

# NEWS TODAY

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## 1. Business Recorder

## 2. Daily Khabrain

BUSINESS RECORDER ISLAMABAD FRIDAY 19 AUGUST 2016

BISP beneficiaries in Balochistan, FATA

### Govt to distribute 30,000 smartphones

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ISLAMABAD: To enhance financial and digital inclusion, the government has decided to distribute 30,000 Smartphones with Rs 250 balance per month among the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) beneficiaries along with 3G services in the un-served and under-served areas of Balochistan and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), it was learnt on Thursday.

The government has upgraded the scope of Universal Service Fund (USF) and has added the distribution of Smartphones among the BISP beneficiaries with the launch of upcoming Broadband projects for providing 3G services in Balochistan and FATA.

The project was approved in the USF Company 46th Board of Directors meeting, chaired by Minister of State for Information Technology & Telecom Anusha Rehman where the development of telecommunication services in un-served and under-served areas were discussed.

The participants deliberated upon latest reports according to which Pakistan scored 69 percent on financial and digital inclusion and remained at 14th position among the 26 emerging or third world countries.

Sources said that it was decided to roll out USF projects in the un-served and under-served areas of the country in next three years, while 30,000 smartphones would be given to BISP beneficiaries in Balochistan and FATA. Further they would also be given Rs 250 balance, training, besides different apps to increase mobile adaptability and facilitate E-Commerce etc.

The BISP beneficiaries would get information about the amount they are receiving from the government and would mitigate the chances of fraud.

The pilot project would cover Sibi, Harnai, Barkhan, Loralai - Zhob, Musakhel, Sherani - Kalat, Kharan/Washuk, Kohlu/ Dera Bugti, Kohistan and entire FATA with all seven agencies.

The BISP has already launched E-Commerce facility for promotion of handicraft skills of BISP beneficiaries aimed at providing them better access for their products in the national and international markets. The objective is to alleviate poverty in rural and semi-urban areas of Pakistan by supporting rural based micro and small enterprises. Market access to the products of marginalized segments will contribute in their welfare and the effects of such measures will also give boost to the economy of Pakistan.

The Board of Directors took in to consideration the important upcoming projects of USF Co, including the approval of 40 Telecentres, small lots, establishment of computer labs initially in 100 Girl's Schools run under Islamabad Capital Administration.

According to official documents, USF Company has been mandated to provide telecommunication coverage to the un-served and under-served areas across Pakistan. Different programmes were designed and multiple projects were undertaken to achieve the goals set forth by the federal government. Under the USF program, broadband programme was initiated to provide broadband internet services in the urban

areas of 2nd and 3rd tier cities. USF has provided internet connectivity to 449,896 subscribers in 406 towns and established 1328 educational broadband centers and 369 community broadband centers.

However, with the evolution of 3G/4G eco system objectives of this programme have been merged into the rural telephony and e-service programme.

Rural Telephony & e-Services (RTeS) programme has been the main programme of USF whereby both last mile and backhaul components of telecommunication infrastructure have been provisioned in un-served areas. The programme has transformed from provision of basic telephony and data services to mobile broadband internet and telephony (3G/4G) services. Basic telephony and data services have so far been provided to 4,297 mauzas.

Additionally 611 PCOs and 52 Telecentres have also been established. With increasing demand of high speed broadband internet services, a reliable, scalable, high speed and high capacity backhaul infrastructure is of prime importance. The USF has laid about 6,447 km of Optical Fiber Cable connecting 74 tehsil headquarters and major towns en-route.

Telecentres project focuses on establishment of shared access points for broadband services. These centers will also provide a venue for select government e-services. Over the period of next three years USF will establish about 500 such Telecentres. Projects to establish 275 Telecentres will be launched in year 2016-17, the documents maintained.

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روزنامہ

ایڈیٹر: امتنان شاہد

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بیت المہارک 15 زینتہ 1437ھ 19 اگست 2016ء 4 مہاروں 2073 ب سلمات 12 بیت 12 دے 197 شمارہ

مینڈیٹر سپیڈ پروگرام کے اسٹنٹ کمپلیٹ آفیسر عوامی شکایات پر عمل  
ایکاردیو پتی اور اختیارات کے ناجائز استعمال اور توہین کثافت کام کر رہا تھا

معلومات کی چھان بین کیلئے ایک اور انکوائری کمیٹی تشکیل دی گئی ہے

محکمہ ہذا (محکمہ خزانہ) نے گھبرہ پورہ کے ناہان استعمال اور BISP کے ہانڈ آفس نو اور ہ  
شاہد کے اسٹنٹ کمپلیٹ آفیسر عوامی شکایات کے چارج شہادیا کے مفاد کام کر رہا ہے مصلحت کے مطابق  
تقریباً کر رہا ہے ایک اور پتی اور اختیارات  
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پتہ: 34  
پتہ: 34

پتہ: 34