

# MEDIA COVERAGE



**Book presentation on *“Pakistan–India Relations: Fractured Past, Uncertain Future”***

**November 21, 2025**

**Express Tribune**

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2578374/moot-dissects-fractured-pakistan-india-ties>

**Business Recorder**

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40393458/pessimism-grows-about-prospects-of-pakistan-india-relations>

**APP Pakistan**

<https://www.app.com.pk/national/pide-hosts-discussion-on-book-pakistan-india-relations-fractured-past-uncertain-future/>

**Islamabad Post**

<https://islamabadpost.com.pk/pide-seminar-highlights-chaudhrys-troubled-past-uncertain-regional-future/>

**Global News Pakistan**

<https://globalnewspakistan.com/2025/11/22/pakistan-must-continue-to-strengthen-its-defense-and-diplomacy/>

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# Moot dissects fractured Pakistan-India ties

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry's new book outlines pathways for more stable future

OUR CORRESPONDENT  
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on Thursday hosted a thought-provoking book talk on Pakistan-India Relations: Fractured Past, Uncertain Future by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, former Foreign Secretary and former Ambassador to the United States. The session, moderated by PIDE Vice Chancellor Dr Nadeem Javaid, drew scholars, students, diplomats, and policy practitioners.

Opening the discussion, Dr Javaid introduced

a seasoned diplomat with over three decades of service in key capitals—including The Hague, New York, Washington, and Islamabad—and highlighted his long involvement in the Pakistan-India peace process across successive political eras, from Vajpayee-Musharraf to Manmohan Singh-Modi.

Ambassador Chaudhry said his book departs from personal memoir in favour of a rigorous analytical study exploring why Pakistan and India remain locked in an adversarial relationship nearly eight decades after independence. He explained that the work examines whether the hostility is driven solely by unresolved disputes or by deeper structural dynamics shaping South Asia's most enduring rivalry.

Chaudhry identified four core factors that have obstructed peace

evidence and firsthand diplomatic experience, he identified four core factors that have obstructed peace: deep-rooted mistrust inherited from colonial politics; the unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute; the political weaponisation of terrorism to shape global perceptions; and India's longstanding pursuit of regional dominance, amplified by expanding strategic ambitions and narratives like Akhand Bharat.

He outlined how wars, crises, and derailed peace initiatives—from Lahore and Agra to Mumbai, Pathankot, and

antagonism rather than creating space for reconciliation. Divergent threat perceptions, domestic political pressures, and shifting global alignments, he said, have entrenched a security-centric relationship in which meaningful dialogue rarely sustains momentum.

Ambassador Chaudhry also addressed the rise of digital-age debates questioning Pakistan's very rationale. Citing independent research on the marginalization of Indian Muslims, he argued that contemporary developments have validated many original concerns behind the Pakistan movement. He stressed that while Pakistan must safeguard its defence and diplomacy, strengthening internal governance and enhancing its narrative-building capacity are equally

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## Pessimism grows about prospects of Pakistan-India relations

ABDUL RAHMAN AZAD

ISLAMABAD: Domestic political pressures on the India-Pakistan leadership, divergent threat perceptions, and shifting global alignments have entrenched a security-centric relationship between the two "estranged" neighbours, where prospects of talks are overshadowed by "suspicion".

This was the crux of a discussion hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on the book presentation titled "Pakistan-India Relations: Fractured Past, Uncertain Future" written by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and former Ambassador to the United States.

Ambassador Chaudhry described how wars, crises, and failed peace initiatives started from Lahore and Agas to Mumbai, Pathankot, and Pulwama have repeatedly reinforced hostility rather than creating openings for reconciliation.

Drawing from extensive historical evidence and diplomatic experience, he identified four major factors that have prevented peace: entrenched mutual mistrust rooted in colonial-era politics; the unresolved dispute over Jammu and Kashmir, which erupted immediately after independence and remains central to the conflict; the political weaponisation of terrorism, whereby

incidents are attributed to Pakistan to shape global opinion; and India's long-standing quest for regional dominance, reinforced by expanding strategic ambitions and narratives such as Akhbari Bharat.

He highlighted Chaudhry's long association with the Pakistan-India peace process across multiple political eras, from the Vajpayee and Musharraf years to the Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi periods. Ambassador Chaudhry explained that his latest book departs from memoir and anecdote, offering instead a rigorous analytical investigation into why Pakistan and India remain trapped in an adversarial relationship despite seventy-eight years of conflict and intermittent dialogue.

He noted that his inquiry seeks to understand whether the persistent hostility stems solely from unresolved disputes or whether deeper structural dynamics shape the trajectory of South Asia's most enduring rivalry.

Ambassador Chaudhry emphasised that these realities have created a landscape in which even sincere diplomatic efforts struggle to produce lasting change. The author also addressed the growing digital-era discourse questioning the rationale of Pakistan's creation. Citing independent studies on the marginalisation of

Muslims in India, he argued that contemporary developments have validated many of the concerns that shaped the Pakistan movement.

He stressed that while Pakistan must continue to strengthen its defence and diplomacy, it also needs to improve its governance and significantly advance its narrative-building capacity. In the concluding sections of his book, Ambassador Chaudhry outlines possible pathways for breaking the current deadlock. These include reviving sustained dialogue, promoting people-to-people engagement, and leveraging geo-economic cooperation to reduce hostility.

He reviewed the wide body of agreements and confidence-building measures negotiated over the decades and noted that, should India reassess its approach, a substantial foundation already exists for building a more predictable future. During an engaging question-and-answer session, participants raised concerns regarding whether both states genuinely desire peace, how global powers have historically managed South Asian crises, and the politicisation of religion in shaping public narratives.

Ambassador Chaudhry acknowledged that religion

has been used as a political tool on both sides, but noted that the current intensity of polarisation in India is unprecedented. He reiterated that while Pakistan has successfully established credible deterrence, it must now focus on strengthening internal governance and advancing fact-based narratives globally.

The event, moderated by PIDE Vice Chancellor Dr Nadeem Javaid, attracted scholars, students, diplomats, and members of the policy community. Opening the session, Dr Javaid introduced Ambassador Chaudhry as a distinguished diplomat, whose career spans over three decades of service at the highest levels, including key assignments in The Hague, New York, Washington, and Islamabad.

PIDE Vice Chancellor Dr Nadeem Javaid noted that while the discussion could have continued far longer, it had already offered a deeply insightful and intellectually rich examination of a critical regional relationship. He expressed profound gratitude to Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry for sharing not only rigorous analysis, but also the depth of experience, perspective, and reflection that comes from a lifetime of diplomatic service.