led Entrepreneurship at WEXNET

A strong presence marked participation at WEXNET, one of Pakistan's largest and most consistent platforms dedicated to the promotion and growth of women entrepreneurs.
Startups from the ecosystem including Mystemverse, Knovative, One Bloom, Zal Crochet, Subrung Gems, and Couturify actively engaged at the event, showcasing their products and services while building valuable connections with fellow founders, partners, and industry stakeholders.
Such platforms play a critical role in amplifying women led ventures, expanding market visibility, and fostering collaboration. By creating space for dialogue, exposure, and opportunity, initiatives like WEXNET contribute meaningfully to building a more inclusive and resilient entrepreneurial landscape across Pakistan.







Awareness session on FinTech & Entrepreneurship Skills Development

NIC Peshawar hosted an insightful awareness session on FinTech and Entrepreneurship Skills Development, bringing university students closer to the rapidly evolving intersection of finance and technology.
The session featured State Bank of Pakistan represented by Gulzar Khan, Senior Joint Director, who shared practical and forward-looking insights on Pakistan's FinTech ecosystem, regulatory landscape, and the skills young innovators must develop to thrive in the digital economy.
Students engaged in meaningful discussions around:

- How technology is transforming financial systems
- Emerging opportunities within Pakistan's FinTech sector
- Regulatory perspectives and innovation frameworks
- The entrepreneurial mindset required in the digital age

The session emphasized the growing need for future-ready skills in areas such as digital payments, compliance innovation, AI-driven financial solutions, and startup scalability.





Startup Spotlight

LAWOMAN RECOGNIZED ON A NATIONAL PLATFORM

A defining milestone was achieved as Lawomen earned recognition at the national level, reinforcing its commitment to impact driven innovation in the legal space. After completing the Acumen Fellowship, the startup received the Women of Impact Award from the State Bank of Pakistan Banking Services Corporation Peshawar Region as part of Pakistan Women Entrepreneurship Day 2025. The recognition highlights years of purpose driven work focused on women's rights, access to justice, and legal innovation.

Lawomen continues to expand access to justice for women through women lawyers, operating on a tech enabled, impact first, and sustainable model. This achievement stands as a testament to the power of mission aligned entrepreneurship and the growing influence of women led ventures shaping Pakistan's future.



CURRICULUM & OPEN SESSIONS:

Growth Strategy

Sustainable growth begins with clarity, structure, and intentional execution. In a focused session on Growth Strategy, startups explored how to move beyond short term traction and build foundations for long term scale.
Led by Syed Farhan Raza, the session unpacked practical scaling frameworks, market expansion strategies, and the alignment of product, revenue, and operations required for sustainable growth. The discussion emphasized that real scale is not just about speed, but about strategic direction and disciplined decision making.
By grounding ambition in strategy, founders strengthened their ability to grow smarter, expand confidently, and build resilient businesses for competitive markets.



Agile Transformation

In today's rapidly evolving landscape, the ability to adapt is a competitive advantage. An in-depth session on Agile Transformation brought founders and teams together to explore how agile thinking can strengthen execution, collaboration, and clarity.

The session was led by Shaheen ur Rehman, Consultant Agile Coach at the Ministry of IT & Telecommunications, who shared practical insights on embedding agile principles into startup environments.

From understanding core agile frameworks to applying them in real-world team settings, the conversation focused on building resilient teams that can respond quickly, iterate effectively, and scale with confidence. The emphasis remained clear: agility is not just a methodology, but a mindset that enables startups to navigate uncertainty and grow with structure.

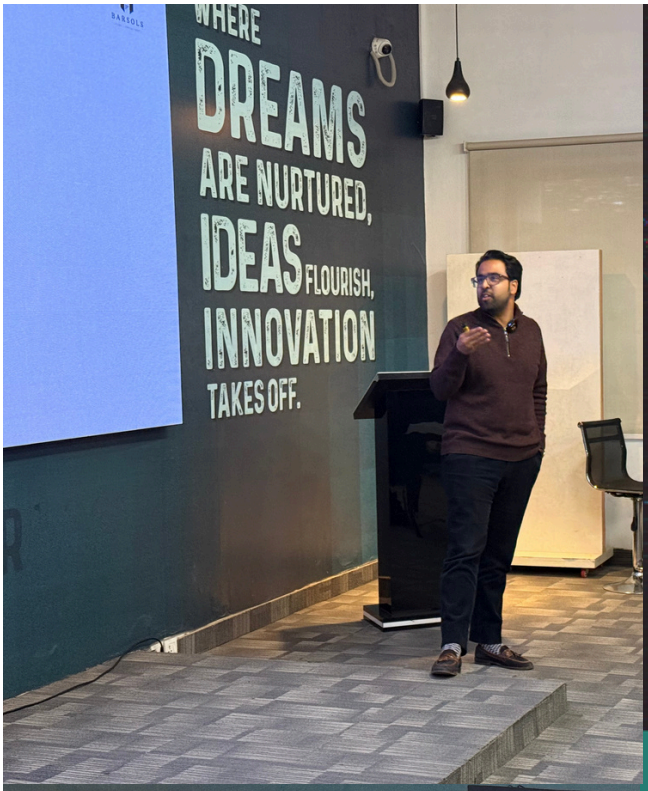




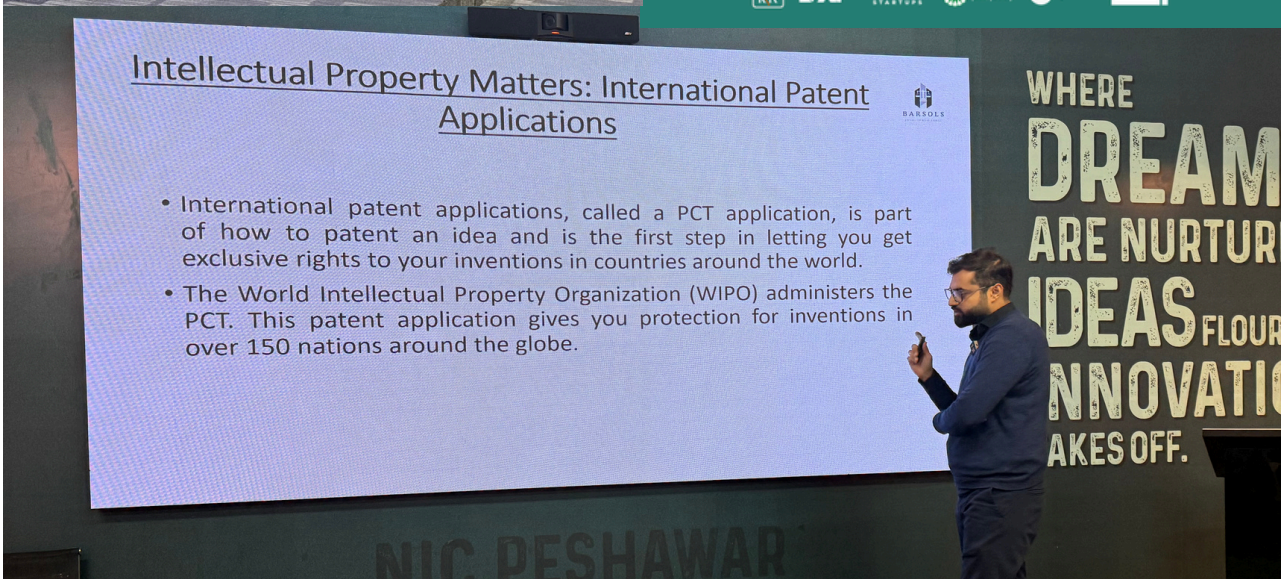


Legal 101

A focused session on Legal 101 for Founders explored the core legal considerations every entrepreneur must address early in their journey.
Led by Mohtashim Ahmad and Khalique Zaman from Barsols, the session covered critical areas including business structure, contracts, regulatory compliance, and risk management.
The discussion emphasized the importance of making informed legal decisions from day one, ensuring startups are protected, structured correctly, and prepared for partnerships, investment, and long term growth.







PARTNERSHIPS, OUTREACH, AND IMPACT

OUTREACH SESSION FARABIUAP

An engaging outreach session brought together students from Farabi University of Agriculture Peshawar, creating space for dialogue around science, technology, and innovation.

The conversation explored how ideas evolve from curiosity into practical, real world solutions, and the importance of structured ecosystems that support experimentation, mentorship, and entrepreneurial growth. Students engaged actively, asking questions and reflecting on how their academic pursuits can translate into impactful ventures.
Moments like these reinforce the value of connecting academia with innovation driven platforms, ensuring the next generation of thinkers and problem solvers are equipped with both inspiration and direction.



STUDENTS FROM THE BUILDING BRIDGES FOR SOCIAL COHESION (BBSC) PROJECT BY GIZ PAKISTAN

Students participating in the Building Bridges for Social Cohesion initiative by GIZ Pakistan joined for an exposure and learning exchange centered on dialogue, collaboration, and shared understanding.

The interaction created a space for thoughtful conversations and practical engagement, allowing participants to explore how innovation, entrepreneurship, and community driven initiatives can contribute to stronger social cohesion. Through hands on learning and open dialogue, students gained new perspectives on the role of inclusive ecosystems in fostering connection and collective progress.

Such exchanges highlight how innovation extends beyond business, serving as a bridge for communities to collaborate, learn, and grow together.



STUDENTS FROM BKUC CHARSADDA, PAKISTAN JOINED US AT NIC PESHAWAR FOR AN OUTREACH SESSION

Students from Bacha Khan University Charsadda participated in an engaging outreach session focused on understanding what entrepreneurship truly means.

The conversation highlighted how startups create impact, generate jobs, and attract investment, while also showcasing how incubation platforms help transform ideas into scalable ventures. The session concluded with a guided tour, giving students a firsthand look at spaces where innovation moves from concept to action.
Engaging with young, curious minds remains central to building the next generation of entrepreneurs.





ITCN

ITCN Asia in Lahore brought together leading tech companies, startups, and investors under one roof, creating a vibrant space for collaboration and industry engagement.

The ecosystem was represented by PQC Labs and Quickease. PQC Labs drew strong interest with its post quantum security solutions under the Bridge Start Program, opening discussions around regional expansion and investor engagement. Quickease leveraged the platform to strengthen industry connections and enhance its national visibility.
A high energy and opportunity rich experience for both startups.







NIC Peshawar Startups Featured on AVT Khyber

Our startup Lurniva was featured on AVT Khyber, earning national media recognition for its work in the education space.
By reimagining learning through AI driven solutions, Lurniva continues to expand its impact and visibility across Pakistan. The feature reflects growing momentum around innovative education models designed to make learning more accessible and adaptive.
Stories like this reinforce why bold ideas matter and how innovation gains strength when given a larger platform.



MoU Signing

FLEUR SIGNS MOU WITH ROSHAN RAAH

A meaningful step forward as Fleur formalized a partnership through an MoU with Roshan Raah, marking the launch of a new chapter in Islamabad.

This collaboration brings together handcrafted crochet, creativity, and purpose to create expanded opportunities for artisans and promote conscious fashion. By combining design with impact driven enterprise, the initiative aims to open new pathways for skilled women artisans while strengthening sustainable market access.
A promising beginning to stitching impact, one piece at a time.

