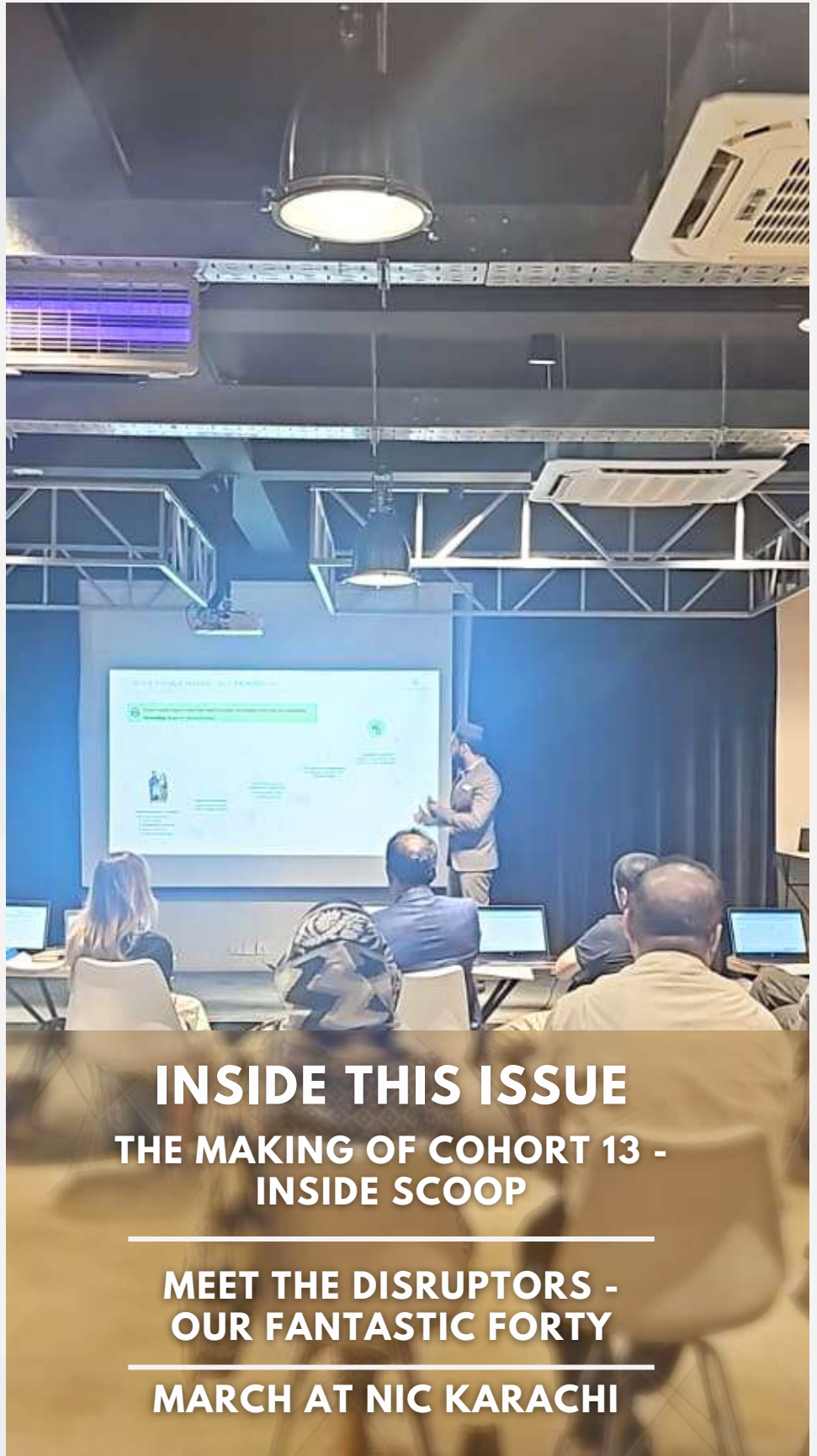


DISRUPTIVE DISPATCH: NIC KARACHI FOCUSLINE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE
THE MAKING OF COHORT 13 -
INSIDE SCOOP

MEET THE DISRUPTORS -
OUR FANTASTIC FORTY

MARCH AT NIC KARACHI

VOL.1
ISSUE 13
SEPT' 2025

TOP STORY OF THE MONTH



Cohort 12 Graduation & 1 Year of Impact under YBG- LMKT-Orbit Consortium

The National Incubation Center Karachi (NIC Karachi) marked a landmark occasion with a double celebration — the graduation of 30 startups from Cohort 12 and the completion of one successful year under the consortium of Yunus Brothers Group, LMKT, and Orbit Startups. This milestone reflects a year of transformative growth, innovation, and collaboration that continues to reshape Pakistan's entrepreneurial landscape.

The event was graced by the Honourable Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, who delivered an inspiring keynote on the government's vision for digital transformation and inclusive entrepreneurship. Her presence underscored the ministry's continued commitment to empowering Pakistan's startup ecosystem.

NIC Karachi was also honored to host key leaders and ecosystem enablers including Mr. Rafiq Ahmed Buriro (CEO Ignite – National Technology Fund), Mr. Ali Sohail Tabbha (Director, YB Group), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tufail (Vice Chancellor, NED UET), Mr. Faisal Jamil (Managing Director, LMKT), Mr. Syed Azfar Hussain (Project Director, NIC Karachi), and Mr. Muhammad Bilal Abbasi (GM Projects, Ignite).

Congratulations to the 30 graduating startups whose resilience, innovation, and ambition continue to prove that Karachi's entrepreneurial spirit is driving national impact. The journey of innovation and impact has only just begun.

Cohort 14 Inductions



For Cohort 14, over **800** Expressions of Interest poured in from bold founders and changemakers across Karachi's thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem, a powerful reflection of the innovation and ambition shaping Pakistan's startup landscape.

After a rigorous, multi-stage evaluation process, **160** startups were shortlisted, and **127** pitched their groundbreaking ideas before a panel of esteemed judges. From these, **32** high-potential startups have been selected to join Pakistan's largest tech incubation program at NIC Karachi. This remarkable effort was made possible through the dedication of **65+** judges who carefully evaluated each pitch and **10** observers from Yunus Brothers Group and Ignite, ensuring a fair, transparent, and merit-driven selection process.

A heartfelt thank you to all who applied — your creativity, courage, and commitment to innovation continue to inspire us. Whether you make it to this cohort or the next, your journey as a founder is already shaping the future of Pakistan's digital economy.

As we welcome Cohort 14, we look forward to another exciting chapter of mentorship, learning, and impact at NIC Karachi — where ideas grow, founders thrive, and stories of change begin.

Cohort 13

Startup Spotlight

Sparktrum is transforming customer service with its omni-channeled AI solution, Agentic Dialog, enabling businesses to deliver faster, smarter, and more personalized support across multiple platforms. By integrating automation with secure, self-hosted LLMs, it ensures 24/7 availability, cost efficiency, and scalability.

Founder: Ahad Jeyemby

Industry: Industrial Automation | AI & Big Data



QAYAMGAH

Qayamgah is redefining Pakistan's hospitality landscape with its flexible, hourly-based hotel booking platform—offering 3, 6, 12, and 24-hour stays with anytime check-ins. By optimizing unused inventory and enabling affordable, on-demand stays, Qayamgah empowers travelers with convenience and hoteliers with higher profitability.

Founder: Adnan Abbas Bharucha

Industry: TravelTech

Cohort 13

Startup Spotlight



Sajiero is transforming Pakistan's intimate wear market with a wide range of vibrant, size-inclusive, and affordable designs. By offering comfort, confidence, and accessibility, Sajiero provides women a one-stop solution for all their intimate wear needs—combining quality, variety, and value under one trusted platform.

Founder: M. Sohaib

Industry: E-Commerce



RILITS is revolutionizing inventory management in Pakistan's apparel and garment manufacturing industry through cutting-edge RFID technology, enhancing accuracy, efficiency, and real-time visibility. With proprietary solutions and local R&D, RILITS helps manufacturers reduce costs, minimize packing errors, and boost export performance through smarter, faster operations.

Founder: M. Jawwad Yacoob

Industry: Industrial Automation

The Jury

Defining Pakistan's Innovation Landscape

At NIC Karachi, we bring in top-tier industry experts to evaluate startups during our induction process. These professionals are leaders in their respective fields, blending deep corporate insight with hands-on startup experience. Their diverse expertise ensures a rigorous, well-rounded selection process that identifies high-potential ventures ready for incubation. By tapping into this powerhouse of knowledge, we ensure that only the most promising, innovative, and scalable startups become part of our cohorts—pushing the boundaries of Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

JUDGES' PANEL - DAY 1



Sukaina Abbas

CEO
Enchanté



Khizar Pervaiz

CEO
Sindh Enterprise
Development Fund
(SEDF)



Faiza Yousuf

Co-Founder
CaterpillHERs



Imran Azhar

Founder & CEO
AzCorp
Entertainment



Kassim Motiwalla

CEO
DICOT International



**Choudhary Fahad
Sikandar**

Founder & CEO
MobiTising



**Fahad Raza
Khan**

CEO
MINNZA



Imran Khan

Founder & CEO
Raptr Games

The Jury

Defining Pakistan's Innovation Landscape

JUDGES' PANEL - DAY 2



Sameer Shamsi
CEO
E-Creatorz (Pvt) Ltd.



Hasnain Gangjee
CEO
TransifyX



Abeer Saleem
Chief Representative
- Pakistan
Dubai Chambers



Aamir Haroon
CEO
OpenPort Pakistan
(Pvt.) Limited



Naumeena Suhail
CEO
TDF The Design
Firm



**Syed Muhammad
Habibullah**
Deputy Director
Youth Affairs Dept
GoS



Syed Naseh
CEO
Diya Interactive AB



Shaiyanne Malik
CEO / President
SamanZar by
Shaiyanne/ save our
children foundation



Adnan Lotia
CEO
Tilism Technologies
Pvt. Limited

JUDGES' PANEL - DAY 3



Dr. Imran Batada
Chief Digital Officer
& Director - CIT
IoBM



**Prof. Dr. Fakhara
Rizwan**
Company Secretary
Pakistan Stock
Exchange Ltd.



Noman Jehangir
CEO
Global CB Private
Limited



Kiran Jamil Khan
CEO
Effulgence Tech



Hamid Ali
Group Head
Cybersecurity
NETS International



Saif Ali
Founder
Dastak Ventures



Rukhsana Narejo
Chief Treasury &
Alternate
Investments
Raqami Islamic
Digital Limited



Arbab Ali Khan
Co-Founder & MD
Kuickpay



Naveen Ahmed
Board Member
Blue-ex

The Jury

Defining Pakistan's Innovation Landscape

JUDGES' PANEL - DAY 4



Ahsan Jabbar

CEO
A J Ventures /
global . pk



Sophia Hasnain

CEO
Linked Things



Mahmood Mirza

Venture Partner
High Output Ventures



Tahir Jawaid

CEO
The Hunar Foundation



**Mohammad
Salman Lone**

Country Head- Automation
and Innovation
Overseas Enterprise



Mustafa Pasha

Executive Director
Lakson Investments



**Owais Hassan
Shaikh**

Managing Partner
Hassan Shaikh &
Company



Khushnood Aftab

CEO
Viper Technology



Majida Kazmi

Associate Professor
NEDUET



Shah Aun Hussain

Co-Founder
SWICH



M Irfan Chaffar

National Sales Head
Dun & Bradstreet
Pakistan



Zain Mustafa

CEO
Geeks Of Kolachi

JUDGES' PANEL - DAY 5



Ayesha Leghari

Country Director
Population Services
International



Nida Athar

CEO
INNOVentures
Global Pvt Ltd



**Sameen Adil
Sheikh**

Executive Director
SHINE



Amna Khatib

Managing Director
Mindshare Pakistan



Sarah Peracha

CEO
Peracha Ventures



Nida Tanzeel

Social Performance
Manager
Wafi Energy
Pakistan Limited



Sana Shah

Project Director
NIC Hyderabad

The Jury

Defining Pakistan's Innovation Landscape

JUDGES' PANEL - DAY 6



Hanya Haroon

Partner
Ali & Associates



**Syed Azhar Ul
Islam**

CTO
ASF Tech Partners



**Sadaf Altaf
Lohya**

Founder & CEO
Superwomen
Pakistan



Wajahat Abbas

CEO
Learning Pitch

FOUNDER - FIT DAY 1



**Amneh Shaikh
Farooqui**

CSO
The Blue Co



**M. Furqan Karim
Kidwai**

Co - Founder
ASF Tech Partners



**Omer
Ehtisham**

CEO
Tranchco

The Jury

Defining Pakistan's Innovation Landscape

FOUNDER - FIT DAY2



Kashaf Jamal
VP - Investments
FGV



Danish Ejaz
CEO
Madvertising



Mukesh Kumar
Deputy General
Manager
Smeda



**Saadia Mansoor
Kazmi**
Head of Engineering
WATSUN Engineering &
Solutions



Agha Fasihullah
Chief Commercial
Officer
Interflow Group



Nafees Malik
Ex COO
Faysal Funds



**Sarfraz Shahid
Hussain**
Founder/Director
ASF Tech Partners

YBG'S STRATEGIC INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT — FUELING NIC KARACHI'S VISION

NIC Karachi kicked off 2025 with an electrifying 10-day induction for Cohort 14, featuring 127 startup pitches evaluated by 70+ expert judges. The process welcomed 10 external observers, including top executives from the Yunus Brothers Group—our consortium partner in this five-year project.

New to the startup ecosystem, their presence brought a fresh perspective, rooted in decades of experience leading one of Pakistan's largest conglomerates. They joined us to understand how the induction process works and to explore future synergies. After days of rigorous evaluation, 32 high-potential startups were selected to join Cohort 14 and shape the future of innovation in Pakistan.



**Abdul Sattar
Jumani**

CEO
Yunus Energy
Limited & Lucky
Renewables (Pvt)
Limited



Adnan Mazhar

Director
Lucky Energy



**Muhammad
Imran Moten**

Chief Financial
Officer
Gadoon Textile Mills
Limited



Faheem Ahmed

Director Finance
Yunus Energy
Limited



Malik Kamran

General Manager
Lucky Energy



**Ammar Ilyas
Motan**

CEO
Onederland
(Lucky Entertainment
Pvt LTD)



Adnan Arif

Chief Financial
Officer
Lucky Textile Mills
Limited



**Syed Raheel
Ahmed**

Head of ICT
Lucky Landmark
(Pvt) Ltd



Saad Omair

IT Head (DGM)
Lucky Landmark
(Private) Limited



**Bilal Muhammad
Iqbal**

Senior Manager
Finance
YBG - Lucky Energy -
Lucky Renewables

Pakistan Investor Summit

The Pakistan Investor Summit 2025 – Autumn Edition brought together leading voices in venture capital, early-stage investing, and startup innovation for a powerful exchange of ideas and opportunities.

Highlights included two insightful panels — “Early-Stage Investing in Pakistan” featuring Saif Ali, Moneeza Butt, Sarah Munir, and Karim Teli, and “The Future of Venture Capital” with Aqsa Tariq, Ailia Naeem, Muhammad Ali Taufiq, Ahmed Ayub, and Athar Khan.

An Investor Education Workshop by Harris Jamali added immense value. Startups from Cohort 13 pitched their ventures, resulting in 7+ investor office hours and exciting new prospects.

Below are the investors and strategic partners who joined us in shaping the future of Pakistan’s startup ecosystem

PARTICIPATING INVESTORS



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Pakistan Investor Summit

Early-Stage Investing in Pakistan: Risks, Realities & Opportunities



**Moderator
Saif Ali**

Founder
Dastak Ventures



Shahryar Bachani

VP
Gobi Partners



Ammar Hassan

Founder
Buypass.AI



Moneeza Butt

Partner
KPMG Pakistan



Sarah Munir

CEO
invest2innovate



Karim Teli

Managing Director
IGLOO

The Future of Venture Capital in Pakistan



**Moderator
Aqsa Tariq**

Editor In Chief
CXO Media Inc.



Ali Taufiq

VP Investments
Gobi Partners



Ahmed Ayub

CSO
Conrad Labs



Ailia Naeem

Senior Investment
Associate
i2i Ventures



Athar Khan

Managing Director
Happy Palace Group
of Schools

Pakistan Investor Summit

Investor Workshop: Basics of Term Sheet & Portfolio Strategy for Investors



Harris Jamali

Group Head of Strategy and Transformation
Easypaisa Digital Bank

Orbit Connect & Demo Day

Powering Pakistan's Startup Revolution



NIC Karachi, in collaboration with Orbit Startups, hosted two landmark events — Orbit Demo Day 2025 and Orbit Connect Karachi, celebrating innovation, investment, and collaboration in Pakistan's growing startup ecosystem.

At Orbit Demo Day, accelerated startups from NIC Karachi and NIC Peshawar showcased groundbreaking solutions across AI, SaaS, fintech, edtech, green tech, and e-commerce, impressing a packed audience of investors, corporates, and media. Featured startups included Blinq, Chaajao, Mergn, Connectia, TrashIt, STEMverse, VM Nebula, and Apaale.

Leaders like Syed Azfar Hussain (Project Director, NIC Karachi), Kelly Pang (Orbit Startups), Ali Tabba (Director, YB Group), William Bao Bean (Orbit Startups), and Asim Ishaq Khan (Vice President, LMKT) emphasized the power of collaboration, global exposure, and local innovation. A dynamic panel featuring Manish Phulwani (EQ2 Ventures) and Vladimira Briestenska (Neem) explored the journey "From Idea to Impact."

The momentum continued with Orbit Connect Karachi, where eight founders, along with investors, mentors, and ecosystem partners, gathered for an evening of networking and idea exchange.

Special thanks to NIC Peshawar, Tech Destination Pakistan, MoITT, and Ignite – National Technology Fund for their support in making both events a resounding success.

Startup Success Blueprint

Session 1: All About Fundraising

Waqas Ghani guided startups on crafting investment theses, building investor-ready decks, and understanding business plans and cap tables to help founders unlock capital and scale their ventures.



Session 2: HSE Essentials in Industrial Automation

Noor Muhammad guided startups on identifying HSE risks, building safety and environmental protocols, and designing awareness plans to help founders strengthen compliance, credibility, and readiness for industrial collaboration.



Session 3: The Art of Storytelling

Aurangzaib Alamgir, Founder & CEO of Porter Pakistan, guided startups on mastering storytelling in pitching — from building narrative flow to crafting memorable one-minute pitches that inspire audiences and attract investors.



Startup Success Blueprint

Session 4: Security Architecture & Scalable Infrastructure

Faiq Hasan, Cybersecurity Specialist, guided startups on designing secure, scalable architectures — from IT/OT convergence and vulnerability detection to building unified security platforms that enhance resilience and reduce operational overhead.

Session 5: Navigating ISO, NEQS, and IEC Standards

Saadia Kazmi, Director Engineering & Quality at WATSUN Engineering, guided startups on navigating ISO, NEQS, and IEC standards to design safer, compliant, and market-ready industrial solutions.

Session 2: The Art of Storytelling

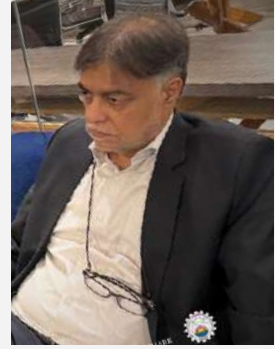
Moazzam Kamran, Country Head at Libera Global, guided founders on mastering storytelling, crafting impactful narratives that inspire action, build clarity, and elevate startup pitches with confidence and purpose.



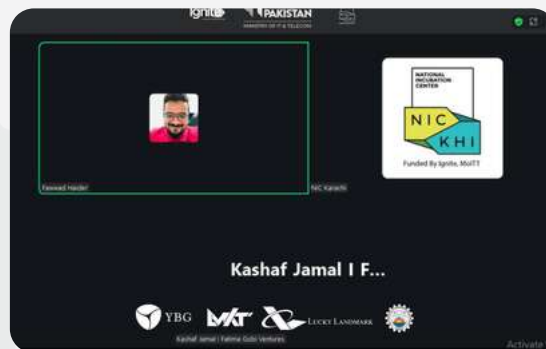
1:1 Coaching Sessions



Azmar Rafique, Ali Akbar, and Ali Asghar coached #NICKarachi founders on financial planning and fundraising strategies to strengthen investor alignment, valuations, and capital-raising readiness.



Noor Muhammad led a focused session on Operations & Execution, helping #NICKarachi founders optimize processes, enhance efficiency, and build scalable structures for sustainable growth.



Kashaf Jamal led a focused session on Finance & Fundraising, guiding #NICKarachi founders on financial strategy, investor readiness, and scalable fundraising pathways.

Mentoring Sessions



Nida Farid mentored Electric Ark under the Cleantech Track at #NICKarachi, guiding founders on sustainable innovation, market alignment, and clean energy growth strategies.



Nida Farid led a mentoring session under the Industrial Automation Track at #NICKarachi, guiding startups on scaling, product positioning, and corporate collaboration.

The Latest at NIC Karachi



NIC Karachi x GDG Kolachi

NIC Karachi collaborated with GDG Kolachi to launch Code to Create v1.1, empowering young innovators to build real-world MVPs using Google technologies through hands-on training, mentorship, and skill-building.



NIC Karachi x PEA

NIC Karachi hosted a Bootcamp for the Pakistan eCommerce Association, led by Ziana Sakhia, Co-Founder of Bechlo.pk. The session focused on startup fundamentals, scalable business models, and building a strong entrepreneurial mindset.



BeMe Global Raises Funds

Be Me Global, a mental health and well-being platform from NIC Karachi's Cohort X, has raised investment from Village Capital. Founded by Sharmeen Khan and Dr. Talha Rehman, Be Me is advancing accessible, tech-enabled mental health care across Pakistan and beyond.



Inclusive Destiny Raises Funds

Inclusive Destiny from Cohort 13 has secured funding from Sarwat Shah, Chairperson of Khudi Foundation & MD of Zamin Builders.

Led by Adeel Raja, the team is empowering persons with disabilities through Pakistan's first Helper App platform, driving inclusion and innovation forward.

BUZZ Board



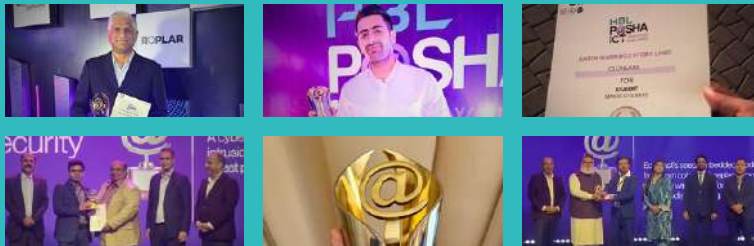
We love connecting our startups with industry legends.

Big wins for #NICKarachi startups at the P@SHA ICT Awards 2025 powered by HBL.

🏆 Winners: DigiEstate, Highfy, UTech

🥈 Runners-up: Earth Warriorz Pakistan, MCS, Ecoplast

Congratulations to our incredible founders for showcasing innovation, resilience, and impact, proving that Pakistan's startup ecosystem is thriving with world-class talent.



At Orbit Demo Day Karachi, co-hosted by NIC Karachi and Orbit Startups with support from the Ministry of IT and Ignite, leading VCs and investors gathered to witness pitches from Pakistan's top startups across AgriTech, FinTech, MarTech, SaaS, and Transport.

The highlight was STEMverse from NIC Peshawar, winning Best Pitch and a PKR 1 million grant announced by Mr. Ali Tabba.

We thank our partners, startups, and investors for making this milestone event a success.



An energizing evening at NIC Karachi's Pitch Fest!

20 aspiring founders pitched their ideas, refined their delivery, and strengthened investor readiness through valuable feedback.

A special thank you to Faizan Ahmed Ansari, Investment Consultant at NIC Karachi, for mentoring and judging the session.

Here's to empowering bold ideas and future ventures!

BUZZ Board

We love connecting our startups with industry legends.



At #NICKarachi, Mehboob Shar, Founder & CEO of Icreativez Technologies, led an engaging session on SEO fundamentals.

Founders explored keyword research, on-page optimization, and SEO-friendly web design to boost visibility and digital growth.

We thank Mehboob for empowering startups with practical strategies for sustainable online success.

A proud moment for NIC Karachi.

Ambassador Ahmad Farooq met with Sadaf Altaf Lohya, CEO of Superwoman Pakistan/Super Nisa from Cohort X, as she shared her startup's impact and implementation in Saudi Arabia.

Congratulations to Sadaf for championing women-led innovation and showcasing Pakistan's entrepreneurial excellence globally!



NIC Karachi proudly showcased 11 startups at Industrial Edge 2025, organized by KATI, with Sindh Minister Nasir Hussain Shah as Chief Guest.

Startups including The Disrupt Labs, RILITS, Shannon, SAZ Engineering, and others presented innovations in automation, sustainability, logistics, AI, and agritech, driving Pakistan's industrial transformation.

BUZZ Board

We love connecting our startups with industry legends.



We hosted an inspiring session on “**ESG for Startups: From Concept to Practice**”, exploring how sustainability, governance, and social impact can shape responsible, future-ready businesses.

Gratitude to speakers Syed Azfar Hussain, Memosh Khawaja, Shaista Ayesha, Talha bin Hamid and Maha Qasim, and to all participants for their energy and engagement.

We hosted an insightful Fireside Chat with **Mr. Abdul Sattar Jumani**, CEO of Lucky & Yunus Energy Portfolio & Lucky Renewables (Pvt) Ltd.

He shared invaluable lessons on navigating Pakistan's business landscape, debunking myths, and emphasizing strategy, foresight, and resilience, empowering founders and entrepreneurs with practical insights for scaling their ventures successfully.



IN THE NEWS: NIC KARACHI'S LATEST HIGHLIGHTS



- 🔗 **News One:** www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2588111411550622
- 🔗 **Tech Juice:** www.techjuice.pk/nic-karachi-celebrates-12th-cohort-graduation-with-30-new-startups/
- 🔗 **Business Recorder:** www.brecorder.com/news/40384516/30-startups-graduate-from-nic-karachi-as-part-of-12th-cohort
- 🔗 **Startup Karachi:** www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=680315285092775&set=pb.100093429294471.-2207520000&type=3
- 🔗 **PTV:** www.facebook.com/watch/?v=790756657083943
- 🔗 **Dawn:** www.dawn.com/news/1945337/30-startups-graduate-from-nic-karachi
- 🔗 **Times of Karachi:** www.facebook.com/TOKhiVideos/videos/1155851139696519

Exclusives: From us to you

Should You Start a Business?



Take **10 minutes daily to pause and breathe deeply**, step away from screens, reflect, and reset.

Small moments of mindfulness can lower stress, boost focus, and improve emotional balance.

Top News

Understanding The Role Of Data
In Modern Agricultural Methods

MENA startup funding hits \$3.5b
in September 2025

AI Startups Secure Major Funding
in September 2025, Signalling
Global Innovation Surge

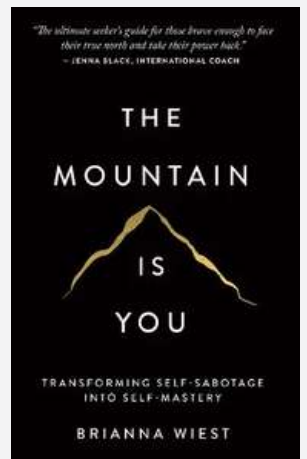
Movie Recommendation



Soul (2020) beautifully explores purpose, passion, and self-discovery — teaching that true fulfillment comes from living fully, not just achieving goals.

Book Recommendation

The Mountain Is You is a powerful journey of self-discovery and growth, teaching how to transform self-sabotage into strength and personal mastery.



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Scoop on
WhatsApp



Tap to Join

Let's Stay Connected!
Keep up with what's new



LinkedIn



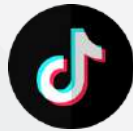
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Threads

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Call to book a spot: +92 336 8567124



Funded By Ignite, MoIT



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Karachi. Sindh 75270 Location