



Ministry of Information
Technology & Telecom

DIGITAL PAKISTAN

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Ministry of Information
Technology & Telecom

DIGITAL PAKISTAN

AUGUST FEBRUARY
23-24



**PROGRESS
REPORT**

DAWN OF A
NEW ERA!

LAST 60 DAYS

32%

INCREASE IN
IT & ITeS
EXPORTS



Ignite
NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FUND

PAKISTAN
PSEB
SOFTWARE
EXPORT BOARD



PTA
Pakistan Telecommunication Authority

P@SHA
PAKISTAN IT INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Progress Report

August 2023 to February 2024

Ministry of Information Technology
and Telecommunication



Key Message

Dr. Umar Saif
Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication

I am pleased to share the long overdue reforms and strategic initiatives taken by the Ministry of IT & Telecommunication in the past few months. In this short period, we successfully charted the roadmap for the growth of Pakistan's IT sector, setting it on the path to surpass USD 10 Billion in the next couple of years.

My deepest appreciation goes out to the Ministry of IT & Telecom, SIFC, PTA, P@SHA, and the IT and telecom industries for their invaluable dedication and commitment against all odds. Together, we have made pivotal breakthroughs in Pakistan's IT and Telecom sectors within a short span of 6 months.

In the IT sector, our intervention allowing companies and freelancers to retain 50% of export proceeds resulted in a remarkable 32% surge in Pakistan's IT exports within 60 days. Facilitating Paypal payments through a third-party intermediary will further simplify transaction processes for freelancers. Additionally, the establishment of 10,000 E-Rozgaar centers will create vibrant co-working spaces, propelling Pakistan towards our ambitious goal of USD 10 Billion in annual IT export revenue. The training of 200,000 youth in advanced IT skills is expected to contribute a substantial 5 billion USD to IT exports as well. Moreover, the DEEP project will act as a catalyst to enhance digital economy while NCERT will make it robust against cybersecurity challenges.

In the dynamic realm of startups, the Pakistan Startup Fund aims to boost VCs confidence, projecting an impressive PKR 50 billion increase in the valuation of the Pakistani startup ecosystem. The International Startup Exchange Program will further accelerate the growth of local startups.

Within the telecom sector, proactive measures have been taken to position Pakistan at the forefront of digital advancement. The upcoming auction of over 300 MHz of spectrum in 2024 will facilitate the timely launch of 5G services, fostering unparalleled connectivity. Additionally, the provision of smartphones on installments aims to boost smartphone penetration to 80%, supporting local manufacturers and fostering \$500 million in smartphone exports over the next three years. The establishment of the Telecom Tribunal to streamline dispute resolution and the approval of Pakistan's first Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Policy will also reduce costs and expedite advanced technology deployment.

Our vision to establish Pakistan as a regional connectivity hub is being realized with PTCL's launch of the first carrier-neutral internet exchange. Aligned with this vision, SCO, PTCL, China Mobile International and PEACE Cable have agreed upon additional 1 TBps of Pak-China optical fiber cable. This has the potential to leverage Pakistan's geostrategic location and route China's current internet traffic through Pakistan, generating substantial revenue of \$200-\$400 million annually. Furthermore, our commitment to expanding Pakistan's communication capabilities extends to space, as exemplified by the approval of Pakistan's first National Space Policy. This policy will promote breakthroughs in nationwide connectivity by facilitating better telecommunications services and participation of the private sector.

Let these beacons of hope inspire all of us to actively contribute and partake in building dynamic and prosperous IT and Telecom sectors in Pakistan. Together, we can inspire innovation and contribute to our country's socioeconomic development.
Pakistan Zindabad!

TABLE OF
CONTENTS

Messages From Stakeholders	01
Special Foreign Currency Accounts for IT Sector	03
IT Skills Training For 200,000 Youth	04
10,000 e-Rozgaar Centres	05
PayPal Remittances	06
5G Spectrum availability	07
National Policy for High-Speed Internet Fiber Across Country	08
National Space Policy	09
Telecom Appellate Tribunal	10
Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Framework	11
Pakistan: A digital Corridor Of Connectivity	12
Pakistan Startup Fund	13
International Startup Exchange Program	14
Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP)	15
National Computer Emergency Response Team (NCERT)	16
Smartphone On Installments	17
Encouraging Smartphone Exports	18



Key Message

Mr. Hassan Nasir Jamy

Federal Secretary for IT & Telecommunication

I am proud to highlight the significant progress the Ministry has made in recent months. The unwavering commitment to enhance Digital Economy by carrying out much needed reforms in the ecosystem and initiating projects for sector growth have started to yield positive results. We are currently witnessing the transformative impact of these actions on the country's economy.

In the IT sector, measures such as increasing the retention limit on FCY and providing debit cards for IT & ITES companies have strengthened the financial landscape. The integration of FBR's online dispute resolution system further supports our thriving IT industry. The combined efforts undertaken by government, academia and industry in training & certification of the youth will be a major contributor in bridging the skills gap. Moreover, we have also taken major steps for facilitating the startup ecosystem in Pakistan, enabling further expansion and innovation through initiation of Pakistan Startup Fund and Bridge Start Program.

In telecom sector, finalization of roadmap for 5G spectrum auction, Establishment of Telecom Tribunal, Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Policy, National Space Policy and National Fiberization Plan are important milestones that will pave the way for high-speed internet broadband and telecom connectivity throughout the country. Key initiatives, such as installment plans for smartphone purchases, export incentives to encourage local manufacturing for handset exports, and ensuring internet accessibility for all citizens highlight our commitment to inclusive progress.

These achievements would not have been possible without the inspiring leadership of Minister IT & T Dr. Umar Saif and efforts of our dedicated team at MoITT. I extend my sincere gratitude to each member for their commitment and relentless efforts. We remain committed to propelling our nation forward as a leader in the digital age.

I am confident that by continuing on this path, we can further empower our IT & Telecom industry, bridge the digital divide, and unlock the immense potential of the telecom sector for the benefit of all citizens.



Major General (R) Hafeez ur Rehman

Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA)

As the Chairman of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, it's my pleasure to witness the key strides made by the MoITT during the interim government. Their long term initiatives have laid the foundation for Pakistan's transformation into a digital powerhouse, fostering innovation, connectivity, and economic growth.

From establishing special foreign currency accounts for IT companies to providing skills training for university graduates and planning for the 10,000 e-Rozgaar centers, MoITT has empowered freelancers and startups across the nation, while the availability of 5G spectrum

5G spectrum promises unprecedented mobile broadband services and connectivity. The National Space Policy and National Fiberization Plan for internet fiber deployment demonstrate our commitment to technological advancement. The PSF and International Startup Exchange Program have catalyzed entrepreneurship, creating a vibrant eco-system. In this digital corridor of connectivity, we envision a future where every citizen has access to cutting-edge technology and services. Together, we are shaping a brighter, more connected future for Pakistan.

Jamil Qureshi

Secretary Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)



Information Technology and Telecommunication (IT&T) is one of the priority sectors of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). In the last 6 months, MoITT&T in synergy with SIFC worked relentlessly to realize major policy interventions and structural reforms, so as to improve the investment climate, multiply export earnings and create new jobs.

Initiatives like 50% forex retention by IT companies/ freelancers, issuance of forex debit cards, approval of Space Policy and Rules, introduction of Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing Framework, e-Rozgar Programme, PSF, establishment of the Telecommunication Tribunal,

and facilitation in resolution of RoW rates will serve as building blocks over which the IT&T Sector will ultimately boom to its true potential, realizing the dreams of enormous IT workforce of the country. SIFC extends its gratitude to the MoITT&T and associated departments for tremendous contribution and assures its continuous support in the journey to success.

Muhammad Zohaib Khan

Chairman Pakistan Software Houses Association for IT & ITes (P@SHA)



I am really excited to share my heartfelt appreciation for the transformative initiatives, policy measures, and reforms taken by Ministry of IT & Telecom. Through strategic initiatives and visionary leadership, the MoITT with the support of SIFC has propelled our IT industry to unprecedented heights. The facilitation of policies to attract foreign investment, nurture local innovation and improve talent are resulting in ease of doing business, driving exponential growth in our IT exports. Such forward-thinking policies and reforms have not only bolstered the competitiveness of our IT sector but also positioned us as a formidable player on the global stage. I am optimistic about the limitless possibilities that lie ahead for our vibrant IT ecosystem.

Aamir Ibrahim

CEO Jazz and Chairman Telecom Operators' Association of Pakistan



As the IT minister concludes his term, I would like to acknowledge the collaborative efforts between the ministry, SIFC and the telecom industry to help bridge the digital divide. Specifically, the intent to address long-standing challenges like right of way, development around the telecom tribunal is commendable. I hope that these efforts will continue to boost investor confidence in the sector. I wish Dr. Umar Saif the very best in his future endeavors.

Specialized Foreign Currency Accounts For IT Sector

The initiative stems from the pressing need to overcome the challenges faced by the IT sector in retaining & repatriating foreign exchange earnings. The existing forex regime in Pakistan has proven to be inadequate, leading to a common trend where IT companies and freelancers retain their earnings abroad instead of bringing them back to their home country.

Overview

IT companies and freelancers will now be able to open their bank accounts both digitally and physically with minimum documentation requirements. The introduction of Exporters' Special Foreign Currency Accounts (ESFCAs) will streamline the process significantly, allowing IT companies and freelancers to retain 50% of their export proceeds and make direct payments from these accounts without the need for approval from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) or banks. This concurrent opening of ESFCAs with primary PKR accounts will create a seamless and efficient financial environment for IT companies and freelancers.

Impact



A notable increase of 32% in Pakistan's IT exports in the last 60 days.



Bring additional USD 1 billion in export earnings



Risk mitigation of exchange rate fluctuation



Hassle free banking operation for companies and freelancers



IT Skills Training for 200,000 Youth

Pakistan's IT industry currently yields an annual export of around \$2.6 billion. However, attaining the ambitious target of annual exports of \$15 billion in the next 05 years requires the annual addition of at least 200,000 proficient and specialized IT professionals to the existing workforce. This necessity forms the core motivation behind the initiative, aligning with the urgency to meet the escalating demands and propel Pakistan into a globally competitive IT landscape.



Overview

With an estimated cost of PKR 1,000 million, the project will cultivate a highly skilled workforce targeting newer and more intricate technologies such as Blockchain, Machine Learning, and AI. The initiative initially incorporates an Industry - Placement Program for 20,000 students in the last semesters of their ICT disciplines through countrywide centralized testing. To incentivise the industry, universities, and students, a stipend of PKR 30,000 will be provided to support their commitment whereas PKR 50,000 per intern will also be given to IT companies. Furthermore, industry professionals will be funded to teach elective courses in 7th & 8th semesters.

Another program of IT certification has been initiated with NAVTTC in which 16,000 individuals will be certified in areas identified by the IT industry.

Impact



Creation of a highly skilled workforce to meet the demand of IT companies



Addition of USD 5 billion to IT exports



Bridging of industry-academia gap

10,000 e-Rozgaar Centers

The intervention entails establishing 10,000 e-Rozgaar centers in Pakistan, fostering growth for freelancers and startups. These centers are designed to offer affordable workspaces to freelancers and startups. With each center accommodating 100 individuals, the establishment of 10,000 e-Rozgaar centers will facilitate up to 1 million freelancers. These centers will also provide vital support

to freelancers and startups in the form of free training, marketing assistance, and cost-sharing for trainers, thereby creating an environment conducive to their sustained growth.

Operating on a public - private partnership model, the GoP will facilitate the establishment of e-Rozgaar centers through interest-free loans of up to PKR 10 million, provisioning of tenants / freelancers and declaring



To address the challenge of insufficient work facilities for Pakistan's 1.3 million freelancers, the intervention aims to transform the digital entrepreneurial landscape by establishing e-Rozgaar Centers in every district of the country.

Impact

\$10 billion

Increase Pakistan's annual IT export revenue upto USD 10 billion



IT Hubs

Transform secondary and tertiary cities into grassroots IT hubs by jump-starting IT activities



Job Creation

Create self-employment opportunities



PayPal Remittances

In light of the evolving global landscape, there is a growing demand for seamless and efficient payment solutions for Pakistani freelancers. Recognizing the absence of PayPal's direct presence in the country, there arises a critical need for a strategic initiative to facilitate international remittances.



Overview

This initiative will enable payments for freelancers through PayPal via a third-party intermediary - a direct response to the aforementioned need. The conventional barriers to freelancers creating PayPal accounts are addressed by this innovative program.

Freelancers will not be required to create PayPal accounts; instead, individuals outside Pakistan can make payments directly from their PayPal accounts. This streamlined approach will meet the pressing demand for accessible and efficient remittance solutions, providing Pakistani entrepreneurs and freelancers with a vital tool to receive international payments seamlessly.



Impact



Transformation of the remittance landscape for Pakistani freelancers, offering seamless access to global payments



Simplified and efficient payment processes for freelancers



Enhanced financial inclusivity by eliminating the need for freelancers to create PayPal accounts



Positioning Pakistan as an attractive destination for international collaborations

5G Spectrum Availability

Presently, mobile operators in Pakistan are only utilizing ~274 MHz of spectrum. Ensuring optimum utilization of available cellular mobile spectrum and introducing 5G technology in the country can catalyze improvement in digital connectivity and quality of service, enhance economic growth, and provide technical breakthroughs for development purposes.

Overview

The Federal Government has already constituted an Advisory Committee under the Finance Minister for “Release of IMT Spectrum for Improvement of Next Generation Mobile Broadband Services in Pakistan”. The Committee has directed PTA to initiate the consultant hiring process for finalizing the recommendations to optimize the auction of more than 300 MHz of spectrum and launch of 5G services. The spectrum auction shall be designed to encourage telecom operators to participate/ launch 5G services in Pakistan by 2024. Due to active support provided by the stakeholders, including the Ministry of Law & Justice and office of the Attorney General for Pakistan, several court cases pending since long are being actively pursued.

Impact

- Optimum utilization of 600 MHz spectrum in prime bands including 700 MHz and 2600 MHz
- Economic growth by fostering innovation across various industries including healthcare, manufacturing, and transportation
- Improved mobile broadband services across the country
- Growth of the Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem

National Policy for High-Speed Internet Fiber Across Country

Pakistan has an alarmingly low fiber-teledensity (0.45%) with almost 164,000 km of deployed Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in the country. Further, only 9-11% of the total cellular towers are connected via OFC and only 1.1 million are Fiber to the Home subscribers. To bridge the digital and broadband divide in the country, enhancing the access to Optical Fiber connectivity is crucial. Telecom infrastructure deployment needs to be facilitated by rationalizing the restrictive ROW policy and fees to decrease the cost and complexity of telecom infrastructure development and promote the expansion of broadband internet services in the country.

Overview

To increase optical fiber network penetration, GoP has initiated the development of a National Fiberization Policy to encourage investment in optical fiber networks across the country, aiming for 200,000 km of optical fiber coverage to 4 million subscribers and Fiber to the Site penetration of 75%. In this context, MoITT drafted the concept paper for Right of Way Facilitation for Digital Connectivity. The policy will facilitate private sector investment for the deployment of optical fiber networks in long-haul and metro networks, as well as fiber to the tower deployment, in a timely and cost-effective manner. In line with the policy aspirations, with proactive support from the Secretary Cabinet Division, ROW fees for highways and railway tracks have been harmonized. Similarly, ROW fees for bridges, culverts and crossings on national highways and railways have also been rationalized after consultations. Moreover, ROW fee in areas under Defense Authorities are also being harmonized with ROW fee in areas under the Cantonment boards.

Impact

Deployment of 200,000 km of optical fiber in the country

Fiber to the site penetration of 75%

Increase in optical fiber coverage to 4 million

Fiber Connections in Pakistan





09

National Space Policy

Pakistan's First National Space Policy aims to promote widely available and affordable Fixed, Broadcast ,and Mobile satellite services across the country.

Pakistan's first National Space Policy has been approved and it is a significant milestone for the sector and the national space program, as it enables enhanced communication capabilities through advanced satellite technology. It aims to develop the national space science and technology capabilities, foster international cooperation and improve Pakistan's space industry. The National Space Policy is anticipated to promote breakthroughs in connectivity and information dissemination nationwide by facilitating better telecommunications services. It also emphasizes the importance of private sector participation and seeks to encourage investment in the space program.

Overview

Impact

International companies like Starlink to provide communication services through low-orbit communication satellites

Access to online markets, e-commerce, and global communication

Bridging the digital divide

Affordable satellite internet services in remote areas

Telecom

10

Appellate Tribunal

Domain specific tribunals are considered to be more effective than routine legal processes due to their specialized nature, procedural flexibility, and expertise in specific legal domains. Since there was no Telecom Tribunal in Pakistan , all the litigation cases were handled through regular courts , thereby aggravating the burden on the regular courts.

Overview

As envisaged in the Pakistan Telecommunication Reorganization Act 1996, Pakistan's first ever Telecom Appellate Tribunal has been established to facilitate smooth and speedy resolution of disputes between the regulator, Pakistan Telecom Authority and its licensees, the telecom operators. This is a specialized platform dedicated to resolving telecom disputes and cases, reducing the burden on regular courts. Ongoing appeals and cases related to the sector that are being dealt with in the high courts will be transferred to the Telecommunication Appellate Tribunal within a month. Any appeals against decisions made by the Tribunal must be filed at the Supreme Court within sixty days. This move is crucial for the efficient disposal of cases within the telecom sector, providing a swift resolution to disputes.

Impact

- Streamline dispute resolution process with reduced costs
- Improved regulatory environment
- Increased investor/private sector confidence



Telecom Infrastructure

Sharing Framework

11

Infrastructure sharing aids in optimizing resources, avoiding duplication of network infrastructure, cuts costs, and accelerates service rollouts. As deploying telecom networks requires heavy expenditures, infrastructure sharing allows operators to prioritize service delivery. Sharing networks or its non-strategic components enables operators to share costs without compromising performance, facilitating the migration of mobile operators to next-generation technologies. This innovative strategy is a game - changer in the telecommunications industry, driving progress and growth.

Overview

The government of Pakistan has approved its First Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Framework to encourage collaboration among telecom service providers. The ratification of the Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Framework is a significant step forward for the expansion and viability of Pakistan's telecom industry. The framework will provide a mechanism for licensees to share their telecom infrastructure facilities that would include passive components (tower space, ducts, etc.) as well as active components (Access Network - BTS, BSC/RNC, microwave, etc.).

Impact

- Reduced operational and capital expense
- Expansion of network coverage and services
- Optimize Right of Way for telecom infrastructure development
- Expedited network rollout of advanced technologies like 5G and fiberization

Pakistan

A Digital Corridor Of Connectivity

12

The government of Pakistan (GoP) aims to make Pakistan a regional connectivity hub in terms of east-west connectivity, providing the strategic internet transit facility to more than 1 billion Chinese internet users and availability of leading Internet Exchange and content providers to serve Central Asia, APAC, Middle East and Western Europe.

This initiative will provide geo - strategic economic benefits tied to facilitating the internet traffic, supporting widespread digitalization, and attracting international internet and cloud service providers.



Overview

Currently, China and other Central Asian countries routinely use submarine cables to connect with Europe, Middle East and Africa. The Establishment of Pakistan as the regional connectivity hub, shall help in achieving the shortest route to connect Central Asia and China with Europe, Middle East and Africa and vice versa. In line with this vision PTCL launched the first carrier-neutral internet exchange (IX) in Pakistan, powered by DE-CIX which is the world's leading IX operator with peak traffic of 15+ Tbps. This is a significant step towards improving internet connectivity and infrastructure in the country.



Impact

1. Generation of substantial revenue through internet transit traffic, ranging from \$200 - \$400 million annually
2. Leveraging Pakistan's geostrategic location to route the China's internet traffic through Pakistan
3. Connectivity with leading content platforms including AWS, Google Cloud, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Netflix etc
4. Elevation of Pakistan's profile as a key player in the global digital landscape



Pakistan Startup Fund

13

A thriving startup ecosystem requires continued funding support for early and growth-stage startups to succeed. However, Venture Capitals firms often face high risks in nascent startup ecosystems. To address these challenges and foster a robust startup culture, The Government of Pakistan (GoP) has recognized the necessity of intervention and has launched a program aimed at mitigating the risks faced by Venture Capitalists (VCs) through the Pakistan Startup Fund.

Overview

Pakistan Startup Fund (PSF) is a government-backed initiative aimed at supporting and promoting the growth of startups in Pakistan through encouraging investments in Pakistan by the top-notch global as well as local VC funds. The fund is dedicated to reducing the investor's risks while simultaneously alleviating the financial burdens placed upon startups.

This unique approach is characterized by the absence of equity stakes, thereby offering startups access to additional financial resources without any dilution of ownership. The fund will offer 10% - 30% of the total investment made by a VC in a particular funding round as equity-free capital or a grant as the last cheque. The contribution of PKR 2 billion by the government of Pakistan is poised to catalyze a valuation of PKR 50 billion in Pakistani startup ecosystem.



Impact

- The fund will increase the valuation of the Pakistani startup ecosystem by PKR 50 billion
- Bring in foreign investment in the VC space
- Through financial support and strategic partnerships, the fund's impact extends to nurturing the next generation of businesses, contributing significantly to economic prosperity.
- Create value and jobs through the creation of new companies under this asset class



International Startup Exchange Program

14

Pakistani startups have historically grappled with limited international exposure. Operating within a somewhat isolated ecosystem, they often find it challenging to benchmark themselves against global standards and best practices. This isolation stifles their ability to think beyond borders, inhibiting the creation of globally competitive products and services. BridgeStart Pakistan is an initiative of the GoP to act as a catalyst for change, poised to address these longstanding challenges and unlock unprecedented opportunities for the Pakistani startups.



Overview

The program will provide Pakistani startups with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in top-ranked international incubators and accelerators. Startups will be shortlisted through a rigorous process after which their visit will be funded by the GoP. During their time abroad, startups will be embedded within dynamic innovation ecosystems, experiencing firsthand the daily operations, collaborative spirit, and innovation culture that drive successful startups worldwide.

Impact

1. Unparalleled access to the global startup ecosystem
2. Enable knowledge transfer from top ranked startup ecosystems
3. Creating opportunities for international partnerships and investments
4. Positioning of Pakistani startup ecosystem for long-term success and scalability

National digital transformation with digitization of government services for both citizens and businesses is critical to economic well-being and wealth creation for a country. An open, transparent, and inclusive government is fundamental to citizen centric governance. Currently, Pakistan ranks low on various digital economy indexes. DEEP will lay the rails for a national digital transformation which will significantly improve the quality of life of citizens; providing digital access to government services and improve ease-of-doing business standings of the country.

Overview

With coordinated efforts of MoITT, Finance Division and Economic Affairs Division (EAD) in partnership with the World Bank, this crucial project has been planned and approved by the GoP. The initiative will bolster the government's capabilities in delivering digitally enabled public services to citizens and businesses. Beyond improving convenience for citizen, the project will increase transparency, and improve efficiency of governance besides enhancing tax collection capacities for both federal and provincial governments.

DEEP will develop Pakistan's digital government architecture and use a whole-of-government approach for an inclusive digital transformation. Furthermore, it will enable creation of a national data exchange layer which will reduce barriers between government agencies across the country. It also involves establishing National Digital ID for every Pakistani citizen, along with access to digital vaults. It will also facilitate creation of Pakistan Business Portal which will be a single platform to provide all G2B services, thereby significantly transforming how businesses interact with the government. Similarly, the Civic Innovation and Technology Labs (CITL) initiative under DEEP will use open government data to promote innovation between government, startups, and civil society.

Impact

- Improve Pakistan's ranking in the global E-Government Development Index by 50
- Establish open, transparent and inclusive governance system
- Efficient delivery of services to citizen and businesses

Due to technological advancement, the number and types of online services are growing rapidly in addition to increase in the number of broadband users. This increase in digitalization of services, both at government and private level, has given room for widespread cyber-attacks, making digital infrastructure highly vulnerable. Thus, there is a pressing need for a secure, robust, and continually improving and available nationwide digital ecosystem. To fortify national and economic security in response to escalating cyber-security challenges, it is crucial to implement a coordinated approach and establish a robust institutional framework for enhancing the national cyber-security ecosystem.



Overview

National Cybersecurity Policy envisions a three-tier approach, in which National Computer Emergency Response Team (NCERT) is at the heart of the ecosystem. The establishment of NCERT is aimed at enhancing the security of Pakistan's cyberspace, safeguarding public and private data, business transactions, and citizens' online interactions. The NCERT, designated as the central entity, will respond to any cyber threats or attacks on critical infrastructure information systems, critical infrastructure data, or widespread attacks on information systems in Pakistan.

Impact



Secure the critical information at the national level



Ensure business continuity in the digital space



Establish trust of citizens and businesses in the digital infrastructure

Smartphone

On Installments

17

"Smartphone on Installments" initiative aims to make smartphones affordable for the masses in Pakistan. Currently, almost 50% of cellular users are still using a feature phone. Policy for smartphones on installments shall enable increased digital accessibility and inclusion with economic stimulation.



Overview

The "Smartphone on Installments" initiative aims to make smartphones more accessible to a diverse range of users by allowing companies to offer smartphones directly to customers through flexible installment plans, which is set to bring a paradigm shift to the telecom landscape. The initiative shall facilitate cellular mobile licensees as well as end-users in the provision of smartphones on a reciprocal basis, reducing the customer's entry barrier to broadband and digital technologies.



Impact

1. Increase in smartphone penetration to 80%
2. Increase in smartphone ownership among females from 21% to 50%
3. Digital and financial inclusion
4. Access to e-health, e-education and e-government services

Encouraging

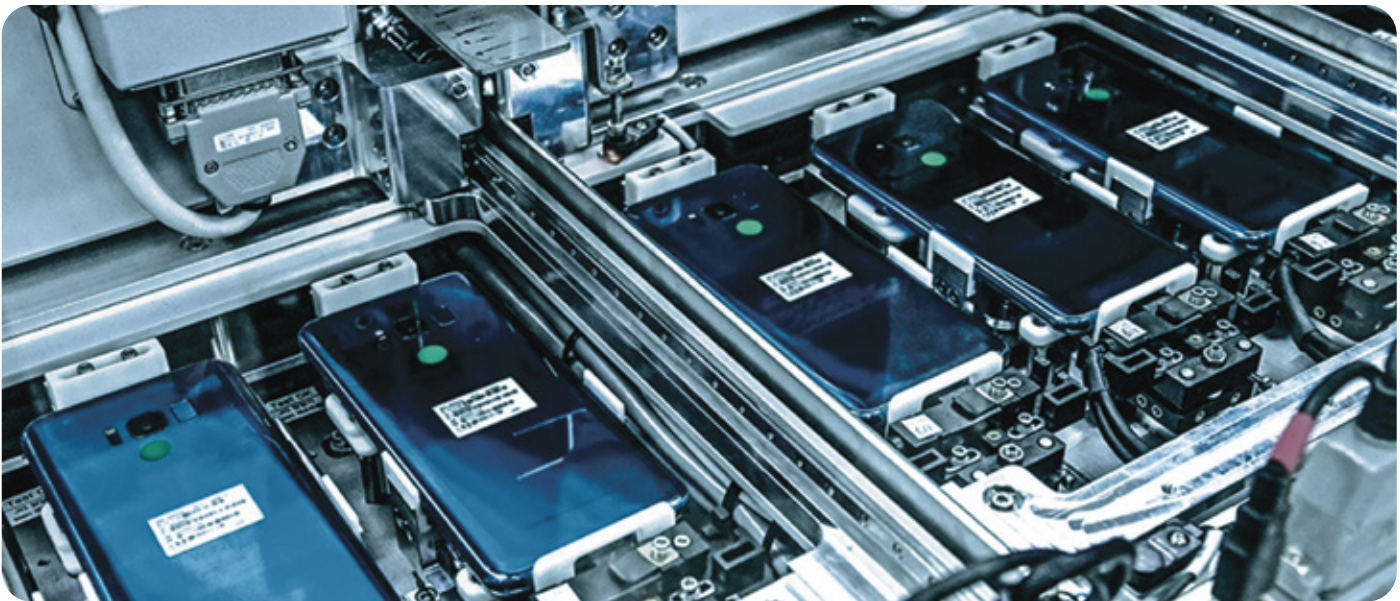
Smartphone Exports

18

Pakistan's thriving cellular market, with 191 million cellular connections, presents a unique opportunity to boost electronic manufacturing and exports. By manufacturing smartphones locally, the country can not only promote its own industry but also become a global export leader, potentially creating a billion-dollar industry in the next few years.

Overview

The government is in the process of developing a mechanism for encouraging local manufacturers to be competitive in the global smartphone export market. The GoP aims to promote the local mobile industry by granting a 3% allowance for Research and Development (R&D) to mobile manufacturers, which will increase to 8% in the coming years.



Impact

-  \$500 Million smartphones exports in the next 03 years
-  Job creation and innovation in the field of technology
-  Development of accessories and electronic industries

