



NEWSLETTER

October 2021 - March 2022

IGNITE SIGNS AGREEMENT FOR **DIGISKILLS 2.0** TRAINING PROGRAM



**DEEMA
ALYAHYA,**
SECRETARY
GENERAL
DIGITAL
COOPERATION
ORGANIZATION
(DCO) VISITS
NIC ISLAMABAD



IGNITE SIGNS AGREEMENTS FOR NEW
NATIONAL INCUBATION CENTERS IN
FAISALABAD & HYDERABAD

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MISSION

To solve the most meaningful problems in Pakistan using ICT solutions and to avail opportunities through innovation and entrepreneurship.

OUR AREAS OF FOCUS



INNOVATION:

Using 4IR technologies to solve local problems.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

Launch of new commercial and social ideas & products through incubation of startups and R&D projects.



DIVERSITY:

Evolution through diversity & inclusion of women and minorities.



CAPACITY BUILDING:

Training of students and professionals to build their freelancing and IT skillset.

IN FOCUS

PRESIDENT GIVES AWARDS AT IGNITE'S DIGITAL PAKISTAN CYBERSECURITY HACKATHON

Islamabad: Pakistan's first nationwide Digital Pakistan Cybersecurity Hackathon 2021 was aimed at improving cybersecurity readiness, protection, and incident response capabilities of the country. 1176 teams registered for the hackathon from all over the country out of which 475 teams were shortlisted for qualifier rounds in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad followed by the final competition in Islamabad. President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi gave awards worth Rs. 6 million to the top three teams in the 5 categories of the competition at the Grand Finale of Digital Pakistan Cybersecurity Hackathon on 30th November, 2021.



President expressed confidence that the hackathon would help find talent to improve the country's cybersecurity readiness and incident response capabilities.

IGNITE LAUNCHES DIGISKILLS 2.0 TRAINING PROGRAM

Ignite and Virtual University of Pakistan has launched DigiSkills.pk 2.0 to provide another 1.5 million online trainings across the country over a period of two years. Under this program, 5 new courses; Video Editing, Animation & Vlogging, Affiliate Marketing, Data Analytics & Business Intelligence, Communication & Soft Skills, and Virtual Assistant have been launched while content of 10 existing courses will be upgraded. The contract was signed on 27th December, 2021 and the first batch of DigiSkills 2.0 was launched on 1st February, 2022.

"DigiSkills has played a commendable role in equipping emerging and existing freelancers with skills necessary to seize the internationally available opportunities in online freelancing market places" Syed Amin Ul Haque, Federal Minister for IT & Telecom



FFC AND PTCL WIN THE CONTRACT TO RUN NIC FAISALABAD AND HYDERABAD

Islamabad: Ignite signed agreements for launching two new National Incubation Centers (NICs) in Faisalabad and Hyderabad on 25th March, 2022 in addition to its existing network of five NICs. Contract for NIC Faisalabad was signed between CEO Ignite, Asim Shahryar Husain and Brig. Asrat Mahmood (Retd), Company Secretary Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC).

The contract for NIC Hyderabad was signed between CEO Ignite and Naveed Khalid Butt, Group Chief Regulatory Officer PTCL for NIC Hyderabad.



DEEMAH ALYAHYA, SECRETARY GENERAL DIGITAL COOPERATION ORGANIZATION DCO VISITS NIC ISLAMABAD

Secretary General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), Deemah AlYayha, visited National Incubation Center (NIC) Islamabad on 19th November 2021. Deemah, an expert of digital economy and innovation, was on a three-day visit to Pakistan. She took a keen interest in the startups from NIC Islamabad and appreciated the initiative of Ignite and Ministry of IT and Telecom for establishing a network of government backed incubators across Pakistan. She was impressed with the innovative ideas of the presenting startups. She said that DCO plans on taking selected startups from its different member countries to an international pitching event in Saudi Arabia in February 2022.



“It is heartening to see that Pakistan is enabling policies for the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the country” Deemah AlYayha Secretary General Digital Cooperation Organization

IGNITE PARTICIPATES IN PAKISTAN TECH FEST 2022 WITH NIC STARTUPS

Eleven startups from five National Incubation Centers (NICs) of Ignite were showcased at Pakistan Tech Fest 2022 on 16th -17th March 2022. This 2-day action-packed event with a tagline “Innovate, Digitize & Disrupt” showcased solutions for all verticals of the economy with a focus on networking, knowledge sharing & lead generation. The event also carried out series of conferences that created a learning environment for the like-minded people to share knowledge & experiences. NIC startups of various verticals attracted the attention of visitors and investors including Heirloom (e-commerce), Ivision (artificial intelligence), KalPay (fintech), QuickEats (IT), Teleport (mobility), Waterness (IoT), Farmdar (Agritech), Digital Tax Services (fintech), Mapalytics (AR/VR), CalCart (IoT), and MYTM (fintech). Officials from Ignite, PSEB, P@SHA, and Ministry of IT & Telecom also participated in the event.



“Ignite has been providing both local and international networking platforms to our startups to pitch their business ideas and products to potential customers and investors” Asim Shahryar Husain, CEO Ignite

IGNITE SIGNS AGREEMENTS WITH UNIVERSITY OF SINDH AND UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE FAISALABAD

CEO Ignite, Asim Shahryar Husain and Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Hyderabad, Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro, signed the contract for the provision of space to NIC Hyderabad on 10th January, 2022. Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Syed Amin UI Haque and Secretary IT Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput, Commissioner and Deputy commissioner Hyderabad, office bearers of HiSHa, Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and academia were also present at the occasion. National Incubation Center Hyderabad will focus to improve the effectiveness of variety of industries including agriculture, livestock, ornamental industrial products, textile, sugar, cement, etc.



“Establishment of NIC Hyderabad is need of the hour for youth of Hyderabad and surrounding rural & urban areas to transform traditional business approach into an innovative tech-oriented form”
Syed Amin UI Haque, Federal Minister for IT & Telecom

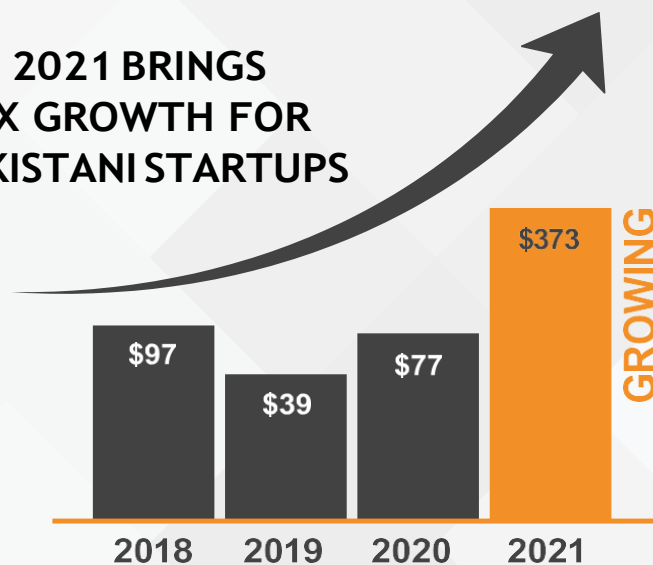
In yet another signing ceremony, on 28th November, 2021, Asim Shahryar Husain and Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan inked the contract for the provision of space to NIC Faisalabad. The focus of this incubator will be on agritech startups to come up with ICT-based solutions for improving productivity and efficiency of the country's agriculture and textile sectors. The contract signing was also attended by Syed Junaid Imam, Member IT, MoITT, Dr. Shahid Qureshi, Director IBA and Dr. Ijaz Bhatti from UAF.



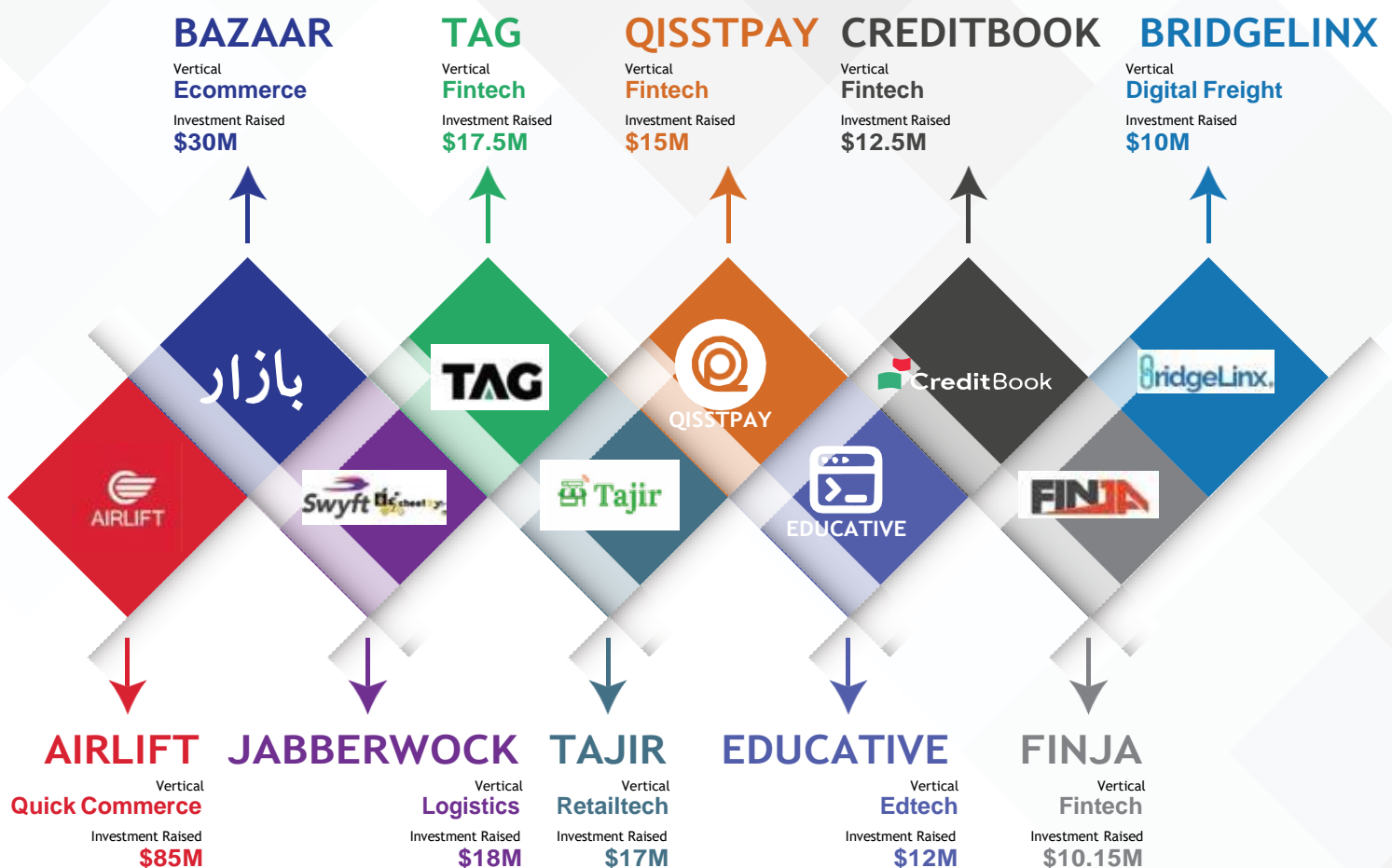
“Being an agriculture based economy we should focus on leveraging technology for improving productivity of the agricultural and textile sectors”
Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput, Secretary IT & Telecom

PAKISTANI STARTUPS THE NEXT BIG THING!

2021 BRINGS
5X GROWTH FOR
PAKISTANI STARTUPS



TOP PAKISTANI STARTUPS OF 2021



“2021 was a remarkable year for Pakistani startups where investments grew by almost 5 times over 2020”
Asim Shahryar Husain, CEO Ignite

TOP NIC STARTUPS OF 2021-2022



GLOBAL RECOGNITION OF NIC PROGRAM



Ignite's National Incubation Centers Program had been declared a Champion Project in the Enabling Environment Category by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at the World Summit on the Information Society Prizes 2021.

NIC STARTUPS WIN GRANTS FROM GSMA INNOVATION FUND



“Pakistan is among 11 Asia Pacific countries that are making progress in the Digital Societies” Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA

The GSMA Innovation Fund for Mobile Internet Adoption and Digital Inclusion announced three Pakistani startups as winners out of the 597 applications received from 44 countries. The winning Pakistani startups; Vceela, Knowledge Platform (both are Ignite startups) and Orenda Pakistan won a total grant of £668,000 (Rs146 million). The GSMA report on digital society index has tracked Pakistan in achieving one of the highest increases in its overall score.

IGNITE SIGNS AN AGREEMENT FOR STUDY ON STARTUP AND FREELANCING ECOSYSTEMS OF PAKISTAN



An agreement was signed with International Consulting Associates (Pvt.) Ltd. (iConsult) to perform an in-depth assessment study of Pakistan's startup & freelancing ecosystems on 15th February, 2022. iConsult will complete the assignment in partnership with Arthur D. Little, one of the leading international strategy consulting firms. The agreement was signed by Ignite's CEO, Mr. Asim Shahryar Husain, and Senior Partner of iConsult, Mr. Shahid Ahmed Khan. The study will gather key data and insights of the current state of Pakistan's startup ecosystem. Final report will be submitted by July 2022.

12 NIC STARTUPS PARTICIPATE IN LEAP 2022 IN SAUDI ARABIA



12 NIC startups participated in global technology conference LEAP hosted by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh to address future challenges using technology. These NIC startups included ExpertFlow (Healthtech), Mapalytics (AR/VR), Stech (AI), Exbid (Shared economy), Student1stop (Edtech), TB-AI (Healthtech), BizB (Ecommerce), Smart Helmet (Cleantech), Asani.io (AI/Big data), Hukum Janab (Services), MYTM (Fintech), and Arm Rehab Technologies (Healthtech). The event was valuable for the startups to scale up their visibility in the MENA region. 3 NIC startups including Stech, Asani.io and MYTM made it to the semifinal of Rocket Fuel Competition of LEAP.

DOUBLE WIN FOR MYTM: GITEX STAR RAISES \$7.2 MILLION INVESTMENT



MYTM, a startup of National Incubation Center (NIC) Islamabad (funded by Ignite – Ministry of IT and Telecom) won the Supernova pitching challenge in the creative economy category at GITEX Future Stars in 2021. Ignite had sponsored participation of 5 NIC startups at GITEX Future Stars.

MYTM is the first Islamic Fintech in Pakistan which empowers retailers and consumers by providing them a one-stop solution to cater the financial needs of the banked, unbanked, and under-banked simultaneously. They have also secured \$6.9 million in the seed round from investors of Saudi Arabia, Canada, Mauritius, UK and Pakistan.

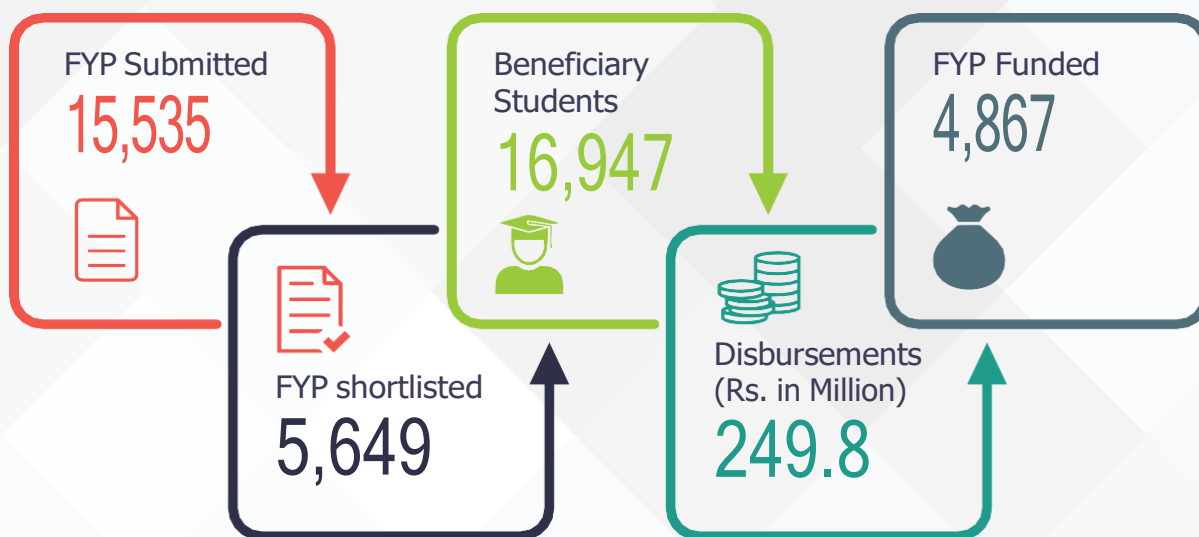
Back in 2019, MYTM had also raised 30 million Yen in its pre-seed round from a Tokyo stock listed company named Rentracks Japan. This makes the total funding raised by MYTM to \$7.2 million.

NATIONAL GRASSROOTS ICT RESEARCH INITIATIVE (NGIRI) 2021-22 LAUNCHED

Ignite provides financial assistance to selected Final Year Projects (FYPs) of undergraduate students studying in HEC recognized institutes enrolled in ICT related disciplines. This initiative facilitates students to develop prototypes and working models besides encouraging creativity, innovation and hands on development skills.

FYPs on the thematic areas of AI, Big Data, IoT, Cloud Infrastructure and Cyber Security, AR/VR, Wearables & Implantables, Shared Economy, Robotics, 3D/4D Printing, NeuroTech and Blockchain are encouraged.

IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION:



IGNITE PARTNERS WITH VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY TO LAUNCH DIGISKILLS COURSES IN SOUTHERN BALOCHISTAN

After the contract signing of Digital Skills Training and Support Program for Southern Balochistan on 21st January, 2022 the project was started in February 2022 with the aim to provide 5,040 trainings in Khuzdar, Kech and Gwadar, with in a period of 12 months.

As of now, labs in three districts have been established. There are more than 1300 enrollments and trainings in Batch-I.

Based upon the progress of Phase 1 and data gathered from these three districts, the program will be further scaled up to remaining 6 districts of southern Balochistan.



DIGISKILLS IS MAKING AN IMPACT: TURNING YOUTH TO BREAD WINNERS

TOP FIVE FREELANCERS TRAINED THROUGH DIGISKILLS

1ST



HAMEED ULLAH KHAN



SWAT



US\$

157,842



WEB

DEVELOPMENT

ASAD KHAN



PESHAWAR



US\$

120,128



GRAPHIC DESIGN &

WORD PRESS DEVELOPMENT



2ND

3RD



NUMAN ALI AKHTAR



FAISALABAD



US\$

104,912



DIGITAL MARKETING &
SEARCH ENGINE
OPTIMIZATION

AMIR ZIA



SHAIKHUPURA



US\$

60,000



GRAPHIC DESIGN,
DIGITAL MARKETING,
CREATIVE WRITING



4TH

5TH



TALHA MALIK



JHANG



US\$

54,000



GRAPHIC DESIGN



National Incubation Center
Build Your Future



NIC LAHORE
The heart of the nation's growth



NIC Peshawar
Funded by Ignite, MOITT



NIC KHU
National Technology Fund



NIC QUETTA
From innovation to growth and beyond



Ministry of IT & Telecom
DIGITAL PAKISTAN

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