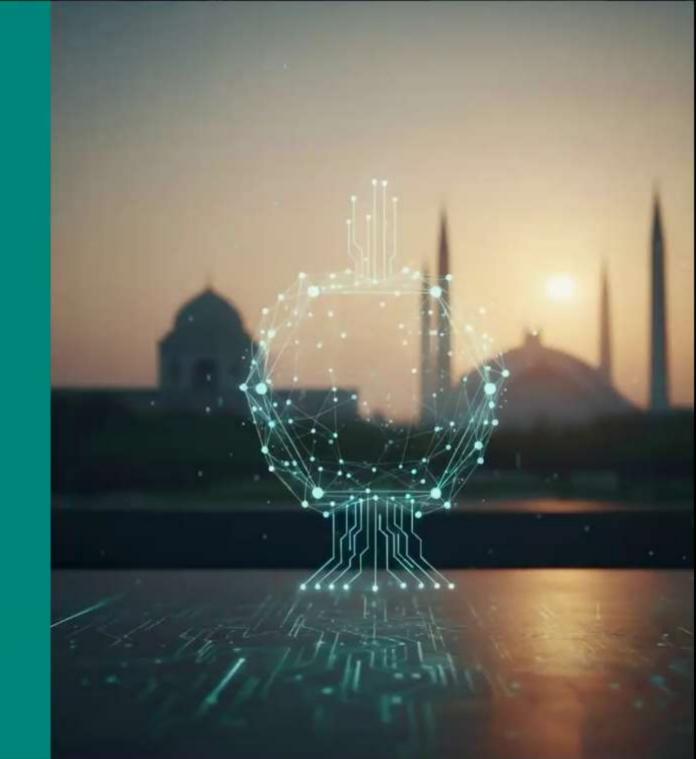
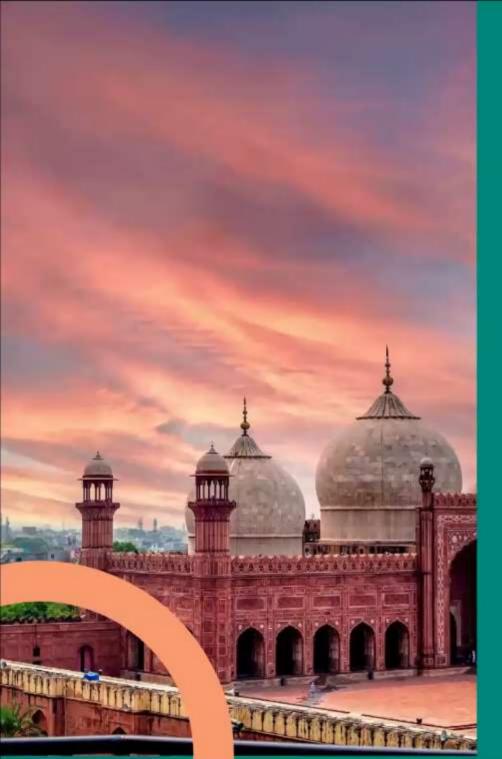


# Organizational Arrangements necessary for Al Absorption in Pakistan

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Khurram
DIRECTOR RCAI; NCAI
NED UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING AND
TECHNOLOGY.





## What does Al Absorption mean?

Adoption of AI technologies across sectors











- Integration into workflows, decision-making, and services
- Effective utilization to drive productivity, efficiency, and innovation

## Why Pakistan Needs It?

- Enhance global competitiveness in the digital economy
- Drive economic growth through innovation-led industries
- Support national progress in health, agriculture, education, and governance

## Supporting Innovation with Al

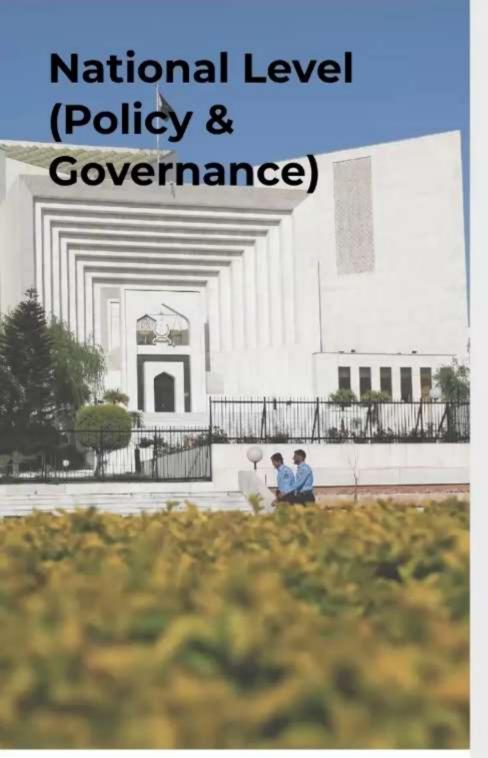
#### Al as a Catalyst for Innovation

- Healthcare: Al-driven diagnostics & drug discovery
- Agriculture: Smart irrigation, crop monitoring, yield prediction
- Finance: Fraud detection, algorithmic trading, customer chatbots
- Transport: Traffic optimization, smart mobility, autonomous vehicles

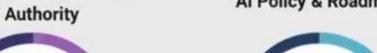
#### **Need for Policy Support**

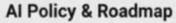
- R&D incentives and grants for AI startups
- Government-backed innovation funds
- Establish Al incubation & acceleration centers





**National AI Commission** / Authority









to Oversee policy,

standards

Alignment with

Priorities →

security

funding, regulation,

Agriculture, health,

finance, education,



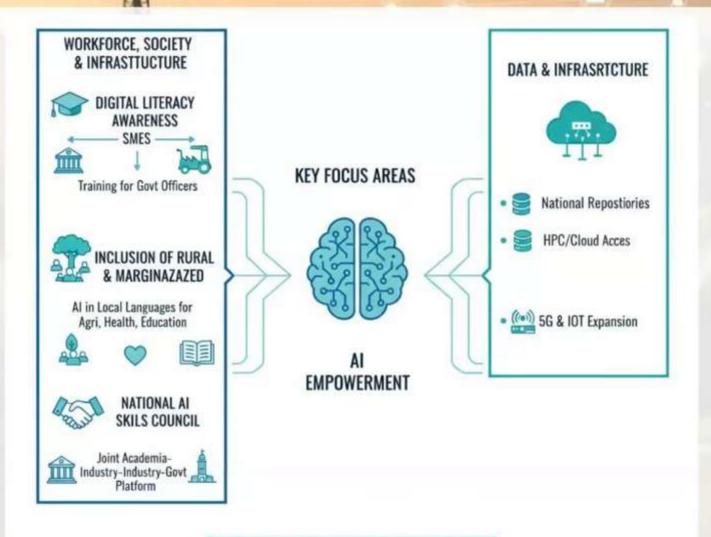
- Al Roadmap (10-15 years) aligned with **Digital Pakistan Vision**
- Clear adoption targets for public & private sectors

- Al Ethics & **Accountability**
- Data Privacy Laws
- Tailored policies for each sector

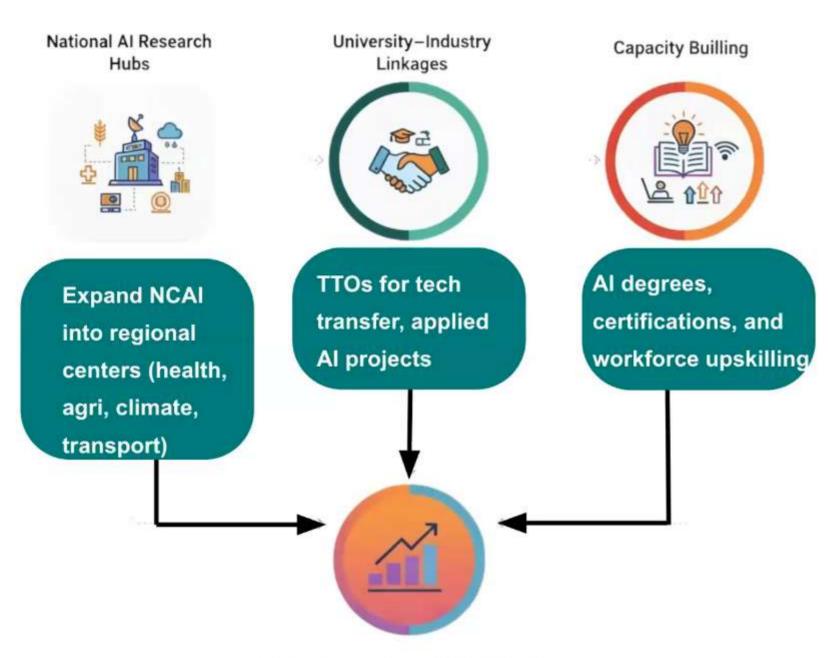


**National Progress and Global Competitiveness** 

## Workforce, Society & Infrastructure









Driving Innovation & Skilled Workforce

## Government-Funded Startups in Pakistan

National Incubation Centers (NICs) in Pakistan – Funded by Ignite & MoITT

8 operational NICs
(Islamabad, Lahore,
Peshawar, Karachi,
Hyderabad, Quetta,
Faisalabad, Rawalpindi)
+ new NIC Sialkot in
pipeline.





















## **Government-Funded Startups in Pakistan**

Al Startups in Pakistan Supported by Ignite (Agritech, Health & Utilities)

- Mera Maweshi Al-based cattle disease diagnostics app for farmers; improves livestock health & milk production.
- Bakhabar Kissan (BK) Precision agriculture with AI, drones & satellite imagery for optimized yield.
- Crop2X Al + IoT water monitor reducing water use by 50% and increasing crop yield.
- Electrocure Al + IoT solution to combat electricity theft, reducing losses by up to 90%.
- WonderTree Al-powered AR/VR therapy & special education for children (2,500+ active users).
- Dot Wearable devices using data-driven Al analytics for mental health diagnostics.
- Naseem Al-based digital tutor for primary school students.









## Government-Funded Startups in Pakistan

((•)) Mauqa.Online

Impact of Ignite's National Incubation Centers (NICs) FY 2023–24 Impact:

222 startups incubated, 207 graduated.

PKR 500M+ investment raised.

PKR 2B+ revenue generated.

Since inception (till FY 2023–24):

882 graduates → PKR 23.7B investments & PKR 17.64B revenue.













## Startups with Significant Investments

- Bykea (NIC Karachi): Pakistan's leading ride-hailing & logistics startup → raised \$22M+ in funding (Prosus Ventures, MEVP, Sarmayacar).
- Swag Kicks (NIC Karachi): \$1.2M seed (E-commerce).
- OkayKer (NIC Karachi): \$700K seed (AutoTech SaaS).
- Electrocure: \$46M investment offer + £200K GSMA grant (Smart grid, AI & IoT).
- EasyFresh (NIC Islamabad): \$250K (Agritech).
- Mauqa Online (NIC Islamabad): VC-backed, employing 100,000+ workers.
- WonderTree: AR/VR for special education, deployed in hospitals & schools.

## Al and Entrepreneurship Today

**AI-Powered Tools for Entrepreneurs** 

**Content & Communication** 





ChatGPT / Claude / Gemini

- Business planning, market research, financial projections
- Automated customer support (chatbots, FAQs)
- Marketing content: blogs, ads, and social media posts





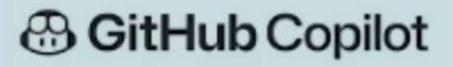
Notion Al / Jasper Al

- Workflow automation and knowledge management
- Drafting proposals, reports, and presentations
- Al-driven copywriting for campaigns and websites

## Al and Entrepreneurship Today

Al-Powered Tools for Entrepreneurs

**Coding & App Development** 





GitHub Copilot / Replit Ghostwriter

- Accelerated coding & debugging
- App and website prototyping
- Reduces development time and cost





#### Lovable.dev / Bolt.new

- Builds full-stack web apps instantly with AI (front-end, back-end, database) — ideal for startups & MVPs
- Bolt.new → Next-gen Al coding environment that generates, edits, and explains code in real time speeds up prototype building and deployment

## Al and Entrepreneurship Today

**AI-Powered Tools for Entrepreneurs** 

**Design & Creativity** 

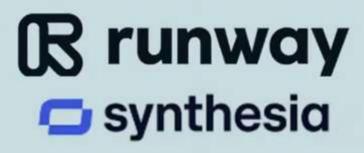






## MidJourney / DALL·E / Stable Diffusion

- Logo design, product mockups, ad creatives
- Branding and marketing visuals at low cost
- Product visualization before manufacturing



#### RunwayML / Synthesia

- Al-generated videos for marketing & training
- Create professional content without expensive studios
- Virtual avatars for presentations or customer interaction





#### Canva Al / Adobe Firefly

- Al-enhanced graphic and video design
- Social media templates, pitch decks, and ads
- Easy for non-designers to create professional visuals

## Al and the Gig Economy

What is the Gig Economy?

Flexible, project-based, short-term work enabled through digital platforms.

#### Freelancer in Pakistan

- Using Al tools Freelancers can improved productivity and output
- Increased output from 2–3 → 7–8 projects weekly.
- Earnings doubled within 6 months.
- Attracted more international clients with faster delivery.

#### INITIATIVES FOR AI IN FREELNACING & GIG ECONOMY



#### AI EMPOWERMENT



#### AI UPSKILLING **PROGRAMS**

· Short courses and certifications for freeleners on Al Al-powered producivity tools.



#### **DIGITAL PAYMENT &** INFRASTRICTURE SUPPORT

· Simplify cross-border for freeleners to scale Al-driven services



#### FREELANCER SUPPORT HUBS

· Government-or private-led centers offering Al training, menteship, and shared resources



#### PUBLIC-PRIVITE **PARTNERSHIPS**

· Collabration with global freelancing platforms (Upwork, Fiwerr, etc.) to run Al bootcamps for Pakistan's workorce



#### INTEGRATION IN **PLATFORMS**

· Local freelancing portals integraing to help workers deliver higher-quality projects



#### **AWARENESS** CAMPAIGNS

· Educating freeleners on how Al can boost efficiency in: Writing, Design, Dedign, Coding Digital Marketing

# Pakistan's Ignite Initiatives for Freelancers & Digital Workforce

DigiSkills.pk

- Pakistan's largest online training platform (launched 2018).
- 4.55M+ trainings delivered (1.18M in FY 2023-24 alone).
- 15 market-relevant courses (SEO, E-commerce, Graphic Design, Data Analytics, etc.).
- Contributed \$827M to IT exports (till Dec 2022).
   Southern Balochistan Program
- 12,800+ enrollments (65% male, 35% female).
- 3 fully equipped labs (Gwadar, Turbat, Khuzdar).
- Focus on freelancing & IT skills for underserved regions.
   CodiSkills Program
  - Hackathons & hands-on workshops in major cities.
- 3,500+ participants (2023-24) including students, ICT professionals, govt officers.
- International certification support (e.g., OSCP).

# Major technologies enabling Al in different industries

This slide represents major technologies enabling artificial intelligence in different industries. It covers machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, robotics and edge computing.



**Machine learning** 

Natural language processing (NLP)

Computer vision

Robotics

**Edge computing** 

- Enables computers to learn from data without being explicitly programmed
- It is used in industries like healthcare, finance, and retail for applications like fraud detection, customer segmentation, and personalized recommendations
- Enables computers to understand, interpret, and generate human language
- It is used in industries like customer service, education, and media for applications like chatbots, language translation, and sentiment analysis
- Enables computers to interpret and analyze images and videos
- It is used in industries like automotive, manufacturing, and healthcare for applications like quality control, object detection, and medical imaging
- Enables the design, development, and operation of robots
- It is used in industries like manufacturing, logistics, and healthcare for applications like assembly line automation, warehouse management, and surgical robotics
- Enables the processing of data closer to the source rather than in a centralized cloud
- It is used in industries like retail, transportation, and smart cities for applications like realtime analytics, autonomous vehicles, and smart traffic management

## India's AI Strategy (NITI Aayog)

The full form of NITI Aayog is the National Institution for Transforming India Aayog. NITI Aayog is the apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, serving as the nodal agency for catalyzing economic development and fostering cooperative federalism through a bottom-up approach involving state governments. It was established on January 1, 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.



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Al for All" (2020)

→ National AI policy to make Al inclusive and accessible for all citizens. 2.

Priority Sectors →
Focus on healthcare,
agriculture, education,
smart mobility, and
fintech as key drivers
of Al adoption.

3.

Responsible AI for
Youth → Nation wide
initiative that trained
11,000+ school
students in basic AI
skills and
awareness.

4.

Long-term Vision →
Harness Al not just for
economic growth and
innovation, but also for
social empowerment and
inclusive development.

#### Centers of Excellence (CoEs)

Established in IITs and top research institutes to drive applied AI research.

#### **Industry Partnerships**

Active collaborations with Microsoft, Google, Intel, and others for Al-powered solutions.

#### Startup Ecosystem

India ranks among the top 5 global AI startup hubs, supported by strong funding and policy backing.

#### Outcome

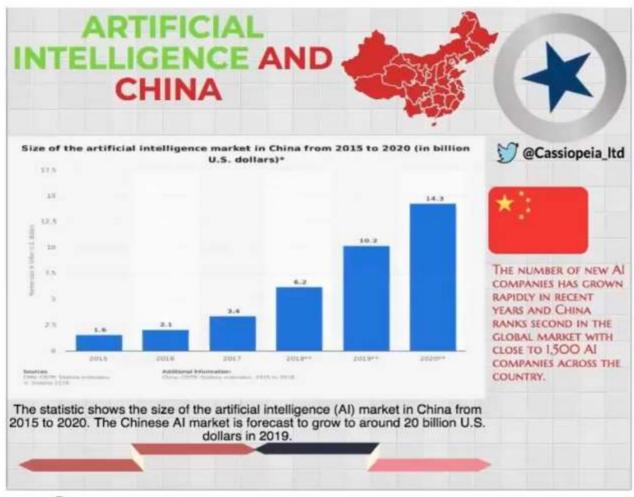
Rapid Al adoption in fintech, healthtech, agritech, and mobility startups, boosting innovation and global competitiveness.

# India's Institutional & Industry Push

#### Top Generative AI startups in India



## Supporting Innovation with Al





UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE,

DIGITAL ECONOMY & REMOTE WORK APPLICATIONS OFFICE



#### Mini Case Study – UAE's Al Strategy

- 2017: First country to create a Ministry of Al.
- Prioritized AI education, smart cities, and public services.
- Partnerships with global tech firms to accelerate adoption.
- · Result: Al is now central to UAE's



### Mini Case Study – China's Al Plan (2017–2030)

- Declared AI a national priority with a target to lead the world by 2030.
- Heavy investment in AI R&D, robotics, and smart manufacturing.
- Strong government-industry-military collaboration for innovation.
- · Result: China leads in Al patents, facial

## Al and Education

#### **Early Childhood Learning**

Adaptive content adjusts difficulty based on performance, ensuring better engagement.

#### **Al Tutors & Gamified Education**

24/7 support for students.

Virtual Al tutors provide Gamification makes learning interactive and fun, improving retention and creativity.



## Conclusion

\*\*

## Al Absorption = More than Technology

It requires organizational readiness, policies, and cultural change.

#### What We Must Build

- Strong Policy & Governance frameworks.
- Reliable Infrastructure & Data Ecosystem.
- Continuous Skills Development & Education Reform.
- Culture of Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

#### The Goal

A future-ready workforce that drives a sustainable AI-powered economy.

## **Thank You!**

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**Smart City Lab, NCAI** 

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