

MEDIA COVERAGE



Bridging Gaps in Pakistan's AI Roadmap: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward

October 02, 2025

Tribune Express

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2570484/experts-discuss-gaps-in-pakistans-ai-roadmap>

Pakistan Today

<https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/10/02/experts-project-7-12-gdp-growth-1-million-jobs-from-pakistans-new-ai-policy-by-2030/>

APP Pakistan

<https://www.app.com.pk/business/experts-discuss-national-ai-policy-project-7-12-gdp-growth-1mln-jobs-by-2030/>

Islamabad Post

<https://islamabadpost.com.pk/experts-warn-of-implementation-gaps-in-pakistans-ai-roadmap/>

LeadPakistan

<https://leadpakistan.com.pk/news/pide-hosts-seminar-on-national-ai-policy-bridging-gaps-in-pakistans-ai-roadmap/>

Urdu Point

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/business/experts-discuss-national-ai-policy-project-7-2055049.html>

Techjuice PK

<https://www.techjuice.pk/pakistans-ai-policy-may-boost-gdp-by-12-and-generate-one-million-jobs/>

Global News Pakistan

<https://globalnewspakistan.com/2025/10/01/pakistans-national-ai-policy-sets-direction-despite-key-challenges-experts/>

PhoneWorld

<https://www.phoneworld.com.pk/pakistans-national-ai-policy-could-boost-gdp-by-12-and-create-one-million-jobs-by-2030/>

GAD Insider

<https://www.gadinsider.com/pakistans-national-ai-policy-to-boost-economy-job-opportunities-24433>

Top Story

<https://topstory.com.pk/pakistans-new-ai-policy-could-reshape-economy-opens-1-million-jobs/>

Experts discuss gaps in Pakistan's AI roadmap

Policymakers, industry leaders and academics chart way forward on National AI Policy

OUR CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD

Speakers at a moot on Friday underscored the need to bridge gaps in the national artificial intelligence (AI) roadmap through the effective implementation of the newly launched AI Policy on the country's economy, governance and society.

The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted a high-profile seminar on Pakistan's National Artificial

Intelligence Policy, centred on the theme "Bridging Gaps in Pakistan's AI Roadmap: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward."

The event brought together policymakers, academics, entrepreneurs and industry leaders to deliberate on the transformative potential of AI for Pakistan's economic development, governance, and wider society.

The panel featured distinguished speakers including Chair of the Government of Pakistan's AI Policy Committee Dr Anil Salman; Member Science and Technology at the Planning Commission of Pakistan Dr Najibullah; Techvention Ltd, CEO and Co-founder Suniya Shahid; and

Atomcamp CEO Dr Naveed Iftikhar, who joined the discussion virtually via Zoom. The session was moderated by PIDE Research Economist Wajid Islam.

Speakers projected AI could boost GDP by up to 12% and create one million jobs by 2030

Dr Salman described the policy's vision as bold, ethical and transformative, emphasising inclusivity across economic, social and technological dimensions. He explained that the policy had been formulated

through extensive consultation with domestic and international stakeholders, including UNESCO, the Asian Development Bank and the Commonwealth. He projected that its full implementation could boost GDP by 7-12 per cent and generate up to one million jobs by 2030.

Dr Najibullah addressed the financial ecosystem, stressing the importance of venture capital and accelerators in bridging Pakistan's "valley of death" when scaling start-ups. He announced the establishment of a Rs2 billion Public Venture Capital Fund and highlighted the need to engage global accelerators to support Pakistani innovators.

PIDE hosts seminar on National AI policy

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The panel featured distinguished speakers including Dr. Anil Salman, Chair of the Government of Pakistan's AI Policy Committee; Dr. Najibullah, Member Science and Technology at the Planning Commission of Pakistan; Ms. Suniya Shahid, CEO & Co-founder of Techvention Ltd.; and

Dr. Naveed Iftikhar, CEO of Atomcamp, who joined virtually via Zoom. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Wajid Islam, Research Economist at PIDE. Dr. Salman explained the policy's vision as bold, ethical, and transformative, stressing inclusivity across economic, social, and technological dimensions. He highlighted that the policy was developed through extensive consultation with domestic and international stakeholders including UNESCO, ADB, and the Commonwealth. He projected that full implementation could boost GDP by 7-12% and create up to one million jobs by 2030.

Dr. Najibullah discussed the financial ecosystem and emphasized the importance of venture capital and accelerators to bridge Pakistan's "valley of death" in scaling startups. He announced a Public Venture Capital

Fund of PKR 2 billion and highlighted the need for global accelerators to support Pakistani innovators. He also stressed sectoral opportunities in agriculture, health, and education, and pointed out challenges around data infrastructure, payment gateways, and cybersecurity.

Ms. Suniya Shahid presented an industry perspective, stressing the importance of AI adoption in healthcare and the need for ethical auditing mechanisms to ensure responsible AI use. She advocated for dedicated AI funds for women-led startups, retraining programs for displaced workers, and greater use of social media campaigns to raise awareness among youth. She also warned that unless AI models are trained on localized datasets, Pakistan will continue to face serious implementation gaps.—APP

PIDE Hosts Seminar on National AI Policy: Bridging Gaps in Pakistan's AI Roadmap

City Desk

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Joining via Zoom, Dr. Naveed Iftikhar highlighted the gap between

policy formulation and adoption, stressing that AI integration within government, universities, and industries remains slow.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Nasir Iqbal, Associate Professor and Registrar at PIDE, reflected on the macroeconomic implications of AI policy. He stressed that the success of the policy must be judged on three fundamental pillars: productivity, inclusivity, and market competitiveness.

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