



# SANOBER INSTITUTE

[www.sanoberinstitute.com](http://www.sanoberinstitute.com)



# A Message From The Chairman

“The Sanober Institute is a new think tank in Islamabad. It will be an independent non-partisan voice on issues that matter to the people of Pakistan. This institute is not affiliated with any political party or any ideological movement. It seeks to discuss issues in the realm of geopolitics, geoeconomics, governance and environment and propose creative solutions for policy practitioners. We hope to coordinate closely with the research community of Islamabad and the rest of the country to propose innovative solutions to the complex problems that Pakistan and South Asia faces.”



**Amb. Aizaz Chaudhry**  
Chairman Sanober Institute



# Our Story

Sanober Institute (SI) is a trusted, non-partisan platform dedicated to fostering informed dialogue on critical subjects affecting Pakistan and the broader South Asian region. Our focus includes geopolitics, geo-economics, governance, and environmental issues. We aim to turn dialogue into action, thought into policy, and research into impactful solutions.

Inspired by Dr. Mohammad Iqbal, Pakistan's national poet, our name reflects his metaphor of the 'Sanober' tree-reaching for light and freedom while staying firmly rooted. We embody this forward-looking vision, deeply rooted in the values and realities of Pakistan and its people.



# Who We Are

Welcome to the Sanober Institute (SI), a trusted platform fostering informed dialogue on critical issues affecting Pakistan and the broader South Asian region. Our focus areas include geopolitics, geoeconomics, governance, and environmental issues.



## Mission

At SI, we strive to serve as a bridge to an informed future. We are committed to turning dialogue into action, thought into policy, and research into impactful solutions.

## Vision:

"Pioneering Creative Ideas, Catalyzing Innovative Solutions" reflects our dedication to pushing boundaries and pioneering new paths.

## Values:

We value originality, comprehensiveness, relevance, impartiality, and modernity. Our research and dialogues are built on unique perspectives, delve into the complexity of issues, and are immediately applicable to contemporary challenges. We uphold impartiality to provide unbiased insights and employ the latest technologies to stay ahead of the curve.

*Join us as we explore, discuss, and innovate for a better future.*



# Sanober Institute

## Board of Directors



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry**

### Chairman

has served as a member of the Foreign Service of Pakistan for 37 years, rising to the rank of the Foreign Secretary. He also served as Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States of America.



**Dr.  
Qamar Cheema**

### Executive Director

is a faculty member at the Department of International Relations, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad. He regularly appears on national and international media as a Strategic and Political Analyst.



**Engr. Muhammad  
Khalid Bashir**

### Director

is an engineering graduate with vast experience in engineering, implementation, application, and management. He is currently working as the Chief Executive Officer of Zirva (Pvt.) Limited.



**Vice Admiral (R) Khan  
Hasham Bin Saddique  
HI(M)**

### Director

Bahria Foundation, served on several key command and staff appointments during his career in Pakistan Navy. He also served as Pakistan's Ambassador to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Permanent Representative at OIC.



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

#### Board of Directors/ Advisers

Former Ambassador to China; European Union; Belgium; Luxembourg; Ireland. Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi is a retired diplomat with over 37 years of experience in Pakistan's Foreign Service. She has held key ambassadorial roles in China, the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Ireland.



**Raja  
Amer Iqbal**

#### Board of Directors/ Advisers

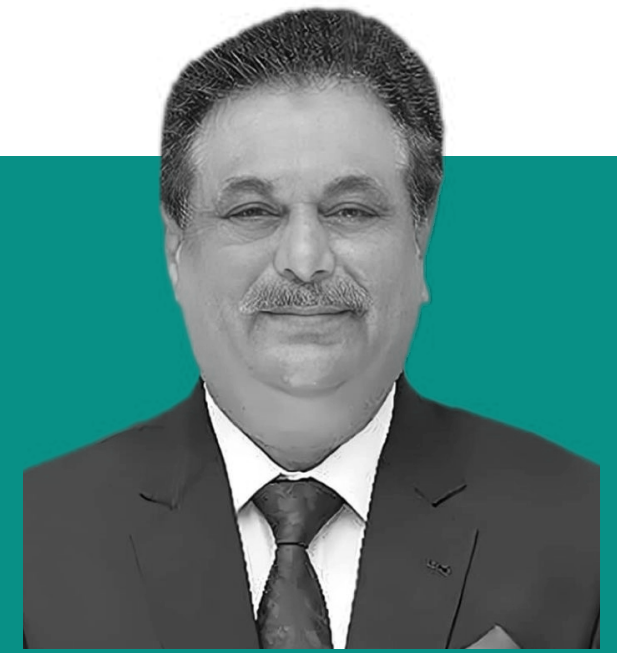
Former President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Raja Amer Iqbal is a seasoned business leader with expertise in trade facilitation, economic policy, and corporate leadership. As President RCCI (2016-2017), he promoted economic growth, particularly in the SME sector, and played a key role as Chairman CPEC committee on behalf of all Pakistan chambers of commerce and industry in between 2017-2020.



**Dr.  
Syed Kaleem Imam**

#### Board of Directors/ Advisers

Governance & Law Enforcement Strategist Dr. Imam has over 34 years of distinguished service in governance and policing, having led key institutions and reform initiatives across Pakistan. Internationally, he served as UN Police Commissioner in Darfur and held senior peacekeeping roles. A Ph.D. scholar and published author, he has received Pakistan's top civilian and police honors.



**Air Marshal (R)  
Saeed Muhammad Khan**

#### Board of Directors/ Advisers

Saeed Muhammad Khan is a retired Vice Chief of the Air Staff who was commissioned into the Pakistan Air Force in October 1981. A graduate of the Combat Commanders' School and NDU.

He commanded a fighter squadron, wing, and an operational air base. His distinguished career included serving as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Training) before reaching the rank of senior leadership.

# What We Do

Our vision, “Creative Ideas, Innovative Solutions,” embodies our commitment to innovation and creativity for a brighter, more equitable future. We push boundaries and challenge the status quo through:

- » **Originality:** Necessity, not option. Unique perspectives that challenge paradigms.
- » **Comprehensiveness:** In-depth analyses of complex issues.
- » **Relevance:** Immediate applicability to contemporary challenges.
- » **Impartiality:** Unbiased, data-driven insights.
- » **Modernity:** Cutting-edge technologies and methodologies.

Our goal is to provide thorough, objective, and non-partisan analysis. We offer scalable recommendations, learn from global best practices, and adapt them locally.

By collaborating with private companies, academic institutions, practitioners, and the Pakistani diaspora, we ensure diversified and comprehensive outcomes.



# Event Highlights



# Sanober Institute Inaugural Session

October 2023 The Sanober Institute held its inaugural session, featuring prominent speakers from geopolitics, academia, and public policy.

This event laid the groundwork for a new era of informed dialogue and policy innovation, addressing the most pressing issues facing Pakistan and South Asia.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique SI(M) HI(M) (Retd)**

(Former Vice Chief of Naval Staff,  
and Ambassador to KSA)



**Engr. Khalid Bashir**

(CEO, Zirva Pvt Ltd)









# Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations:

## Can the Future Be Different From the Past?



Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have long been characterized by complexities and challenges. The Sanober Institute delved into the difficult dynamics of these two neighboring nations, providing insights on political transitions, counter-terrorism, and regional collaboration.

### PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Abdul Basit**

( Research Fellow at  
S. Rajaratnam School of International  
Studies ( RSIS ) Nanyang Technological  
University , Singapore )



**Anas Mallick**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



# Protests in the UK for Palestine:

## How is the West Responding to the Muslim Diaspora?



Following the October 7th attack by Hamas on Israel, global protests arose. Our discussion focused on the implications for liberal values and the Muslim diaspora in the West.

### PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Mary Hunter**

British Freelance Writer



# Pakistan-China Relations: Challenges and Opportunities in a Changing World



The alliance between Pakistan and China is a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. Our event explored the multifaceted nature of this relationship, encompassing geostrategic and political dimensions.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Ambassador to China, EU,  
Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)



**Zoon Ahmed Khan**

The Center for China and  
Globalization (CCG), Beijing



**Adnan Amir**

( Nikkei Asia Correspondent )



# Pakistan-Iran Relations:

## Can Full Potential of Bilateral Cooperation be Realized?



We examined the untapped potential in Pakistan-Iran relations, exploring cultural ties and economic opportunities. The evolving Middle East dynamics and global power structures are seen as opportunities for collaboration between Pakistan and Iran

### PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Ambassador  
Riffat Masood**

( Former Ambassador to Iran )



**Dr Qandil Abbas**

( Assistant Professor,  
Quaid E Azam University,  
Islamabad )



**Baqir Sajjad**

( Correspondent, Dawn )



# Pakistan-India Relations:

## The Estranged Neighbors



The esteemed panel delved into the intricate dynamics of Pakistan- India relations, particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Supreme Court's landmark decision on Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. The discourse highlighted the crucial role of political leadership and emphasized the necessity of a national consensus in Pakistan to propel the peace process.

### PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Ambassador  
Shahid Malik**

( Former High Commissioner to India )



**Prof.  
Dr. Mujeeb Afzal**

(Assistant Professor, SPIR  
Quaid-i-Azam University  
Islamabad)



**Mateen Haider**

( Diplomatic Correspondent )



# National Conference on Security and Foreign Policy of Pakistan

In collaboration with The Millennium Universal College (TMUC) and the Centre for Law and Security (CLAS), this conference promises to foster insightful discussions on Pakistan's security and foreign policy landscape.





# Election 2024:

## National Healing or Divided Nation



As Pakistan approaches its elections, we explored the urgent need for national healing and the potential for political reconciliation

### PANELISTS:



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober Institute)



**Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash**

(Historian)



**Adnan Amir**

( Nikkei Asia Correspondent )





# Sanober Institute Addresses Challenges for Next Government



Amidst a backdrop of political turmoil and uncertainty, The Sanober Institute convened a discussion titled Challenges for the Next Pakistani Government. The discussion provided a comprehensive analysis of the multifaceted challenges ranging from political instability to economic constraints, national security threats, and the absence of a cohesive foreign policy.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique SI(M) HI(M) (Retd)**

(Founding Director, Sanober Institute)



**Dr. Bilal Zubair**

(Assistant Professor at NDU)

# Sanober Institute Hosts Book Talk:

## Exploring Chinese Soft Power & Public Diplomacy in the United States

This book talk focused on “Chinese Soft Power & Public Diplomacy in the United States,” discussing its essence and impact.

### PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



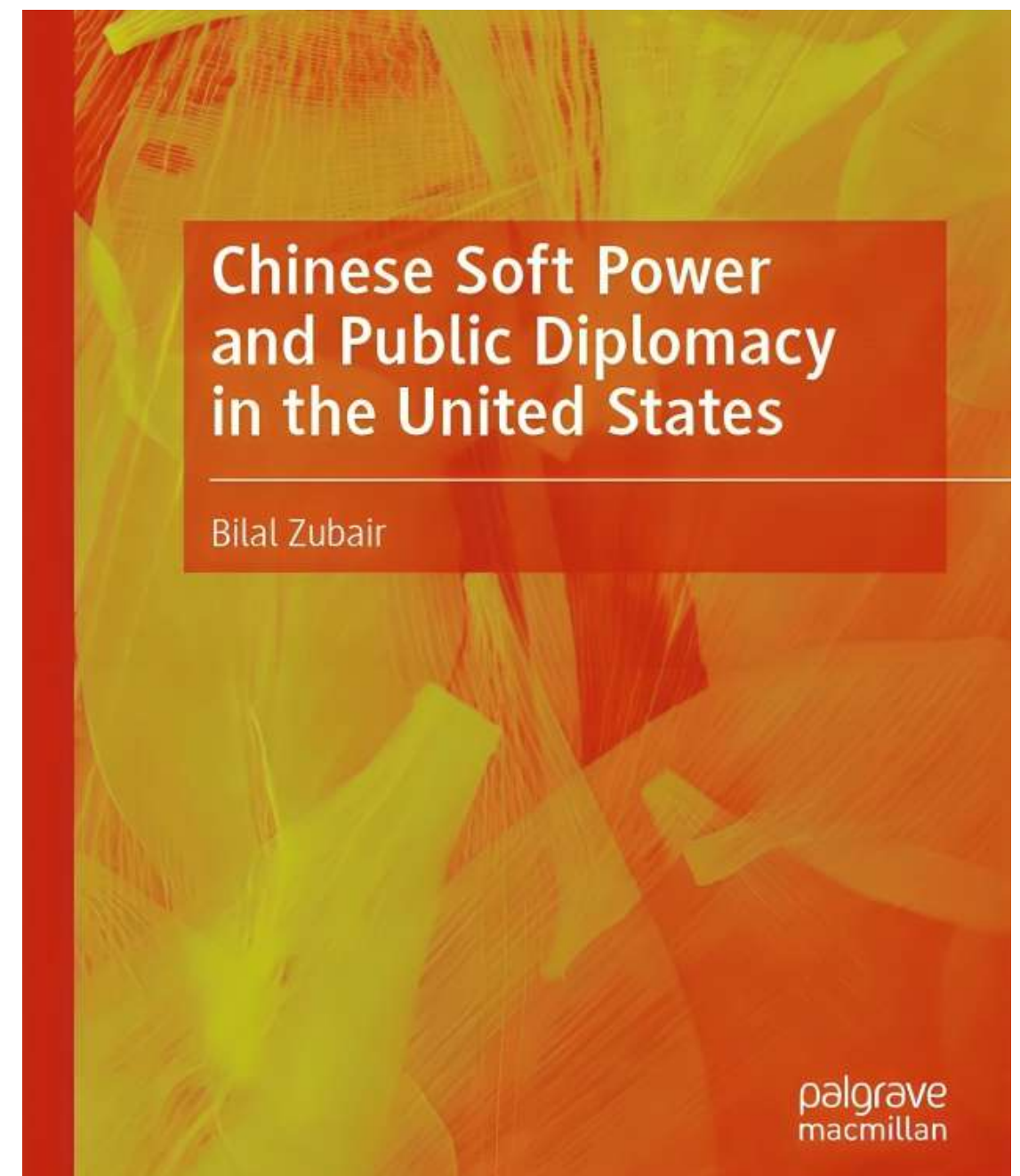
**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Ambassador to China, EU,  
Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)



**Dr. Bilal Zubair**

(Assistant Professor at NDU)  
(Author)





# Middle East, Iran-Israel Conflict:

## Can Pakistan Trade with Iran?

We examined the evolving dynamics of the Middle East and the implications for Pakistan's trade relations with Iran.

### PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**M. Ashfaque Arain**

(Retd. Air Marshal)





# Indian Elections: Who Will Make Next Govt?

The conversation offered a thorough analysis into the multifaceted challenges surrounding the Indian elections, including the dominance of the BJP, the opposition's struggle to form a cohesive alliance, rise of Hindu nationalism to concerns over minority rights, erosion of secular values, and the potential implications for regional stability and international relations.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Prof.  
Dr. Raja Qaiser Ahmed**

(School of Politics & International  
Relations, QAU)







# NCSFP

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SECURITY & FOREIGN POLICY

The Sanober Institute (SI), in collaboration with TMUC Islamabad and Centre for Law and Security (CLAS), hosted a National Conference on Security and Foreign Policy. The event aimed to discuss and formulate concrete, doable recommendations for the incoming elected government of Pakistan.

More than twenty experts, academics, and former practitioners engaged in in-depth discussions on four interconnected themes: National Security of Pakistan, South Asia's Geopolitics, Pakistan and its Western Frontiers, and Economic Security of Pakistan.



# Notable Speakers and Attendees Included:



**Dr. Adil Sultan**

(Dean, Faculty of Aerospace and Strategic Studies, Air University Islamabad)



**Dr. Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal**

(Assistant Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad)



**Ms. Amina Khan**

(Director, Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East, and Africa, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad)



**Dr. Faisal Mushtaq**

(Founder & CEO The Millennium Universal College)



**Dr. Sarina Shirazi**

(HOD, Department of Business Management and Social Sciences, TMUC Pakistan)



**Mr. Kamran Yousaf**

(Author, Express Tribune)



**Mr. Iftikhar Firdous**

(Founder and Editor, The Khorasan Diary)



**Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute Islamabad)



**Maj. Gen Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat HI(M)(Retd)**

(Senior Advisor, Centre for Pakistan Cultural Communication, Tsingua University, Beijing, China)



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham Bin Saddique SI(M) HI(M) (Retd)**

(Former Vice Chief of Naval Staff, and Ambassador to KSA)



**Mr. Muhammad Amir Rana**

(Director, Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies)



**Engr. Khalid Bashir**

(CEO, Zirva Pvt Ltd)



**Maj. Gen Dr. Muhammad Samrez Salik HI(M) (Retd)**

(Former Director General ISSRA)



**Ambassador Dr. Raza Muhammad**

(President, Islamabad Policy Research Institute)



**Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Ambassador to China, EU, Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)



**Mr. Haroon Sharif**

(Former Minister of State and Senior Economic Advisor)



**Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh**

(Climate Change Expert)



**Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain**

(Former Ambassador to Afghanistan, Kuwait and Nepal)



**Dr. Talat Shabbir**

(Director, China-Pakistan Study Centre, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad)



**Mr. Rehman Azhar**

(Executive Director, Centre for Law and Security)



**Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz**

(President, Institute of Regional Studies)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

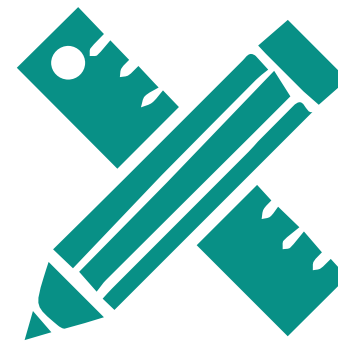
(Executive Director, Sanober Institute)



**Over 500 participants**



**Social events**



**Tailor-made formats**



**4 panel discussions**



**Multiple side-sessions and meetings**



# Panel Discussion 01

## National Security of Pakistan

- Panel discussion addressing critical aspects of Pakistan's national security and strategic interests.
- Explored topics such as defense strategies, counterterrorism efforts, and regional stability.
- Engaged policymakers, military leaders, and security experts to enhance collaboration and develop comprehensive security solutions.

### MODERATOR:



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique SI(M) HI(M) (Retd)**

(Former Vice Chief of Naval Staff, and  
Ambassador to KSA)

### SPEAKERS:



**Maj. Gen Dr. Muhammad  
Samrez Salik HI(M) (Retd)**

(Former Director General ISSRA)



**Dr. Adil Sultan**

(Dean, Faculty of Aerospace and  
Strategic Studies, Air University  
Islamabad)



**Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh**

(Climate Change Expert)



**Maj. Gen Dr. Shahid  
Ahmad Hashmat HI(M)(Retd)**

(Senior Advisor, Centre for Pakistan Cultural  
Communication, Tsingua University, Beijing,  
China)

# Panel Discussion 02

## South Asia's Geopolitics

- Panel discussion examining the complex geopolitical landscape of South Asia and its global implications.
- Covered topics such as regional power dynamics, border conflicts, and diplomatic strategies.
- Brought together diplomats, geopolitical analysts, and regional experts to foster dialogue and strategic collaboration.

### MODERATOR:



**Mr. Rehman Azhar**

(Executive Director, Centre for Law and Security)

### SPEAKERS:



**Ambassador  
Dr. Raza Muhammad**

(President, Islamabad Policy Research Institute)



**Ambassador  
Nadeem Riyaz**

(President, Institute of Regional Studies)



**Mr. Kamran Yousaf**

(Author, Express Tribune)



**Dr.  
Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal**

(Assistant Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad)



# Panel Discussion 03

## Pakistan and its Western Frontiers

- Panel discussion focused on the strategic importance of Pakistan's western frontiers and its security dynamics.
- Addressed issues such as border security, cross-border relations, and regional stability.
- Engaged policymakers, defense experts, and regional analysts to enhance understanding and cooperation on frontier management.

### MODERATOR:



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober Institute)

### SPEAKERS:



**Mr. Iftikhar Firdous**

(Founder and Editor, The Khorasan Diary)



**Ambassador  
Syed Abrar Hussain**

(Former Ambassador to Afghanistan, Kuwait and Nepal)



**Mr. Muhammad Amir Rana**

(Director, Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies)



**Ms. Amina Khan**

(Director, Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East, and Africa, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad)

# Panel Discussion 04

## Economic Security of Pakistan

- Expert panel discussion focused on enhancing Pakistan's economic resilience and stability.
- Key topics included fiscal policies, trade dynamics, and investment opportunities to drive sustainable growth.
- Brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and economic experts to foster collaboration and innovative solutions for Pakistan's economic challenges.

### MODERATOR:



**Dr. Sarina Shirazi**

(HOD, Department of Business Management and Social Sciences, TMUC Pakistan)

### SPEAKERS:



**Mr. Haroon Sharif**

(Former Minister of State and Senior Economic Advisor)



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Ambassador to China, EU, Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)



**Dr. Talat Shabbir**

(Director, China-Pakistan Study Centre, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad)



**Engr. Khalid Bashir**

(CEO, Zirva Pvt Ltd)



# Whither Islam in the Age of Great Power Politics:

## A Conversation with Professor Akbar S. Ahmed

In a compelling dialogue with renowned scholar Professor Akbar S. Ahmed, the Sanober Institute explored the intersection of Islam and global geopolitics. The discussion addressed the growing anxiety and unrest in the Muslim world amid shifting power dynamics, offering nuanced reflections on identity, diplomacy, and the challenges of the modern era.

### PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



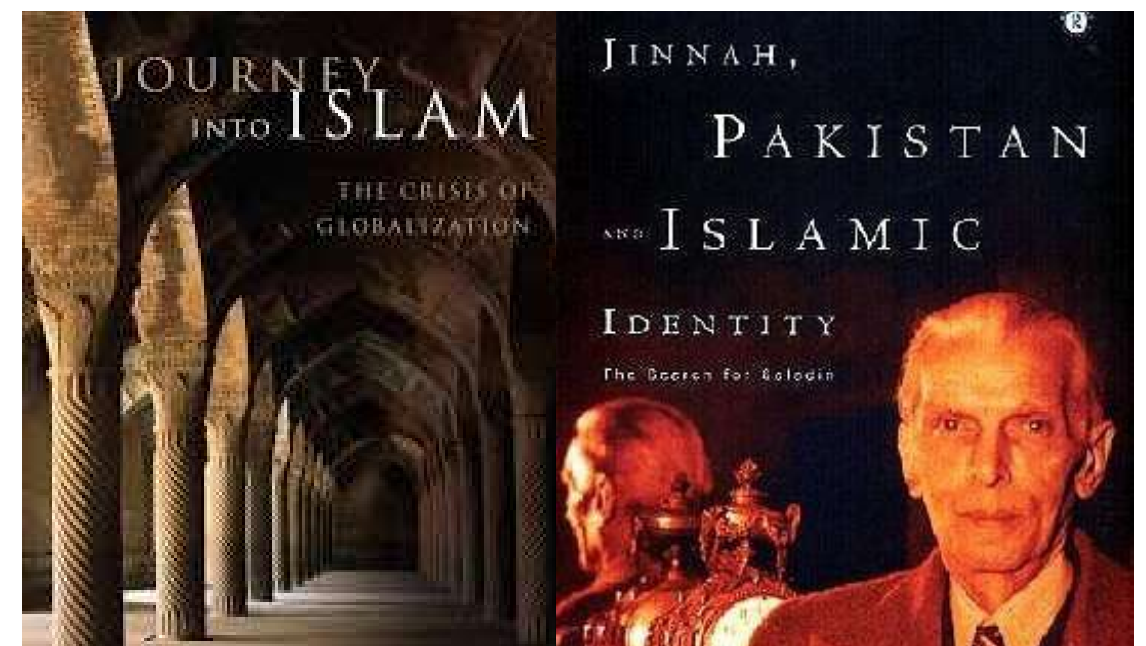
**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Professor  
Akbar S. Ahmed**

(Professor of International Relations and  
holds the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic  
Studies at the American University)



# Pakistan's Budget: Expectations & Realities

The Sanober Institute convened a timely discussion on Pakistan's PKR 18.9 trillion budget, examining its ambitious goals—3.6% growth, inflation control, tax expansion—and the real-world challenges of implementation. The panel assessed the gap between fiscal expectations and economic realities, highlighting risks and opportunities.

## PANELISTS:



**Raja Amer Iqbal**

(Former President RCCI)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober Institute)



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique SI(M) HI(M) (Retd)**

(Founding Director, Sanober Institute)





# Governance Challenges in Pakistan: The Way Forward

Despite a capable judiciary, foreign-educated bureaucracy, and seasoned political leadership, Pakistan continues to face persistent governance issues. This discussion explored the root causes of these challenges and potential paths toward more effective, accountable governance.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Raja Amer Iqbal**

(Former President RCCI)



# India-US Strategic Partnership: Implications for Pakistan

The Sanober Institute explored the growing India-US strategic alliance and its ramifications for Pakistan. The discussion analyzed key drivers such as geopolitical shifts, India's economic rise, and strategic autonomy—assessing how this evolving partnership influences regional dynamics and Pakistan's foreign policy outlook.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Dr. Kamran Bokhari**

(Senior Director of the Eurasian  
Security & Prosperity at the New Lines  
Institute, Washington DC )





# Post-US Election Scenarios:

## Implications for the World and South Asia

This timely discussion assessed how the outcomes of the upcoming U.S. election—whether a Harris continuation or Trump comeback—could reshape global and regional dynamics. The panel explored likely shifts in U.S. foreign policy toward China, Russia, the Middle East, and South Asia, analyzing implications for alliances, security, and diplomacy.

### PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Ambassador Touqir Hussain**

(Former ambassador, Currently adjunct  
professor Georgetown University and  
Visiting Senior Research Fellow, National  
University of Singapore.)









# International Conference on **TOURISM POTENTIAL OF PAKISTAN** 2024

Sanober Institute Islamabad, in partnership with Serena Hotels, convened an International Conference on the Tourism Potential of Pakistan on 6 November 2024 at the Serena hotel Islamabad. The Conference brought together notable experts from home and abroad to carry out a detailed overview of the tourism potential of Pakistan, and design a roadmap comprising doable actions to be taken in the public and private sectors to translate the potential into reality.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Chairman Sanober Institute, welcomed the guests and explained the significance of tourism sector of Pakistan. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and Dr. Haroon Sharif delivered keynote speeches. The guest of honor was Engineer Khurram Dastgir. The speakers in the inaugural session took stock of the global scene in tourism industry and noted that tourism has emerged as a dynamic sector in the global economy. Numerous countries of the world have used tourism to promote their positive image as well as socio-economic development. He noted that Pakistan has all the elements that can make it an attractive tourist destination. Pakistan is home to mighty mountains, revered religious shrines, rich archaeological heritage, and a remarkable coastline.





# Notable Speakers and Attendees Included:

Four separate panel discussions focused on the awe and lure of the majestic mountains of Pakistan, pristine beaches of the country, and Pakistan's rich archaeological heritage. Pakistan is also home to multiple faiths where thousands visit shrines of religious reverence for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Sufi saints of Pakistan. The speakers included the following:



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Amassador to China, EU, Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique SI(M) HI(M) (Retd)**

former Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, President of IPRI, and MD Bahria Foundation



**Dr. Jasdeep Singh (Jesse)**

Indian-American entrepreneur and philanthropist, served as Chairman of the Maryland Governor's Commission on South Asian Affairs.



**Mr. Aftab ur Rehman Rana**

(Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation and the President of Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan and Vice President of Adventure Foundation Pakistan)



**Air Vice Marshal  
Ijaz Mahmood Malik (Retd)**

Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military), Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military)  
Founding Managing Editor " Fascinating Pakistan" A tourism , heritage magazine



**Ramesh Singh Arora**

Minister for Minorities in Punjab, Ambassador at Large for the Kartarpur Corridor and Pardhan of the Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee



**Dr. Shezra  
Mansab Ali Khan Kharal**

Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan since February 2024. Previously she served in this position from March 2015 to May 2018.



**Christian Trommsdorff**

(President of the GHM (Groupe de Haute Montagne, see ghm-alpinisme.fr), an elite amateur alpinists club, and as the acting organiser of the « Piolets d'Or » event )



**Dr. Rohantha Athukorala**

(The Country Head for South Asia's leading AI brand mapping company, Clootrack Software Labs, overseeing operations in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Pakistan )



**Raja Amer Iqbal**

( Former President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry)



**Mr. Yannick Graziani**

Alpine guide and a passionate mountaineer



**Changgaiz Hussain Khan**

(Chairman of Team Balochistan, is a social entrepreneur, humanitarian, and tourism promoter)



**REV.Dr. Sir Sumana Siri**

(He embarked on Medical Studies for 6 years in Homoeopathy and Naturopathy (Hahnemann Medical College & British institute of Homoeopathy) also he is a Life Member of the Oxford Union



**Mr. Victor Saunders**

British mountaineer, writer, and high mountain guide



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

Executive Director at Sanober Institute, is an academic and strategic analyst.



**Ambassador Imran Shauket**

Ambassador on Buddhist Heritage Promotion" for Pakistan for Green Tourism, established under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)



# Panel Discussion 01

## Mountain Tourism in Pakistan

The awe and lure of majestic mountains of Pakistan.

- Experts stressed the urgent need for professionally trained adventure guides to boost Pakistan's trekking, climbing, and alpine tourism.
- New efforts will connect GB universities with global training schools to build strong certification and capacity systems.
- Speakers called for separate permit systems for guided and unguided expeditions to enhance safety and global participation.

### MODERATOR:



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Ambassador to China, EU, Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)

### SPEAKERS:



**Mr. Aftab ur Rehman Rana**

(Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation and the President of Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan and Vice President of Adventure Foundation Pakistan)



**Mr. Yannick Graziani**

Alpine guide and a passionate mountaineer



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(President of the GHM (Groupe de Haute Montagne, see [ghm-alpinisme.fr](http://ghm-alpinisme.fr)), an elite amateur alpinists club, and as the acting organiser of the « Piolets d'Or » event )



**Mr. Victor Saunders**

British mountaineer, writer, and high mountain guide

# Panel Discussion 02

## Coastal Tourism in Pakistan

Pristine Beaches of Pakistan -A delightful treasure.

- Despite jet-capable runways, lack of regional connectivity and restrictive policies hinder tourism air travel.
- Panelists highlighted homestays and guesthouses as key to locally driven, inclusive tourism growth.
- Declaring tourism an industry and offering incentives/SEZs can boost investment in resort infrastructure.

### MODERATOR:



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique SI(M) HI(M) (Retd)**

former Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Pakistan's  
Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, President of  
IPRI, and MD Bahria Foundation

### SPEAKERS:



**Air Vice Marshal  
Ijaz Mahmood Malik (Retd)**

Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military), Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military)  
Founding Managing Editor " Fascinating  
Pakistan" A tourism , heritage magazine



**Dr. Rohantha Athukorala**

(The Country Head for South Asia's leading  
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Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Pakistan )



**Changaiz Hussain Khan**

(Chairman of Team Balochistan, is a social  
entrepreneur, humanitarian, and tourism  
promoter)



# Panel Discussion 03

## Religious Tourism in Pakistan

Pakistan - home to multiple faiths.

- Delegates urged allowing Sikh and Buddhist pilgrims to explore cultural and business sites beyond religious landmarks.
- Calls were made to extend corridor hours and reduce visa fees to boost tourist flow and experience.
- Participants emphasized using diaspora networks and global roadshows to present Pakistan's true cultural and tolerant image.

### MODERATOR:



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober Institute)

### SPEAKERS:



**Dr. Jasdeep Singh (Jesse)**

Indian-American entrepreneur and philanthropist, served as Chairman of the Maryland Governor's Commission on South Asian Affairs.



**Ramesh Singh Arora**

Minister for Minorities in Punjab, Ambassador at Large for the Kartarpur Corridor and Pardhan of the Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee



**Dr. Shezra  
Mansab Ali Khan Kharal**

Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan since February 2024. Previously she served in this position from March 2015 to May 2018.

# Panel Discussion 04

## Heritage Tourism in Pakistan

Pakistan's ancient and rich heritage.

- Speakers urged embracing Pakistan's pre-Islamic heritage to promote inclusive and diverse cultural tourism.
- Diplomats called for secure, curated tours to attract Chinese and Southeast Asian tourists through pilot projects.
- Shaping Perception: Participants stressed countering exaggerated safety concerns with fact-based narratives to reflect Pakistan's true travel reality.

### MODERATOR:



**Raja Amer Iqbal**

( Former President Rawalpindi  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

### SPEAKERS:



**REV.Dr. Sir Sumana Siri**

(He embarked on Medical Studies for 6 years in  
Homoeopathy and Naturopathy (Hahnemann Medical  
College & British institute of Homoeopathy) also he  
is a Life Member of the Oxford Union



**Ambassador Imran Shauket**

Ambassador on Buddhist Heritage Promotion" for Pakistan  
for Green Tourism, established under the Special Investment  
Facilitation Council (SIFC)







# Evolving Situation in the Middle East:

## Implications for Pakistan

In light of intensifying US-China rivalry, the Israel–Palestine war, and Iran's growing nuclear posture, the Sanober Institute hosted a critical discussion on the Middle East's shifting dynamics. Panelists emphasized the urgency for Pakistan to reassess its foreign policy as regional tensions escalate and new security threats emerge.

### MODERATOR:



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober Institute)

### SPEAKERS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal**

( Dean & Meritorious Professor  
SPIR, QAU )



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique HI(M) (Retd)**

(Founding Director, Sanober Institute)



**Dr. Nazish Mahmood**

( Assistant Professor, SPIR )



**Dr. Mujtaba Isani**

( DAAD Professor SPIR )



**Amb. Riffat Masood**

( Former Ambassador to Iran )







# Kashmir Issue Resurfaces on the Global Stage

In the wake of the Pahalgam incident and renewed India-Pakistan tensions, the Sanober Institute convened a high-level roundtable to examine recent military escalations and their diplomatic fallout. The discussion highlighted the urgency of re-centering Kashmir in global discourse and preventing further regional destabilization.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique SI(M) HI(M) (Retd)**

(Founding Director, Sanober Institute)



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Ambassador to China, EU,  
Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)





# Urdu Language in United States

## Conversation with Irfan Murtaza

The Sanober Institute hosted a compelling discussion on preserving and promoting Urdu in the U.S., featuring Irfan Murtaza—renowned poet, artist, and founder of the Urdu Writers Society Inc. The talk explored the challenges of passing Urdu to future generations, its role in cultural preservation, and Murtaza's creative contributions to Urdu literature and art.

### PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Irfan Murtaza**

(Renowned poet, artist, and  
founder of the Urdu Writers  
Society Inc)



**Dr. Talat Shabbir**

(Director China Pakistan  
study Centre at Institute of  
strategic studies)



# American Foreign Policy in the Donald Trump Presidency

The Sanober Institute hosted a compelling discussion on preserving and promoting Urdu in the U.S., featuring Irfan Murtaza—renowned poet, artist, and founder of the Urdu Writers Society Inc. The talk explored the challenges of passing Urdu to future generations, its role in cultural preservation, and Murtaza's creative contributions to Urdu literature and art.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Dr. Qamar-ul Huda**

( Professor of International Affairs  
at United States Naval Academy )





# India-China Rapprochement and Trump's Indo-Pacific Strategy

This Sanober Institute session explored the implications of a warming India-China relationship amid Donald Trump's renewed Indo-Pacific strategy. Panelists debated India's dual alignment—strategic autonomy or multi-alignment—and China's pragmatic de-escalation approach. With Trump back, the U.S. is expected to double down on India as a counterweight to China, prioritizing security over diplomacy in the region.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Ambassador to China, EU,  
Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Asanga  
Abeyagoonasekera**

(Sri Lankan Academic)



# Are Regional Countries Ready to Help Pakistan in Countering Terrorism?

In light of a sharp surge in terrorist attacks, the Sanober Institute hosted a critical discussion on whether regional actors are willing and able to support Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts. The panel highlighted the urgent need for collective regional action—particularly regarding threats emanating from Afghanistan.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Muhammad Amir Rana**

(Director, Pakistan Institute for  
Peace Studies)





# Current US Foreign Policy Towards South Asia

The Sanober Institute, in collaboration with IIUI, hosted a high-level seminar examining the evolution of U.S. foreign policy in South Asia—from the Cold War and post-9/11 dynamics to the current era of great power competition. Panelists explored shifting strategic priorities and their regional implications.

## PANELISTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Mr. Khurram Dastgir**

( Former Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of Pakistan )



**Dr. Noor Fatima**

( Chairperson, Department  
of Politics & IR )



**Prof. Dr. Amna Mahmood**

(Professor of Political Science  
International Islamic University)



**Prof.  
Dr Manzoor Khan Afridi**

( Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences )

## CHEIF GUEST



**Mr. Anwar Ul Haq Kakar**

(Former Prime Minister of Pakistan)







# European Union–South Asia Relations in the Current Geopolitical Context

The Sanober Institute convened a timely dialogue on the EU's engagement with South Asia amidst shifting global power balances. Speakers examined the EU's Indo-Pacific strategy, cautioning that its India-centric focus could hinder broader regional cooperation.

## MODERATOR:



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober Institute)

## SPEAKERS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Ambassador to China, EU,  
Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique HI(M) (Retd)**

(Founding Director, Sanober Institute)



**Prof. Luis Tomé**

(Professor and Director of the  
Autonomous University of Lisbon)



**Prof. Carlos Gaspar**

( Professor at the Autonomous  
University of Lisbon (UAL) )

# OPERATION BUNYANUM MARSOOS:

Restoring Deterrence in Volatile South Asia



23<sup>rd</sup> JUN 2025



# Operation Bunyanum Marsoos:

## Restoring Deterrence in Volatile South Asia

Operation Bunyanum Marsoos marked a significant milestone in Pakistan's contemporary security landscape, emerging as a turning point in the nation's strategic posture. Conducted amidst intensifying regional hostilities, the operation was a demonstration of technological sophistication, coordinated military readiness, and national unity. It served as a calibrated response to external aggression and reaffirmed the country's commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty under the framework of international law.

The discussion aimed to draw critical lessons from the events surrounding the operation, assess the efficacy of Pakistan's multi-domain deterrence, and formulate practical policy recommendations for future preparedness.



To reflect upon the operation's strategic, operational, and narrative dimensions, a roundtable discussion was convened by the Sanober Institute with eminent scholars and experts, military officials, security analysts, diplomats, and members of civil society.

## The discussion featured



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Mr. Attaullah Tarar**

(Federal Minister for Information  
and Broadcasting)



**Air Commodore (R)  
Khalid Banuri**

(Retired Air Force Officer)



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober  
Institute)



**Dr.  
Syed Kaleem Imam**

(Law Enforcement and Governance expert)



**Mr. Iftikhar Firdous**

(Founder and Editor, The Khorasan  
Diary)



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Ambassador to China, EU, Brussels,  
Luxembourg and Ireland)



**Major General (R)  
Dr. Raza Mohammad**

( Former President of Islamabad Policy  
Research Institute (IPRI) )



**Sardar Yasir Ilyas**

(CEO, Centaurus Group of  
Companies)



**Air Chief Marshal  
Sohail Aman (Retd.)**

(Former Chief of the Air Staff of  
Pakistan Air Force)



**Air Marshal (R)  
Aamir Masood**

(Retired Air Marshal)



**Mr. Azaz Syed**

(Investigative Journalist)



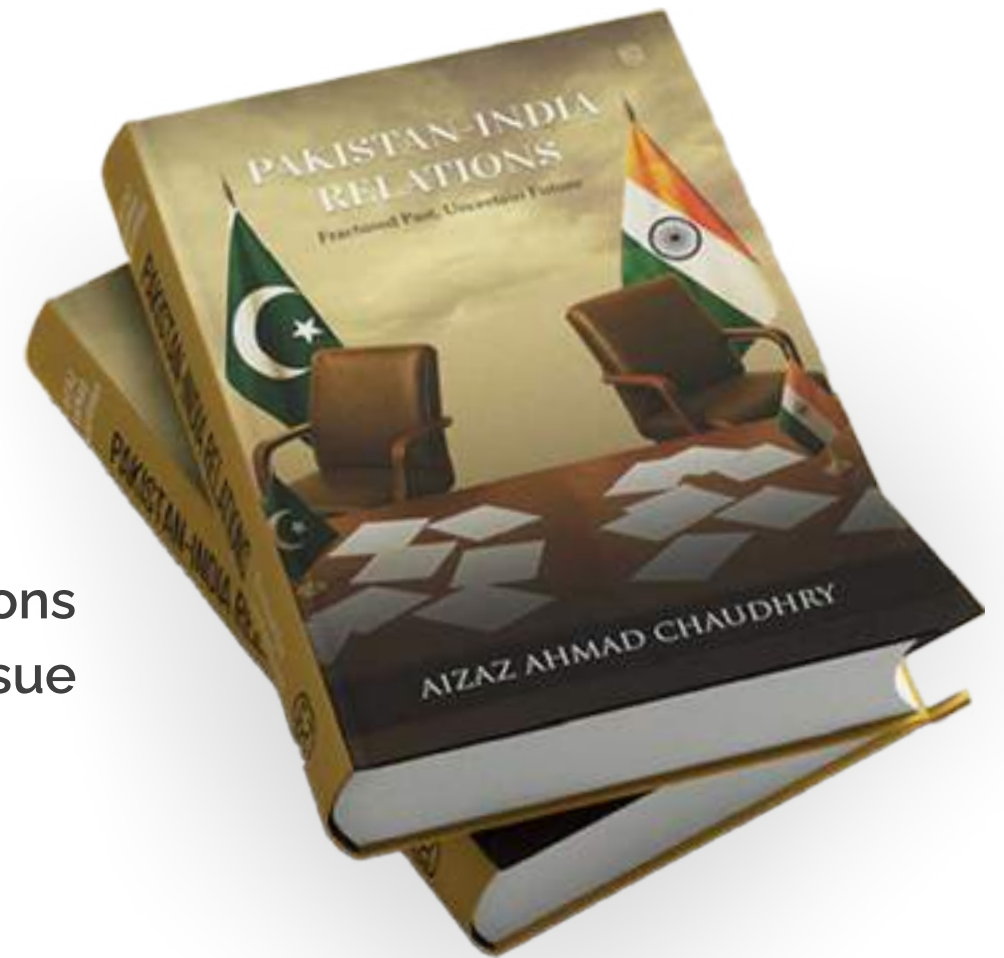




# Seminar & Book Launch

## Pakistan-India Relations: Fractured Past, Uncertain Future

The book launch event was organized jointly by Institute of Regional Studies Islamabad and Sanober Institute Islamabad. The book examines the reasons behind India's refusal to resolve the Kashmir dispute, its politicization of the issue of terrorism, and quest for regional assertiveness.



### PANELISTS:



**Dr. Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober Institute)

### PARTICIPANTS:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute  
Islamabad)



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Ambassador to China, EU,  
Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique HI(M) (Retd)**

(Founding Director, Sanober Institute)



**Raja Amer Iqbal**

(Former President Rawalpindi  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry)



**Engr. Khalid Bashir**

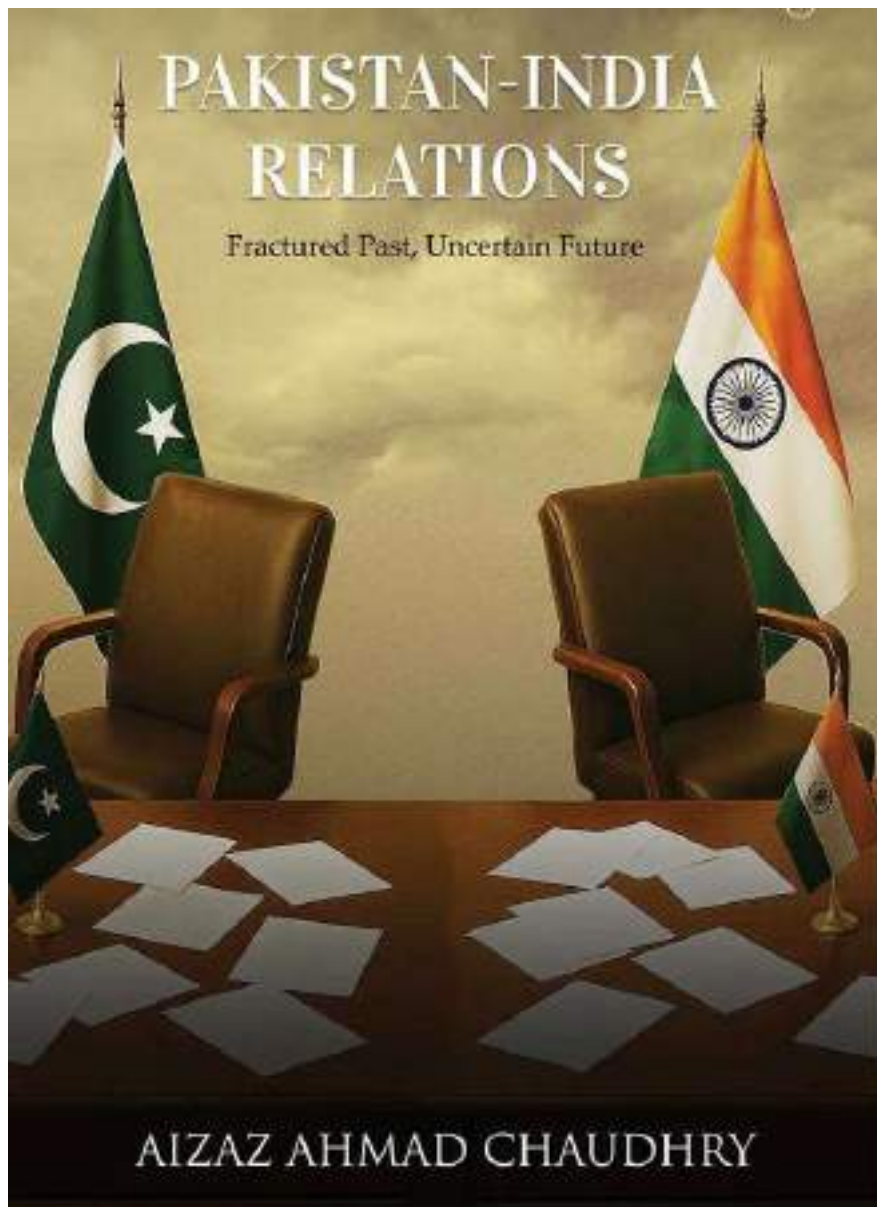
(CEO, Zirva Pvt Ltd)



**Air Marshal (R)  
Saeed M Khan**

(Former Vice Chief of Air Staff)





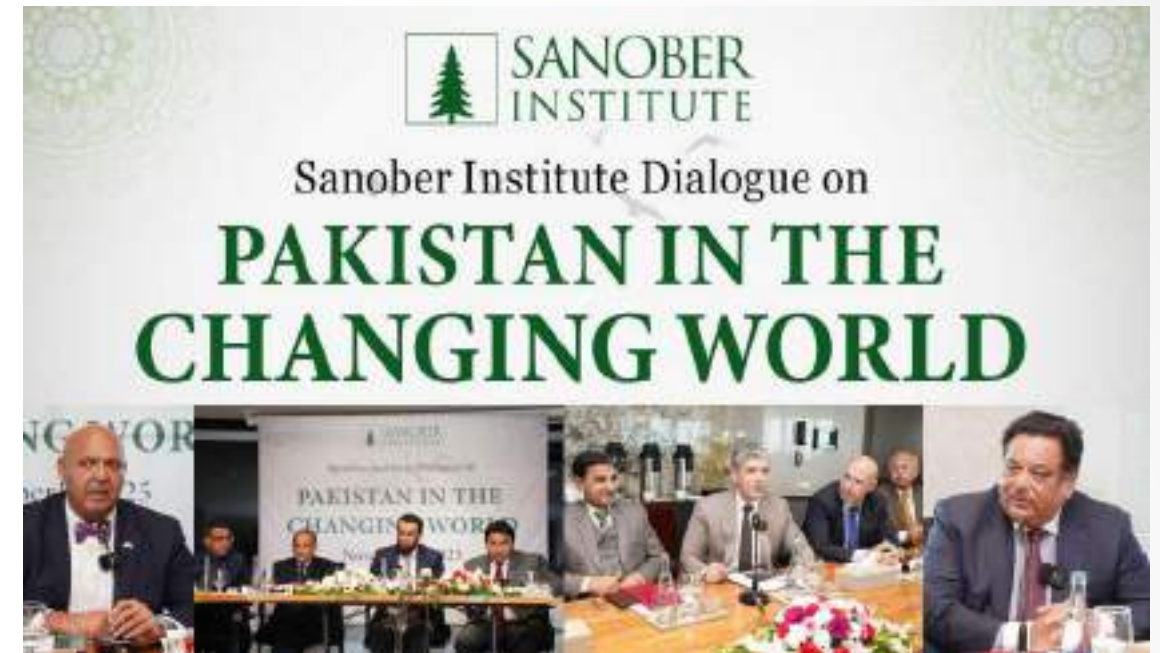


# Pakistan in the Changing World

In an era of rapid global shifts, this important discussion brought together diplomats, policymakers, strategic experts, academics, and diaspora voices to explore Pakistan's evolving role on the international stage.

The dialogue examined how Pakistan can recalibrate its foreign policy, seize emerging economic opportunities, and strengthen its strategic positioning amidst intensifying geopolitical competition and regional realignments.

Panelists reflected on Pakistan's historical choices, current challenges, and future prospects, emphasizing the need for pragmatic diplomacy, regional connectivity, and a balanced approach to global partnerships.





## Chaired by:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute Islamabad)

## Moderator:



**Dr.  
Qamar Cheema**

(Executive Director, Sanober Institute)

## Speakers:



**Mr. Attaullah Tarar**

(Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting)



**Sajid Tarar**

(Founder, American Muslims for Trump)



**Barrister  
Aqeel Malik**

(Minister of State for Law and Justice)



**Air Marshal (R)  
Saeed M Khan**

(Former Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force)



**Dr.  
Qandil Abbas**

(Associate Professor at QAU)



**Dr.  
Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal**

(Assistant Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad)



**Dr. Maria Sultan**

(Chairperson & DG SASSI)



**Dr. Bilal Zubair**

(Assistant Professor at NDU)



**Muhammad  
Azfar Ahsan**

(Pakistan's former Minister for Investment)



**Tahir Khan**

(senior journalist)



**Sardar Jasdeep Singh**

(Sikh advocate and businessman from America)



**Sheharyar Khan**

(Executive Director of the National Dialogue Forum)







# National Conference on Local Governance in Pakistan

Organized by the BNU Center for Policy Research (BCPR) in collaboration with the Sanober Institute Islamabad, the event brought together scholars, policymakers, local government experts, and community leaders to discuss inclusive, transparent, and participatory governance for a stronger Pakistan.

Participants explored critical themes such as decentralization, accountability, and community-driven development, highlighting how effective local governance can serve as the foundation for national progress.



## Chaired by:



**Ambassador  
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary**

(Chairman Sanober Institute Islamabad)

## Speakers:



**Dr. Zainab Ahmed**

(Deputy Director of the BNU  
Center for Policy Research)



**Sardar  
Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera**

(Former Cabinet Secretary of Pakistan)



**Mr. Khurram Dastgir**

( Former Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of Pakistan )



**Dr. Moeed Yusuf**

(Former National Security Advisor)



**Fawad Chaudhry**

(Former Minister for Information  
and Broadcasting)



**Dr. Seemi Waheed**

(Professor at University of Management  
and Technology)



**Ambassador  
Naghmana Hashmi**

(Former Amassador to China, EU,  
Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland)



**Salman Abid**

(Senior journalist and analyst)



**Usama  
Khawar Ghumman**

(Advisor and speaker in the Punjab  
Assembly)



**Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**

(President, PILDAT)



**Vice Admiral Khan Hasham  
Bin Saddique HI(M) (Retd)**

(Founding Director, Sanober Institute)



**Malik Ahmad Khan**

(Speaker of the Punjab Assembly)







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