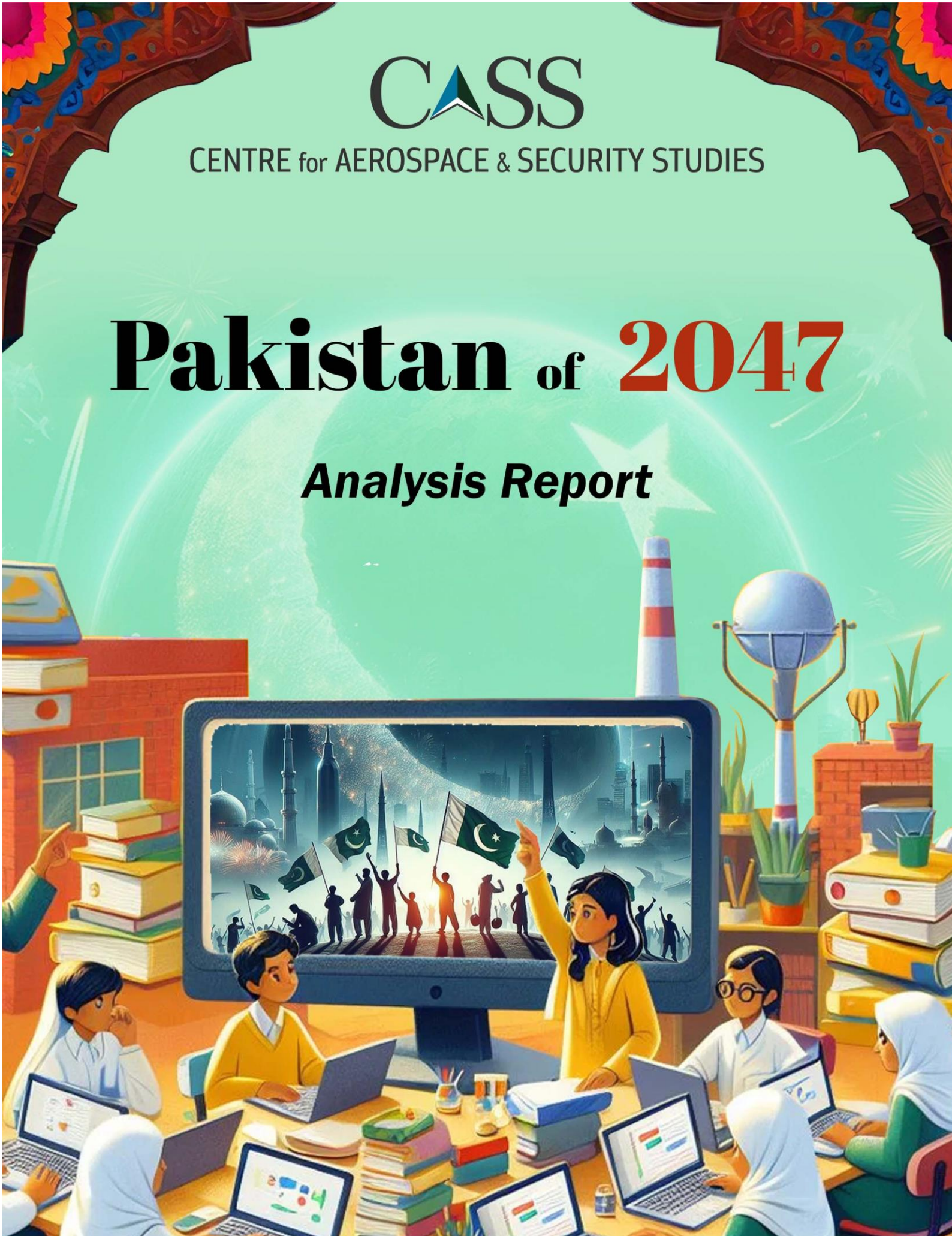


CASS

CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

# Pakistan of 2047

*Analysis Report*



**Strategic Foresight Series**

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**August 2024**

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# Pakistan of 2047

## *Analysis Report*



**Strategic Foresight Series**



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## INTRODUCTION

Predicting Pakistan's future is a daunting task considering its external and internal challenges such as a precarious socio-political landscape, economic woes, law and order shortcomings, and dynamic regional and global geopolitics. The resulting uncertainties complicate attempts towards projecting the future trajectory of the country. However, by analysing current trends and identifying necessary reforms, we can develop a strategic vision for the nation's progress and prosperity as Pakistan approaches its centennial year of independence.

To examine these challenges and opportunities, CASS organised a special lecture as part of its Catalyst Conversation Series on 16 August 2024 titled '**Pakistan of 2047**'. The distinguished subject matter expert who spoke at the special lecture was Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry (Retd), former Foreign Secretary, Government of Pakistan and Chairman Sanober Institute.

The lecture aimed to highlight reforms and initiatives that Pakistan should earnestly implement to reconstruct and enhance the socio-political trajectory it embarked upon at the time of its independence. The conversation centred on several key themes, including fostering political stability, promoting economic revival, upholding law and order, navigating global and regional geopolitics to enhance Pakistan's strategic positioning and building a resilient foreign policy. It also touched upon the importance of implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability.

The lecture was moderated by Air Zahid Mehmood (Retd), Director at CASS, Islamabad, with *Concluding Remarks* by President CASS Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd).



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In his *Opening Remarks*, **Air Marshal Zahid Mehmood (Retd)** discussed the historical significance of Pakistan's creation and highlighted the sacrifices and struggles that led to the establishment of the country. He reflected on the lessons learnt over the past 77 years since independence and stressed the importance of retrospection as Pakistan approaches its 100<sup>th</sup> year of independence. He underscored the collective responsibility of all Pakistanis in shaping the future of the country and aligning it with the vision of the founding leaders.

In his *Keynote Address*, **Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry (Retd)** critically examined the challenges and opportunities facing Pakistan as it looks toward its future. He began by highlighting the difficulty of predicting Pakistan's trajectory given the current political and economic climate and regional conflicts. He emphasised the importance of a clearly articulated long-term vision and socioeconomic development plan, noting that Pakistan has historically lacked such a vision, resulting in inconsistent and often contradictory policies across different administrations.

Drawing comparisons with other nations, he underscored the significance of long-term planning. He expressed skepticism about the attainability of the ambitious objectives enunciated in Pakistan's 'Vision 2047', given the country's persistent challenges. He identified key obstacles to achieving 'Vision 2047', including unstable governance, low economic growth, water and food insecurity, and lack of regional peace and connectivity. He also pointed to frustration within the private sector due to weak ease-of-doing business climate and the country's lagging performance in the knowledge economy as significant hurdles.

However, he also highlighted Pakistan's untapped potential, particularly its young human resource and rich economic geography, which, if properly harnessed, could drive the country toward prosperity. He argued that realising this potential would require painful yet essential structural reforms and presented a '14-Point Reform Agenda' aimed at transforming Pakistan into a prosperous nation by 2047. This agenda calls for stable governance through devolution of power, economic self-reliance, law and order, tax compliance, non-partisan accountability, human development, climate change mitigation, and a foreign policy geared toward regional peace. He stressed that Pakistan's future hinges on its willingness to undertake these reforms.

In his *Concluding Remarks* and *Vote of Thanks*, **Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd)**, highlighted the dual narratives surrounding Pakistan: one that celebrates its vast resources and potential, and another that focuses on its significant challenges. He stated the importance of maintaining a balanced perspective, recognising both the opportunities and difficulties that lie ahead. Reflecting on the known challenges such as population growth, global warming, and educational standards, he stressed the need for collective efforts to address them. He also underscored the vital role of grooming leadership in shaping Pakistan's future.





## PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

- ☪ Power and resources ought to be devolved at the grassroots level for enabling local governments in Pakistan to make decisions and implement policies that directly impact communities.
- ☪ Elected governments need to commit to consistent and stable economic policies for providing a predictable environment for investors and fostering long-term economic growth.
- ☪ Pakistan has to prioritise financial stability by cutting unnecessary expenditures, reducing reliance on borrowed funds, and broadening the tax base to include sectors like agriculture and retail.
- ☪ The writ of the state needs to be established by ensuring that law enforcement agencies can maintain order, and the judiciary functions impartially to support a stable environment for economic and social activities.
- ☪ It is vital to encourage the private in order to drive economic growth in Pakistan by minimising regulatory hurdles and reducing the role of the government in commercial activities.
- ☪ Bureaucratic processes ought to be simplified to attract foreign and local investment in Pakistan.
- ☪ The state needs to invest heavily in education, health and skill development in emerging technologies to harness the potential of a young population.
- ☪ Efforts to address gender disparities in education and enhance women's participation in the workforce are necessary.
- ☪ To stay aligned with global innovations, it is important to prioritise advancements in technology, including AI.
- ☪ It is important to modernise irrigation systems and use urban water resources efficiently.
- ☪ Fully utilising Pakistan's mineral-rich resources by developing indigenous capabilities for extraction and refinement is crucial to reducing reliance on foreign expertise.
- ☪ Strengthening relationships with neighbouring countries will be key to fostering regional trade and integration.
- ☪ A citizen-centric vision for Pakistan ought to guide the implementation of key policies.
- ☪ Given their importance for sustainable development, effective population control measures require careful consideration and implementation, even though they are often neglected due to cultural sensitivities.
- ☪ Developing and implementing a national strategy for climate change, grounded in domestic capabilities rather than relying on foreign aid and consultants, is essential.
- ☪ To ensure a bright future, Pakistan's youth must be nurtured to step into roles as the next generation of thought leaders.
- ☪ Achieving 'Vision 2047' requires Pakistan to foster unity around a clear, shared long-term vision, with every stakeholder committed to its realisation.



## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Air Marshal Zahid Mehmood (Retd),**  
*Director, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad*

### *Opening Remarks*

In his opening remarks, Air Marshal Zahid emphasised the historical significance of Pakistan's creation, highlighting the sacrifices and struggles of the founding fathers and thought leaders that led to establishment of the country. He reflected on the lessons learnt over the past 77 years since independence, stressing the importance of retrospection on past trials and tribulations as Pakistan approaches its 100<sup>th</sup> year of independence. He underscored the collective responsibility of all Pakistanis in shaping the future of the country and aligning it with the vision of the founding leaders and the aspirations of those who came before. He cited the words of Allama Iqbal, 'Every individual is the star of the nation's destiny,' to underline the pivotal role each citizen plays in a country's progress.

**Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry (Retd),**  
*Chairman, Sanober Institute, Islamabad*

### *Keynote Address*

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry began his talk by highlighting the current political and economic climate and regional conflicts and importance of having a clear vision and long-term socioeconomic development plans, similar to those implemented by nations like the United States, China, and Singapore. He observed that while many priority areas for Pakistan have been identified, the nation requires a cohesive and comprehensive plan to progress in multiple directions simultaneously. He also noted that Pakistan has historically lacked a clearly articulated long-term vision.

Ambassador Chaudhry elaborated on how each successive government imposed its own vision, from Ayub Khan's capitalism and Western alignment to Bhutto's socialist economy and third-world focus, Zia-ul-Haq's Islamisation, and Musharraf's 'enlightened moderation.' He felt that Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision, as articulated in his 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1947 speech, had been forgotten. According to the speaker, although Pakistan's five-year economic plans were initially successful, political instability in the 1990s disrupted the continuity of economic policies, leading to policy reversals. He noted that recent attempts to create national visions and targets, such as 'Vision 2010' and 'Vision 2025', had failed to take off or achieve their intended goals. Regarding the current 'Vision 2047', which was based on 'Vision 2025', he expressed concerns that the situation was not conducive to attaining its objectives either.

Ambassador Chaudhry highlighted how other countries had clear long-term visions and plans. He pointed out the United States' original national vision, encapsulated in



its enduring Constitution, as well as its vision for 2050. He then referenced China's achievements, noting its goal to become a moderately industrialised country by the centennial year of the Chinese Communist Party in 2021, which it achieved, and its ambition to transform into a fully developed country by 2049, a goal that President Xi was ambitiously striving to achieve ahead of schedule. Ambassador Chaudhry also mentioned India's Viksit Bharat plan, aimed at transforming the country into a developed nation by 2047. Lastly, he pointed to Singapore's 50-year plan focused on optimising land use and infrastructure. Drawing from these examples, he observed that every successful country had followed some kind of vision or goal that mobilised the entire nation toward progress.

The former Foreign Secretary referenced the World Bank's 2019 forecast in its 'Pakistan at 2047: Shaping the Future' report, which predicted that Pakistan could become an upper-middle-income country by 2047, provided the country implemented a comprehensive list of reforms. Similarly, he highlighted predictions by the Planning Commission in 'Pakistan Outlook 2035' and 'Vision 2047', which suggested that if Pakistan followed a path of stable politics and consistent economic policies, it might become a USD 1 trillion economy by 2035 and a USD 2-3 trillion economy by 2047, assuming a growth rate of 7-9% annually. However, he expressed skepticism about these predictions, deeming them unrealistic given the significant obstacles facing Pakistan, which were not conducive to growth, along with lack of ownership of the vision by both the leadership and the public. He also noted that some of these plans were drafted by foreign consultants rather than being rooted in the vision of Pakistanis themselves.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry then outlined eight key obstacles on the road to achieving the targets of 'Vision 2047'.

**First**, he explained that Pakistan lacked stable governance. As a result, the country experienced political polarisation, resistance to devolving power to the local government level, a low tax base, and a tendency to live beyond its means. He pointed out that Pakistan's stagnant exports and ongoing balance of payments crisis were only stabilised by borrowing money from external sources. **Second**, he highlighted Pakistan's low sustained economic growth, which was currently only 3.2%, far below the 7% annual growth needed to achieve the targets of 'Vision 2047'. He lamented that due to this low growth, Pakistan was living beyond its means, with the costs of government functions and even debt payments reliant on borrowed money. Much of this borrowing, he noted, was now being done at exorbitant interest rates of 20%, further straining the country's financial stability. **Third**, he observed that governance challenges had undermined investor confidence. Additionally, key institutions were increasingly viewed as controversial rather than impartial, affecting public trust. **Fourth**, he noted Pakistan's water and food insecurity, which had been exacerbated by crises like floods - displacing millions of people - as well as by archaic irrigation



methods and the loss of cultivable land. **Next**, he highlighted that the private sector was frustrated by the difficulties of doing business in Pakistan, leading many businesses and capital to shift abroad. **Sixth**, he observed that Pakistan was lagging in the knowledge economy, particularly regarding technological advancements such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). **Seventh**, he addressed the poor state of human resource development in Pakistan, highlighting that 22-26 million children were out of school, literacy rates were very low, and there were significant gender disparities in educational outcomes. He pointed out that Pakistan had descended from the medium human development category to the low human development category, now alongside Afghanistan. He mentioned that Pakistan was expected to meet only 35 out of 169 targets by 2030, with the UN estimating that an additional USD 53 billion would be needed to achieve the remaining SDG targets. **Eighth**, he spoke about Pakistan's lack of regional peace and connectivity, noting the ongoing tensions and border issues with nearly every neighbouring border country. Addressing global geopolitics, he remarked that Pakistan had consistently found itself caught in major power competitions, whether during the Cold War, the Afghan Jihad, or the global War on Terror. He emphasised that Pakistan was now confronted with intensifying US-China competition. Amidst this, he highlighted how terrorism threats were also dissuading Chinese investments. He noted that North-South connectivity with neighbouring countries had not been fully realised, while East-West connectivity was completely blocked. Consequently, he expressed little hope for regional integration, concluding that the current geoeconomic landscape was not favourable for making Pakistan a USD 3 trillion economy by 2047.

*Despite the challenges, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry was of the view that Pakistan possessed immense untapped potential. He pointed out that while countries like China and those in Europe were facing aging populations, Pakistan had a young and vibrant workforce. However, he cautioned that this demographic advantage would only translate into an asset if the youth were properly skilled; otherwise, it could become a liability.*

Ambassador Chaudhry also highlighted Pakistan's strategic economic geography, with underutilised rivers and fertile agricultural land. He compared Pakistan's situation to other countries that had successfully leveraged similar geographic features to enhance productivity. He lamented that Pakistan had not only failed to improve its agricultural productivity but was also losing cultivable land. He also drew attention to Pakistan's mineral-rich mountains, such as those in South Waziristan and Reko Diq in Balochistan. He noted that, due to a lack of indigenous capabilities in mining and refining, Pakistan remained dependent on other countries to exploit these resources. He also mentioned the underutilised potential of Pakistan's ideal coastline and the natural port of Gwadar, which, despite having the necessary infrastructure, had struggled to realise its full potential.



To translate this potential into reality, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry asserted that Pakistan would need to undertake painful and structural reforms. He quoted Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who said, 'If we want to make this great state of Pakistan happy and prosperous, we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people, and especially of the masses and the poor,' stressing a citizen-centric approach. To translate this potential into reality, he underscored that Pakistan would need to implement structural reforms, guided by a citizen-centric vision as articulated, e.g. in the 2022 National Security Policy.

In terms of specific reforms to transform Pakistan's potential into reality, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry advocated for a comprehensive '14-Point Reform Agenda':

1. *Stable Political Governance:* He stressed the need for stable political governance, achievable through devolving resources and power to the grassroots level. He cited examples of other countries with parliamentary systems that have achieved economic stability by shifting governance to the local level. He argued that despite the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment shifting resources to the provincial level, these resources had not been further devolved, resulting in unspent funds and a lack of stable governance. He strongly advocated for devolution, noting that even seemingly centralised systems like China are highly decentralised.
2. *Economic Self-Reliance:* Ambassador Chaudhry highlighted the importance of economic self-reliance, noting that Pakistan had not made significant efforts in this area. He gave the example of India's Ambassador car, which was endorsed by the government and helped build their automotive industry.
3. *Fiscal Discipline:* He urged the need for Pakistan to live within its means, as the country was currently reliant on borrowed money. He observed that despite the dire economic situation, it was still business as usual in many government ministries.
4. *Continuity of Economic Policies:* Ambassador Chaudhry stressed the importance of continuity in economic policies, arguing that rulers must agree on certain untouchable economic policies. He cited India's consistent economic liberalisation policies since 1991 as a model, contrasting it with Pakistan's lack of continuity, which had hindered economic growth and investor confidence.
5. *Law and Order:* He spoke about the need for the state to assert its writ and establish law and order. He cited examples of militants being freed by the judiciary in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and the ability of non-state actors to shut down Islamabad and Rawalpindi.
6. *Vibrant Private Sector:* The speaker further argued for a vibrant and innovative private sector, questioning why the government should be involved in business



activities like building housing societies or establishing industries. He noted that the government's role should be to facilitate, not conduct, business.

7. Streamlined Regulatory Framework: He called for a streamlined regulatory framework with minimal red tape, sharing an anecdote about the lengthy process for private companies to establish themselves in Pakistan compared to China, where similar processes are completed within 24 hours due to efficient oversight.
8. Tax Compliance: Ambassador Chaudhry underlined the need for broad-based tax compliance, noting that currently, only salaried individuals paid taxes, while sectors like retail and agriculture, which contribute significantly to the GDP, remain largely untaxed.
9. Non-Partisan Accountability: He stressed the importance of non-partisan accountability, expressing concern about the use of accountability as a political tool and the misuse of institutions meant to uphold justice.
10. Human Development: The speaker also highlighted the crucial role of human development, including population control, education, health, and skill development, areas that he noted were often neglected or considered taboo.
11. Inclusion of Women in the Workforce: He advocated for the inclusion of women in the workforce, citing examples of Gulf States that were rapidly moving in this direction.
12. Climate Change Mitigation: The former Foreign Secretary argued that Pakistan should take proactive measures to mitigate climate change through its own efforts, rather than relying on external funding. He expressed disappointment at the lack of engagement from the Ministry of Climate Change in events he organised at ISSI.
13. Efficient Resource Utilisation: He called for efficient utilisation of Pakistan's resources, especially water, drawing parallels with the past wastage of gas, which has since become scarce and expensive.
14. Foreign Policy for Regional Peace: Lastly, Ambassador Chaudhry stressed the need for a foreign policy that fosters regional peace. While acknowledging that the blame does not rest solely on Pakistan, he pointed to the country's reliance on distant relationships and troubled relations with at least two of its immediate neighbours (India and Afghanistan), which were hindering regional stability.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry concluded by stating that if Pakistan was ready to undertake this ambitious '14-Point Reform Agenda', it could expect to become a peaceful and prosperous country by 2047. However, if not, the future would remain uncertain.



**Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd),**  
*President, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad*

***Vote of Thanks and Concluding Remarks***

In his closing remarks, President CASS acknowledged the significance of the topic discussed, particularly in the context of Pakistan's future trajectory towards 2047, emphasising the commitment of CASS to strategic foresight and continuing dialogue on this key subject. President CASS highlighted the dual narratives surrounding Pakistan: one that celebrates its vast resources and potential, and another that focuses on its pressing challenges. He stressed the importance of maintaining a balanced perspective, recognising both the opportunities and the difficulties that lie ahead. He also underscored the vital role of leadership in shaping Pakistan's future and stressed that the grooming of future leaders should be a key focus area in upcoming discussions.

Reflecting on the known challenges such as population growth, global warming, and educational standards, President CASS called for immediate action and strategic planning. He lauded the speaker for clearly enumerating these issues and emphasised the need for collective efforts to address them. Concluding his remarks, President CASS thanked the speaker for enriching the discussion.



## ANNEXURES

### Profile of Speakers



#### **Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry (Retd)**

*Chairman, Sanober Institute, Islamabad*

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry has served as a member of the Foreign Service of Pakistan for 37 years, rising to the rank of the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan for over three years from December 2013 to March 2017. Mr. Chaudhry's last diplomatic assignment was as Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States of America.

He also served as Ambassador of Pakistan to the Netherlands, Foreign Office Spokesman, and deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York. As Director General for relations with South Asia, he remained closely associated with India-Pakistan peace process. After his retirement from the Foreign Service, Ambassador Chaudhry served as the Director General of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad for over four years. He has authored two books and numerous research articles. His recent book is a memoir 'Diplomatic Footprints' that discusses the intricacies of foreign policy making in Pakistan. Ambassador Chaudhry holds Masters in International Relations from Tufts University, Massachusetts, and a First Class First Bachelor of Science from Punjab University, Lahore.



#### **Air Marshal Zahid Mehmood (Retd)**

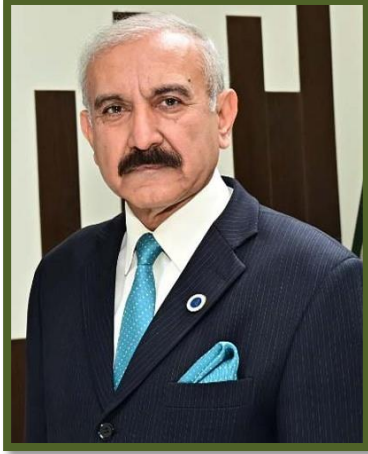
*Director, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad*

Air Marshal Zahid Mehmood (Retd) joined the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad as Director in November 2023. A graduate of National Defence University and Air War College, he has 36 years' experience of military aviation as a fighter pilot in the Pakistan Air Force. During his service with the PAF, he has held various Command and Staff appointments including Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Plans), Director General C4I, Deputy Chief of Air Staff Personnel and Vice Chief of Air Staff. He holds Master's Degrees in Strategic Studies and Defence & Strategic Studies. An alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School for National and International Security (USA), his areas of expertise include National Security with emphasis on traditional security threats and response options; Doctrine





and Policy. He lectures regularly at Pakistan's National Defence University and Air War College on related subjects. He is a recipient of Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) for his services to the PAF.



**Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd)**

*President, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies,  
Islamabad*

Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd) was appointed President of the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad on 29 April 2024. Previously, he served as Vice Chancellor of Air University. With a distinguished career spanning approximately 40 years in the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), he has held several critical positions. His roles have included Chairman of the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) Kamra, Officer Commanding of the Combat Commanders School, and Chief Project Director of the JF-17 Fighter Aircraft Production Program. He is recognised for his expertise in aerospace development policies, as well as doctrine formulation and implementation strategies. Air Marshal Ahmed is an alumnus of the Air War College, where he graduated in Defense & Strategic Studies. He also holds Master's degree in War Studies from the National Defence University. His skills in command and management are complemented by his advanced knowledge in emerging academic fields. Previously, he also served as Director of Policy and Doctrine at CASS, Islamabad. In recognition of his significant contributions to the Pakistan Air Force, he awarded Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Sitara-i-Imtiaz, and Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

## Press Release

### Decentralisation and Youth Development Essential for Future Growth - CASS Organises Catalyst Conversation

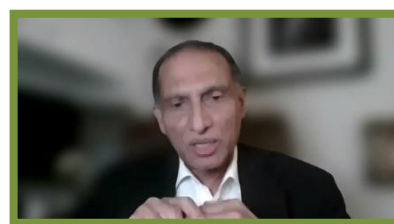


As Pakistan nears its centennial year of independence, engaging in thoughtful discussions to envision a prosperous future becomes imperative. This ***Catalyst Conversation***, organised by CASS, Islamabad, was designed to facilitate such discourse. The session was guided by insights and expertise of Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Chairman Sanober Institute and former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.



***Air Marshal Zahid Mehmood (Retd)***, moderator for the session and Director at CASS, initiated the discussion by reflecting on the creation of Pakistan — a saga marked by struggle and sacrifice under the guidance of visionary leaders. He stressed that as Pakistan approaches its centenary, it is crucial for all Pakistanis to learn from the past 77 years and chart a forward-looking course aligned with the original vision of its founders and the aspirations of its people. He also highlighted that the responsibility for Pakistan's development extends beyond policymakers and national leaders to every citizen.

On the main subject '***Pakistan of 2047***,' Distinguished Speaker, ***Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry*** (Retd), discussed the formidable challenges and potential strategies for envisioning a prosperous future for Pakistan. During his talk, he noted the difficulty in predicting the nation's future given the current political and economic climate and regional conflicts.



Ambassador Chaudhry stressed the importance of having a clear vision and long-term socioeconomic development plans, similar to those implemented by nations like the United States, China, and Singapore. He outlined several critical challenges facing Pakistan today, including inadequate devolution of power; substantial portion of the population not contributing to the tax base; excessive reliance on donor aid to balance economic shortfalls; and lackluster export growth. Additional issues highlighted included weak economic growth; water and food insecurity; bureaucratic barriers for the private sector; non-competitive knowledge economy, and insufficient development



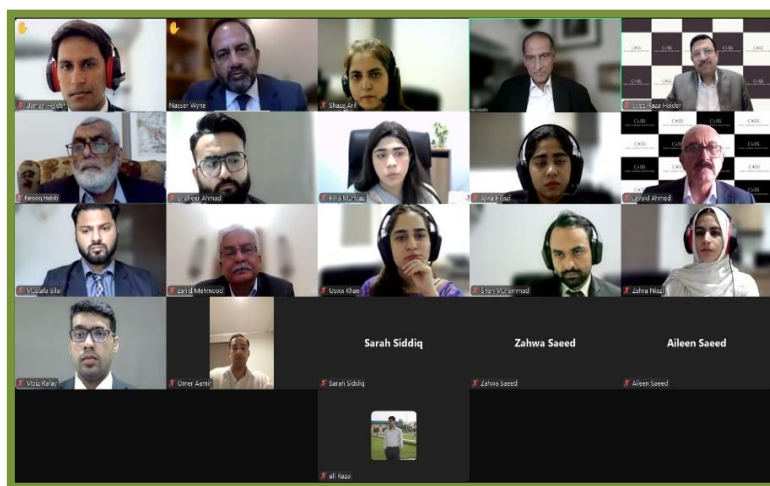
of human resources. Despite these challenges, Pakistan’s potential was underscored by its young population, rich natural resources, and strategic geographic location. Ambassador Chaudhry advocated for a citizen-centric approach, as originally championed by the country’s founder — Quaid-i-Azam.

Ambassador Chaudhry outlined several key reforms needed to transform Pakistan’s potential into reality, including stable political governance through decentralisation; economic self-reliance; living within means; continuity of economic policies; and ease-of-doing business to facilitate the private sector. He also called for streamlining regulations; enhancing tax compliance; non-partisan accountability; and significant investments in human development, particularly in education and skill development for youth in emerging technologies such as AI. The speaker concluded by stating that with these reforms, Pakistan could look forward to a peaceful and prosperous future by 2047, marking the centennial of its independence. Conversely, without such reforms, the future remains uncertain.



In his concluding remarks, **Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed**, President of CASS, Islamabad, pointed out dual nature of the challenges Pakistan faces, with both known and unknown elements. He stressed the immediate need for action and the pivotal role of think tanks in fostering foresight and developing a balanced perspective for the nation’s future. He remarked on

critical imbalance in the national narrative, which often oscillates between two extremes, underscoring the importance of grooming current and future leadership to better address these difficulties.



In the question and answer session, participants and speakers agreed that understanding Pakistan’s challenges is essential for planning and executing future actions that will steer the country toward a prosperous and stable future, ensuring balanced development that includes contributions from all sectors of society.



## Social Media Engagement

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**“**  
**We need tax compliance from all, not just salaried class.**  
**”**

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry (Retd)

Liked by uswa\_khattak and others

**casstinkers** 🎧 Thrilled to share key insights by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry on the future prospects of Pakistan as it approaches its centennial in 2047. This Catalyst Conversation not only highlighted the intricate dynamics of national development but also motivated all attendees to think critically about our collective future.

🙌 Thank you to everyone who joined and contributed to this impactful discussion.

📺 Stay tuned for more insights and events as we continue to explore the pathways that will shape the destiny of our nation.

#Pakistan2047 #CASS #FutureInsights #PolicyPlanning #NationalDevelopment

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Air Marshal Javed Ahmed (Retd)  
President, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad

Catalyst Conversations  
**Pakistan of 2047**  
Conducting Remarks

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**“**  
**An important factor in harnessing Pakistan's youth bulge is grooming future leaders. It is imperative to focus on this element for the betterment of our country.**  
**”**

Air Marshal Javed Ahmed (Retd)

Liked by uswa\_khattak and others

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**The Frontier Post**  
**Daily ASIAN SUN**  
**Asia Today**

Decentralisation, youth development vital for future growth: CASS

Decentralisation and Youth Development Essential for Future Growth – CASS Organises Catalyst Conversation

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English Dailies publish important recommendations of the CASS Catalyst Conversations Series on 'Pakistan by 2047' with Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Chairman Sanobar Institute



## YouTube

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If we look at Pakistan’s potential, at a time when countries like China and the entirety of Europe are aging, we have a young human resource. But, this young human resource will only be an asset if it is skilled, and a liability if it is not.

*Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry (Retd)*

Play (k) 0:39 / 1:35

Catalyst Conversation | Pakistan of 2047 | Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

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The video player features a quote from Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry (Retd) about Pakistan's young human resource. The video includes a collage of images showing children engaged in various activities like playing tennis, using a laptop, and playing chess. A small image of a colorful bus is visible in the bottom right corner of the video frame.

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“

Immediate action is crucial and it is the responsibility of think tanks to enhance foresight and provide a balanced perspective for our shared future.

*Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd)*

1:21 / 1:35

Catalyst Conversation | Pakistan of 2047 | Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

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The video player features a quote from Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd) about the responsibility of think tanks. The video includes a background image of a futuristic cityscape with a large Pakistani flag. A small image of a colorful bus is visible in the bottom right corner of the video frame.



**How would Pakistan look like in 2047?**

- Can we possibly predict that?
- Ask a common man: Answers vary.
- A comprehensive harmonious whole.
- Vision and Long term plan of socio-economic development.

**Obstacles to the Road to Vision 2047**

1. **Stable governance:** Polarization, lack of devolution of power and resources, large segments of population out of tax net. Not living within means. Imports are required. BOP in deficit.
2. **Sustained economic growth:** 3.2% in 2024, 3.3 in 2025 according to world economic forecast. Some estimates project lower than this, showing negative growth in 2023.
3. **Institutional reform and civil military equation:** constitutional roles.
4. **Water and food security:** Floods 2022, irrigation methods, loss of cultivable lands, scandals around wheat, sugar, etc.
5. **Private sector:** No ease of doing business frustrates existing private and future investors.
6. **Competitive knowledge economy:** Technologies, esp AI based platforms, and digitization of the economy, are low on a top priority in actual effect.
7. **Human resource development:** 40% poverty, 60% under age of 16, 22 million children out of school, 40% literacy rate among women and girls, gender disparities, SDGs 2030. It's projected to achieve only 35 out of 169 development goals. Needs \$53 billion to achieve SDGs. Pak has now fallen from medium to low human development country in 2024, Afghanistan being the only other in South Asia.
8. **Regional peace and connectivity:** Border issues and security challenges with all four neighbors.

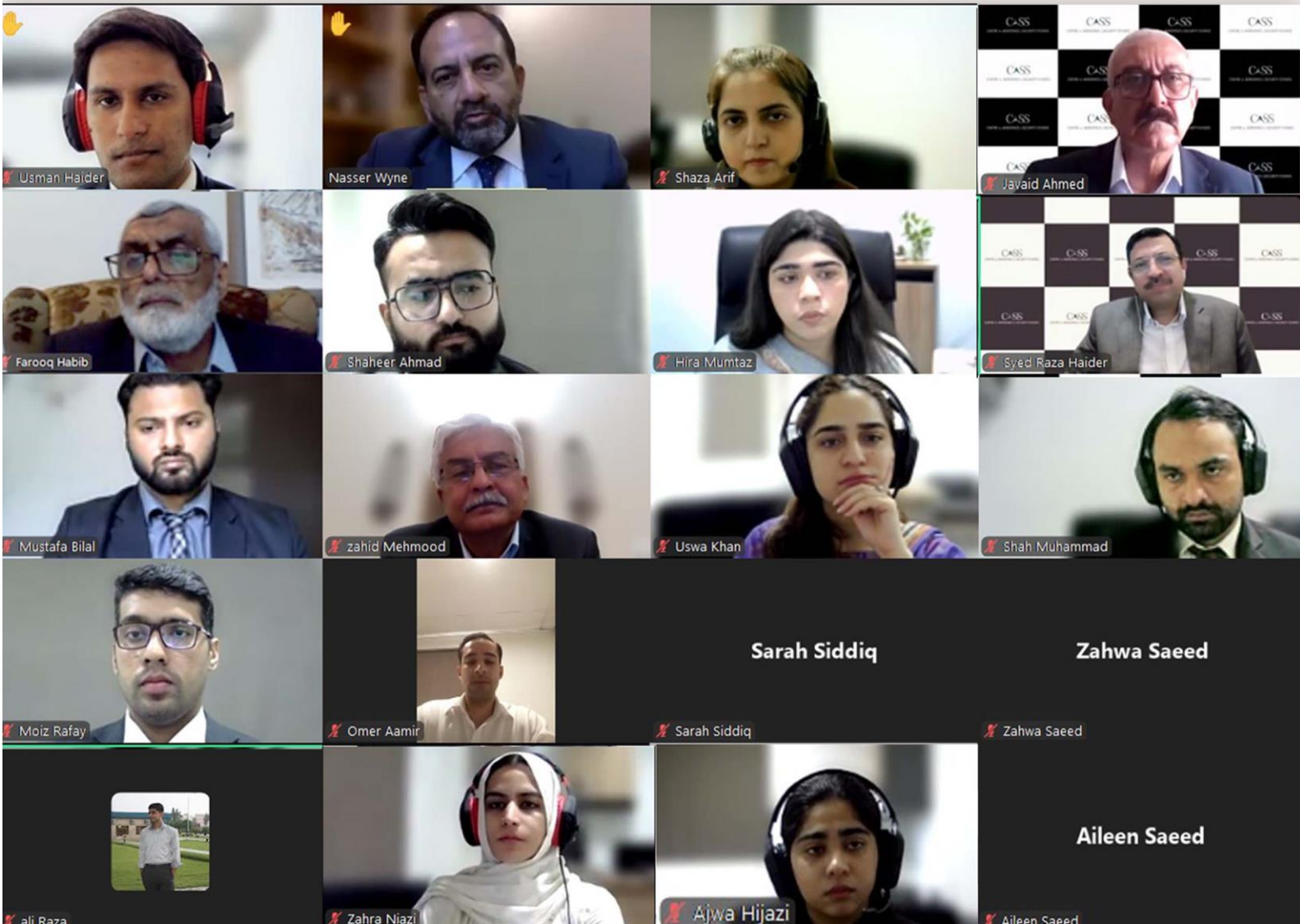


**Global and Regional Geopolitics**

- Pakistan and major powers competition.
- US-China competition and camp politics?
- Hostile India
- Unstable and Inimical Afghanistan
- Resurgence of terrorism
- Uneasy border with Iran
- Growing impediments to Chinese investments
- Regional integration and Connectivity
- Geoeconomics?

**Key Reforms Required to transform Potential to Reality 14 points**

1. A more stable political governance.
2. Economic self reliance.
3. Living within means.
4. Continuity of economic policies.
5. Law and order/ writ of the state backed by impartial judiciary.
6. Vibrant private sector for innovative
7. Streamlined regulatory framework with minimal red tape.
8. Tax compliance by all.



## ABOUT CASS

Established in 2018, the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) in Islamabad is a non-partisan think tank offering future-centric analysis on aerospace and security issues. CASS engages with thought leaders and informs the public through evidence-based research, aiming to influence discussions and policies at the national, regional, and global level, especially concerning airpower, emerging technologies, traditional and non-traditional security.

## VISION

*To serve as a thought leader in the aerospace and security domains globally, providing thinkers and policymakers with independent, comprehensive and multifaceted insight on aerospace and security issues.*

## MISSION

*To provide independent insight and analysis on aerospace and international security issues, of both an immediate and long-term concern; and to inform the discourse of policymakers, academics, and practitioners through a diverse range of detailed research outputs disseminated through both direct and indirect engagement on a regular basis.*

## CORE AREAS OF RESEARCH

Aerospace  
Emerging Technologies  
Security  
Strategic Foresight



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