

DISRUPTIVE DISPATCH: NIC KARACHI FOCUSLINE

VOL.1
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**NIC KARACHI X ORBIT STARTUPS
ACCELERATION PROGRAM**

**5 DAY MASTERCLASS BY PUAN IN
COLLABORATION WITH LMKT**

JUNE AT NIC KARACHI

TOP STORY OF THE MONTH



NIC Karachi x Orbit Startups Acceleration Program

NIC Karachi, in collaboration with Orbit Startups, Asia's leading accelerator, has officially launched a high-impact 3-month acceleration program designed to help early-stage Pakistani startups scale fast and smart. This strategic partnership brings world-class mentorship, international funding access, and global market entry support to local founders.

After a competitive selection process, five promising startups have been chosen for the inaugural cohort are **Bling**, **Chaajao**, **Mergn**, **Connectica** and **TrashIt**.

These accelerated startups will benefit from expert-led mentorship by global operators, investor readiness training, and a **PKR 5 million equity-free grant** tied to milestone achievements. Participants will also gain access to Orbit's extensive international network, along with soft-landing support in new markets and the potential for follow-on investment.

The program aims to empower Pakistani founders to build globally competitive ventures, raise capital, and drive innovation at scale. As these five startups embark on a transformative journey, NIC Karachi continues to reinforce its position as Pakistan's leading platform for startup acceleration and impact.

Stay tuned as this cohort breaks new ground, locally grown, globally focused.

NIC Karachi x Orbit Startups Acceleration Program – Cohort 1

Our 5 chosen Startups for Acceleration

Say hello to the Top 5 startups selected for the NIC Karachi x Orbit Startups Acceleration Program: **Blinq**, **Chaajao**, **Mergn**, **Connectica** and **TrashIt!**

Tackling challenges in AI, EdTech, sustainability, and customer experience, these ventures are now set to scale through milestone-driven grants, expert mentorship, and global exposure. Huge thanks to everyone who applied—keep building, your time is near.

Let's cheer on these future shapers.



Blinq simplifies invoicing and payments for businesses and customers, offering seamless integration with gateways like RAAST to streamline billing, collection, and reconciliation.



Chaajao empowers students with affordable, high-quality, flexible learning, connecting them to top universities through digital content, scholarships, and expert mentorship across Pakistan.



Mergn is a customer engagement platform helping brands boost conversions, retention, and lifetime value through expert-driven strategies and scalable, world-class technology solutions.



Connectica reduces 30% waste in MENAP's \$500B fleet spend by optimizing fuel use, auditing expenses with AI and offering credit insights for transport businesses.



TrashIt creates regenerative compost from agricultural waste to boost yields, cut input costs, and support small farmers with sustainable, hyperlocal soil restoration systems.

NIC Karachi x Orbit Startups Acceleration Program



ORBIT
STARTUPS

Elevator Pitch II

NIC Accelerator Program by Orbit

Orientation – The Beginning of Bold

The journey to scale began with a powerful orientation for Blinq, Chaajao, Mergn, Connectica, and TrashIt. Led by Kelly Pang, Wei Pang, and Syed Azfar Hussain, this session marked the first step, setting expectations for global exposure, expert mentorship, and milestone-driven growth. Big visions are now in motion.

Elevator Pitch 101 – The First Impression

Founders jumped into Elevator Pitch 101, the first official session of the program. From problem-solution-traction-ask to building emotional hooks, startups practiced crafting compelling 30-second stories. Clarity over clutter, connection over jargon, the goal was simple: turn interest into action. The stage was set for smarter storytelling.

Fundraising Fundamentals – Knowing the Game

Led by Hiruy Ephrem, Fundraising 101 broke down the investor mindset. From angels to corporates, founders explored what each looks for, and when to raise, especially when you don't need to. Tools like pitch decks and CRMs came into play, equipping startups to approach fundraising with strategy, not stress.



Elevator Pitch 102 – Sharpening the Signal

In Elevator Pitch 102, the cohort leveled up. This hands-on workshop focused on traction metrics, investor-friendly pacing, and delivering precise, confident asks. Founders unlearned the fluff and learned to pitch like pros. With storytelling now razor-sharp, the next step: one-on-one coaching to tailor every pitch for investor conversations.

The Decision Makers

Judging Pakistan's Brightest Startup Talent

At NIC Karachi, our Acceleration Program was guided by a panel of top-tier industry experts who served as judges during the selection process. These leaders bring a powerful mix of corporate insight and startup experience, offering a well-rounded evaluation of each venture. Their diverse backgrounds, spanning technology, investment, operations, and innovation, ensure a rigorous, merit-based selection of startups with the highest growth potential. By drawing on their deep expertise, we accelerate only the most promising, scalable, and impactful ventures, driving forward Pakistan's entrepreneurial landscape.

JUDGES' PANEL - DAY 1



Azam Mughal
CEO
SECUREBEANS



Shafaq Fauzil Azim
CEO
PICG



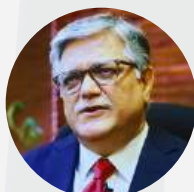
M. Jawwad Paracha
Inventor & Global
Program Manager
IBM



Dr Fakhara Rizwan
Corporate Secretary and
Chief Legal and HR Officer
Pakistan Stock Exchange



Vladimira Briestenska
Founder
Neem.io



Humayun Bashir
Country Advisor
Dun & Bradstreet



Moneeza Butt
Partner
KPMG



Asif Jafri
Founder
Kistpay



M. Ali Bashir
Chief Transformation Officer
Eocean Private Limited

JUDGES' PANEL - DAY 2



M. Harris Jamali
Managing Partner
H. M. Associates



Rafia Syed
Director General
TDAP



Shahryar Bachani
Vice President
Gobi Partners



M. Shoaib Akhter
Chief Strategy Officer
Pak Qatar Group



Ailia Naeem
Senior Investment Associate
i2i Ventures



M. Umer Akram
Project Manager
Ignite - National Technology
Fund

Cohort 13

Startup Spotlight



Ecoplast is transforming the plastic industry with biodegradable alternatives made from locally sourced waste like corn cobs. Their innovative materials even embed seeds—offering a planet-friendly way to package and protect.

Founder: Waresha Atif

Industry: Cleantech | Women-Led

Fun Fact: The idea sparked from a classroom challenge, now Waresha and her all-women founding team are building Pakistan's answer to plastic pollution, one eco-solution at a time. 🌱



Liquify Now is revolutionizing asset recovery and scrap liquidation with a fast, transparent, and commission-based model—eliminating inefficiencies and boosting returns for industrial giants and government entities.

Founder: M. Mujtaba

Industry: Industrial Automation

Fun Fact: With 40+ years of inherited industry know-how, Mujtaba is turning old metal into new momentum, one smart liquidation at a time. ♻️





Cohort 13

Startup Spotlight

Securitanium uses artificial intelligence to detect and block phishing emails by analyzing not just senders—but tone, vocabulary, and context—before threats ever reach your inbox.

Founder: Waqar Ahmed

Industry: Cybersecurity

Fun Fact: With over a decade of cybersecurity expertise, Waqar is turning inboxes into safe zones, one scanned email at a time.



ZAHA
VACATION HOMES

Zaha Vacation Homes offers stylish, family-friendly stays and turnkey property management services—pioneering vacation rental solutions in Pakistan’s growing travel market.

Founder: Mariam Hassan

Industry: TravelTech | Women-Led

Fun Fact: With 1,000+ bookings and Superhost status across platforms, Mariam is turning everyday properties into 5-star vacation experiences, one home at a time.

Startup Success Blueprint

Session 1 : Industry Analysis: Challenges & Opportunities in the Industrial Sector

Maheen Salman led a powerful Industry Analysis session, helping Cohort 13 startups explore challenges, opportunities, and strategies in industrial automation.



Session 2: Founder Identity & Personal Branding

Sana Jawwad Khan led a Founder Identity session, guiding Cohort 13 women through personal branding, leadership, and authentic storytelling strategies.



Session 3: Branding & Storytelling

Sadaf Mahmood led a hands-on Branding & Storytelling workshop, guiding Cohort 13 founders to craft clear, confident, and compelling brand narratives.



Session 4 : FinTech Compliance: Legal & Regulatory Essentials

Wajahat Jafri, CEO of **Ping Up**, led a FinTech compliance session, guiding Cohort 13 through legal frameworks, risks, and regulatory alignment.



Founder Growth Lab

Coaching & Mentorship for Every Stage

Strategic Coaching for Electric Ark

We hosted a one-on-one mentoring session with Electric Ark, led by Faysal Qayyum, helping founder Syed Haris Izhar refine strategy, revenue models, and long-term growth at the mobility-sustainability intersection.



Scaling Industrial Innovation

We hosted a focused mentoring session on Industrial Automation with expert Nida Farid, guiding RILITS, Sortech Inc., and Y&S Automations through automation strategy, real-world challenges, and system optimization to scale impactful solutions for Pakistan's industrial future.

AI Strategy with a Founder's Lens

We hosted an expert-led session with Mansoor Ahmed (Founder, Tensorminds, Cohort 4) for Bids Master AI and Sparktrum, guiding #Cohort13 startups on product-market fit, data strategy, and scaling globally relevant AI and Big Data ventures.



Founder Growth Lab

Coaching & Mentorship for Every Stage

Mentoring Martech & Mediatech Startups

We hosted a focused mentoring session with Fahad Sikandar (Founder, Koyal.pk, Cohort 9) for Commify.ai and QRinsight, guiding startups on product positioning, customer acquisition, and monetization in the evolving Martech and Mediatech space.



Modeling & Strategy Checkpoint

We organized a tailored Business Model & Strategy session, led by certified coach Sheikh Hammad Amjad, for MeDenTec and Qayamgah. They refined growth strategies, revenue models, and value propositions, ensuring strategic alignment and clarity focused on milestones ahead of scale.

IN THE NEWS: Our Startup's Latest Highlights



- 🔗 [Haprow featured on Good Morning Pakistan](#)
- 🔗 [RobAutoSTEM featured on Good Morning Pakistan](#)
- 🔗 [Launch of Prime Minister's Perfect Pitch](#)
- 🔗 [NIC Karachi's startups contribute to the Budget 2025](#)
- 🔗 [FameWheels gets featured on Chai, Toast aur Host](#)
- 🔗 [PUAN-LMKT Masterclass Empowers Entrepreneurs at NIC Karachi Event](#)
- 🔗 [Masterclass equips alumni to grow businesses and create jobs in Pakistan, Michael Chadwick](#)
- 🔗 [PUAN-LMKT Masterclass Empowers Alumni to Lead Pakistan's Business Future](#)
- 🔗 [PUAN-LMKT masterclass on Mastering business life cycle concludes at NIC Karachi](#)
- 🔗 [Pak-US Alumni Gathered for Business Startups Masterclass](#)

The Latest at NIC Karachi

Launch of the Prime Minister's Perfect Pitch

We proudly hosted the launch of the Prime Minister's Perfect Pitch, a national initiative under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and HEC Pakistan, aimed at empowering young innovators.

Led by Abdullah Soomro, with support from Shaza Khawaja, Rana Mashhood, and Engr. Javed Ali Memon, the event invited startups to pitch bold ideas, win millions in funding, and gain investor visibility.

HUM TV is the official media partner.



BUZZ Board

We spark wins and connections.



Grant Secured by ECOPLAST & RobAutoSTEM

Startups ECOPLAST, founded by Warisha Malik, Wareesha Atif, Laiba Waheed, Amna Naz Shuhaiber, and RobAutoSTEM, founded by Dr. Riaz Uddin, Humayun Naveed Khan) each secured **PKR 500,000** grants.

Hosted by Sindh HEC and FPCCI, the event celebrated impactful, future-focused innovation.

Aspiring Entrepreneurs of UIT

We joined Usman Institute of Technology as evaluators for the Startup Launchpad, witnessing inspiring student-led pitches.

From tech to community impact, the ideas reflected real startup potential. We applauded these future founders for their creativity, clarity, and hustle, proof that Pakistan's entrepreneurial future is already taking shape.



Bazaar Launches at NIC Karachi in collaboration with ARY Network

We proudly hosted Aly Fahd (Founder, Paklaunch.com) and Jerjees Seja (CEO, ARY Digital Network) for the launch of Bazaar, Pakistan's biggest startup TV platform. In collaboration with LMKT, the session spotlighted startup visibility, global capital, and media power.

Apply by July 20, 2025 at www.bazaaronary.com.



Exclusives: From us to you

Are You A Polar Bear, Grizzly Bear, Or Panda?



Prioritize **short mental breaks** during your day, **breathe deeply**, **stretch** or take a brief **walk**.

These moments of pause help reduce stress, improve focus, and support long-term emotional well-being.

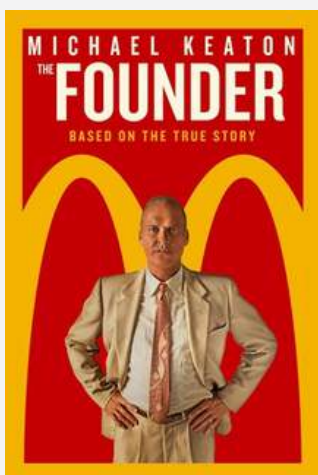
Top News

[Startup news and updates: Daily roundup](#)

[10x In 10 Years: Korea's Startup Ecosystem Comes of Age](#)

[MENA Startup Funding Falls to \\$52M in June](#)

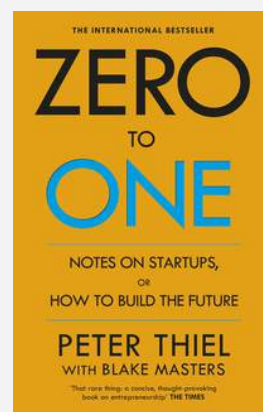
Movie Recommendation



Unlock the secrets of scaling with The Founder, a gripping tale of persistence, strategy, and the business behind McDonald's rise—perfect for anyone navigating the highs and lows of entrepreneurship.

Book Recommendation

In a future driven by innovation, Zero to One challenges entrepreneurs to build what's never been built before—offering bold insights on creating truly unique, valuable, and lasting businesses.



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Scoop on
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