Sheetal Patel

Former CIA Senior Executive and Global Tech & Security Strategist

Staying Ahead of the Curve: Competing with China in Technology and Innovation. As a former CIA leader focused on global technology trends and counterintelligence, Sheetal Patel offers a behind-the-scenes perspective on the race for innovation between the U.S. and China. She worked closely with the private sector and universities to assess where China is gaining ground, whether in semiconductors, AI, or telecom, and how to counter these advances through supply chain strategies, onshoring, and smart partnerships. Sheetal distills this knowledge into actionable takeaways in a business climate shaped by global competition, helping them safeguard intellectual property, infrastructure, and partnerships.

From Intelligence to Action: Translating Global Tech Trends into Business-Specific Advantage. Sheetal Patel spent the latter part of her CIA career scoping out emerging technologies, like AI, quantum computing, biotech, and telecom, often discovering them long before they become commonplace in the U.S. In this talk, Sheetal helps organizations understand global tech and focus on integrating technologies that best align with their unique priorities. She shares how to scale innovations, manage risk, and balance ambition with practicality. Sheetal also offers critical counterintelligence insights, urging leaders to think beyond the tech itself and safeguard their infrastructure against external threats. In a world where failure to adapt means getting left behind, this talk equips leaders to identify gaps, prioritize what matters for your tech adoption needs, and build a resilient roadmap for success.

Geopolitical Risk, Resilient Leadership, and the Power of Adaptability. In a time when geopolitical shocks, global threats, and technological disruptions are ever present, resilience is a strategic necessity. With a 28-year career at the CIA, Sheetal Patel offers an insider's perspective on how to navigate complexity, manage risk, and lead teams through high-stakes uncertainty. She shares hard-earned lessons from briefing presidents, managing global crises, and steering teams through evolving global threats, including the rise of emerging technologies, like AI. Audiences will learn practical frameworks for assessing geopolitical risk, building adaptable organizations, and making sound decisions under pressure.