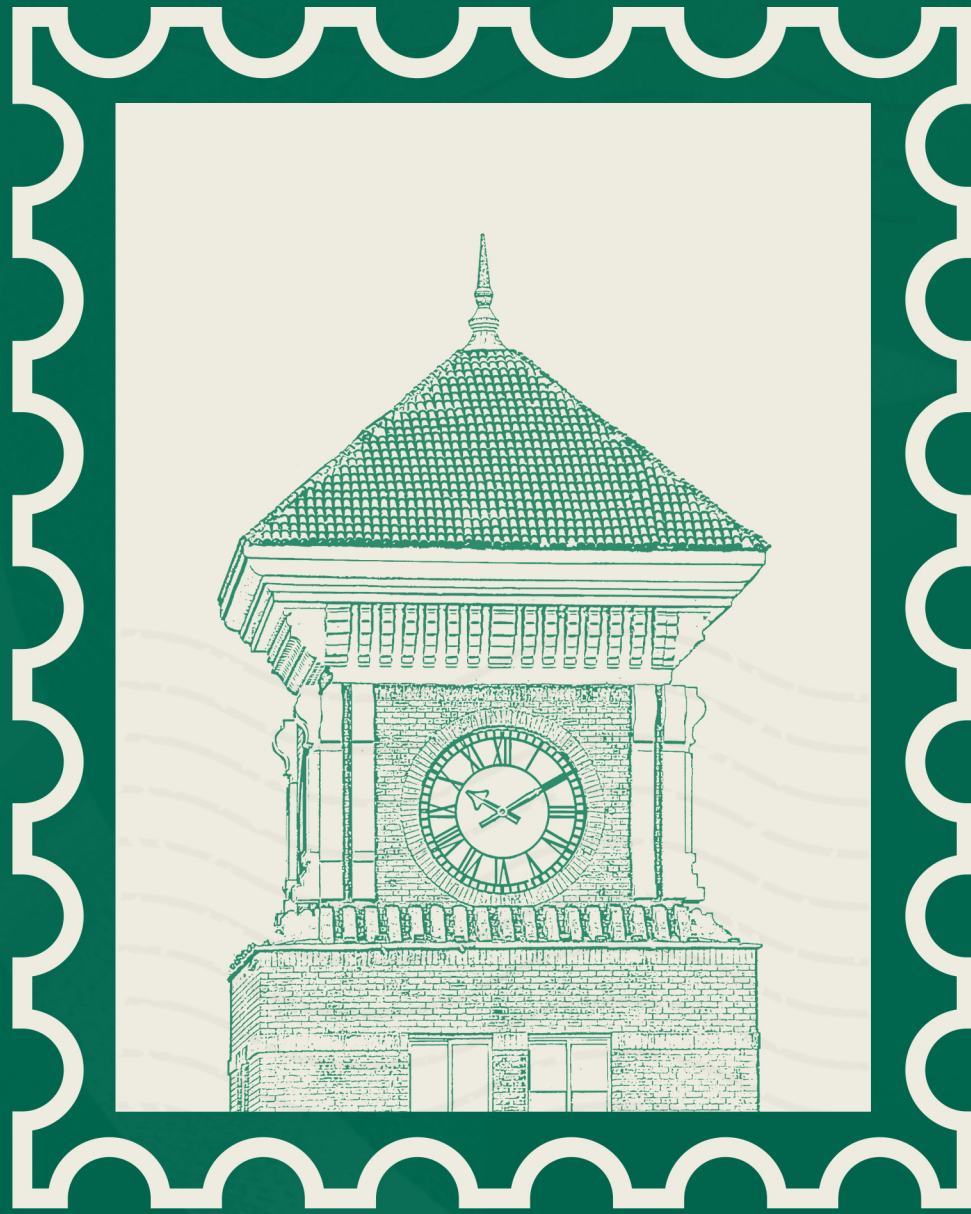




MONTHLY CONNECT

AUGUST 2026



PAKISTAN

Independence Day

AUGUST 14

آزادی سوچ سے شروع ہوتی ہے، سرحد سے نہیں۔

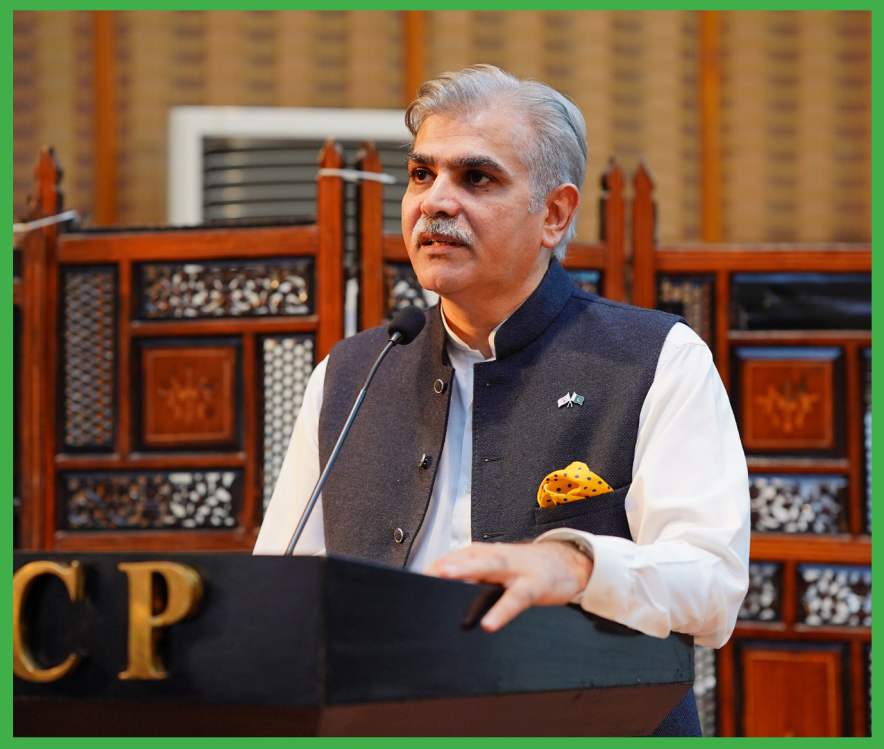
Highlight of the Month



79th Independence Day of Pakistan

University of Central Punjab commemorated Pakistan's 79th Independence Day, honouring the vision, courage, and sacrifices that shaped the country. The celebrations featured a flag hoisting ceremony, cake cutting, inspiring speeches, musical performances, and vibrant decorations across the offices. The occasion brought the UCP faculty together to honour the nation's journey, celebrate its resilience, and reaffirm our commitment to contributing to a progressive and prosperous Pakistan.











Highlight of the Month



Pakistan-China Friendship Association

Pakistan-China Friendship Association (PCFA), Lahore, is formally established at the first meeting of its Founding Members, held on August 20, 2026, at the University of Central Punjab, Lahore. The Founding Members unanimously adopted the By-Laws of the Association and approved its objectives. They also unanimously elected its Executive Committee.

The Founding Members of the Pakistan-China Friendship Association includes: Mr. Kamran Lashari, Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, Dr. Kiran Khurshid, Prof. Dr. Hassan A. Shah, Ms. Khadija Amer, Mr. Hamza Tariq Sufi, Mr. Asad Gondal, Mr. Rizwan A. Sherwani, Dr. Asim Farooqi, Mr. Naveed Saeed, Mr. Sarmad Nadeem, Dr Farzana Riaz, Ms. Tabita Victor, Dr. Khushbu Khalid Butt, Mr. Wu Minghua, Director Public Relations, OPPO Pakistan, Ms. Chen Meifen, Ms. Ho Yuk Bing Barbara, Vice Principal, Chinese International Academy, Lahore, Mr. Formen Wang and Mr. Luo Jianxue, President, Lahore Overseas Chinese Association.

The Founding Members unanimously approved the following objectives:

- To celebrate important national and cultural occasions of both Pakistan and China.
- To promote academic, socio-cultural, economic and recreational relations between the two countries.
- To strengthen people-to-people relations between Pakistan and China.
- To organize seminars, conferences, exhibitions, cultural festivals, language programmes and exchange visits.
- To facilitate collaboration among educational institutions, think tanks, businesses and civil society organizations.
- To establish an Alumni Chapter for Pakistanis who have received education from Chinese educational institutions.

The Founding Members unanimously elected the following Executive Committee, posts mentioned against their names:

President: Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt,

Vice Presidents: Ms. Khadija Amer and Dr. Kiran Khurshid,

Secretary General: Mr Asad Gondal; Joint Secretary: Mr. Hamza Tariq Sufi;

Members EC: Mr. Rizwan A. Sherwani, Mr. Naveed Saeed and Dr. Farzana Riaz.

The establishment of the PCFA marks an important step towards strengthening people-to-people contacts and academic, cultural, social and economic ties between Pakistan and China, particularly in Lahore.



University Events

5-Day Summer Jam: Chinese Language Program

Department of Student Affairs' 5-Day Summer Jam: Chinese Language Program led by Mr. Sahir Mushtaq helped participants develop their Chinese language skills and gain cultural insights. It concluded with certificates distribution among the participants in recognition of their successful completion and active participation.



Engineer Your Future

Faculty of Engineering's three-day "Engineer Your Future" featured four activities: "Build Your Own Robot," "CAD & 3D Printing," "Building Engineering Structures and "Explore the wonders of space technology and future possibilities". Intermediate, A-Levels, and technical colleges' students engaged in hands-on activities, developed creativity, technical skills, teamwork, and problem-solving while gaining exposure to robotics, programming, CAD, 3D printing, and structural design. Provost Muhammad Yaqoob concluded the workshop with certificates to winning students who excelled in various activities throughout the three-day event.



Scaleup 3.0 Orientation

ACM Student Chapter's Orientation Session of ScaleUp 3.0 marked the beginning of another impactful journey of learning, skill development, and professional growth. ScaleUp, designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements, focuses on equipping students with practical, career-oriented, and industry-relevant skills. The initiative has reached 4,000+ students, awarded 988+ certifications, delivered



UCP Nutrition Clinic Inauguration

Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences, in collaboration with Nutrifactor, graced by Director Sales & Marketing, Nutrifactor, Mr. Rizwan, National Sales Manager, Nutrifactor; Mr. Shahzad; Pro Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed; and Prof. Dr. Hafiza Rizwana Kausar, inaugurated the Nutrition Clinic, which will provide nutritional screening, personalized diet planning, professional consultation, and evidence-based dietary guidance, while also serving as a practical learning platform for future nutrition professionals.



Study in the UK: Scholarships & Fellowships Information Session

University of Central Punjab hosted the "Study in the UK: Scholarships & Fellowships Information Session," conducted by the British Council. Representatives from the British Council guided students on UK study opportunities, scholarships, fellowships and pathways for academic and professional growth. The session provided valuable insights and practical information to help participants explore international education opportunities and plan their academic journeys with confidence.



Summer School 2026

UCP Summer School 2026 brought together Intermediate and A Level students for an enriching journey filled with learning, exploration, teamwork, and unforgettable experiences. From diving into Fintech, Entrepreneurship, Data Analytics, and Digital Marketing to enjoying sports and team-building activities, every day offered something new to discover. At the Closing Ceremony, students received certificates for their participation, enthusiasm, and achievements, highlighting their dedication and growth.



Directorate of Advanced Studies and Research

Riaz Ullah's Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Riaz Ullah's Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense. He defended his research proposal in Biochemistry under Dr. Shafaat Yar Khan's supervision. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.



Mussarat Mansha's Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research organized Mussarat Mansha's Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense, a PhD Mathematics scholar. She defended her research proposal before the defense committee under the supervision of Dr. Sumaira Sharif. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the significance and depth of the scholar's research topic.



Muhammad Ali's Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research organized Mr. Muhammad Ali's PhD Synopsis Open Defense. He defended his research proposal in Chemistry under Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh's supervision. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.



Iqra Ashraf's Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Iqra Ashraf's Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense. She defended her research proposal in Ph.D. Computer Science under Dr. Saira Gillani's supervision. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.



Ali Haider's Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Ali Haider's Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense. He defended his research proposal in Ph.D. Computer Science under Dr. Muhammad Amjad Iqbal's supervision. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.



Anam Nawaz’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Anam Nawaz’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense. She defended her research proposal in Ph.D. Clinical Psychology under Dr. Faiqa Yaseen’s supervision. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.



Afifa Hameed’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Afifa Hameed’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense. She defended her research proposal in Ph.D. Computer Science under Dr. Naveed Hussain’s supervision. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.



Roha Irfan’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Roha Irfan’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense. She defended her research proposal in Ph.D. Computer Science under Dr. Ali Saeed’s supervision. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.



Amber Saleem’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Amber Saleem’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense. She defended her research proposal in Ph.D. Linguistics under Dr. Baber Sultan Ali Khan’s supervision. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.



Noshaba Mehmood’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Noshaba Mehmood’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense. She defended her research proposal in Ph.D. Biochemistry under Dr. Muhammad Riaz’s supervision. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.



Nuverah Khalid’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Nuverah Khalid’s Ph.D. Synopsis Open Defense. She defended her research proposal in Ph.D. Chemistry under Dr. Muhammad Riaz’s supervision. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.



PhD Comprehensive Examination

Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research, in collaboration with the Examinations Office, conducted the PhD Comprehensive Examination across various disciplines and faculties. This session marked an important milestone in the academic journey of our doctoral scholars and reflected the University's commitment to academic excellence and quality doctoral education.



Faculty Achievements

Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh's Keynote Speech Utilizing AI for Academic Research

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh delivered a keynote speech on Utilizing AI for Academic Research at a virtual session "Jumpstart your Research Productivity with AI", as part of the nationwide virtual crash course "Generative AI in Universities" organized by INNOventures Global and STEMx, in collaboration with Elif and PakGPT. It focused on using advanced AI techniques to streamline literature synthesis, accelerate complex data processing, refine scientific writing, and significantly elevate overall research productivity. The session highlighted the critical role of AI literacy in modernizing academic research and fostering innovation across university ecosystems.



Prof. Dr. Fawad Baig's Selection as a Member of the Board of the Punjab Film City Authority

Prof. Dr. Fawad Baig, Dean, Faculty of Media & Mass Communication, has been selected as a Member of the Board of the Punjab Film City Authority, approved by the Chief Minister of Punjab. The 16-member Board includes provincial ministers, departmental secretaries, and representatives from the film industry, with Prof. Dr. Fawad Baig serving as the sole academic representative and representing UCP in this important national forum. With the Authority's mandate spanning the growth of the film industry, film education & training, and film festivals, this appointment reflects UCP's growing role in shaping the future of media and film education in the country. It also opens exciting new opportunities for our Film & TV faculty and students to engage with and contribute to the industry at a policy level.



Dr. Nadeem Dogar's Harvard Business School Training

We congratulate Dr. Nadeem Dogar of the University of Central Punjab on completing the Teaching with Cases Program at Harvard Business School, Boston, USA. The program offered him an enriching experience, shifting from traditional lecture-based teaching to discussion-driven learning, where meaningful learning emerges through dialogue rather than lectures. The program also brought together faculty from leading universities, including MIT, Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, Purdue University, the University of Michigan, the University of Texas, and McGill University.



Dr. Nadeem Dogar's Professional Development Workshop at the 86th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Dr. Nadeem Dogar of the University of Central Punjab conducted a Professional Development Workshop, "Teaching with an Integrated Lens: Spiritually and Ethically Grounded University Education", at the 86th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. The workshop allowed educators to reflect on three interconnected dimensions of their lives: spiritual purpose, professional identity, and personal well-being. The session highlighted the importance of an integrated approach to university teaching, where an educator's purpose, professional aspirations, and personal fulfillment work together to shape meaningful learning experiences.



Family Business & Entrepreneurship Research Presentation Series

Dr. Irfan Siddique, Associate Professor and Head Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, participated in a live online Family Business & Entrepreneurship Research Presentation Series hosted by SPJIMR's Center for Family Business and Entrepreneurship. The session, "Sustainable Family Governance: Leveraging Family Business Research for Advisory Work," led by Dr. Claudia Astrachan, Head of the Family and Business Program at Lucerne School of Business, Switzerland, and Chair of the Board of IFERA, focused on contemporary family business research and governance, which further strengthened his engagement with the international family business research community.



Student Achievements

Qimam Fellowship 2026

Muhammad Zafar Ul Haq, BS Computer Science alumnus from Class of 2026, has been selected as a Qimam Fellow. He is among 40 candidates selected from 13,000 applicants nationwide this year. During his time at UCP, he founded the IEEE Computer Society UCP Student Chapter and served as its President, strengthening student engagement and innovation on campus. As a Qimam Fellow, he will participate in a 12-day fully funded leadership program in Karachi from August 12–23, 2026, where fellows will receive one-on-one mentorship from senior executives, leadership development training, and exposure to leading national and international organizations.



Jashn-e-Azadi All Pakistan Declamation Contest & Punjabi Natara

Rabia Basri has secured 2nd place in the Punjabi category at the Jashn-e-Azadi All Pakistan Declamation Contest & Punjabi Natara, organized by Abyyat International, Englishers International, and Punjabi Adab Tanzeem.



Humorous Category at the All-Pakistan Declamation Contest

Abdur Rehman has secured 1st Position in the Humorous Category at the All-Pakistan Declamation Contest, hosted by Ravi Law College.



Mitacs Globalink Research Internship

Maida Ajmal Khan, BS Psychology alumna from Class of 2026 has been selected for the Mitacs Globalink Research Internship, University of British Columbia, Canada. Through this prestigious fully-funded international research program, she is conducting research in Cognitive Neuroscience at one of the leading global research universities.



SRC-UCP Secured Top Spot at SEE Pakistan 2026

UCP's Space Research Center (SRC-UCP) has secured 1st Position Overall at SEE Pakistan 2026. The competition received around 4,000 applications nationwide and included 17 regional rounds, from which the Top 100 startups were selected for the final Expo. We are proud to share that SRC-UCP emerged as the overall winner across 6 different categories at the NATIONAL LEVEL.



Faculty Meetings

11th Faculty Meeting

Faculty of Science & Technology's 11th Faculty Meeting chaired by Dean, Dr. Rizwana Kausar provided a comprehensive overview of academic affairs, including departmental progress, admission trends, accreditation updates, and future initiatives.



Learning Innovation Centre

Effective Networking Session

Learning Innovation Centre's "Effective Networking", facilitated by Ms. Aqsa Durrani, People and Culture Leader, highlighted key strategies to guide students in building professional relationships, optimizing their LinkedIn presence, and strategically engaging with potential employers. The session empowered the CSO team with actionable networking tools; the initiative aims to directly enhance student readiness, helping young professionals unlock quality internships, job placements, and long-term career growth.



Developing Classroom Insights Through Experiential Role-Play

Learning Innovation Centre's "Developing Classroom Insights Through Experiential Role-Play," led by Dr. Faiqa Yaseen, focused on Gen Z student psychology, bridging generational gaps through modern teaching strategies, and fostering conflict-free classroom management. The session allowed faculty members to engage in experiential role-playing to build self-awareness, see diverse perspectives, and shift their feedback approach from judgment to empowerment.



International Office Initiatives

Open House Session with Dean Internationalization, University of Leicester

International Office hosted an exclusive Open House Session where Dr. Abdul Jabbar, Dean, Internationalization, University of Leicester, highlighted the academic standards, fly-in faculty engagement, and the UK campus. The session focused on detailing the newly launched 2+2 Degree Program in collaboration with the University of Leicester, UK.



Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization

Interdisciplinary Research Group Meetings

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization organized Interdisciplinary Research Group meetings where Dr. Salman Iqbal delivered a presentation on

Carbon Literacy for Business and Industry, discussing how environmental protection can generate economic value through carbon credits obtained from renewable energy initiatives and mangrove restoration projects. His presentation provided an overview of the Gold Standard Carbon Market Structure and the project registration process under Pakistan’s 2024 Carbon Market Policy Guidelines. The meeting also featured The Innovators Nexus group, led by Dr. Rabia Tehseen. It drives technological innovations, promotes scientific advancements, and develops sustainable research applications.



Research Proposal & Grant Writing Workshop

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization’s Research Proposal & Grant Writing Workshop led by Dr. Muhammad Azeem Ali Shah expanded upon practical strategies for developing competitive research proposals, identifying national and international funding opportunities, and preparing successful grant applications. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh highlighted ORIC’s initiatives to strengthen faculty research capacity, promote innovation, facilitate industry collaboration, and enhance research commercialization. Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed, emphasized continuous professional development and the effective application of research skills.



5th Technical Workshop on EndNote and Generative AI 2026

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization, in collaboration with the Department of Basic and Applied Chemistry, organized the 5th Technical Workshop on EndNote and Generative AI 2026. EndNote – Reference Management session led by Dr. Muhammad Riaz, Dr. Muhammad Afzal, and Malik Abdul Rahim provided practical training in reference management, citation organization, and formatting for research papers and theses. On the other hand, Generative AI in Research Productivity, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh focused on the use of Generative AI to enhance research efficiency and productivity, along with ethical considerations for its responsible use in academia. Certificates and EndNote software access were also distributed among participants.



IPR: Patents, Copyright & Trademark

As part of its Faculty Capacity Building Workshop Series 2026, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization’s workshop on IPR: Patents, Copyright & Trademark led by Mr. Saad Nasrullah, WIPO Certified Master Trainer and Patent & Trademark Attorney, shared insights into patents, copyrights, trademarks, and strategies for protecting and commercializing research outputs. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh highlighted the importance of intellectual property awareness in strengthening research, innovation, and commercialization.



Spin-Off Ventures & Commercialization

As part of its Faculty Capacity Building Workshop Series 2026, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization’s session on Spin-Off Ventures & Commercialization led by Dean, Faculty of Law, Dr. Hadia Awan focused on UCP Spin-Off Ventures & Commercialization Policy. She outlined its key objectives, commercialization framework, founder recognition, revenue-sharing model, and the proposed process for establishing university spin-off ventures. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh highlighted the importance of commercialization and university spin-offs in translating research into meaningful societal and economic impact.



Project Grant Writing Workshop

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization organized a Project Grant Writing Workshop, led by Pro-Rector Dr. Hammad Naveed, focusing on practical approaches to developing effective project proposals, identifying funding opportunities, and strengthening grant applications. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar, along with Dr. Hammad Naveed, reviewed draft proposals and provided feedback and guidance, highlighting our collective commitment to research excellence.



MOUs

UCP x Capital TV News Channel MOU

Faculty of Media & Mass Communication, in collaboration with the Career Services Office, signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The event was graced by Mr. Waqar Riaz, Director, HR & Administration, and Dean, FMMC, Prof. Dr. Fawad Baig.



Sports Achievements

4 Corps Pakistan Army Inter-University Sports Championship

University of Central Punjab secured championship titles in Men's Hockey and earned top honors in the 4 Corps Pakistan Army Inter-University Sports, with Haseeb Butt declared as Best Male Athlete and Kinza Sarfraz as Best Female Athlete. UCP's Khawla Umar Khan was honored with a medal and cash award in recognition of her selection at the Asian Games in Japan.



Community Service Initiatives

International Youth Day Conference

Volunteers in Service Department in collaboration with Allah Wale Foundation, organized International Youth Day Conference 2026. The session highlighted the role of youth in shaping a better future. Dr. Rizwan Naseer (Founder of Rescue 1122) graced the event as Chief Guest, speakers included Mr. Shahid Lone (Founder Allah Wale Foundation) and Muhammad Hammad Ur Rehman (Head VIS). They shared valuable insights on youth empowerment, leadership, social responsibility, and meaningful community engagement.



Philanthropy and Volunteerism

Volunteers in Service Department's talk on Philanthropy and Volunteerism, featuring Mr. Aziz Ur Rehman, Regional Manager, Maulana Tariq Jameel Foundation (MTJF), captivated the audience with his powerful insights and personal experiences on the life-changing impact of volunteerism. In his talk, Mr. Aziz Ur Rehman highlighted the pivotal role of youth in driving meaningful social change. He illustrated how volunteerism not only uplifts communities but also nurtures leadership, empathy, and critical problem-solving skills, shaping young people into agents of transformation.



Takhleeq Problem-Solving Institute

Entrepreneurship Sessions with Summer School Students

Summer School Students' Session led by Yaser Awan, Director of Research & Innovation, explored entrepreneurship fundamentals, research methodologies, design thinking, and the Value Proposition Canvas. The session moved through entrepreneurship fundamentals

before diving into research methodologies through a case study, encouraging hands-on learning, collaboration, and active problem-solving. The session aimed to help the next generation of potential founders bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world innovation.



Takhleeq Cohort 11, Startup of the Month - July 2026

Dr. Huma Hameed’s Startup, BioHealthion has been named Takhleeq Cohort 11’s Startup of the Month for July and has turned real-world problems into entrepreneurial teaching, using Takhleeq to transform scientific research into accessible wellness products. Through Takhleeq’s mentorship and industry connections, BioHealthion signed a distribution partnership with Healthwire, Pakistan’s second-largest pharmacy chain, and expanded across three additional pharmacy networks. From launching its website and digital channels to building active sales avenues from day one, the startup reflects a strong blend of scientific rigor, market execution, and impact-driven innovation. She moved beyond awareness to build active sales channels with scientific rigor, market execution, and speed that led to BioHealthion’s recognition as the startup of the month.







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