TECH
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PAKISTAN

MINISTRY OF IT & TELECOM

INDUS AI WEEK

Celebrating Innovation Across **Pakistan**

9th – 10th February, 2026

Islamabad, Pakistan

Post Event Report

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Introduction

The Indus AI Week 2026 represented a landmark moment in Pakistan's digital evolution, successfully integrating high level strategic policy with grassroots technical execution. Held under the patronage of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and hosted by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication under the leadership of Shaza Fatima Khawaja, the event combined the Indus AI Summit with the Innovation, Learning and Engagement Arena. This dual approach allowed the country to transition from theoretical AI frameworks to practical, scalable adoption. By bringing together global policy leaders, foreign investors, and the nation's emerging technical talent, the proceedings underscored international confidence in Pakistan's goal of establishing sovereign AI capabilities. The week set the foundation for a future defined by technological self-reliance, high speed innovation, and a robust, investment ready digital economy.

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Islamabad, Pakistan

AT A GLANCE

$1 USD BILLION
INVESTMENT PLEDGED
by 2030 for AI initiatives

150+
FOREIGN DELEGATES

ISLAMABAD AI DECLARATION
A LANDMARK FRAMEWORK
built on 8 strategic pillars

6
HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSIONS

1,000
FULLY FUNDED PHD SCHOLARSHIPS IN AI,
and four specialized Science Parks

1 MILLION NON- IT PROFESSIONALS
TO GET TRAINED
in AI tools and introduce AI curricula in all federal schools

GLOBAL PARTICIPATION

The Indus AI Summit hosted a significant international contingent, with over **150 foreign delegates** in attendance. This included:

Global Ministers and Dignitaries:
Including **H.E. Dr. Aisha Bin Bishr** (Vice President of Digital Transformation, The Global Diwan) and **Muhammet Kasim Gönüllü,** (Deputy Minister for Industry and Technology, Türkiye).

Industry Pioneers:
Notable figures such as **Dominic Williams** (President, DFINITY Foundation) and **Dr. Michael Sung** (Chinese Academy of Sciences).

Academic Experts:
Leading researchers like **Dr. Randolph George Goebel** (University of Alberta) and practitioners from global tech hubs.

INAUGURATION AND THE ISLAMABAD AI DECLARATION

The formal proceedings were inaugurated by Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication. In her welcome address, she briefed the assembly on the comprehensive legislative and digital frameworks currently driving the national agenda, focusing on the critical verticals of the digital economy, society, and governance.

She highlighted the Digital Nation Pakistan Act, which focuses on the three critical verticals of **Digital Economy, Digital Society, and Digital Governance**. Furthermore, she pointed to the approval of the National AI Policy 2025 and the launch of the National AI Fund as evidence of the state's transition from technology consumer to technology producer.

Addressing the visiting delegates, she stated, "Pakistan invites all of you – global technology companies, research institutions, venture capitalists, multilateral partners, and governments – to engage with us in a structured and sustained strategic dialogue." Following this reflection on recent milestones and her call for global partnership, she formally announced the Islamabad AI Declaration.

THE DECLARATION IS BUILT ON EIGHT STRATEGIC PILLARS:

- Sovereign purpose and public value
- Human accountability under constitutional authority
- Pragmatic, use-case first delivery
- Sovereign data privacy and trust
- Explainable and safe AI
- Whole of government governance
- Inclusive innovation
- Private-sector led sovereign ecosystem

Address by the Prime Minister

The Chief Guest, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, delivered the summit's cornerstone address. He began by celebrating the youth of Pakistan, describing them as the nation's most valuable strategic asset and the primary drivers of its digital future. He reflected on the government's consistent efforts to create a fertile environment for technology, citing initiatives like the laptop schemes and the expansion of IT parks as foundational steps that have empowered millions.

Key Announcements

Building on this vision of youth led growth, the Prime Minister announced four major national initiatives to accelerate AI adoption:

- **$1 Billion Investment:** A commitment for Pakistan to invest **$1 billion** in AI by 2030 to build a robust local ecosystem.
- **Curriculum Reform:** Introduction of **AI focused education** in all federal schools and remote regions including AJK, GB, and Balochistan.
- **Research Leadership:** Provision of **1,000 fully funded PhD scholarships** in AI by 2030.
- **Mass Skilling:** A nationwide program to **train 1 million non IT professionals in AI** tools to enhance national productivity.

Address by Dr. Ahsan Iqbal

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Federal Minister of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives and Inter Provincial Coordination, delivered a keynote address outlining the **"Uraan Pakistan"** vision. He characterized Artificial Intelligence as a disruption of unprecedented scale, stating that its impact on human civilization would surpass that of the internet. The Minister also articulated a bold economic target of transforming Pakistan into a USD 1 trillion economy by 2035.

He announced the establishment of a National Center for Quantum Computing, a National Center for Nanotechnology, a National Center for Neo-Manufacturing, and a Quantum Valley Project, alongside four specialized Science Parks in Emerging Technologies, Mines and Minerals, Agri-tech, and Bio-Sciences. He emphasized that AI is no longer optional, but a fundamental requirement for national economic competitiveness.

Panel **Discussions**

Session 1
Governing Intelligence at Scale

Moderator: Dr. Sohail Munir
Participants: Dr. Ali Al Azzawi, Dr. Sanjiva Weerawarana, Siim Sikkut, Ahsan Mashkoor, Hatem Bamatraf, Aamir Ibrahim.

This panel debated the fundamental question of whether there should even be an oversight on AI development. The discussion then moved to balancing necessary oversight with the need to ensure regulation does not stifle innovation.

Session 2

Designing AI Native Government

Moderator: Mohammad Sear
Participants: Dr. Ali Al Azzawi, Dr. Sanjiva Weerawarana, Siim Sikkut, Ahsan Mashkoor

The experts debated the fundamental definition of an "AI-first" government and whether such a model is practical for modern statecraft. The discussion focused on whether organizations and countries should move toward AI-first practices, weighing the potential for hyper-optimized resource allocation and predictive service delivery against the technical and ethical challenges of implementing cognitive governance at scale.

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Panel **Discussions**

Session 3
National AI and Data Governance

Moderator: Dr. Zeeshan Usmani
Participants: Mark Bünger, Dr. Esther M. Baldwin, Soumaya Ben Dhaou.

This session addressed the government's role in securing national data as a sovereign public asset through localized standards. The panel debated balancing strict data protection with the need for international interoperability, concluding that a balanced regulatory environment is essential for both sovereign control and global digital integration.

Session 4
Financing Sovereign AI

Moderator: Omar Rana
Participants: Ali Nadir Syed, Ahsan Jamil, Mouteih Chaghlil, Pierre Samaties.

The panel defined sovereign AI as a vital necessity for a country. To fund this, the discussion focused on public private partnerships and foreign investment to support high capital infrastructure and local LLM development.

Panel **Discussions**

Session 5
Building Competitive AI Ecosystems

Moderator: Saqr Ereiqat
Participants: Abdulla Al Dhaheri, Jose Maria Lucia Moreno, Aamer Ejaz, Xin Yan.

The panel identified broad success factors for developing resilient AI economies, including the cultivation of specialized talent pipelines, the creation of enterprise adoption incentives, and the implementation of regulatory sandboxes.

Session 6

AI, Trust, and the Human Interface

Moderator: Omar Rana
Participants: Ali Nadir Syed, Ahsan Jamil, Mouteih Chaghlil, Pierre Samaties.

Participants in this panel debated how to build public trust through explainable AI and looked at how the human machine interface must evolve to enhance rather than replace human capability.

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KEY NOTE **ADDRESSES**

Dr. Aisha Bin Bishr
(The Global Diwan)

AI AS A NATIONAL CAPABILITY AND SOVEREIGN CHOICE.

Dr. Aisha discussed AI as a national capability and a sovereign choice. Crucially, she advocated for a people centric approach, arguing that technology should serve the needs of the population first and foremost.

Dominic Williams
(Dfinity)

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AI-NATIVE NATIONS

The founder of Internet Computer outlined the essential infrastructure for AI-native nations, focusing on the need for tamper proof systems to host sovereign intelligence.

Dr. Michael Sung
(China Academy of Sciences)

OPEN AND GLOBAL AI ECOSYSTEMS

Dr. Sung advocated for open and global AI ecosystems. He emphasized that progress depends on collaborative frameworks and shared standards that prevent technological silos.

KEY NOTE **ADDRESSES**

Muhammet Kasım Gönüllü
(Deputy Minister, Türkiye)

THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF AI

Characterized technology as the new global gateway where strategic autonomy is vital for national development. He described AI as a transformative force determining economic power and development, expressing Türkiye's readiness to share its own national strategy and vision with Pakistan to achieve shared success.

Dr. Randolph George Goebel
(University of Alberta)

WHERE THE WORLD IS HEADING WITH AGI (ARTIFICIAL GENERAL INTELLIGENCE)

In his comprehensive keynote, Dr. Randolph defined the "science of intelligence" as a pursuit of capabilities transcending human limits rather than mere mimicry, urging the assembly to look past labels like AGI. He emphasized that AI will augment professionals and championed national sovereignty in AI to ensure technology serves domestic priorities over external interests.

INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT ARENA ACTIVITIES

Running concurrently at the Pakistan Sports Complex, the Indus Innovation, Learning and Engagement Arena served as the national AI marketplace bringing together startups, talent, government programs, and industry solutions through 11 specialized pavilions. With more than 40 activities planned for thousands of visitors throughout the event, each pavilion was designed to bridge the gap between policy and practical application.

AT A GLANCE

11
SPECIALIZED AI PAVILIONS
At the Indus Innovation, Learning and Engagement Arena

40+
ACTIVITIES
Engaging Thousands of Visitors

1,900
PARTICIPANTS TRAINED
in **48 Hours** at the National AI Bootcamp (Led by PSEB)

68 PKR MILLION
IN CLOUD CREDITS
Awarded to 7 High-Potential Startups

7 PKR MILLION
PRIZE POOL
At Uraan AI Techathon 1.0

5+ PKR MILLION
IN PRIZES
Distributed at the Indus e-Sports Championship

AI FOR HER

This flagship space was dedicated to promoting gender inclusive innovation, hosting participants from prominent institutions such as Women University Mardan, COMSATS, and Roots International.

The pavilion functioned as a hub for empowering women in the tech sector through startup showcases, expert keynotes, and high impact panel discussions. The sessions explored topics such as breaking stereotypes in AI and building future careers for women. Success stories and spotlights from international partners like UN Women and the World Bank underscored the global importance of inclusive digital ecosystems.

AR/VR & ROBOTICS SHOWCASE

A dedicated hardware pavilion featuring advanced robotics demonstrations and immersive augmented and virtual reality exhibitions. This space allowed visitors to interact with the latest physical manifestations of AI driven engineering.

GLOBAL GAME JAM

This pavilion hosted a high intensity, rapid development competition focused on the "AI-native" transition in gaming. Participating programmers, designers, and artists were required to integrate generative AI tools and Large Language Models (LLMs) into their game mechanics, asset creation, and narrative engines. This track highlighted the intersection of technical AI implementation and the creative industries, demonstrating how AI can accelerate game development and create more dynamic player experiences.

INDUSTRY EXPO & EXPERT TALKS

This pavilion served as a central commercial marketplace, showcasing the evolution from connectivity to advanced intelligence. Leading global and local technology companies demonstrated live AI deployments, while strategic keynotes addressed the critical infrastructure required to support national scale AI workloads.
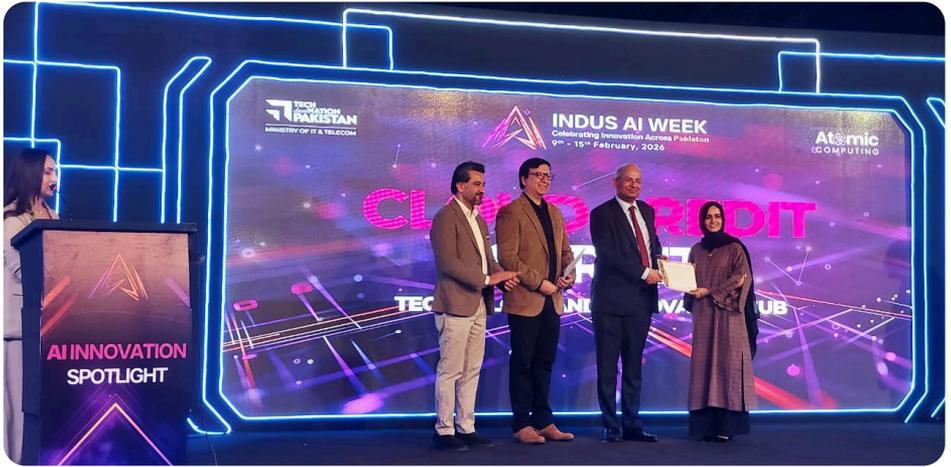
Expert panels facilitated technical discussions on sovereign cloud environments, infrastructure development, and the practical integration of AI within national frameworks.

The hub also stood as a premier industry showcase and strategic center for high growth ventures. It hosted the primary AI startup exhibition, where founders presented market ready solutions to global investors. Beyond product displays, the hub enabled direct mentorship sessions, allowing industry veterans to provide architectural and scaling guidance to emerging tech entrepreneurs, bridging the gap between early stage development and enterprise ready deployment

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CLOUD CREDIT SPRINT

Seven promising startups were prequalified for the Cloud Credit Sprint following a structured evaluation process. Collectively, these startups were offered PKR 68 million in free cloud credits by Atomic Computing. By supporting product enhancement and infrastructure strengthening, this initiative paves the way for scalable cloud adoption among Pakistan's high potential tech ventures.

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URAAN AI TECHATHON 1.0

A primary highlight of the day was the conclusion of the **Uraan AI Techathon 1.0**, an initiative spearheaded by the **Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives**. This competition challenged developers to engineer **AI driven solutions** for complex national problems, embodying the **"Uraan Pakistan"** vision of accelerated technological progress.

The following teams were recognized for their innovative contributions:

- **Gold Champion:** Strydex (PKR 2.5 Million)
- **Silver Excellence:** Hisaab (PKR 2.0 Million)
- **Bronze Innovator:** Smart Factory AI (PKR 1.5 Million)
- **Women-in-Tech Award:** Safe Sight (PKR 1.0 Million)

AI WRAPPER COMPETITION 2026

To stimulate rapid commercialization within the local **AI ecosystem**, the **Arena** hosted the **AI Wrapper Competition**. This track focused on the creative application of existing **Large Language Models (LLMs)** and **AI Frameworks** to solve specific market needs with high scalability.

The top performers included:

- **1st Place:** AxonEstate (PKR 1.0 Million)
- **2nd Place:** Orbit-Ed (PKR 700,000)
- **3rd Place:** SafetyX Pro (PKR 500,000)

NATIONAL AI TRAINING BOOTCAMP

The nationwide skilling drive, led by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), served as a centerpiece for technical human capital development. This high intensity initiative delivered specialized knowledge to 1,900 participants over a 48 hour period.

The bootcamp featured advanced technical tracks covering datacenter infrastructure, 5G, cloud environments, responsible AI practices, Vibe Coding using Google AI Studio and Applied AI. Simultaneously, specialized tracks for school cohorts provided AI awareness and career guidance, utilizing digital assessments to help students navigate the evolving tech landscape.

This program ensured that both students and young professionals are equipped with the hands-on experience required for the global job market.

GOVTECH & DEFENCE TECH SHOWCASE

This pavilion highlighted the digital transformation of state services and the evolution of national security through AI. It featured comprehensive demonstrations of government initiatives like e-Office and citizen centric service delivery models.

The showcase served as a platform for line ministries to present AI driven solutions aimed at streamlining federal bureaucracy and improving the efficiency of public services.

INDUS E-SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Pakistan Sports Complex remained the **Center of Gravity** for the nation's **burgeoning e-sports community**. The final rounds of the national championship saw high intensity competition, culminating in significant prize distributions for the top performers:

Rocket League

- **1st:** Hashir Naveed (PKR 250,000)

- **2nd:** Aman Asif (PKR 150,000)

- **3rd:** Ahmed Ismail (PKR 100,000)

EA FC 26

- **1st:** Huzair Memon (PKR 500,000)
- **2nd:** Arham Ghori (PKR 250,000)
- **3rd:** Zain Shahzad (PKR 150,000)
- **4th:** Ali Hamza (PKR 100,000)

Free Fire

- **1st:** Total Winner (PKR 1.25 Million)
- **2nd:** Hotshot Esports (PKR 625,000)
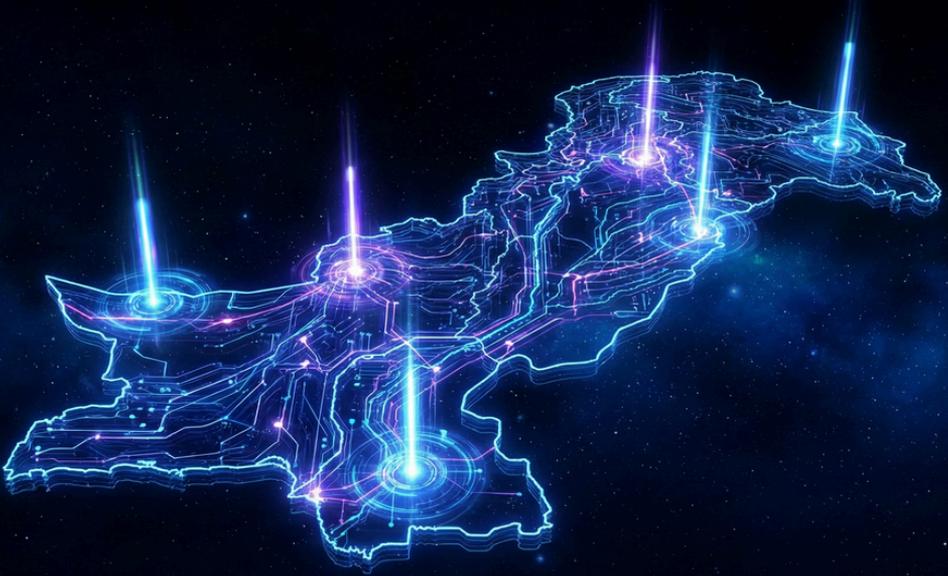- **3rd:** Demons Pride (PKR 375,000)
- **4th:** Back Elite (PKR 250,000)

Tekken 8

- **1st:** Farzeen (PKR 500,000)
- **2nd:** Asad Ali (PKR 250,000)
- **3rd:** Saifullah Khalid (PKR 150,000)
- **4th:** Faizan Butt (PKR 100,000)

NATION-WIDE
EVENTS

30
CITIES

90+
EVENTS

100K
PARTICIPANTS

SCIENCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT SINDH

Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University of Tech. & Skill Development, Khairpur

AI SEMINAR
13 FEB 2026

SCO-RAWALAKOT-STP
RAWALAKOT, AJK

AI FOR EVERYONE

Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit
Gilgit-Baltistan Software Houses Association

SCIENCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT SINDH

NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi

GILGIT BALTISTAN SOFTWARE HOUSES ASSOCIATION (GBSHA)

February 11, 2026
Danyore, Gilgit

SCIENCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT SINDH

Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro

AI FOR EVERYONE

Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit
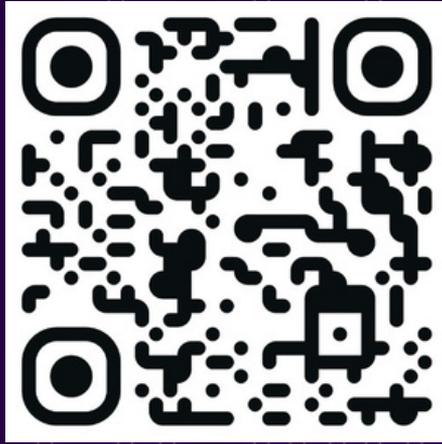Gilgit-Baltistan Software Houses Association

GILGIT BALTISTAN SOFTWARE HOUSES ASSOCIATION (GBSHA)

February 11, 2026
Danyore, Gilgit

CONCLUSION

The Indus AI Summit and the Innovation, Learning and Engagement Arena showcased Pakistan's strong commitment to digital transformation and AI investment readiness. With high level participation, strategic dialogues, and global collaboration, these platforms positioned Pakistan as a rising leader in the intelligent economy. Led by the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, the event highlighted critical policy reforms, infrastructure progress, and a vision for inclusive, future ready growth. These two days have successfully laid the foundation for sustained sovereign AI development and high speed innovation.

As the formal proceedings in Islamabad conclude, the momentum of the Indus AI Week now transitions to a series of nationwide and international events scheduled through February 15.

www.indusai.gov.pk