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CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

Trump-Tech Nexus: Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

Analysis Report

January 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The inauguration of Donald Trump for a second term as President of the United States (US) brings substantial implications for the tech industry, particularly in areas such as Big Tech, Artificial Intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and private sector innovations. During his previous tenure, President Trump advanced policies that significantly shaped the tech landscape, including a focus on social media platforms to address perceived biases, introduction of the U.S. Space Force, and initiatives to strengthen the US's global technological leadership. Furthermore, collaboration between Trump and key tech leaders, such as Elon Musk, signals a direct ingress of the private sector in public policy domain. Musk's leadership of SpaceX, Tesla, and X (formerly Twitter) alongside his alliance with the Trump administration, is poised to reshape the landscape of tech policies, with implications for US innovation, defence, and foreign policy. Trump's proposed 'Digital Bill of Rights' and his critique of tech monopolies could have major ripple effects across global technology sectors, like AI, data privacy, and content moderation. At the same time, Trump Administration's drive to bolster US technological and industrial capabilities could lead to new innovations while raising concerns about the future trends of emerging technologies, including AI, quantum computing, and renewable energy.

In an effort to explore the multidimensional implications of Trump's second presidency on the tech industry, the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, organised a roundtable on ***'Trump-Tech Nexus: Opportunities and Challenges Ahead'*** on 29 January 2025. This RTC focused on forward-looking insights on the following questions:

- How will Trump's tech policies influence the US position in the global technology race and tech market?
- How will Trump's 'Digital Bill of Rights' impact Big Tech's content moderation practices and accountability?
- What opportunities and risks does Trump's focus on the tech industry present for the global community?
- What are the potential implications of Trump's tech-focused policies for US diplomatic relations?
- Does Pakistan stand to benefit from the tech policies of US under Trump 2.0?

The distinguished speakers included Ambassador Zamir Akram, Air Vice Marshal Soban Nazir Syed (Retd), and Talha Bin Afzal. The discussion was moderated by Mustafa Bilal, Research Assistant at CASS with Concluding Remarks by President CASS Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a brief introduction to the subject, the moderator, ***Mustafa Bilal*** discussed the evolving relationship between the US tech industry and Trump's leadership, focusing on his tougher stance on Chinese companies like Huawei and TikTok, and the proposition of the 'Digital Bill of Rights.' The collaboration between Trump and tech leaders, such as Elon Musk, along with the USD 500 billion Stargate AI Initiative to enhance US's AI infrastructure, could be seen as a push to reclaim US geopolitical supremacy. The moderator also highlighted the economic challenges for developing nations, especially the risk of a widening digital divide as global tech competition grows.

In his remarks, ***Ambassador Zamir Akram*** highlighted the significance of emerging technologies such as generative AI and equated their advent to the development of nuclear weapons. The new Trump administration is driven by objectives such as making America great again and America first, and to achieve these goals, collaboration with big tech leaders such as Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos is crucial to America's policy. He stated that Trump might look for a middle ground between China and the US, but the unpredictability of his nature will not be taken lightly by China. Moreover, many in Trump's Administration might steer him in an anti-China direction. Ambassador Akram cautioned Pakistan will be facing many challenges in the contest for power between China and the US, such as denial of emerging technologies by the US. He also pointed out that Pakistan also suffered from a lack of agility in its bureaucratic structures, which posed a hurdle to the development of new technologies. 'Pakistan must explore opportunities with the US without losing sight of China,' he concluded.

In his remarks, ***Air Vice Marshal Soban Nazir Syed (Retd)*** discussed Trump's deregulation policies designed to accelerate US's technological growth, particularly in AI and quantum computing, culminating in the ambitious USD 500 billion Stargate AI initiative. He focused on the US-China tech rivalry in key sectors like AI, rare earths, and semiconductors, and highlighted the CHIPS Act as a countermeasure to China's growing technological advancements. The speaker outlined AI's transformative potential across sectors such as healthcare and defence while also addressing the ethical concerns raised by Trump's proposed 'Digital Bill of Rights.' He showcased the success of Pakistani startups in National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), especially those focused on AI-driven automation, and emphasised the potential for Pakistani IT professionals to benefit from the US's expanding tech sector.

Talha Bin Afzal explained that President Trump's disruptive policies were intended to serve American interests and strengthen the competitiveness of the US tech industry in the international market. He stated that the US aimed to deregulate its AI and crypto industries while safeguarding digital rights for its citizens. He highlighted that initiatives like Star Gate were designed to advance the country's AI sector and reinforce its leadership in the global technological landscape. In this context, Mr Afzal suggested that Pakistan had an opportunity to benefit from the American overseas tech market, as US firms sought to outsource their business to minimise tax and labour costs. However, he emphasised that for Pakistan to remain competitive in this market, structural reforms were essential.

In his *Concluding Remarks*, President CASS ***Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd)*** discussed the renewed emphasis on advanced technologies under the administration of US President Donald Trump. He underscored the significance of initiatives such as Starlink and SpaceX in driving the anticipated expansion of the space technology industry. He also addressed China's latest AI initiative, DeepSeek, noting its disruptive impact on investment trends and the resulting uncertainty within the global technology sector.

President CASS concurred with other speakers on the pivotal role of private sector engagement in fostering the development of Pakistan's space industry. Furthermore, he highlighted the critical gap in technological literacy among policymakers and stressed the necessity of eliminating bureaucratic barriers to facilitate foreign investment in the sector.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, will facilitate the next industrial revolution.
- The risks associated with emerging technologies are underscored by the ongoing geopolitical competition between two major global powers, China and the United States.
- The US and China are engaged in a multidimensional confrontation in the political, military, and technological realms.
- Big Tech leaders wield significant influence over President Trump's policies on China. As a result, a divergence is expected to emerge between his administration and his tech industry allies in the future.
- Trump's disruptive tech policies aim to promote American interests and enhance competitiveness of the US tech industry, especially with respect to China.
- Trump's tech policies will encourage the US tech companies to outsource their business to developing countries.
- The US seeks to deregulate its AI and cryptocurrency industries while maintaining digital rights for its citizens. Trump's proposed 'Digital Bill of Rights' is expected to face significant challenges, as major tech companies heavily depend on social media platforms for revenue. Legal complexities are also likely to emerge, as these firms push back against efforts to impose liability for user content.
- Multimodal Artificial Intelligence (MAI) is advancing rapidly, with China's DeepSeek R1 already demonstrating reasoning capabilities. This suggests that AI may soon reach a level where it can significantly contribute to innovation and invention. Future warfare may also involve AI-driven mind control technologies, utilising data centres and AI-powered influence campaigns.
- AI is revolutionising early disease detection, including cancer diagnosis and personalised mRNA vaccines. AI-driven diagnostics and robotic vaccine manufacturing could enable vaccine production within 48 hours.

PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

- As the US seeks to deregulate and expand its technological capabilities, there is a growing demand for skilled professionals. Pakistan, with its youth-dominated workforce, has the potential to capitalise on this shift. Therefore, partnerships with US tech companies ought to be explored.
- Pakistan needs to invest in AI and IT education to equip its workforce with emerging global opportunities. The government should create policies that encourage AI and IT startups to connect with global markets.
- The government should establish Special Technological Zones (STCs) to attract investment, promote innovation, and enhance the technological ecosystem.
- Pakistan should engage with the US from an investment perspective rather than an aid-dependent approach to strengthen its tech industry and encourage foreign partnerships.
- Pakistan must ease financial regulations on tech industry to encourage international investors.
- Pakistan ought to actively seek technological cooperation not only with China and the US but also with other nations engaged in technological advancements to expand its opportunities for innovation and development.
- Pakistan should explore opportunities for emerging technologies with the US while maintaining focus on potential collaborations with China.
- Efforts should be made to streamline bureaucratic structures and enhance agility to facilitate the development and acquisition of new technologies in Pakistan.
- Pakistan needs to transition from a freelance-driven economy to a structured tech economy to ensure sustainable growth and long-term industry development.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Mustafa Bilal
Research Assistant,
Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad

The roundtable's moderator, Mr Mustafa Bilal, reflected on Donald Trump's first tenure, noting the Administration's strict regulatory stance on Chinese tech firms like Huawei and TikTok, a policy that has intensified under the current administration. He highlighted Trump's proposed 'Digital Bill of Rights', aimed at addressing online censorship and user rights, prompting companies like Meta to relax content moderation policies. These shifts signal a redefined relationship between the US government and major tech firms, shaping a new era of digital governance.

Mr Bilal also noted Trump's strengthening ties with tech leaders like Elon Musk and the industry's influence through financial support. The presence of major tech executives at Trump's inaugural further hinted at potential alignment between the administration and the sector. He highlighted the Stargate AI Initiative as part of US efforts to maintain technological leadership, particularly in response to China's DeepSeek, which caused a USD 1 trillion decline in US AI market valuations. He stressed that global technological competition and market fragmentation had significant economic and strategic implications for developing nations. While technological progress presented opportunities for growth and innovation, it also risked widening the global digital divide, making equitable access to technology essential.

Ambassador Zamir Akram
Advisor, Strategic Plans Division, Government of Pakistan

Ambassador Zamir Akram opened his remarks by emphasising the opportunities and challenges presented by emerging technologies such as AI. He stated that AI was the beginning of the new industrial revolution, but it was as dangerous as the advent of nuclear weapons, changing the course of technological development in modern times. He highlighted that the new Trump Administration sought to engage tech leaders like Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg to strengthen the American tech industry and reassert its position as a global leader, a status currently contested by both China and the US.

The speaker analysed the significant influence of American tech leaders within the political landscape, noting that figures like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos wielded substantial power. While the American tech industry had shown interest in collaborating with China across various domains, its stance differed from President

Trump's more adversarial approach. The speaker observed that tech leaders had played a role in tempering Trump's views on China; however, his unpredictable nature made the sustainability of this moderation uncertain.

Ambassador Zamir Akram highlighted the paradox of Trump as a leader who, at his core, seeks a middle ground and is likely to avoid direct confrontation with China to protect long-term American interests. However, his unpredictable nature could lead him in the opposite direction, especially given that many in his new administration held unfavourable views of China. He further noted that China-US relations were shaped by geopolitical considerations, which could have implications for Pakistan. He pointed out that Pakistan's close ties with China are met with skepticism by the new Trump Administration.

The speaker noted that technological advancements from the US could be restricted from reaching Pakistan due to its close ties with China. He argued that such restrictions would hinder Pakistan's technological progress, creating long-term challenges for the country's innovation and development. He also highlighted the bureaucratic obstacles imposed by the government in acquiring emerging technologies. He pointed to the difficulties in securing and deploying Starlink in Pakistan as an example of how administrative inefficiencies delay technological integration.

Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Akram acknowledged the potential for Pakistan to engage with both the US and China, underscoring the importance of balancing relationships between the two powers. While advocating for cooperation with the US, he stressed that Pakistan must not overlook opportunities with China. He further argued that, despite geopolitical tensions, avenues for collaboration still exist. However, he asserted that Pakistan's most pressing challenges were not external but internal, citing the lack of agility in government decision-making and multiple layers of bureaucracy that hindered timely policy implementation.

Air Vice Marshal Soban Nazir Syed (Retd)
Director General, National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP)

Air Vice Marshal Soban Nazir Syed discussed President Trump's objective of reducing IT regulations to accelerate technological growth, allowing tech companies greater freedom to innovate. He noted that Trump, soon after assuming office, signed executive orders to remove bureaucratic hurdles, particularly in AI and quantum computing. Recently, Trump announced the Stargate AI initiative, a USD 500 billion investment in AI infrastructure aimed at transforming industries from healthcare to defence, marking the largest AI project in history with an estimated 100,000 jobs. He argued that these actions reflected President Trump's vision for US technological dominance.

The speaker highlighted the ongoing US-China technological rivalry, identifying AI, rare earth minerals, and semiconductors as key areas of competition. He noted that the US introduced the CHIPS Act to counter China's growing influence, while China expanded its footprint by investing in Africa's telecom sector and securing rare earth resources critical for AI and semiconductor development.

Discussing AI's broader impact, he explained its potential to revolutionise healthcare, from cancer detection to rapid vaccine development. He also noted AI's role in future warfare, particularly in psychological operations and mind-control technologies. On Trump's Digital Bill of Rights, he was of the view that major tech firms, including X (formerly Twitter), are expected to resist such measures.

Air Vice Marshal Soban Nazir Syed highlighted Pakistan's emerging tech sector, particularly NASTP's achievements. He cited a Pakistani AI startup generating USD 100,000 per month within a year by developing AI-based customer service agents replacing human workers in Europe and the US. He stressed that such AI-driven automation is both cost-effective and scalable. Discussing opportunities for Pakistan's tech industry, he pointed out that as the US expands its technological workforce, Pakistan's youth-driven talent pool could benefit. He suggested that potential relaxation of H1B visa restrictions might open pathways for more Pakistani IT professionals in the US.

In conclusion, he outlined AI's five levels of progression, noting that current AI systems operate at Level 2, solving human-level problems. However, China's DeepSeek R1 had already demonstrated reasoning capabilities, signaling a major leap. He projected that within the next decade, AI could reach Level 4, enabling it to contribute to inventions and innovations.

Talha Bin Afzal,
Founder and CEO, Algoryte

Talha Bin Afzal described President Trump's tech policies as disruptive, reflected in his Cabinet choices, including Marco Rubio as Secretary of State and Kash Patel as FBI Director, both strong advocates of Trump's anti-China and pro-Israel stance. He noted that Trump's 'America First' agenda shaped his tech policies, including imposing 60% additional tariffs on Chinese imports and 100% tariffs on Mexican goods. Plus, the administration suspended American aid programmes worldwide, except for Israel and Egypt. He stated that Silicon Valley's allegiance had shifted from Democrats to Republicans, citing figures like Elon Musk and Andreessen-Horowitz, who supported Trump due to his deregulation promises. President Trump delivered on these by revoking Biden's executive order on AI regulations and launching the Star Gate program, a USD 500 billion investment in AI in collaboration with OpenAI, SoftBank, and Oracle. In cryptocurrency, the new US President

planned to revise SEC guidelines and establish a crypto advisory council to deregulate the industry.

Mr Afzal clarified that Trump's policies were not entirely anti-regulation, citing the 'Digital Bill of Rights', aimed at granting citizens ownership of their data and ensuring free speech, a contrast to NSA and FBI surveillance policies. However, he argued that censorship would persist, particularly targeting Chinese platforms, as seen in the TikTok ban.

Regarding Pakistan's opportunities under Trump's tech policies, Mr Afzal noted that US firms were increasingly outsourcing to reduce taxes and labour costs. He outlined key recommendations for attracting foreign business to Pakistan:

1. Transition from a freelance-driven economy to a structured tech economy.
2. Establish Special Technological Zones (STCs).
3. Create a business-friendly environment to attract firms and talent.

He pointed out that Pakistan lacked international venture capitalists, limiting startup growth, and attributed this to strict state regulations discouraging foreign investors. He concluded by urging that Pakistan must engage with the US from an investment perspective rather than an aid-dependent approach to foster its tech industry.

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

Vote of Thanks and Concluding Remarks

President CASS thanked the speakers for their forward-thinking insights and reflected on Trump's renewed focus on technology, evident in his recently signed executive orders. He discussed the significance of Starlink and SpaceX, highlighting their role in accelerating the expansion of the space tech industry in the coming years. He noted that China's recent DeepSeek AI project had disrupted investment flows in the technology sector, creating uncertainty for future growth. He agreed with the speakers that private sector engagement was essential for advancing Pakistan's space industry, as its development cannot rely solely on state-led initiatives. Addressing structural challenges, he acknowledged the lack of technological literacy among policymakers and the presence of bureaucratic hurdles that impede foreign investment. He stressed the necessity of creating a more investment-friendly environment to attract global players to Pakistan's space sector.

ANNEXURES

Profile of Speakers

Mustafa Bilal
Research Assistant,
Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad

Mustafa Bilal is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad. He has done his BS in International Relations from the National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad. His research interests include technopolitics, astropolitics, military aviation and warfare.

Ambassador Zamir Akram
Advisor, Strategic Plans Division, Government of Pakistan

Ambassador Zamir Akram is a graduate of the London School of Economics and Political Science. He joined Pakistan's Foreign Service in 1978. Over the course of his distinguished ambassadorial career, he held key postings in Washington, Moscow, Geneva, and New Delhi. He also represented Pakistan as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. A seasoned diplomat, teacher, and writer, he has contributed several op-eds and notable publications on foreign policy and strategic affairs. He now serves as an advisor to Pakistan's Strategic Plans Division (SPD).

Air Vice Marshal Soban Nazir Syed (Retd)
Director General, National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP)

Air Vice Marshal Soban Nazir Syed (Retd.) is an engineer with over 35 years' experience in research and development. Having dedicated the majority of his career to the Pakistan Air Force, he held multiple leadership roles, including Managing Director at PAC Kamra (Avionics Production Factory), Director General at Precision Engineering Complex (PIACL), and Chief HR at Pakistan International Airlines. His expertise spans aviation, precision engineering, and human resource management. Currently, he serves as the Director General of IA & Training Division at the NASTP Institute of Vocational Training (NIVT). In recognition of his contributions to the PAF, he was awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Talha Bin Afzal
Founder and CEO, Algoryte

Talha Bin Afzal is the Founder & CEO of Algoryte, a company developing Web2 and Web3 games, blockchain solutions, immersive VR/XR experiences, and metaverse applications. Before leading the charge at Algoryte, he was Secretary General at Pakistan IT Industry Association (P@SHA) and engaged with key government stakeholders, including the State Bank of Pakistan, Ministry of IT & Commerce, TDAP, FBR, and PRA. During his tenure at P@SHA, Talha also took the role of Economy Coordinator and Spokesperson for the Pakistan team at the Asia-Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) for four years.

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

Air Marshal Javaid 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 Defence & 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 contributions to the PAF, he was awarded Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Sitara-i-Imtiaz, and Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Press Release

"Experts Urge Strengthening Tech Policies, Tapping into Critical Mineral Wealth, and Adopting a Pragmatic Approach in Global Tech Rivalry"

29 January 2025

The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, hosted a roundtable discussion on the ***'Trump-Tech Nexus: Opportunities and Challenges Ahead,'*** analysing the implications of US President Donald Trump's second term on global technology, Big Tech regulations, Artificial Intelligence, and cybersecurity. The session brought together leading experts to assess how President Trump's policies, and strategic collaborations with tech leaders could reshape the global technological landscape and its potential impact on Pakistan.

Setting the stage for the discussion, CASS moderator ***Mr Mustafa Bilal*** opened the discussion by outlining the significance of President Trump's second presidency for global technology policy, emphasising its geopolitical and economic ramifications.

Ambassador Zamir Akram, Advisor, Strategic Plans Division, GoP, provided a policy-focused assessment of the shifting geopolitical landscape in technology and underscored the unprecedented nature of the global tech confrontation, warning that generative AI could be as transformative as the industrial revolution or as dangerous as nuclear weapons. He highlighted that Pakistan must strategically navigate this geopolitical divide, which has led to export restrictions on critical technologies and a tightening US-India partnership that indirectly impacts Pakistan's access to investments and tech transfers. He stressed that Pakistan's private sector should lead in digital transformation, as inefficiencies and multi-

layered regulatory hurdles stifle growth. He called for streamlined decision-making processes and a regulatory framework that enables, rather than obstructs, technological advancements. On the opportunities ahead, Ambassador Akram pointed to Pakistan's rare earth mineral resources, noting that foreign investment in critical minerals such as lithium and copper must be actively pursued.

Air Vice Marshal Soban Nazir Syed (Retd), DG, National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), highlighted NASTP's pivotal role in fostering startups in technology, AI, and emerging technologies, underlining its commitment to creating an ecosystem that nurtures innovation and entrepreneurship. He shared NASTP's initiatives in providing infrastructure, mentorship, and funding opportunities to accelerate research and development in critical tech domains. He further stressed the importance of public-private collaboration in ensuring Pakistan remains competitive in the global technology and AI landscape.

Founder & CEO of Algoryte, ***Mr Talha Bin Afzal*** noted that while support for Big Tech under President Trump seemed likely, hurdles in regulatory and legal battles could delay innovation. Mr Afzal noted that Pakistan faces significant challenges, including slower innovation, geopolitical risks, and limited access to advanced technologies due to export restrictions. Despite these challenges, he was optimistic that Pakistan has considerable opportunities in the global digital economy. With rising compliance costs elsewhere, Pakistan could emerge as an attractive destination for IT outsourcing. Increased access to international markets, coupled with adherence to ethical technology standards, could further strengthen its position. He urged a shift from the freelancer-driven economy to a structured technology sector, fostering a more stable and competitive digital ecosystem.

Thanking the speakers for their insightful presentations, ***Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd),*** President CASS, acknowledged the need for Pakistan to strategically engage with the global tech ecosystems while adapting to evolving global regulations. He stressed that Pakistan must adopt a proactive, balanced approach, strengthening its regulatory framework, attracting foreign investment, and fostering local innovation to remain competitive. Concluding, he opined that Pakistan's high-tech future hinges on swift policy adaptation, private sector agility, and removal of administrative hurdles that hinder global tech partnerships.

The roundtable was followed by an interactive question-and-answer session with experts from the academia and researchers. It concluded with a consensus that Pakistan must take proactive steps to secure its place in the global technology race. By addressing regulatory gaps and strengthening trade partnerships, the country can position itself as a key player in the evolving digital economy.

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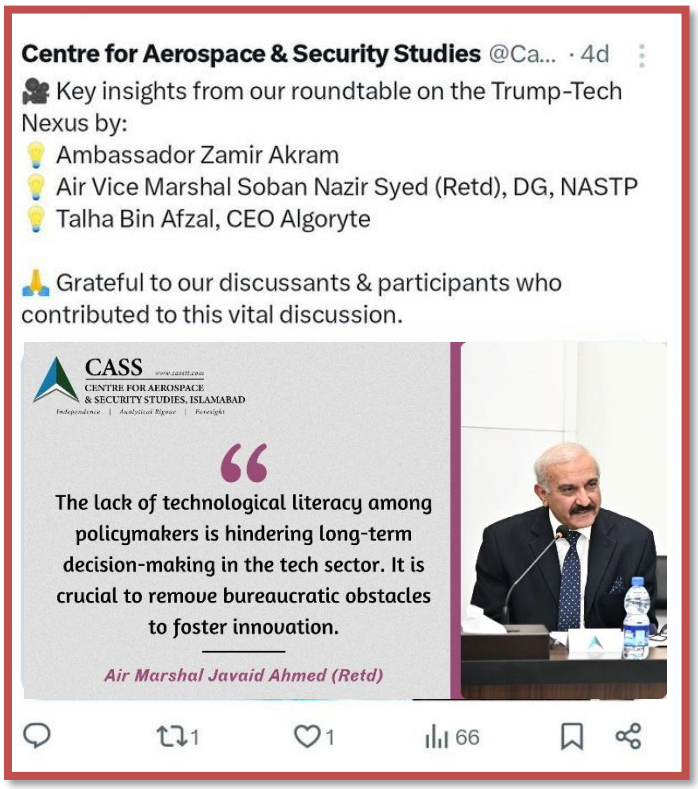

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Mr Talha Bin Afzal
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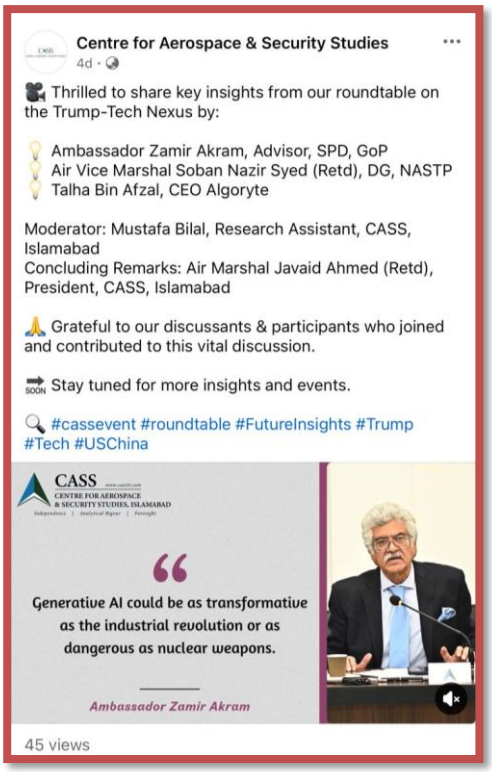
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Concluding Remarks: Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd), President, CASS, Islamabad
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Founder & CEO, Algoryte
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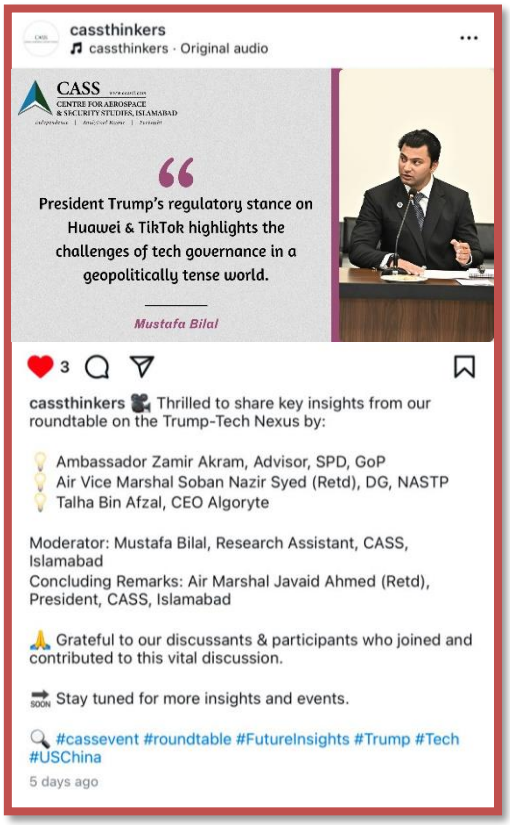
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Control of minds will be the future of wars.
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RULE
Experts Call for Public-Private Collaboration to Boost Pakistan's Tech Sector
ISLAMABAD: The Center for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) recently hosted a roundtable discussion on the 'Trump-Tech Nexus: Opportunities and Challenges Ahead.' The session brought together leading experts to analyze the implications of US President Donald Trump's second term on global technology, Big Tech regulations, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. Ambassador Zamir Akram, Advisor, Strategic Plans Division, GoP, emphasized the need for Pakistan to strategically navigate the geopolitical divide in technology. He stressed that Pakistan's private sector should lead in digital transformation and called for streamlined decision-making processes and a regulatory framework that enables technological advancements. Air Vice Marshal Soban Nazir Syed (Retd), DG, National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), highlighted the importance of public
competitive in the global technology and AI landscape. He shared NASTP's
mentorship, and funding opportunities to accelerate research and development in critical tech domains. Mr. Talha Bin Afzal, Founder & CEO of Algoryte, noted that Pakistan faces significant challenges, including slower innovation and limited access to advanced technologies, but expressed optimism about the country's opportunities in the global digital economy. He urged a shift from the freelancer-driven economy to a structured technology sector, fostering a more stable and competitive digital ecosystem. The roundtable concluded with a consensus that Pakistan must take proactive steps to secure its place in the global technology race. By addressing regulatory gaps and strengthening trade partnerships, the country can position itself as a key player in the evolving digital economy. Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd), President CASS, thanked the speakers
presentations and
adopt a proactive, balanced
to navigate the complexities of the
Media Bytes!


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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

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