

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board's Durshal Launch Ceremony – Press Release

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB) launched one of its flagship community engagement projects 'Durshal' by formally inaugurating its first Community innovation lab in Mardan, KP.

The inauguration ceremony was adorned by the Senior Minister for Health & Information Technology, Mr. Shahram Khan Tarakai who was also the Chief Guest for the occasion along with the Minister for Education, Mr. Atif Khan and other dignitaries.

'Durshal' is envisaged to anchor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's digital transformation by establishing a network of community spaces across the province with the goal to advance successful development of emerging businesses, digital governance and civic engagement in ICT sector and to contribute to the overall growth of the economy. The aim of this project is to focus on two of the main pillars of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board's digital strategy; i.e. Digital Governance and Digital Economy.

Durshal Mardan will be serving to nurture the emerging startup culture in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in the vicinity of Mardan district. KP IT Board's vision is to set up a network of symbiotic centers of innovation under the 'Durshal' initiative. Initially Durshals would be established in 7 different districts across the province and eventually across all other remaining districts. The plan is to leverage these centers for incubating potential startups while also providing co-working space for digital freelancers in a highly equipped facility. The incubatees will be taken on board for a period of 6 months and will undergo an intensive program followed by comprehensive mentorship sessions under the supervision of leading mentors in the tech industry.

Senior Minister for Health & IT, Mr. Shahram Khan Tarakai expressed his views on the occasion and stated that *"KP IT Board's Durshal initiative is the much needed step towards ensuring the province's digital transformation. The provincial government is continuously pursuing its vision by investing in the youth of the province which will trigger the economic growth of the province. I am really excited for this project as it would not only contribute to the Digital Economy but also provide a better solution in terms of Digital Governance."*

The space for co-workers will be open for the freelancers after this inauguration however; the induction of first batch of startups would be initiated according to the set timelines.

For Details: www.kpitb.gov & www.durshal.com