NIC PESHAWAR

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the JUNE Edition of NIC Peshawar's Newsletter!

As we dive into the heart of the year, NIC Peshawar continues to empower the next generation of entrepreneurs with the tools, mentorship, and resources they need to thrive. In this edition, we'll take you through the exciting milestones and happenings from the past month, including the progress of Cohort 13, key insights from our curriculum sessions, and updates on our outreach initiatives.

From investor workshops to startup showcases, we've been busy connecting ideas with opportunity. Stay tuned for more about how NIC Peshawar is fostering innovation and driving growth in the startup ecosystem!









MAIN EVENTS

EMPOWERING KP'S STARTUP ECOSYSTEM: PAKLAUNCH × ARY DIGITAL MEETUP AT NIC PESHAWAR

NIC Peshawar had the privilege of hosting the Paklaunch × ARY Digital Network meetup and Bazaar roadshow, an inspiring afternoon focused on unlocking opportunities for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's startup community. The event featured key figures including Aly Fahd (Founder, Paklaunch), Taimur Malik (Partner, Paklaunch), and the Special Assistant to the Chief Minister (KP) on Science, Technology & IT.



During the meetup, startup founders gained invaluable insights on accessing funding, navigating policies, and enhancing media visibility, all under one roof. The discussions provided clarity on policy directions and offered guidance on how to amplify their startup stories through mainstream media platforms.

This collaborative gathering empowered entrepreneurs to build stronger networks and explore strategic opportunities, reinforcing NIC Peshawar's mission to support and grow the region's thriving startup ecosystem.







Startup Pitching League 2025
The Road To Summit Begins at NIC Peshawar

This June, NIC Peshawar launched the Startup Pitching League, our flagship bi-annual event designed to help startups sharpen their pitches, receive expert feedback, and elevate their investor readiness. The league will continue throughout July, with founders actively pitching their ventures in preparation for the upcoming Investor Summit. So far, promising startups like Ecozindagi, Nooyya, Digital Lockers, Subrung Fashion, VM Nebulla, Totellyawesome, Phulwaari, and Hustle have taken the stage — showcasing innovation, passion, and potential.

Here's to building confidence, clarity, and investor-ready startups — one pitch at a time.



Launching Our Pre-Acceleration Program with Orbit Startups!

We were thrilled to kick off our Pre-Acceleration Program in partnership with Orbit Startups this June. This program is designed to equip early-stage ventures with the tools, guidance, and confidence they need to scale smart and become investor-ready through intensive training, mentorship, and hands-on coaching over four transformative months.

From a competitive pool of nine applicants, three standout startups from our 12th Cohort were selected: VM Nebulla, focusing on cutting-edge digital solutions; Apaale, dedicated to redefining community support systems; and STEMverse, empowering youth through STEM-based learning and innovation. Each startup brings a unique vision and potential to create meaningful impact within their sectors.

Want to know what's in store for them? Hear directly from William Bao Bean, Managing Director & Partner at Orbit Startups, who will be sharing valuable insights and guidance throughout the program to help these ventures grow sustainably and confidently.



VM Nebulla



Apaale



STEMverse

CURRICULUM & OPEN SESSIONS:
Vision Checked, Future Ready.

Cohort 13 rolled up their sleeves for a powerful session on Vision Validation with Saira Qayyum! From refining ideas to sharpening direction, founders got the tools to turn bold visions into scalable, impact-driven ventures. This session wasn't just about validating ideas it was about unlocking clarity, building confidence, and setting the foundation for long-term success. The future's looking bright for Cohort 13!





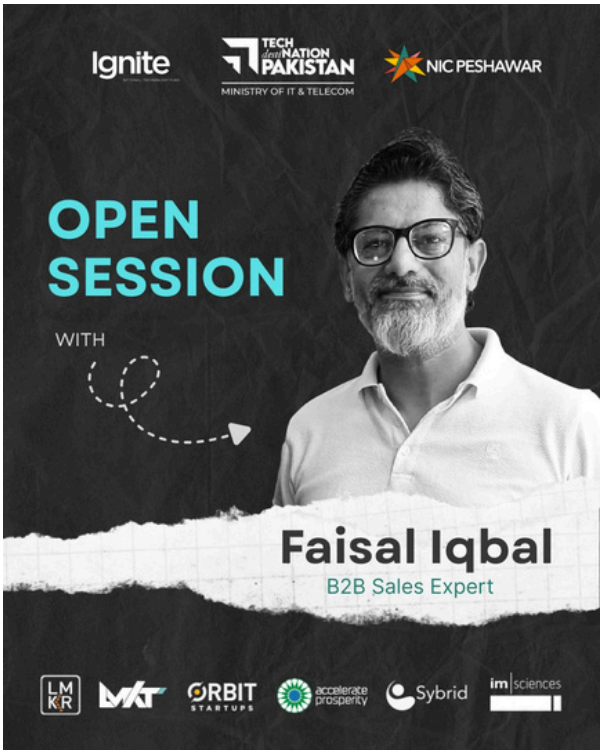




CURRICULUM & OPEN SESSIONS:
Vision Checked, Future Ready

Founders, Strategy & The B2B Mindset

Our startup community had a valuable learning moment with Faisal Iqbal - Head of Business Capability Development B2B at Telenor. He shared hard-won lessons on scaling startups, mastering B2B sales, and leading with resilience. His his practical wisdom helped founders think bigger and grow smarter.





Sowing Innovation with Anas Sheikh!

Things got agri-citing at NIC Peshawar as Anas Sheikh, our go-to Agri Specialist, joined us for a deep-dive with AgriTech startups! From big ideas to real-world impact, he helped founders dig into what it really takes to grow, scale, and innovate in the agriculture space. Big ideas, fresh insights, and fertile ground for the future!

CURRICULUM & OPEN SESSIONS:
Vision Checked, Future Ready

Business Models Made Simple — with Cynia Ejaz

We kicked off an exciting and insightful session in June with Cynia Ejaz of Telenor Velocity, diving deep into the essentials of startup success. From unpacking the Business Model Canvas to building lean and effective MVPs, Cynia shared sharp, actionable insights that had our founders rethinking and refining their game plans in real-time.









A big shoutout to Cynia for her energy, expertise, and practical guidance, and to our startups for making it such an engaging and dynamic learning experience!
Her session highlighted the importance of clarity, focus, and strategic thinking in building strong business foundations.

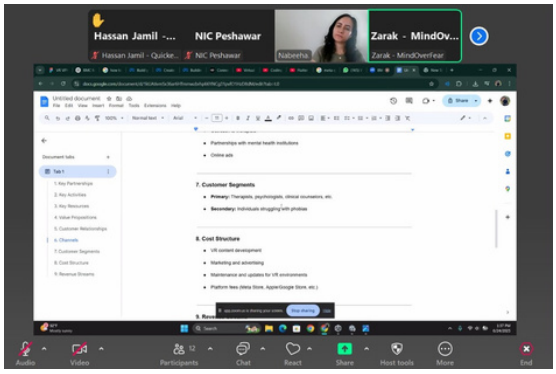
CURRICULUM & OPEN SESSIONS:
Vision Checked, Future Ready

Creating Business Model Canvas with Nabeeha Qazi!

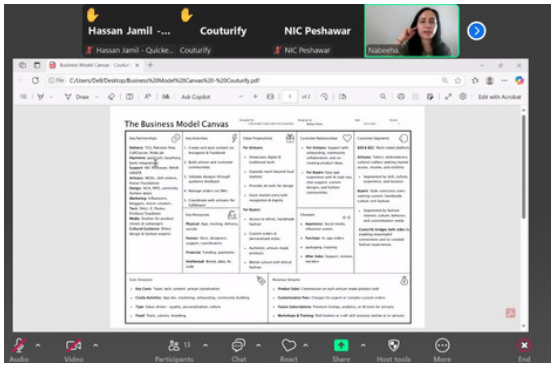
One of the standout moments this month was our virtual strategy session with Nabeeha Qazi, a Switzerland-based finance and business transformation expert. Bringing unmatched energy, clarity, and expertise, Nabeeha guided our startups through the art of refining their Business Model Canvases, empowering them to think strategically about every aspect of their business.



During this engaging session, Nabeeha emphasized strategic planning, systems thinking, and actionable frameworks that can drive scalable growth. Startups explored how to align their value propositions with market needs, optimise internal systems for efficiency, and create sustainable revenue streams.



From tech innovators to education pioneers, sustainability entrepreneurs to service providers, founders across diverse industries gained fresh perspectives on how to scale smarter, faster, and with clarity. The session concluded with a set of practical action items for each startup, ensuring they could immediately apply these insights to strengthen their business models and accelerate their journey towards impactful growth.



This strategy session reinforced NIC Peshawar's commitment to bringing global expertise to local founders, enabling them to build ventures with confidence and purpose.

ECOSYSTEM IN ACTION:

PARTNERSHIPS, OUTREACH, AND IMPACT

Inspiring Young Innovators from FATA and Malakand

NIC Peshawar hosted two inspiring outreach sessions this month, engaging enthusiastic students from Malakand (via the U.S.-funded English Works Program) and FATA University. These impactful sessions aimed to introduce young minds to the dynamic world of startups and the transformative role NIC plays in driving innovation across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.





During the sessions, students explored entrepreneurship, incubation, mentorship, and funding opportunities at NIC Peshawar. They learned how NIC helps founders turn ideas into impactful businesses with strategic guidance and training. The discussions sparked curiosity and inspired them to see entrepreneurship as a tool for positive change.

Students explored entrepreneurship, incubation, mentorship, and funding opportunities at NIC Peshawar. They learned how NIC supports founders with guidance, training, and a growth-focused ecosystem, inspiring them to use entrepreneurship for positive community change.
These sessions reflect NIC's commitment to nurturing future entrepreneurs and innovators.



ECOSYSTEM IN ACTION:

PARTNERSHIPS, OUTREACH, AND IMPACT

NIC PESHAWAR AT CECOS UNIVERSITY JOB FAIR

NIC Peshawar at CECOS University Job Fair: Connecting with Future Innovators

At the recent CECOS University Job Fair, NIC Peshawar engaged with a dynamic group of students and aspiring entrepreneurs eager to explore alternative career paths through entrepreneurship. Our team led discussions on transforming ideas into action, navigating setbacks, and leveraging support systems for startup success. We highlighted the role NIC plays in early-stage venture development offering incubation, mentorship, funding access, and strategic growth support.





Students connected with real startup journeys, asked insightful questions, and discovered how a simple idea can evolve into a viable business with the right ecosystem. The event reinforced NIC Peshawar's commitment to fostering innovation and empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs driving growth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.