State Bank of Pakistan's Regulatory Sandbox — Four of Six First-Cohort Firms Completed Testing, and AI in Financial Services Now Leads the Second Cohort

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Pakistan

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Pakistan's central bank launched a supervised testing sandbox in August 2025; four of six shortlisted firms completed its first cohort (Jan–Jun 2026). Its second cohort, open to 30 Nov 2026, lists 'AI in Financial Services' as its first theme. Outcomes are not yet evaluated.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-17

State Bank of Pakistan (Digital Innovation and Settlements Department) — accessed 2026-11-17

SBP press release: Regulatory Sandbox – Second Cohort (2 Oct 2026) — accessed 2026-11-17

SBP second-cohort themes brief — accessed 2026-11-17

Nukta: SBP concludes first cohort of its Regulatory Sandbox (Sep 2026) — accessed 2026-11-17

Nukta: Pakistan shortlists six companies to test digital banking solutions (Jan 2026) — accessed 2026-11-17

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