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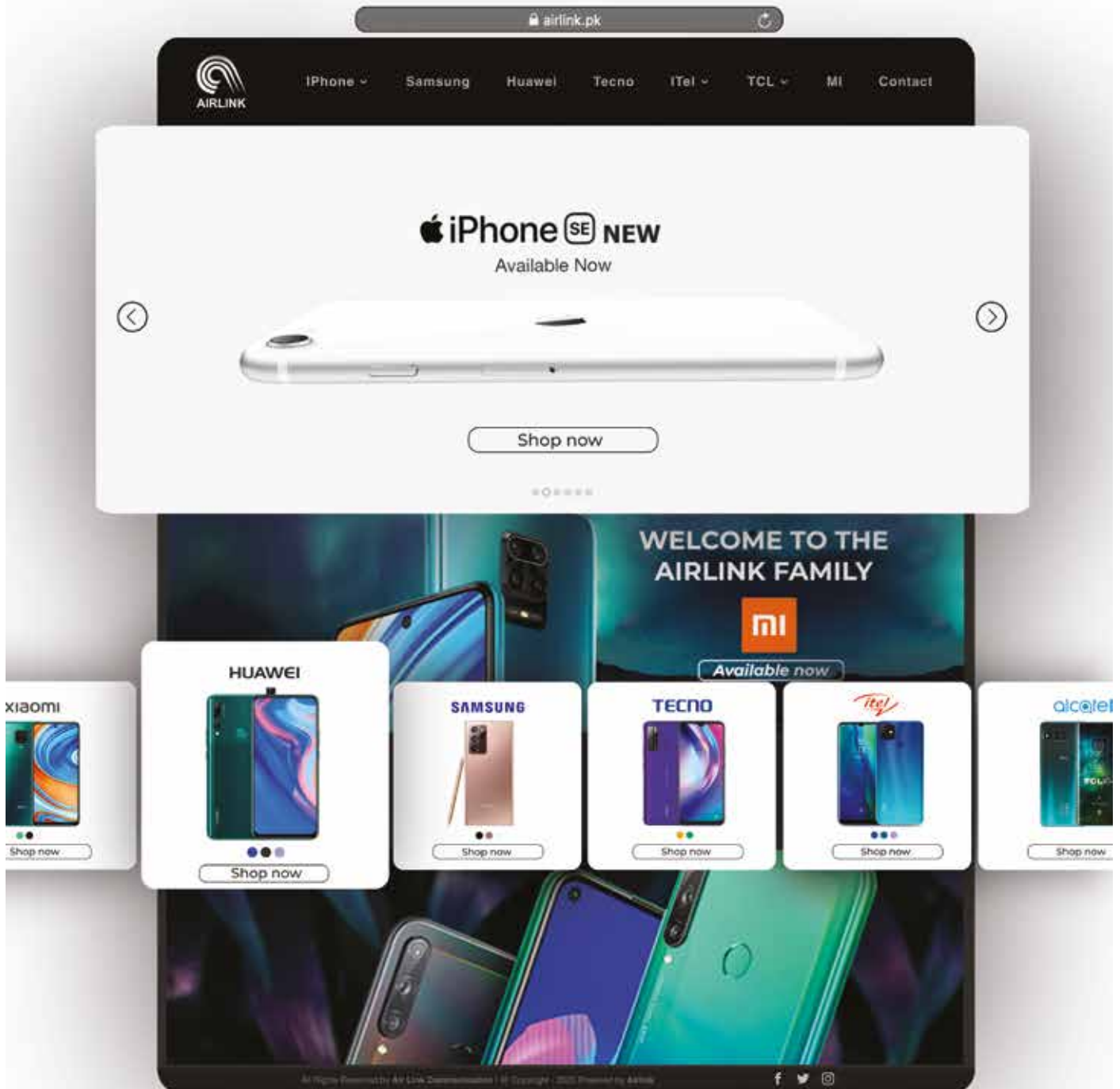
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Adnan Khan
Managing Editor

Its September already, and the world is still fighting the pandemic or Novel Corona Virus. Back in May, Pakistan was on the edge of devastation, but the government took a bold decision and decided to lift the lock-down. But by mid-August, the global COVID tally crossed 23 million, with over 810,000 deaths, but the numbers remained relatively low in Pakistan. We have won the fight against Pandemic of Novel Corona COVID-19, but the second wave's fear remains; therefore, we urge all our readers to stay cautious and take all the precautionary measures to protect themselves from the virus.

It's no longer secret that we live in a digitalized world. We have things like Self-driven cars, AI robots, flying cars, smart TVs, etc. As more and more inventions spring up daily, now is the time to follow the trend and learn as many digital skills as possible to improve your career, earn a better income, reach more audiences, become your boss, and, most importantly, become financially independent. We have explored the benefits of digital skills learning in further detail in our exclusive article "Digital skills: Learning without Limits."

The state of the Internet in Gilgit-Baltistan and the year old PTCL privatization saga have also been discussed in our exclusive articles. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of mobile wallets has emerged even more reliable. As a nation, we have finally realized how much it is essential to have such virtual ways of sending and receiving money. Our article, "The need to accelerate the digital payment ecosystem in Pakistan," covers the importance of accelerating the digital payment system for our country's socio-economic growth.

In our "in-focus" section, we have exclusive interviews of three young entrepreneurs who turned their dreams into reality through resilience and determination work. With the help of the National Incubation Center (NIC), these three successful startups launched their startup ideas and gained tremendous success. In an exclusive chat session with the founders of East Law, Merafuture and Stash shared their projects' aspirations and ideas.

Like always, our regular sections, including phone reviews, Smart moves, TVC reviews, top applications, and smartphone wish list are also part of our current issue. We always try to bring something new and exciting for our readers, and we hope you guys will appreciate our efforts and give us your feedback to improve further.

We hope you are staying healthy and safe.

Enjoy Reading...!!!

Thank you,
Adnan Khan
Managing Editor

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Taking a closer look at some of the
successful NIC start-ups

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By Zainab Saeed

Digital skills: Learning without Limits



It's no longer a secret that we live in a digitalized world. We have things like Self-driven cars, AI robots, flying cars, smart TVs etc. As more and more inventions spring up daily, now is the time to follow the trend and learn as many digital skills as possible to improve your career, earn a better income, reach more audiences, become your own boss and most importantly, become financially independent.'

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Most businesses are employing artificial intelligence to streamline workflows and supply chains

Over the past decade, many companies and industries have digitized their operations and processes. Most businesses are employing artificial intelligence to streamline workflows

and supply chains. Many colleges, universities, and training providers have also added the essential digital skills to their curriculum to meet the growing demand for digital know-how. Most organizations are adopting digital growth to achieve success and profit. Therefore, all job seekers must learn specialized digital skills that can help them get jobs quickly, and they can stand out from the crowd.

With digital skills, you can save time and money. If you want to do any transaction, then you can skip the tedious paperwork with online banking. If you are away from your family, you can stay in touch with them via social media. Moreover, if you are running your own business and have excellent digital skills, you can increase your B2B business productivity. It provides you new ways of working. You can increase your revenue and develop a competitive edge. More importantly, you can build a strong customer relationship without going out and making any extra efforts.

You may be wondering about the kind of digital skills you need to learn to keep up with the technological trends. Some of them include Web Design/Development, Digital Marketing (SEO, Social media management), Video Editing, Graphic Design, Content Writing, Mobile App Development, Data Analytics. The best part yet? Anybody can learn digital skills as long as they have the passion, the willingness to learn and a computer system. You don't need a degree to learn and start earning big.

Anybody can learn digital skills as long as they have the passion, the willingness to learn and a computer system. You don't need a degree to learn and start earning big



The reasons below are why acquiring digital skills should be your top priority.

Good Paying Job

There are jobs and there are good jobs. If you are looking to get a good paying job then your best bet is acquiring digital skills. As long as you are good at what you do, there will always be the need for your services.

Organizations are digitally Evolving

Most organizations now know that majority of their customers are on the internet. This is why there is an increase in the demand for websites, digital marketing skills, mobile apps, contents etc.

Having one or more of digital skills can sets you apart from other candidates in the labor market

Having one or more of these skills sets you apart from other candidates in the labor market. Even if you have a job, you are more useful to the organization than your colleagues due to your versatility.

Change your Career

You can dedicate few hours per day or a week to learn and perfect one or more digital skills, then you are well on your way to becoming financially independent. You can start as an intern and work your way up to the top from there.

Start/Grow your Business

With digital skills, you can start your own web design, digital marketing or content writing company.

With digital skills, you can start your own web design, digital marketing or content writing company

Who says you can't own your own web design company tomorrow.

Also, you can use digital skills like digital marketing, content writing, SEO to grow business by creating brand awareness and reaching more people.

Rather than paying a large sum of money to agencies to help you grow your business, having digital skills can go a long way in helping you maximize your Return on Investment

Rather than paying a large sum of money to agencies to help you grow your business, having digital skills can go a long way in helping you maximize your Return on Investment (ROI).

Side Hustle

You have bills to pay, and having one source of income will not pay them all. This is why you need other sources of income. With digital skills, you can work as a freelancer for different organizations and still do your normal day job. There are many freelance sites you can work.



Acquiring digital skills and gaining new qualifications is the key to achieving your dreams in this digital age. Those who take bold steps to learn new digital skills or to upskill themselves will be the ones to reap the benefits of long-term success. Though, all these require adequate planning, training, patience and the passion to succeed.

So whether you are looking to start your career, change your job, grow your business or get a promotion, failure to ignore learning digital skills can have unpleasant consequences in the long run. In Pakistan, several platforms are offering superb digital skills learning opportunities.

Digiskills.pk

Digiskills.pk conducts trainings on e-commerce to build up the skills of youngsters and entrepreneurs which would help them to boost their profit returns. It is a popular name in the industry of online courses and trainings.

IDM Pakistan

This is one of the most popular online portals that offer SEO learning & digital marketing. IDM Pakistan has trained over 590 professionals from a total of 42 batches.

National Incubation Center

The National Incubation Center is Pakistan's largest technology incubation center; that built creative space in Pakistan buzzing with innovators, mentors, change-makers and passionate leaders. It is a successful public-private partnership between the Ministry of IT & Telecom, Ignite – National Technology Fund, Jazz and Teamup.

The National Incubation Center is Pakistan's largest technology incubation center; that built creative space in Pakistan buzzing with innovators, mentors, change-makers and passionate leaders

It provides a great opportunity to build your startup business, with the help of a purpose built curriculum and the guidance of the best mentors from Pakistan and the world.

Empowerpk.org

Empowerpk.org six weeks boot camp enables you begin earning in the digital economy with specialized digital skills. The candidates can join the classes online. The program is designed for those who want to earn through freelancing. The program is open for everyone.

PIAIC

The Piaic offers you to learn about Artificial intelligence, Cloud native and mobile web computing, block chain and internet of things. Each program is divided into four quarters (12 weeks each).

Corvit

If you want to get SEO training in Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, or Faisalabad, this is the best place. It is one of the classroom learning options.

learnonlineschool.com

This is a campus-based institute in Rawalpindi, but you can also choose to enroll in the course of choice online. The total fee of the entire course is PKR 16,000.

UDEMY

It is one of the most popular online platforms for learning and one of the most trusted sites. UDEMY offers more than 65,000 courses on various subjects and covers a range of professions, skills & talents.

CEPT

Iceptonline.com has designed the course for those who want to pursue a career in graphics. The candidates don't require a pre-requisite to enroll and learn a number of graphic designing tools.

NICON

If you want to learn about graphic designing and want to earn money, Nicon.edu.pk is another place where you can get the best Graphic Designing training. Those who are only equipped with basic computer knowledge can also get the benefits from the courses offered by Nicon. The candidates can learn the Adobe Photoshop, Corel Draw, Inpage, and One Word Layout by in addition to other tools.

Laimoon Courses

Laimoon offers you a number of courses available online and in a classroom setting across Pakistan. A candidate can set filters according to their preferences. The candidates are allowed to enroll in a course in their preferred city, at a time of their choice, location & a price range.



All new Tecno spark 6 with G70 processor is soon going to hit Pakistani smartphone market



Ever since its arrival, TECNO phones are changing the dynamics of smartphones and keep up the legacy of producing rich features phones at an unexpectedly low price. Now TECNO is all set to surprise its customers once again with the debut of Spark 6, another valued addition to the most popular Spark series.

Spark 6 is an upgraded version of Spark 5 which has already experienced a record-breaking sale in Pakistan. TECNO encouraged by the profuse response is now gearing up to launch Spark 6 soon.

This phone is expected to be equipped with the world's class finest features but the most striking feature which makes TECNO fans drooled over the upcoming device is its rumored 6 upgraded specs. Though other features of Spark 6 are not yet revealed it is believed that this time TECNO is heavily investing in its processor segment and planning to come up with a powerful, predictably G70 advanced processor.

With the elevated consumer's expectation bar it is yet to see how Spark 6 will help TECNO to consolidate its top position in the market. TECNO is excited to bring next-generation smartphones, with 6 upgraded features and empowering consumers with meaningful experience. It is expected that this new model will also create buzz and will give a tough time to its rivals.



Global Leader vivo Evolves as an Innovator in Pakistan's Smartphone Industry



Benfen” is a word in Chinese language that emphasizes on doing the right things and doing things right, which is the ideal description of vivo’s mission to build technology for good. vivo, a leading global smartphone brand, believes in bringing the best technology and ultimate user experience to its users and has always functioned on these principles.

Within just three years of entering the Pakistan market, vivo has carved a niche for itself in designing and developing the latest in smartphone technology. Since its entrance in 2017, vivo in Pakistan has launched many feature-rich variants in its vast and innovative portfolio of three different series -Y, S, and V, designed to fit the Pakistani youth’s evolving lifestyle needs and budget preferences.

Global firsts

vivo has established a rich legacy of ‘industry-first’ innovations for itself. And at a time, when smartphones carried a fingerprint scanner at the back as a security feature, vivo pioneered in in-display fingerprint scanning technology, eliminating visible fingerprint pad to create a seamless design without compromising on

security options. The APEX series brought innovations like Pop-up Selfie Cameras, Body Soundcasting, Waterfall Display, Gimbal Camera and much more from the future to the now.

From being the first to put a dedicated Hi-Fi quality audio chip in a smartphone, to breaking records of the world's thinnest smartphone, vivo is committed to pursuing the newest experiences in technology.

Showcasing technology excellence

Over the years, vivo continues to have an unrelenting focus on Pakistan and as a result, has introduced its top-notch product ranges that have received phenomenal responses from the youth community in the country.

Launched in 2017 vivo V7+ was the first smartphone in Pakistan with a brilliant 24MP selfie camera that also introduced FullView™ Display, striking, futuristic feel. The very next year, vivo once again took the lead by launching the first smartphone, V11 Pro with In-Display Fingerprint Scanning Technology in Pakistan. In 2019 vivo upped the game by launching Pakistan's first 32MP pop-up selfie camera smartphone, bringing a radical breakthrough in technology that would define the next era of smartphones.



Similarly, vivo's V17 Pro and the latest V19 equipped with quad cameras and perfect night mode changed how smartphone photography works for the best.

With more than 80% of its staff invested in research and development, vivo holds its core beliefs firmly on being innovative for the consumer and continues to place world-leading features into its smartphones.

Reinforcing local commitment

With localization and innovation at its heart, vivo believes that Pakistan is a strategically important market and therefore, continues to upscale its presence in the local mobile market to embrace consumer demands. vivo products are now available nationally with a robust offline network of 5500+ retail stores and seven exclusive service centres.

In alignment with the Pakistan Government's efforts on first-ever Mobile Device Manufacturing Policy, paving way for local assembly and manufacturing of mobile phones; vivo is actively exploring this opportunity to build its mobile manufacturing facilities in Pakistan. Through this initiative the company also plans to play its role in empowering the local population by creating direct and indirect jobs, hence directly contributing to the country's economy.



Gearing up for the 5G future

Innovation, being a trendsetter, and having the best-in-class products are the three mantras by which vivo carries out all its activities and developments. As a leader in the communications industry, vivo is one of the pioneers amongst mobile terminal companies to spearhead 5G technology R&D and standardization. Globally, vivo sub-brand iQOO launched iQOO Pro 5G, making itself one of the first brands to launch 5G ready smartphone. With this, vivo aims to provide multi-device, multi-application offerings and aims to delight its customers by delivering even more vibrant and connected experience.

An innovation-led future

Over the years, vivo is evolving from a 'manufacturer' to an 'innovator' brand that has the best in class smartphone technologies. Even though vivo entered the Pakistan market just three years back, vivo is confident of being able to reach out to its customer communities in the country and cater to their demands to provide products that are both stylish and innovative.



Oneplus Nord

An Emphatic Return to the Mid-Range Segment

Design

OnePlus Nord's design belies its affordable price. You get the same premium build and finish as on the flagship OnePlus 8 series, with a metal frame sandwiched between Gorilla Glass on the front and rear.

It makes for a solid, premium-feeling device in hand. The OnePlus Nord measures 158.3 x 73.3 x 8.2mm and tips the scales at 184g, which means it's shorter than the OnePlus 8, but ever so slightly wider, thicker and heavier.

Its smooth glass finish means there's little in the way of natural grip, and we found that the Nord could be slippery. There's a slimline silicon case included in the box. This gives you some instant grip, plus protection against small knocks and drops.

Round the back, the main feature is the large, oblong camera bump which houses the OnePlus Nord's four rear cameras. This is raised by a couple of millimeters from the back of the handset. But unlike on its more premium siblings, the camera block is in the left corner, rather than central.

Display

The OnePlus Nord has a 6.44-inch AMOLED display with a 20:9 aspect ratio, Full HD+ (2400 x 1080) resolution, and a 90Hz refresh rate for fluid scrolling performance.

The screen fills the front of the handset, with minimal bezels – the thickest one is at the foot of the display. The only interruption to the screen is the punch-hole cutout in the top-left corner housing the dual selfie cameras. The Nord comes with a factory-fitted screen protector to give you some additional protection against scratches.

There's HDR10+ support included too, so if you stream content from services such as Netflix or Prime Video, or watch your HDR video content, it will look good on the Nord's display. A fingerprint scanner is embedded in the screen, allowing you to register your prints for security.

One way to speed up the unlocking process on the OnePlus Nord is pair the fingerprint recognition with face unlock. The Nord can simultaneously combine both biometric security features when you come to unlock, and it can produce a faster result.

Camera

The headline feature of the OnePlus Nord is its 'flagship' camera setup. There are a total of six cameras on the handset, four on the rear, and two on the front, the most OnePlus has ever put on a smartphone.

The primary camera on the rear is indeed borrowed from a flagship phone – the OnePlus 8. It's a 48MP Sony IMX586 sensor (with EIS and OIS image stabilization) teamed with an f/1.57 lens, which can take 48MP images, although, by default, it's set to 12MP.



That's accompanied by a trio of other cameras, comprising a 5MP depth sensor, 2MP macro camera, and an 8MP, 119-degree ultra-wide-angle snapper for those sprawling landscape shots.

The main rear camera is a capable shooter and performs well in good light both indoors and out. The default 12MP images it captures have the right level of detail, and the auto HDR helps to prevent images appearing too dark or overexposed.

Battery life

The OnePlus Nord comes with a 4,115mAh battery, which is a reasonable size and will give you a day of regular use from fully charged.

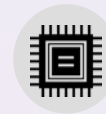
There's no wireless charging support however, there's support for OnePlus' Warp Charge 30T charging, which gets you from 0% to 70% in 30 minutes using the bundled cable and power adapter in the box.

Performance and software

Under the hood, Qualcomm's Snapdragon 765G chipset sits at the heart of the OnePlus Nord. The 765G is complemented by a decent slug of RAM and 8GB and 12GB variants of the OnePlus Nord available.

The 90Hz refresh rate display on the OnePlus Nord also enhances gameplay, provides sleeker graphics and motion in games, and improves the overall experience of using OnePlus' Oxygen OS 10.5 interface, which sits over the top of Android 10.

The 8GB RAM model gets you 128GB storage, which is excellent for the price point. The OnePlus Nord comes with 5G support, which means you can take advantage of next-generation network speeds when they become available in your area if 5G hasn't rolled out for you just yet.



**64GB Built-in, 6GB
RAM
Octa-core**



**Non-removable Li-Po
4115 mAh battery**



6.44 inches



48MP + 8MP + 5MP + 2MP

PKR. 88,999/-

Pros

- Affordable with flagship qualities
- Premium design
- Plenty of camera features

Cons

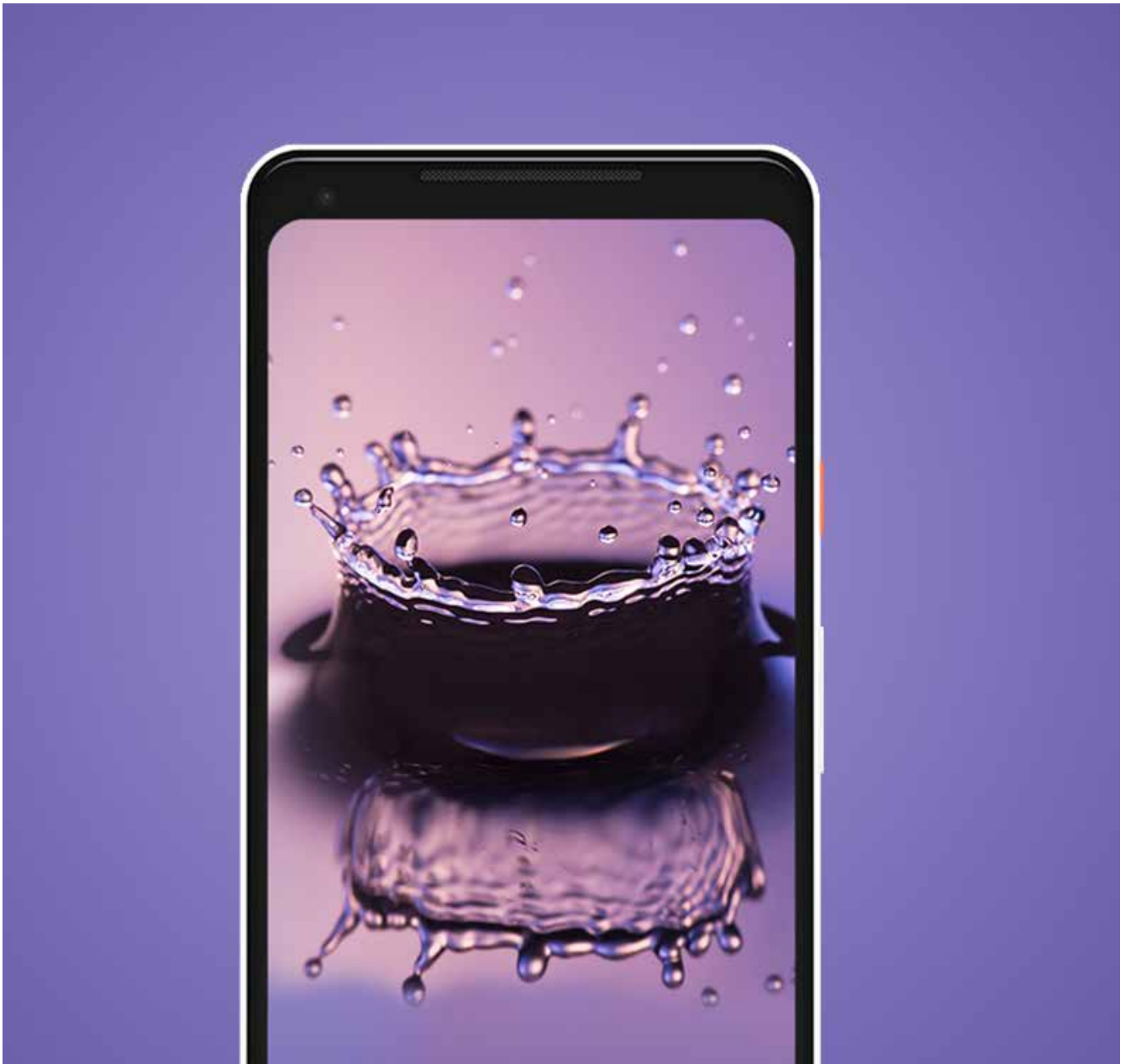
- Limited notifications space
- No wireless charging

Final Verdict

There's a great screen, plenty of power, and a set of capable cameras, all wrapped up in a package that belies its price.

By Usama Anjum

Best SLO-MO Video Apps for Android in 2020



The advancement in technology is making the devices smarter. Those days had passed when people opted dedicated cameras for snapping and rolling separately. In the modern era, there are flagship smartphones of numerous companies that even compete with the DSLRs.

One of the most charming features of a DSLR, which is now available in flagship smartphone camera too, is the ability to record slow-motion videos. Not only the slow-motion videos look amazing, but they also offer an extra layer of creativity. Slow-motion effects can make an ordinary video fun to watch and also provide a completely

distinctive viewing experience. But not everyone can afford a flagship smartphone. But if you still wish to create slow-motion videos, then Android has a solution for you. There are slow-motion video apps for Android that can provide you with the same experience.



Slow Motion Video FX

Slow Motion Video FX is one of the best and finest slow-motion video apps for Android. It has an astounding ten million user base. What feature sets this application apart is the user-interface that assists an average user in creating a slow-motion video. Slow-motion Video FX may not seem to be very fancy with extra buttons on it, but it certainly meets its intended purpose. Though the App is free to download but contains advertisements. If you like the free version of the App then you should also try its 'Pro' version from the in-app purchase.

VLC

Among many other things that VLC does, slow motion playback is one of its most prominent features, and this attribute has been part of VLC for a long time now. You can play all forms of media formats and slow down the videos using a convenient slider. It can support the slow-motion playback of up to 0.25x. And it doesn't end here, if you want to play the video in fast motion, you can do that as well, and it has a limit of 4x. The slow-motion option is located under the 3-dot menu as "Playback speed."

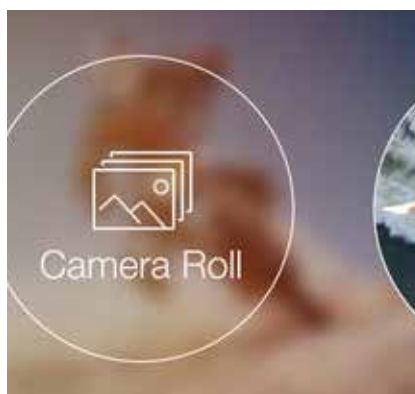


Hudl Technique

Hudl Technique is a dedicated slow-mo app which is also used by athletes and coaches. The App is proven to enhance games by shooting a slow-motion video. It is later used to analyze the technique of an athlete. What aspect makes Hudl Technique one of the finest slow-motion video maker apps for Android is that we can record videos in HD quality or import them from Google Drive or the Dropbox. The App allows you to analyze your video frame by frame and lets you zoom for a closer look. This professional tool will enable you to work on a couple of videos simultaneously to help you compare them. Therefore, if you're searching for a 240 fps camera app Android, it's the best choice.

Slow Motion Camera

Slow Motion Camera is one of my all-time favorite slow motion video apps. It has a modern and well-designed interface and a wide range of exciting features. You can make slow-motion videos either by shooting live or importing a video from the storage. You can rewind and loop videos, which is best for TikTok and Instagram posts. Also, there is a post-processing editor that allows users to crop, trim, rotate, change audio, apply effects, and much more. Unlike many video editors, the videos won't have any watermark, which is excellent for a free version. The only con of this App is that you will sometimes encounter full-screen advertisements.



Video Speed

Video Speed is great because of its simplicity. You will get a simple and intuitive user interface where you can either record slow-motion videos, or convert your existing videos to slow motion. It can decrease the video playback as low as 0.25x, which is quite impressive and can also increase the video playback as much as 4x. Video Speed App is that it's highly connected with social media apps. So you can make slow-motion videos and directly post them on TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, etc. This App supports every media format like MP4, AVI, MKV, MOV, WEBM, and many more.

Androvid

Androvid is very easy to use slow-motion video app for Android. With this Video Editor, you slow down your videos and rewind them to make it look like magic. The App also allows you to trim the videos and convert them into GIFs for sending quickly. AndroVid enables you to use the frame grabber feature that offers you to take a particular frame of the video out of it. With its transcoder, you can convert videos to a wide range of formats like 3GP, AVI, FLV, MPG, MP4, WMV, MOV, and VOB formats.

Videoshop- Video Editor

Videoshop – Video Editor is regarded as one of the best video editing apps available for Android. It lets you crop videos, add music, adjust colors and contrast, make animated titles, record voice-overs, and much more. The most prominent part while using Videoshop is that we can select a part of a clip where we wish to apply the slow-motion effect.



To apply slow motion effects using Videoshop, you can click on the “Speed” button. Now choose that part of the video where you wish to apply the slow-motion effect. After that, you can adjust the speed by using the slider at the top. Once you are happy with your preference, click on the “Done” button at the top-right corner. It might take some time, depending on your video, to process the effect. When the processing is done, we can playback the video and enjoy the slow-motion effect.

Efectum

Efectum is another brilliant slow-motion video maker apps for Android that allows you to edit your videos. Rather than having enormous features, Efectum is handy, and you can become an expert on this tool in a matter of a few minutes. Efectum is a dedicated slow-motion app that can assist you in creating a slow-motion video, or you can make a video faster to play as well. The App allows you to add effects and music to your video.



Coach's Eye

Coach's Eye is a brilliant professional application that helps you improve your skills by assisting you to make slow-motion videos of superior performance. This App has proved to be very helpful for coaches and parents as it offered a platform to examine one's performance keenly. Along with its dedicated service, you receive 2GB of personal space on its free version and 150GB on subscription-based VIP version.



Fast & Slow Motion Video Tool

As the name suggests, the Fast & Slow Motion Video Tool is another best slow-motion app that you can install in your smartphones. It is vital to know that the App would not have an in-built camera app, limiting you from taking live shots. On the contrary, you would find every video of your Gallery as you launch the application. Just choose your favorite video that you want to add slow motion to and get it slowed by up to 0.125 X. So you can say that it's pretty slow. Though the application is free, which comes with some advertisements. However, if you want to get an ad-free version with some more features, you can try its paid version.



PTCL celebrates Independence Day with fervour



Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14, 2020, at its headquarters in Islamabad in a special ceremony organized for the occasion.

Ensuring COVID-19 guidelines, a special flag hoisting ceremony took place at 9:00AM, which was followed by prayers for the prosperity of the nation. Syed Mazhar Hussain, CHRO, PTCL, along with key PTCL officials and employees were present at the occasion to celebrate the Independence Day with full zeal and enthusiasm.

PTCL management and employees, along with CHRO, proceeded for a cake cutting ceremony to mark this auspicious day. All participants ensured proper safety measures and adhered to safety guidelines by wearing masks, using hand sanitizers and keeping adequate social distance for protection.

On the occasion Syed Mazhar Hussain, CHRO, PTCL, said, "We have followed our patriotic tradition to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day with proper safety protocols through the pandemic. PTCL has worked tirelessly to support the people of Pakistan as its frontline workers have been keeping the nation connected during these trying times. For the safety of our employees, we have implemented 'Work from Home' policy where required and ensured that all protocols are in place for both field staff and customers. We celebrate this Independence Day with a renewed hope as we move towards a healthier and prosperous future."

On the eve of Independence Day, PTCL HQ building was decorated with lights and a massive flag covering the tall building.

PTCL also began its journey since the inception of Pakistan and it has always been at the forefront in celebrating all the national events with a passion and fervor. PTCL continues to serve the nation even in times of adversity.



Future Ready Smartphones with 5G Wave





Each generation of mobile technology has introduced faster and more reliable cellular and mobile internet connections. 1G introduced us to voice communication, 2G brought efficient calling and messaging services, 3G got us wireless internet, and 4G made multiple media applications and HD video streaming a reality. For years, there has been a conversation around how the next-gen-5G network will revolutionize the way we use our smartphones and the way we consume and share information. The 5G wave will remodel the smartphone not just to perform but also to learn and think, kickstarting the new era of 'intelligent' phones for every user.

Tracing back the Emergence of 5G

The fifth-generation wireless technology has the potential to bring new apps and features that aren't possible with today's 4G. Your phone's hardware will no more be a significant factor. The applications will run on the massive power of the cloud, enabling a new wave of super apps and faster transfer of data, images, and videos. 5G will enable the phones in your pocket to have a brain of its own automating our day to day functions. Boarding an aircraft and forgetting to switch to airplane mode or entering a meeting with your phone on volume will no longer be a hassle, the "intelligent" phone will automate the processes by syncing in with your day-to-day life. We will be living life in a profoundly potent virtual world where we could be anywhere anytime.



With lightning-fast speed and low latency of barely a millisecond, 5G will make you download a full-length movie in a matter of seconds. With 4G, we welcomed an age of video calls limited to "good" signal strengths however with 5G in our palms, videos will stream seamlessly, with better upload and download speeds. With the advent of 5G, unlimited low-cost data plans will become a reality. 5G will be 10 to x100 faster than our current 4G. The user experience will reach new heights.

According to IDC, Shipments of 5G smartphones will surge to more than 100 million units by the end of 2020 as the coverage of 5G networks grows, and the premium prices of today's handsets come down. IDC sees shipments of 5G-enabled handsets rising sharply to 28% of global phone volumes by the end of 2023. Investment by communications service providers (CSPs) in 5G network infrastructure is expected to reach 21.3% in 2020

Preparing to welcome the new age networking

Pakistan is also gearing up to harness the potential of 5G in the coming years. According to the sources, the country has successfully tested 5G network, and the service is expected to be available by early next year. 5G service in Pakistan will be 100 times faster than the current levels, while the network will be 10 times faster than existing broadband connections available in the country. It will significantly impact Pakistan's economic transformation, social progress, and create new avenues



of entertainment. In the current changing times, telecommunications operators call for a tech and infrastructure upgrade to support the customers' willingness to upgrade. Network and cellular companies are experimenting and performing various lab and field tests to prepare themselves to launch the technology when it is ready.

5G has become a new battleground for various smartphone manufacturers, and it should be affordable, accessible, and compatible with emerging technologies. Foldable smartphones, highly robust infrastructure, automated operation chains are at the growing agenda for the communication providers.

Front Ending the 5G Wave

Various smartphone providers are spearheading the 5G technology R&D and standardization with the 5G research institute centers. Last year we saw, vivo formally launching the research and development of a 5G signaling tester prototype, and accomplished 5G First Call in August. This was an initial key milestone in completing the development of 5G smartphone hardware and software for commercial usage. vivo believes the deep integration of AI and 5G is the way to go for smartphone development in the 5G era. 5G smartphones will become the data center that connects users with the digital world and the service hub that delivers smarter services to improve consumers' lives.



“All Big Things Start With a Great Idea”

Taking a closer look at some of the successful NIC start-ups

Exclusive Interviews





EAST LAW

East Law is an innovating legal research in Pakistan by providing access to largest e-library of Case Laws, Legislation and precedents for educational and research purposes.

With a collection of more than 1 million legal documents and over 10 million digital pages, eastlaw's online e-library is making research quicker, easier and more effective

According to the founder, "Pakistan's legal sector hasn't been proactive in adapting to lawtech. Our aim is to use technology and offer various research services necessary for law students, law firms, legal departments, and universities. With a collection of more than 1 million legal documents and over 10 million digital pages, eastlaw's online e-library is making research quicker, easier and more effective."

1. What exactly East Law does?

Eastlaw.pk provides a platform for legal research. It is an E-Library containing the most extensive databank of legal documents in Pakistan.

2. How did you come up with the idea?

Legal education in Pakistan is going through an academic draught due to a lack of education material availability. Comparative jurisdiction of laws like India, Bangladesh, the UK, etc. have similar, more developed, and advanced research resources for their respective legal communities. This gave us the to create East Law.

3. What was the initial response to East Law?

Response to east law has been great since day 1 of launch. We have received positive feedback from our growing subscribers.

4. How did NIC help you?

NIC helped us with a lot of expert advice in technology and product development. We also received good marketing advice. NIC also assisted in getting us connected with VC's.

5. What have you done that has been very effective in helping to grow the business?

Consistent innovation in product development has been a key to our success as it helped us grow the business.

6. What advice would you give to somebody else who wanted to start a similar business?

Start today, go slow, plan, and visualize the future of your business. You will learn with every passing day the key is to reflect on your learnings.



STASH

Stash is making grocery shopping easy. The startup has created an online platform that gives customers access to nearby grocery stores. The groceries are provided instantly with free delivery service at your doorstep.

According to the founder, "Our vision is to leverage technology and build a bridge between the vendors and customers. We want our customers to be more involved in productive tasks while leaving the mundane and yet essential responsibility of grocery shopping to us."

1. What exactly is Stash?

Stash is making grocery shopping easy, an online grocery platform that gives customers access to nearby grocery stores. The groceries are provided instantly with free delivery service at your doorstep.

2. How do you see the entrepreneur scene in Pakistan?

The scope of entrepreneurship is tremendous in a developing country like Pakistan.

The scope of entrepreneurship is tremendous in a developing country like Pakistan

When such entrepreneurial activities thrive, high growth rates are achieved, and opportunities offered to all of society, especially in such a populated country of 220 Million people where

unemployment is rising day by day. Startups offer benefits through growth and employment. Part of the problem is that most young people coming out of universities prefer searching for a job instead of exploring entrepreneurial career opportunities due to financial pressures. Our Youths is highly educated and achieving specialized skills, we only need to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit among youngsters, and their skills are worthy of it.

3. What initial challenges did you face, and how did you overcome those challenges?

No matter how great your business idea may be, you won't get very far if you don't have the right people to turn your idea into reality. So, our biggest challenge was developing the right product that was overcome by the purpose of recruiting the young graduates after training them, that cost us low. Another one was our Go-to-Market strategy, which is planned by the expert opinions and mentors and is working well.

4. Are you satisfied with the outcomes of your Start-up?

Yes, the outcomes are satisfying. Our majority of customers are first-time grocery buyers and are very satisfied with our service and using it over again and again. This also shows a huge gap and potential in the market. Our plan is to take it further and expand our marketing campaigns and operational area to other cities to capture maximum market share.

5. How did NIC help you?

NIC helped us throughout our Journey. KPI's set by the experts of NIC enabled us to achieve our short-term and long-term goals and provide us with tailored mentorship by industry veterans and domain specialists from across industries. Through one-to-one mentor sessions, tech talks, the facility fosters innovation and allows us to connect with some of the best industry experts.

KPI's set by the experts of NIC enabled us to achieve our short-term and long-term goals and provide us with tailored mentorship by industry veterans and domain specialists from across industries

6. With the current economy in a slump, what cost-saving tips would you have for a new entrepreneur?

There is always a need to identify the unexplored market needs and to identify the existing problems that can be solved. In my opinion, if you are facing a real-time challenge, taking an example of grocery that is being purchased by each class, here the economy factor does not matter because ultimately it will become a need of people. For New Entrepreneurs, I will suggest to start working on the idea with least capital and keep your burning cost as minimum as possible and make maximum use of available resources and start making revenues to grow further.



MERAFUTURE.PK

Built by renowned university professors from prominent Pakistani Universities, psychologists, AI specialists and professionals, Merafuture offers AI Based Career Counselling to students from tenth to twelfth grade.

The website offers an AI Based Multidimensional Career Counselling Test (MCCT), which judge students based on their personality, interest, and strong subject areas

The website offers an AI Based Multidimensional Career Counselling Test (MCCT), which judge students based on their personality, interest, and strong subject areas. Based on their result the AI generates a comprehensive thirty pages Career Assessment Report (CAR) that helps students understand their aptitude and suitable careers. The most important part of the report are suggestions of two most suitable education fields with degree suggestions in Pakistan. Report also tells them which subjects they need to take to pursue a certain degree and what are the possible future career options.

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself and your start-up?

My name is Dr. Zunaira Saqib, and I have been associated with academia for ten years. We set up Merafuture.pk in January 2020. Merafuture is Pakistan's first AI based Career Counselling website for 10-12th class students.

We help students make an informed decision about their undergraduatedegree with aptitude testing. difficulties running the business smoothly; however, we have managed to survive and pulled through a difficult time.

3. How did you come up with the idea?

As an academic, I have increasingly witnessed students either dropping out of their respective degrees in their initial semesters or struggling their way to earn degrees with average grades and ultimately receiving poor jobs in the past one decade. The simple reason is that Pakistani students are not selecting their degrees as per their aptitude. Someone good at Math is automatically considered a right candidate for electrical engineering. Someone enjoying computer games should only be going for computer sciences. Someone with a business background or enjoying accounting should go for a BBA degree. These present a massive problem where we are ending up with more and more university graduates who are unsatisfied with their degrees and eventually become part of a large workforce of demotivated individuals who do not enjoy their professions.

Therefore, we decided to start Merafuture.pk, which offers AI-based aptitude testing to students at the Intermediate level. Our Multidimensional Career Counselling Test helps students understand their personality, interests, and strong subject areas. Based on their results, they are matched with the two most

suitable education fields and degrees in Pakistan. The simple purpose is to help students understand themselves better to make an informed decision about their career.

4. What specific advice would you have for young women who would like to become an entrepreneur for women entrepreneurs? Are there distinct advantages, disadvantages to being a women business owner?

I do not see any disadvantages in today's day and age. Women entrepreneurs have more funding and training opportunities provided by national and international organizations. Apart from that, I have seen many innovative and much-needed solutions that only exist because of women entrepreneurs. They understand the deep-rooted problems women face in developing countries.

I have seen many innovative and much-needed solutions that only exist because of women entrepreneurs. They understand the deep-rooted problems women face in developing countries

5. How helpful was NIC in all this?

We got incubated at the National Incubation Center in February 2020. It has been an incredible journey so far. The NIC team is super talented and always available to extend a helping hand. The atmosphere is very supportive of start-ups and gives them exposure to the ground realities.

6. What advice would you give to young entrepreneurs?

I would urge upcoming entrepreneurs to solve local problems. It is a long and challenging road, but for me, localized solutions coming from our Start-up ecosystem will eventually help change Pakistan for the better.

Samsung Galaxy S20

The Smaller Note the Bigger Winner

Design and display

If you've held a Note phone before, you'll be familiar with the Galaxy Note 20's large size and premium-feeling design. This is a gargantuan device with a 6.7-inch display. Unlike other notes the screen isn't curved at the sides, instead sitting flush with the top edges at the left and right.

The other surprise is that the Galaxy Note 20 display only has a standard 60Hz refresh rate display where a lot of other top-end phones – including all three Galaxy S20 phones and the Note 20 Ultra – have been upgraded to 120Hz. The display has a Full HD resolution, the design of the handset itself feels suitably premium, with metal edges that are flatter than on previous devices.

The back of the phone feels a little like ceramic in your palm, but it's actually a brushed effect over the top of what Samsung calls 'Glasstic'. That means the back of the phone isn't strictly glass – it's Polycarbonate.

You've got three color options for the Galaxy Note 20, with Mystic Bronze being the new experimental flagship color. There's also Mystic Green and a Mystic Grey.

The S Pen stylus is still housed in the phone's body, but it's moved from the right-hand side of the bottom edge to the left side.

The company has improved its S Pen stylus in a number of ways, adding new gestures for interacting with the phone, and improving both the accuracy and the sensitivity of the stylus to make it more useful.

Cameras

The S20 cameras seem to be every bit as impressive as those on the Galaxy S20 and S20 Plus range.

The rear array comprises a 12MP f/1.8 main, 64MP telephoto and 12MP ultra-wide cameras. But the 64MP telephoto's up to 30x zoom for photos worked well and gave similar results to the Galaxy S20's similar shooter.

Then the resolution drops for the main sensor, which is 12MP, as is the separate wide-angle camera with its twice-the-field-of-view perspective onto the world.

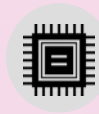


Hardware

Behind the scenes the Note 20 very much delivers on its flagship promise. It comes with the best available chipset for a mid-2020 launch: the Qualcomm SD865 and Exynos, the 990. The 8GB RAM is nothing to shake a stick at either.

Our initial experience with the Note 20 has shown it to be fast and fluid. Loading apps, taking notes, switching between screens and stylus - it's all super smooth here.

The battery capacity, at 4,300mAh, is considerably increased upon over the previous Note 10 model (3,500mAh) - which is a good job, as we just didn't find that phone to last quite long enough based on our original expectations. The fast-charging tech remains the same as the last generation though - it's still 25W - but that should be plenty for most people to not have to tap their feet while waiting for a top-up.



128GB Built-in, 8GB
RAM, UFS 3.0
Octa-core



Non-removable Li-Po
4000 mAh battery



6.2 inches



12MP+64MP+12MP

PKR.172,999/-

Pros

- Strong camera spec
- Improved S Pen
- Powerful and fluid operation

Cons

- Lacks a higher refresh-rate screen (it's 60Hz here)

Final Verdict

If you're looking for some top performance and nearly the best photos in a slightly more affordable handset than the Note 20 Ultra, this could be the Note for you.

By Onsa Mustafa

PTCL Privatization

The Unfinished Business



The Telecom sector is considered to be highly efficient and effective since the 19th century. The industry has gained enormous fame in terms of digitizing the country. By seeing the many benefits in the sector, almost each advanced and emergent state is in the race of Privatization to get more profit. Pakistan has also been involved in Privatization since the 1990s. By the end of 2000, about US\$ 2.0 billion Privatization was made, and nearly half of the involvement was from the telecom sector.

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PTCL has a long history in terms of being privatized. It has gone through many good and bad times during its whole life. By 2005, PTCL was considered as a telecom giant in Asia. The Privatization of PTCL was completed in 2006. At first, three

companies were involved in the bidding, i.e., Etisalat (UAE), China Mobile (China), and Singtel (Singapore). Among them, Etisalat won the bid with a substantial margin. Pakistan's government then sold out 26% shares and managerial control to Etisalat in just US\$2.6 billion. In 1994, 12% of shares were sold to the general public worth more than \$900 million. At the same time, the government retained 62% of its total portion.

Etisalat paid an initial amount of \$1.80 billion, which also included transferring ownership of the

properties of PTCL. The company needs to pay the remaining \$800 million in six twice-yearly installments of \$133 million.

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Over a Decade Long Dispute

More than a decade long deal has not been finalized yet because of not fulfilling the clauses made by both parties. Etisalat has been withholding the payment because Pakistan did not transfer a number of the 3,400 properties destined for PTCL as per the deal terms. The disputed features turned out to be non-negotiable due to ownership difficulties.

Etisalat has been withholding the payment because Pakistan did not transfer 3,400 properties destined for PTCL as per the deal terms



In January 2015, the Pakistani government informed Etisalat about the transfer of 3,214 properties, expecting that the corporate pay the remaining amount after deducting the worth of the nontransferable assets. The dispute is only on 34 properties. However, Etisalat said to cut around \$500 million from the remaining payment.

Pakistan's privatization ministry, in 2018, hinted it might take the matter to the international court of arbitration to recover the dues from Etisalat. To settle a decade-old dispute, Etisalat has now offered \$267 million. The offer is one-third of the entire outstanding dues amounting to \$800 million.

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The government has not made any decision regarding the offer given by the Etisalat. If the Pakistani government accepts the Etisalat offer, the entire value of the privatization transaction will come down from \$2.6 billion to \$2.07 billion. The Dubai-based firm has proposed to chop roughly \$533 million on the properties that Pakistan has not transferred within the name of PTCL for various reasons.



With the profit margin of the PTCL decreasing each year, accepting the deal by Etisalat will drop the value of the company more. Moreover, it will also bring a loss of \$533 million to the government

With the profit margin of the PTCL decreasing each year, accepting the deal by Etisalat will drop the value of the company more. Moreover, it will also bring a loss of \$533 million to the government.

The bright side of the Privatization

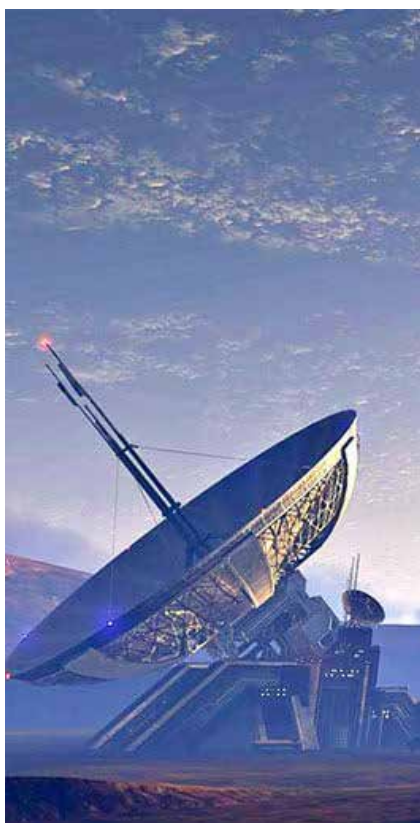
There are many examples in the world where public units have performed enormously well to prove themselves as global firms. Some examples of these companies are Emirates Airlines, Haier, China National OFFSHORE Oil Corporation (CNOOC), Dubai Ports, and Malaya Petronas. These global companies have been evidenced as best companies in terms of customer satisfaction, employee retention, and boosting the country's economy. Remarkably, all these giant companies are state-owned organizations that have made a tough decision to shift ownership from public to private sectors to certify higher performance.

Making a firm private and expanding it globally, opens way for new opportunities and experience. The Privatization of PTCL has put some positive effects on the economy, and the society of Pakistan. The Privatization has opened up the ways for foreign investments. It has made the company more advanced by introducing the new technology and providing a variety of services with ease of provision. Moreover, it also enabled the company to offer competitive rates of services and improved customer services. For quite some time, PTCL has introduced a variety of affordable packages across the land. Because of the low-cost packages, people prefer using PTCL than any other company. PTCL now has more than 1.3 million satisfied customers across Pakistan.

The Privatization has opened up ways for foreign investments. It has made the company more advanced by introducing the new technology and providing a variety of services with ease of provision

Because of the new management, PTCL has partially decentralized its structure for better operations and reduced human resources by replacing it with a more qualified overseas technical workforce who provided the necessary training to local staff to improve their skills. Due to the advanced technology, PTCL has managed to expand its network in 2000 towns and cities of Pakistan.

Although the graph of profitability is getting down each passing year, however, 2018 proved to be a fruitful year for PTCL Group, with an 8% increase in revenue. The company gained profit because of the positive contribution of all the operating companies and a significant increase in the Group's profitability.



One significant benefit of working with the foreign staff is skill enhancement. The local human resource is getting more skilled while using up-to-date technology and getting more experienced while working with trained and professional staff from Etisalat.

The dark side of the Privatization

On the downside, it proved to be disastrous in some areas. Before Privatization, the profit of PTCL after-tax deductions was Rs.26.606 billion in 2005 and Rs. 20.777 billion in 2006. Whereas, after the Privatization of PTCL, the profit dropped to Rs. 15.639 billion in 2007 and reduced to Rs 8.760 billion until 2015.

Before Privatization, the profit of PTCL after-tax deductions was Rs.26.606 billion in 2005 and Rs. 20.777 billion in 2006. Whereas, after the Privatization, the profit dropped to Rs. 15.639 billion in 2007 and reduced to Rs 8.760 billion until 2015



It also brought a loss of national assets because more than 3200 properties of PTCL in prime and commercial locations in all big cities of Pakistan have been given to a private multinational company with full management, equipment, infrastructure, and experienced workforce and installations.

Loss in national value occurred after the Privatization of PTCL. The corporation's profit is now going to personal investors' pockets, which was getting in the national treasury before the Privatization.

The Privatization of PTCL increased unemployment in the country. More than 50,000 employees have lost their jobs after the Privatization of PTCL, rising unemployment, and poverty within the state. Also, the public sector is different from the private sector concerning values and objectives. The objective of the public sector is to provide services to the entire public equally without any discrimination. On the contrary, the private sector's aim is profit expansion. So to impose the private industry to perform as the public sector makes no logic.

The deal has been long done, so there is no point in crying over spilled milk. The government and Etisalat should work this out and devise a policy that should emphasize the positive side of Privatization. In an era of digitization, PTCL can play an essential role in taking the country further in the new era of connectivity and digital enhancement.



We must do more to prevent cybercrimes and make the Internet safe for Pakistanis: Aamir Ibrahim



With an ever-increasing data demand, being processed through mobile devices, computers, networks and the cloud, there is an urgent need for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and tech companies to exchange knowledge and best practices that can benefit the public in the ever-changing technology landscape, as per Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim. He was speaking at a training session at the National Police Academy in Islamabad.

Organized by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for its trainee officers from the Cybercrime Wing, the idea was to provide expert insights about cybersecurity threats that citizens and businesses face online.

The session highlighted the most common threats that people face online, including identity theft, hacking, financial fraud, harassment, defamation, cyber extortion and grey traffic. He mentioned how cyberattacks can disrupt business operations, cause loss of finances, and damage corporate physical and intellectual properties.

According to cyber security company RiskIQ, cybercriminals cost the global economy \$2.9 million every minute last year, a total of \$1.5 trillion. Cybersecurity is a hot topic across the world and a lot needs to be done in terms of training and technological upgradation to keep individuals and businesses secure, especially in Pakistan.

A digital ecosystem that is reliant on the telecom industry, requires that companies like Jazz share their practical experience for improved mutual collaboration with FIA. Building upon this, he mentioned how further analytics capabilities are being added to Jazz's networks in a bid to serve cybercrimes' forensics in the future.

During the session, the role of Jazz was also highlighted in leading industry-wide initiatives to support increased security throughout the entire mobile ecosystem.

Aamir Ibrahim concluded the session by appreciating the FIA cybercrime wing's ongoing programmes in collaboration with industry stakeholders to make the internet safe for all, especially women and children, and raising public awareness to empower societies in the joint fight against cybercrime.



Redmi 9

Great Value for Money

Design & Display

Plastic is fantastic, especially on affordable phones, and the Redmi 9 once again proves that. The textured back of the Redmi 9 feels great in the hand and provides excellent grip when used naked, though I'd still recommend putting a case on. I actually quite like the textured back of the device, which not only helps with the grip, but also adds a certain "cool" factor to the device. What's more, plastic keeps the weight below 200 grams, which is admirable for such a large device with its humongous 5,020mAh battery. Overall, the Redmi 9 is a joy to handle, despite its large dimensions.

There's a traditional fingerprint scanner on the back of the Redmi 9 and it is fast and reliable. The Redmi 9 also comes with two hardware features that remain a signature of Xiaomi's entry-level devices: a 3.5mm audio jack at the bottom and an infrared blaster on top to control your various home appliances.

The display of the Redmi 9 is pretty average, it's an LCD FHD+ display with bleak colors, and low brightness.

Hardware

The MediaTek Helio G8 chipset on board is a power-efficient choice. There's 4GB of RAM and 64GB of native storage as well as a microSD card slot on board, which should generally be enough if you don't shoot tons of video.

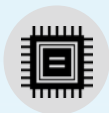
Xiaomi religiously continues to put a 3.5mm audio jack, an IR blaster, and a microSD card slot on its entry-level phones and this proves that it knows its user base really well.

The battery backup, fortunately, is spectacular on the Redmi 9. With the phone's fairly efficient hardware, the large, 5,020mAh battery takes a long while to drain. Charging, however, is pretty slow with the 10W charger.

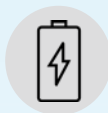


Camera

There are three cameras on the Redmi 9: a 13MP main, an 8MP ultra-wide, a 5MP macro camera, and a 2MP depth sensor. There's an 8MP selfie camera up front, and video quality tops up at 1080p at 30fps. The performance of both front and back cameras is satisfactory especially in proper light conditions.



64GB Built-in,
4GB RAM
Octa-core



(Li-Po Non removable),
5000 mAh
- Fast battery charging
18W



6.95 inches



13MP
+8MP
+5MP
+2MP

PKR.27,500/-

Pros

- Great battery life
- Dual SIM + microSD slot
- Ultra-affordable pricing

Cons

- Weak low-light camera performance

Early Verdict

It is one of the most affordable phones available anywhere right now.

By Usama Anjum

The State of the Internet in Gilgit Baltistan



The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the daily routine of the general public. The disease has forced millions to stay at home and the closure of numerous educational and working institutions.

COVID-19 has forced millions to stay at home and the closure of numerous educational and working institutions

Unfortunately, some working places

have been completely shut down, and others have urged their employees to 'work from home.' Simultaneously, the students have also been asked to take 'online classes.' Therefore, a good internet connection can be regarded as a linchpin to bore success in these new ways.

However, things are, on the contrary, for many. The people residing in urban centers do enjoy fast internet connectivity and face no issue in working online. But people of remote areas in Pakistan are facing a hard time

finding a good and reliable internet connection. One of these regions is Gilgit Baltistan, which is facing severe internet problems.

The people residing in urban centers enjoy fast internet connectivity and face no issue in working online. But people of remote areas in Pakistan are facing a hard time finding a good and reliable internet connection

Internet situation prevailing in Gilgit Baltistan (GB)

Gilgit Baltistan is present in the north of Pakistan, with a population of nearly 1.2 million people. So, it can't be considered as a small village. It's a vast territory with a large working and student population. Many of them are studying and working in major cities like Islamabad, Lahore, etc. The pandemic has forced them to stay at home and work online. However, since the lockdown, the public of GB faces internet problems, which include unreliable connections, very slow internet speeds, expensive rates, and total disability of the internet after short intervals. This situation has affected many sectors, but the student community is at the top of the list. There are thousands of students who cannot take online classes because of the weak internet connection.

Gilgit Baltistan is present in the north of Pakistan, with a population of nearly 1.2 million people. So, it can't be considered as a small village



Similarly, the same situation prevails in remote villages of Ghanche, Ghizer, etc. where students and the working community are unable to do any work because of poor internet connectivity. The future of these individuals, particularly the students, is at stake. The government must immediately respond to tackle this issue and ensure a permanent, reliable internet connection for the region of GB.

Protests were demonstrated as a 'Backlash'

The people of GB strived hard in a peaceful manner to deliver their complaints to the government and expected a response. But unfortunately, the government did nothing. Therefore, the sentiments of people were hurt, and they decided to organize a 'sit-in'. Many students studying in numerous educational institutions across the country held a protest outside the Hunza Press Club against the online classes and poor internet connectivity in their respective areas.



The protesting students declared a boycott of online classes until the provision of reliable internet services in the region. The Karakoram Highway (KKH) was blocked during the sit-in. The protesters told that thousands of GB students had been urging for better Internet connectivity in the region for the last month to avail online classes, but no one listened to their grievances. They further said that the HEC's policy of launching online classes had been troublesome for the GB students as most parts of the region had no or inadequate Internet facility.

According to the protesters, the internet service provided by the Special Communication Organization (SCO) was poor.

The protesters pointed out that far-flung areas of the region had no Internet connectivity at all as the private telecom companies were not allowed to offer 4G service

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Internet Service Provider of GB and its 'Monopoly'

In Gilgit-Baltistan, internet service is provided by the Special Communication Organisation (SCO). It is a public sector organisation operating under the Ministry of IT and controlled by the Pak army. The SCO was initiated in 1976 to develop, operate, and maintain telecom services in the region of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. They did a great job by laying out the 2500-kilometer optic fibre cable network in the mountainous landscape of Gilgit-Baltistan, but now the things aren't as were expected.

The internet was introduced in GB in early 2000, and at that time, there were consumer-friendly packages from SCO. As a result, Comsats, the only

other ISP, was shut down. Due to the exit of Comsats, the SCO remained the sole ISP, which monopolized the market of Gilgit-Baltistan.

SCO did a great job by laying out the 2500-kilometer optic fibre cable network in the mountainous landscape of Gilgit-Baltistan, but now the things aren't as were expected

The lack of competition had some adverse results. And 'quality' became its first casualty. Since then, SCO has failed to provide reliable internet service in GB.

Optimism: If there was excellent Internet Service in GB?

An array of favorable things could have taken place if there was an excellent internet service in GB. In a contemporary situation, a reliable internet service would have allowed the students to take online classes at ease, and HEC would have been less criticized for its online policy. Consequently, the efficacy of the norm 'Work from home' would have been much higher.



Apart from that, as we all know, the region of GB is one of the most beautiful places on earth with one of the largest mountain ranges in the world. It has an excellent affinity for tourism. A good internet connection in enchanting far-flung areas like Skardu, Ghizer, etc., could have better portrayed the beautiful and scintillating image of Pakistan to the outside world and could have attracted thousands of tourists from across the globe. Even Pakistani citizens themselves are not aware of many heavenly places located in GB. Therefore, a good internet connection could have helped improve the tourism industry of Pakistan and would have created several opportunities for freelancing, entertainment, and education for the people in those regions that the rest of the country is enjoying.

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Recommendations for the Government

According to my analysis, I have some suggestions to improve the state of the internet in GB. They are as follows

- The government must provide incentives for private telecom operators like Nayatel, Fiberlink, etc., to initiate their services in GB as market competition will lead to better services.
- As the landscape is rough and mountainous and the transmission lines are decades old. So, the government must change these transmission lines using the National Fund. It can improve internet service in GB.
- Last but not least, as GB shares a border with a Chinese province, we all know that China is a tech-giant. Therefore, our government can negotiate with Chinese authorities and companies to regulate internet service in GB as a private body.





Realme launches X3 SuperZoom in Pakistan



As the name suggests, the main selling point of the X3 SuperZoom is its 8MP optically stabilized periscope module, which offers 5x optical zoom and up to 60x hybrid reach. There's also an 8MP ultrawide and 64MP primary shooter a 2MP macro cam, making for a diversified set of shooters for any occasion. The moniker is inspired by the phone's telephoto camera, and it's the five times zoom periscope lens setting it apart from all other realmes – the few of which have a tele-cam at all, stick to a standard 2x unit. A standout feature warrants a standout moniker then. The periscope makes the phone unique in the realme roster.

The X3 SuperZoom has six cameras, two at the front, and a quad-camera array at the back. The front cameras are 32MP f/2.5 wide-angle (80.4°) and 8MP f/2.2 ultra-wide-angle (105°). It might sound like overkill to have dual front cameras, but the ultra-wide angle option is pretty useful for group shots, or when you want to frame one or more people against a backdrop. The quad-camera array at the back is as follows: 64MP f/1.8 wide-angle (78.6°); 8MP f/2.3 ultra-wide-angle (119°); 2MP f/2.4 macro (4cm focus distance); and 8MP f/3.4 periscope telephoto (5x optical zoom).

The 64MP Samsung GW1 sensor bins down to 16MP images and does an admirable job as the primary shooter. Daytime photos are very even-handed with no crazy saturation or severe HDR effects. The dynamic range is excellent, and details are great at both 1x and 2x. 64MP mode is also available for when you want even more detail in good lighting.

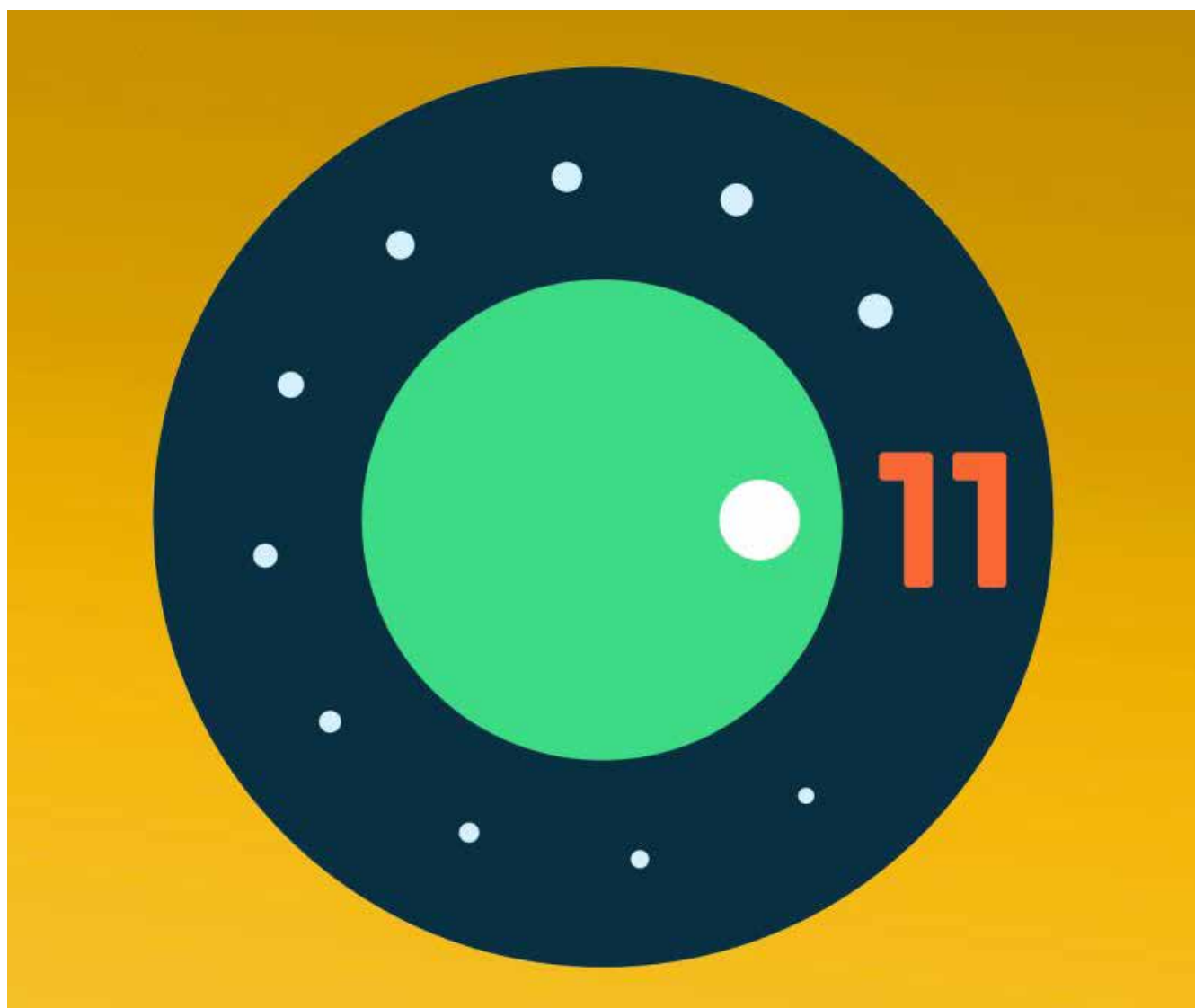
realme's camera app has zoom options for 0.5x, 1x, 2x, 5x, and 10x with the ability to digitally zoom up to 60x. With a dedicated lens for 0.5x, 1x, and 5x, those are naturally where you get the best results. The realme X3 SuperZoom camera also comes with a whole host of night modes. There are regular night mode and tripod mode for 50-second exposures for capturing light trails and the like. Starry Mode beefs up your astrophotography —. There's also AI-assisted super- and ultra-night modes.

What this all means is that you have several manual and automatic low-light options for better photos. You're going to need these modes if you want a good low-light shot.

X3 SuperZoom proved to be competitive. All you need to look for is a good primary sensor and optical zoom. With high specs, sheets, and 60x SuperZooming is a competent smartphone for your money.

Android 11

Everything We Know So Far



Last year's Android 10 update marked a big shift for the operating system. We saw a more matured operating system with some important changes and better features. Also, Google made a departure from dessert names accompanying a new logo and brand. We still have few months before the official launch of Android 11 but with a developer preview now out in the wild, we have a good idea of where Google wants to take Android in 2020.

Here's everything you need to know about the new Android 11 OS!

Distinct chat notifications

Messages sit separately from other notifications in Android 11's notification shade, with rich features that enable replies, reminders and the ability to set shortcuts to threads on your lock screen. This should help distinguish between chat notifications and ones from your other apps.

Chat bubbles

We had been expecting Chat Bubbles to launch with Android 10, but that didn't happen, and the feature is now coming in Android 11.

By long-pressing a message notification, you'll be able to open the conversation in a miniature floating bubble that will be overlaid on top of everything else on your screen, in a similar manner to Facebook Messenger's floating heads.

You'll be able to move chat bubbles around too.

Easier Controls

One really nice new Android 11 feature is the new Controls panel hidden behind the lock button. Not only will this bring you quick access to your Google Pay cards, but it'll also bring smart home controls directly to the front without forcing you into the Home app to change the brightness of your lights.

Dark mode scheduling

Android 10 introduced a system-wide Dark Mode, but if you don't want to have it enabled all the time, Android 11 may allow you to set Dark Mode to switch on and off automatically at specific times of the day. For instance, it could turn on automatically at sunset, and disable itself at sunrise.

Screen recording

Android 11 could finally allow you to easily record what's on your screen too. The feature will be accessible in the Quick Settings menu, and once you've started a recording you'll see options to pause, stop, cancel and Chromecast the recording. It seems this feature is available in the first public beta, however it was ditched late in the process last time around.



Call recording

Conversely, new information suggests that call recording will not be allowed, despite being accessible in some early beta versions of Android 11.

Call recording has been a feature requested by lots of Android users. However, there are a lot of concerns around safety and privacy that arise if call recording is included in the operating system.

Updated quick settings

A small tweak this: your music controls have shifted from the notification panel to the quick settings bar.

Privacy

There has been a lot of tweaks surrounding privacy in Android 11. For instance, you can now give apps one-time permission to use the mic or camera and permissions will auto-reset if you haven't used the app for an extended period of time. Apps will also need to get permission to access background data, however this won't be enforced until 2021.



New APIs

There are two important API additions coming to Android 11. The first is the 5G state API, which will make it possible for Android to see if a user is currently on a 5G network. This API will make it such that developers can activate certain experiences available to the platform when on the faster, next-gen network.

Another new API is focused on foldable devices. With this, the API can read data from a hinge-angle sensor such that apps will be able to adapt to the angle of the device hinge. Other APIs include those for screening robocalls and variable refresh rates.

It's already August and the official Android 11 release is coming very soon! Let's just wait a little longer to see how the Android 11 will actually look like.



TECH TWIST



The first email

The first email that was ever sent was by Ray Tomlinson to himself. Ray Tomlinson was the inventor of the email program on the ARPANET system. He received the email on a computer that was right next to him.

1



Mobile Internet

The Nokia 9000 Communicator was the first phone with Internet enabled and launched in Finland in 1996. At this time however, the viability of using the Internet was limited because of very expensive prices charged by operators.

2



The first e-commerce site

It is highly debatable if Amazon was indeed the first e-commerce site. Online retailer NetMarket claims it completed the first secure retail transaction on the Internet. This was on August 11, 1994.

3



Search Engine Madness

Google share of worldwide desktop and laptop searches in 2019 was 75.74%. Bing and Baidu are the second and third most popular search engines. Yet, their market share is 9.41% and 9.34% respectively.

4



Online casinos and gambling

The first online gambling software was created in 1994 by Microgaming. And the first real money wager took place way back in an online casino in 1996.

5

Jeff Weiner

The Amazing Roller-Coaster Career of Linked-in CEO

Prior to becoming executive chairman in June 2020, Jeff was the CEO of LinkedIn, the world's largest and most powerful network of professionals. Weiner joined the company in December 2008, and under his leadership, LinkedIn has grown from 338 to over 12,000 employees in 30 offices around the world, grown its membership base from 33 million to more than 560 million members, and increased its revenue from \$78 million to more than \$5 billion.



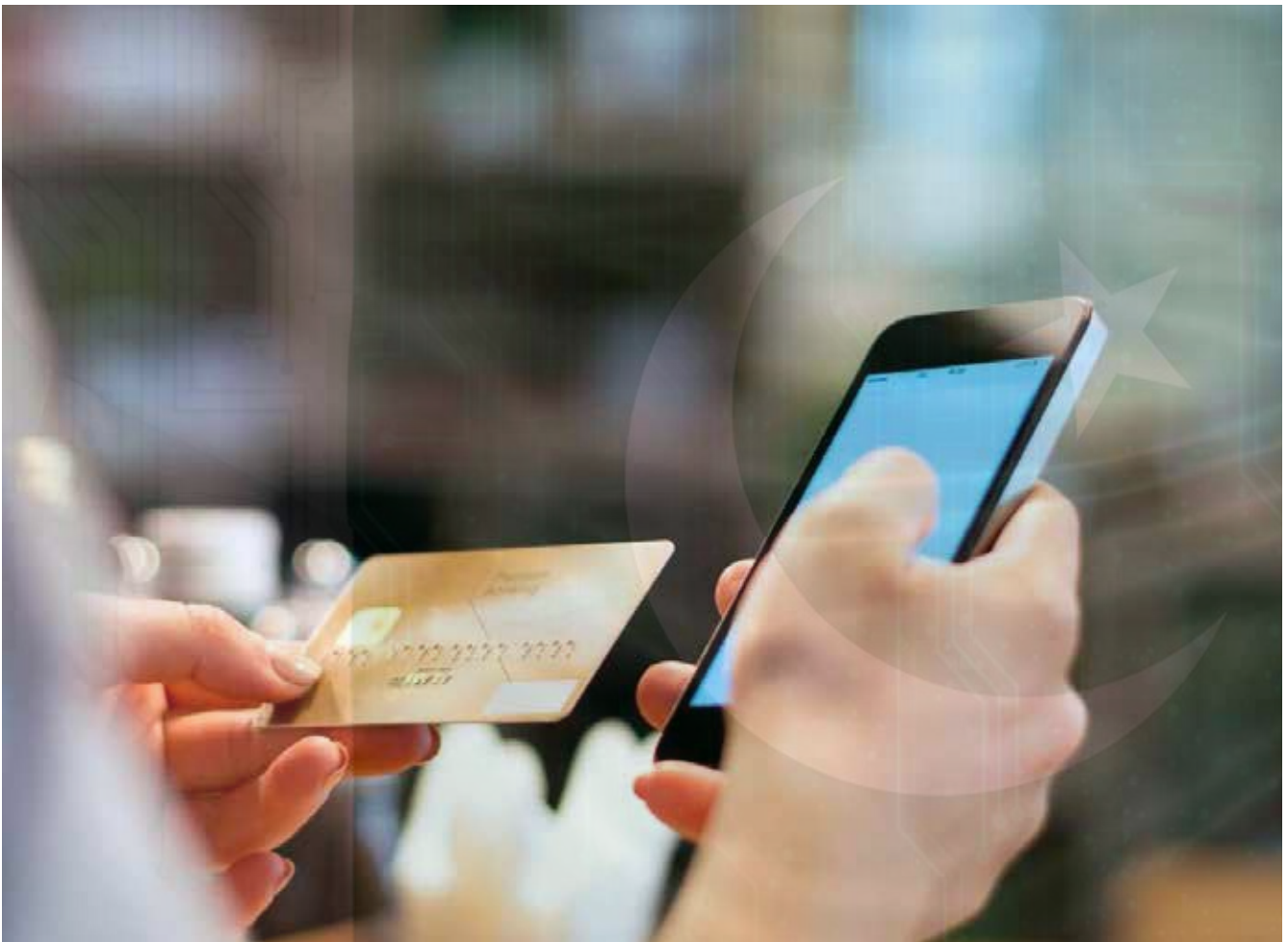
Before LinkedIn, Weiner was an executive in residence at Accel Partners and Greylock Partners, where he advised the firms' consumer technology portfolio companies and evaluated new investment opportunities. Previously, Weiner served as executive vice president of Yahoo!'s Network Division, a business that generated \$3 billion in annual revenue with more than 3,000 employees, and was responsible for many of the company's consumer-facing products. Prior to joining Yahoo! in 2001, Weiner spent more than six years at Warner Bros., where he helped oversee the company's online efforts and developed the initial business plan for Warner Bros. Online in 1994.

Weiner also serves on the board of directors for Intuit Inc., DonorsChoose.org, and Everfi, where he is co-developing a program to help ensure compassion is taught in every primary school in the U.S. He also sits on the board of trustees for The Paley Center for Media.

He holds a BS in economics from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

By Fizza Atique

The need to accelerate the digital payment ecosystem in Pakistan



Digital payments have transformed the way businesses receive payments and also the way consumers make payments. Be it online money transfer, paying utility bills, or having a personal mobile wallet to save money, digital payment gateways have the potential to usher the country into an era of efficient cashless economy.

Although the advantages of digital payments are widespread, Pakistan has remained slow in adopting this new technological intervention.

Since 30 % of Pakistan's population remains uneducated, and 63% reside in rural areas, the adoption of digital platforms is slower compared to other developed economies

Since 30 % of Pakistan's population remains uneducated, and 63% reside in rural areas, the adoption of digital platforms is slower compared to other

developed economies. Another biggest hurdle in the adoption of digital payments has remained gender and area gap in mobile phone ownership. Only 75% of the population in Pakistan owns a mobile phone. It means 25% of the population cannot even access these digital payment platforms for not having gadgets. Moreover, people who have mobile phones and internet facilities are not comfortable with the adoption of digital wallets as they believe cash is a more reliable way to spend money. According to World Bank Country Director for Pakistan



Patchamuthu Illangovan, an average Pakistani citizen performs just one digital transaction each year.

Let's accept that digital payments are the best way to document Pakistan's undocumented economy. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of mobile wallets has emerged as even more reliable. We, as a nation, have finally realized how much it is essential to have such virtual ways of sending and receiving money when we couldn't go out due to the lockdown imposed by the government. The coronavirus crisis impacted SMEs in the worst way as they were not ready to welcome the new normal virtual way of working. In such circumstances, many SMEs have to opt for loans from banks, but since most of them were undocumented, banks couldn't help them even after the State Bank of Pakistan gave relief to SMEs when it comes to gathering loans from Banks. By using Digital Payment platforms, such small businesses could come under the formal economy and formally documented.



Moreover, with the global health pandemic striking in, countries worldwide, including Pakistan, have witnessed a sudden shift towards digital payments. The main reason behind it was the fear of contracting the coronavirus by using cash payments. Another reason was avoiding going out of homes to carry on regular chores. People started doing online shopping because all major retail and e-commerce outlets also reported a significant rise from March 2020 onwards.

The government is trying its level best to accelerate the digital payments ecosystem in Pakistan. In its annual budget, the Punjab government announced a reduced GST on payments made via digital platforms. Now only 5% GST will be charged on payments made from credit and debit cards at restaurants across the province, whereas on cash transactions, GST remains 16%.



In its annual budget, the Punjab government announced a reduced GST on payments made via digital platforms. Now only 5% GST will be charged on payments made from credit and debit cards at restaurants across the province

The government of Pakistan has recently launched the Digital Pakistan Initiative to digitize the core functions of the government to establish a stabilized national economy. Under the digital Pakistan initiative, the government seeks to provide access, connectivity, digital infrastructure implementations, digital skills, e-government, and literacy.

Digital payments - more than just a trend

To reduce the need to visit bank branches or ATMs and promote the use of Digital Payment Services, SBP has waived all charges to fund transfers through online banking channels. The financial industry is also instructed to facilitate education fees and loan repayments through internet banking or mobile devices.

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Other than that, the State Bank of Pakistan has also launched its national payment systems strategy, introducing a new digital-focused framework to encourage non-cash channels for payments in Pakistan.

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However, this is high time government and financial institutions collectively work on a more robust policy response that not only helps people during the COVID-19 crises but also greases the wheels of the country to increase digital payments, which will contribute to the economic welfare. Currently, only 21% of the total population has bank accounts in Pakistan. By shifting to these digital payment platforms, it will be easier for the government to document the economy.



Moreover, the digital payment platforms should be made more user-friendly so that most of Pakistan's population would be able to use it. An awareness campaign should be run on different social media platforms and TV channels, revealing the ease these platforms have provided to the common man. Through these measures, one can change people's mindset who do not want to rely on such payment platforms.

According to McKinsey Consulting, Pakistan's digital financial market potential is \$36 billion. Increasing use of digital payments can increase the GDP of Pakistan by 7%, resulting in four million new jobs in the process and bringing more than \$250 billion worth of deposits into circulation. There is a dire need to rethink on the policy to increase digital payments. Though the government has taken tremendous steps in the past and during COVID19, we need a more aggressive approach like many other developing countries.



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Around the world, COVID-19 has proven to be an accelerator to boost digital solutions, especially in the payments arena. It is the best time to ensure that millions without access to formal banking are enabled via digital payment solutions. Without the state's intervention, the unbanked population will miss out on the crucial opportunity and miss the benefits of those who are part of the formal financial sector.



Desi STARTUP

Bykea

Your everyday, everything Super App

An on-demand transport and logistics startup, Bykea was founded in 2016 by Muneeb Maayr of the Daraz.pk fame. It is an all in one app for transportation, delivery and payment services in Pakistan. Currently, it's the hottest startup in Pakistan given the recent Careem exit and excitement around last-mile delivery startups.

Bykea, a three-year-old ride-hailing and delivery service, today has more than 500,000 bikes registered on its platform. It operates in some of Pakistan's most populated cities, such as Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

In 2019, Bykea raised \$5.7 million in series A funding from local and international institutions. Bykea has expanded its service portfolio from just a delivery service to fulfilling all customers' needs. It allow users to book bike rides, send and receive money or pay bills, move packages domestically and internationally, Bykea Mart to shop daily essentials and, Bykea Classifieds for online buying and selling platform.

Donate a Ration Delivery



Realme C11

Great Value for Money

Design

realme has adopted a new design language on the realme C11 smartphone and calls it 'Geometric Art Design'. For starters, the vertical camera alignment is replaced by a square-shaped module that houses the dual cameras. The huge camera bump is gone now and the square-shaped camera module is kind of recessed on the back. Further, a vertical strip runs through the back and this is where the realme brand logo is present. The back panel has a textured finish to it which offers a good grip. On the whole, the design change is a welcome move and is definitely refreshing.

Moving on, the button placements have been altered as well. Now, the volume rockers and the power button are present to the right edge of the smartphone and the Dual SIM + microSD tray is present to the left edge. The bottom houses the 3.5mm audio jack, primary microphone, micro USB port, and a speaker grille. The top part is left clean and there is no fingerprint scanner on this as well.

Display

realme C11 sports a 6.52-inch (1600 x 720 pixels) HD+ 20:9 mini-drop display with Corning Gorilla Glass 3+ protection, 269 dpi, and an 88.7% screen-to-body ratio. It has a mini-drop notch at the top with narrow bezels on the sides and thick chin. The display quality is quite good with vivid colors and good viewing angles.

Performance and battery life

Under the hood, the Realme C11 has an 8-core MediaTek Helio G35 processor which is a step down from the Helio G70 inside the Realme C3. It has only 2GB of RAM and 32GB of on-board storage. There is also a dedicated micro-SD card slot.

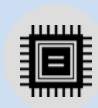
That Helio G35 is also said to deliver "superb" power efficiency and it does. Like the Realme C3, the Realme C11 also has a gigantic 5,000mAh battery and will easily last one and a half (to even two) days with a combination of heavy and moderate usage. The phone supports 10W standard charging and charges via micro-USB.



Camera

For photography, the Realme C11 comes with dual rear cameras, consisting of a 13MP main and another 2MP depth camera. On the front, the phone has a 5MP camera. The quality of photos is quite good for the price especially in ideal lighting. Indoor photos are serviceable. Low light photos are disappointing which is again typical for a phone in this price range.

Video is recorded at 1080p by default. It's not too bad, but colors are definitely not very vibrant and details are just average.



**32GB Built-in,
2GB RAM
Octa-core**



**(Li-Po Non
removable), 5000
mAh**



6.5 inches



13MP +2MP

PKR.16,999/-

Pros

- Beautiful design
- Excellent battery life

Cons

- 2GB RAM
- Truckload of unwanted apps

Verdict

The Realme C11 is an entry-level phone that gets the job done and also looks good.

SMART MOVES for Smarter Nation

Pak Neghayban

“Pak Neghayban” is a government mobile application aiming to restrict the damage during the emergency situations and collect details about corona patients amid COVID-19 Pandemic. It is a joint collaboration of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) and the National Information Technology Board (NITB).

The app is developed for two types of users: Citizens and Health Officers. Citizens can easily view availability of beds and ventilators in Covid-19 facilitation provided defined hospitals and laboratories all over Pakistan. Health inspectors have access to login into the app and supplement Covid-19 patient.



Baytee

The federal government has taken a great initiative to improve the wellbeing and skills of Pakistani women. Baytee App is the project of the Ministry of Information Technology and developed by the tech-savvy women developers and designers of the National Information Technology Board (NITB) for expediting the nation's development.

Baytee mobile app is designed, developed, and maintained by passionate Pakistani female professionals to empower business-oriented and domestic women. Baytee app offers women one-click information on Health services and hospitals, nearest woman police station and hostels, nearby job and training opportunities, schools and scholarships for women, laws and regulations regarding women rights, Platform for entrepreneurs and other public services for citizens of Pakistan.



City Islamabad

City Islamabad App is the government service provider smart app exclusively for the citizens of Islamabad. It is an innovative platform offering a number of public services of ICT Administration and its attached departments. At present, online services offered by this app include Domicile Certificate, International Driving Permit, Token Tax Payment and Vehicle Registration. Moreover, citizens can also verify/check the authenticity of Domicile, Arms License, International Driving Permit, and Vehicle details using this app.

Besides, citizens can also seek appointments from this app before visiting any of our officers or availing any of the services offered by ICT Administration or its attached departments. Dedicated sections for city-wide events approved by the District Magistrate, ICT. Users can also find City Guide in City Islamabad App for availing local citizen services for hospitals, hotels and emergency numbers, etc.



How To!

Clean a Laptop



Here's how to clean your keyboard

- Turn off the laptop and disconnect the battery.
- Open the laptop.
- Turn the laptop upside down and gently tap it to get rid of any loose crumbs.
- Spray some canned air on the keyboard. This will loosen some of the gunk that's stuck in between the keys.
- Put the laptop on a flat surface and vacuum the keyboard with a small brush attachment.
- Dampen some cotton swabs with rubbing alcohol, and wipe them over and in between the keys (if possible). Make sure the swabs are just damp, and not wet.
- Apply some CyberClean to the keyboard, following the instructions on the package. You can purchase Cyberclean at your local office supply store.

Here's how to clean your LCD screen

- Spray your screen with canned air to remove any surface dust.
- Make a solution of equal parts white vinegar and distilled water.
- Spray the vinegar solution on a soft rag, and gently wipe the screen.

You can keep your screen clean by periodically wiping it with a microfiber cloth designed specifically for computers. These cloths are available at computer and office supply stores. Always check your laptop's manual before using any cleaning products on your LCD screen.

Don't forget to clean your external mouse, if you have one. This is the easiest part of your laptop to clean. Simply spray your rag with some of your vinegar solution and wipe off your mouse. Don't forget to turn your mouse over, and wipe down the bottom, as well.

TELECOM CAMPAIGNS

Telenor-More se Ziyada Pakistani

Telenor released such an inspiring ad on this Independence Day. The performers did so well and dialogues written for the ad were mind blowing. While watching the new ad, I felt so motivated. Overall, a great advert with a beautiful feel.

Verdict: Good Job Telenor



Jazz 4G



Jazz 4G new ad featuring ESRA Bilgic comes with such a different and nice concept. In the ad, it has been highlighted how different people are living in the different state of lives. Some are struggling to achieve the goals while some are living their lives with a fullest, everyone having their energy. Personally, I like the ad as I can see the classy touch in it.

Verdict: Nice Ad!

Easypaisa-Tribute to Cricket Fans

The new ad of Telenor easypaisa adding up the flavors of different cultures of Pakistan and highlights how we all are living united in this sacred land. We all are from different backgrounds and religion but when it comes to the sports, every Pakistani prefers cricket over other sports. Actually, in this ad, Telenor wants to pay tribute to all cricket fans of Pakistan.

Verdict: Nice Ad!





Ufone

Ufone has come up with a soul-stirring commercial for Independence Day. Ufone's adverts are thought-provoking and very well produced, but this one gave me goosebumps. The ad is an apt reminder for us all that this Independence day is a gift from these heroes to the country, who are continuously playing a major role in putting smiles across the nation and without whom this celebration wouldn't have been so joyful.

Verdict: Zabardast



Qmobile View Max Pro

Qmobile has featured Esra Bilgic as the brand ambassador of QMobile view Max pro series. The advert is fine however a little overrated as Turkish star has worked in it. The overall music, acting, and production of the advert is also excellent.

Advert: Nice Ad

Redmi 9C

Xiaomi has come up with a fantastic advert with tagline 9C Na Hota Tou Kya Hota. The advert is humorous and showcases all the features amazingly. The music and the actors have done justice to the advert.

Verdict: Keep it up



CELL PHONE RECYCLING

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR PHONE WHEN YOU RECYCLE IT AND HOW IT HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT



WHY SHOULD I RECYCLE MY PHONE?

Cell phones contain harmful toxins including lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, chlorine and bromine. If they end up in landfill these toxins can damage the environment. Recycling your phone helps the environment by extending its lifecycle and keeping it out of landfill. You can also get cash for your old phone so it's win-win!

YOUR PHONE'S RECYCLING JOURNEY

See below for what happens to your phone as it starts its new life once you recycle it through SellCell



TESTING & PAYMENT

Select the company you want to recycle your phone to and then ship it to them. Once received it will get extensively tested to discover any faults and assess its condition. If it is in the condition you stated you will get paid the full amount. If it is in a worse condition you will get a revised offer which you can either accept or have the device returned to you

REPAIR & REFURBISH

If your phone has faults or damage it will then go through a repair & refurbishment process. This generally consists of either:

- Fixing the faults and leaving the cosmetic condition as it is
- Fully refurbishing the device back to 'Like New' condition





GRADING

Each device is then graded by condition so that it can be easily resold. Typical grades for mobile phones range from 'New' to 'Broken / Non Working'

A NEW LIFE FOR YOUR PHONE

After the above steps your phone will then be resold on to a new owner. As the prices of the latest phones continues to go up there are many consumers that choose to buy a Pre-owned or Refurbished Phone instead. This has created a huge global demand for used phones. By recycling your phone it extends the lifecycle of the device and keeps it out of landfill. Plus it helps others who want to buy pre-owned phones



WHERE DOES YOUR PHONE END UP?

Of the cell phones recycled in the US through SellCell approximately 90% get resold to new owners domestically in the US and about 10% get exported internationally to other countries where there is a big demand for pre-owned phones such as China, South America, India and Africa

PHONE LIFECYCLE - 4.5 LIVES OVER 9 YEARS!

Our research shows that on average a phone recycled through SellCell gets resold 4.5 times and its lifecycle spans an incredible 9 years before it finally reaches the end of its useful life! With Americans on average keeping their phone for 23 months before changing this extends its lifecycle by almost 5 times. In this way Cell Phone Recycling is genuinely helping the environment



END OF THE LINE

Phones generally can continue working even longer than 9 years but there comes a time when a phone is so old that there is no longer any resale demand. At this point it is dismantled and the materials inside are recycled.

The average phone actually contains small amounts of precious materials such as gold, silver, palladium, platinum, copper, aluminium, zinc, graphite and cobalt. There is also the glass and plastic which can be recycled. Some of these materials are becoming increasingly hard to extract so by recycling old phones it helps reduce the need to mine for new materials and the environmental impact associated

Top Applications and Games for your Smartphone



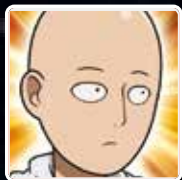
Google Lens

Lets you search what you see, get things done faster, and understand the world around you—using just your camera or a photo.



LastPass Password Manager

Is a password manager and password generator that locks your passwords and personal information in a secure vault.



One-Punch Man: Road to Hero 2.0

This is an emergency announcement! The disaster level is... UNPRECEDENTED.

Don't even think about running and hiding! Collect popular heroes, powerful monsters, and fight your way through the Dark Matter Thieves Arc and beyond!



Penguin Isle

Raise your Penguin Isle. Collect a variety of penguins by creating each their own habitat.

Cute and adorable penguins are waiting for you.

Enjoy the waves with relaxing music.



Pokémon Café Mix

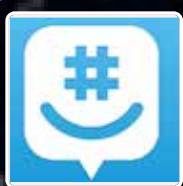
Is a unique puzzle game where the player is now the owner of a café that serves delicious treats to Pokémon.

Complete puzzles by linking together Pokémon icons to prepare drinks and dishes for your Pokémon customers as they have a wonderful time at the café!



Google

Keeps you in the know about things that matter to you. Find quick answers, explore your interests, and stay up to date with Discover. The more you use the Google app, the better it gets.



GroupMe

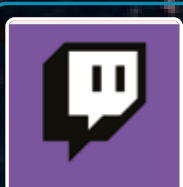
A Home for All the Groups in Your Life.
Family. Roommates. Friends. Coworkers. Teams. Vacations. Greek Life. Bands. Faith Groups. Events.
“Lifechanger.... utterly indispensable”



Marco Polo - Stay In Touch

Combines the best of texting, social media and video chats - all in one private, easy to use app.

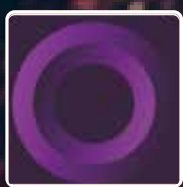
It's different from typical social media apps because Marco Polo is real, trusted and built to be good for you. Unlike many apps, Marco Polo does not sell user data for advertising. Marco Polo isn't about likes or social comparisons. This is an app that parents actually want their family to use.



Twitch: Live Game Streaming

Experience the games you love like never before! Watch live streams and chat with devoted gamers around the world.

Catch the action as it happens! Access all the content you care about, from frenetic Overwatch multiplayer matches to soothing Bob Ross art demos. With millions of unique streamers every day playing everything under the sun, if it's worth watching, it's live on Twitch right now.



Onion Browser

Onion Browser is the original free and open-source Tor-powered web browser for iOS. Onion Browser helps you access the internet with more safety and privacy, and no extra cost to you.



Vivo V19

Display: 6.44 inches
Memory: 128/256GB Built-in,
8GB RAM
Camera: 48MP+8MP+2MP+2MP



Vivo Y30

Display: 6.47 inches
Memory: 64GB Built-in, 4GB RAM
Camera: 13MP+8MP+2MP+2MP

**An Online Store with
Official Warranty**
[www. phoneexpress.pk](http://www.phoneexpress.pk)



**Samsung Galaxy
Note20 Ultra**

Display: 6.9 inches
Memory: 256GB 8GB RAM,
512GB 8GB RAM, UFS 3.0
Camera: 108MP+12MP+12MP



Realme C12

Display: 6.5 inches
Memory: 32GB 3GB RAM
Camera: 13MP+2MP+2MP



Xiaomi Mi Note 10 Lite

Display: 6.47 inches

Memory: 64GB 6GB RAM, 128GB

6GB RAM, 128GB 8GB RAM

Camera: 64MP+8MP+2MP+5MP



Infinix Note 7 6GB

Display: 6.95 inches

Memory: 128GB Built-in, 6GB RAM

Camera: 48MP+2MP+2MP+
low light video camera



Xiaomi Redmi 9C

Display: 6.53 inches

Memory: 32GB 2GB RAM,

64GB 3GB RAM

Camera: 13MP+2MP+2MP



Oppo F15

Display: 6.4 inches

Memory: 128GB Built-in,

8GB RAM, UFS 2.1

Camera: 48MP+8MP+2MP+2MP



Samsung Galaxy A21s

Display: 6.5 inches

Memory: 64GB Built-in,

4/6GB RAM

Camera: 48MP+8MP+2MP+2MP



TECNO Pouvoir 4 Pro

Display: 7.0 inches

Memory: 64GB 4GB RAM,

128GB 6GB RAM

Camera: 16MP+5MP+2M
+ QVGA

NHA Launches Geographic Information System Survey to Digitize its Entire Network



National Highway Authority (NHA) has launched Geographic Information System (GIS) Survey and development of Geo database of its entire network aimed at increasing its revenue. The project will enable NHA to digitize the complete information regarding utilities and commercial amenities in the Right of Way (ROW) of NHA network.

To date around 220,910 commercial amenities have been identified and digitized. After completion of entire GIS mapping, a substantial increase in NHA revenue is expected. The data of Inventoried and digitized NHA assets will be used for optimal revenue management.

Addressing at the launching ceremony of GIS, Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed said that the targets set during the last two years were achieved well in time. He said, the GIS survey will enable NHA to manage and monitor commercial and non-commercial amenities all along the NHA network, which will eventually lead to increase Authority's revenue at large.

He further said eight road projects will be undertaken this year and Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway has been tendered internationally.

The launching ceremony of GIS was also attended by Federal Secretary Communications Zafar Hasan, Chairman National Highway Authority Capt * Sikander Qayyum and Senior officers from Ministry of Communications and NHA.

Murad Saeed said, NHA has planned to undertake eight projects this year which include Balkasar-Mainwali-Muzaffarabad Highway, Karachi-Quetta-Chaman Highway, Barakahu and Shahdara Flyover, Shikarpur-Rajanpur Highway, Zhob-Kuchlak Highway, Kararo-Wadh Highway, Lodhran-Multan and Chakdara-Chitral Highway.

Present government, he said, will build more roads and will also focus on promotion of tourism that will generate employment opportunities. Through Business Plan, NHA is endeavoring to enhance its revenue that will help to reduce load on national exchequer. Besides building roads, the range of Ehsas program will be extended that will pave the way to make country a welfare state in the real sense.





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