

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

**PAKISTANIS MORE RELAXED
ABOUT INDIA BUT DISTRUSTFUL
OF RAJIV PROMISES**

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PAKISTANIS MORE RELAXED ABOUT INDIA BUT DISTRUSTFUL OF RAJIV PROMISES

A recent Gallup poll shows that the Zia-Rajiv meeting of last year helped reduce the immediate danger felt in Pakistan about a war with India. Apparently the Zia-Rajiv meeting was also instrumental in relaxing Pakistanis reservations about opening up trade and social exchange with India. But the deeper concerns about insecurity against India's nuclear threat and fears about its cultural onslaught persist.

These findings are based on two successive surveys conducted by Gallup Pakistan (Pakistan Institute of Public Opinion), the first survey was held shortly before the Zia-Rajiv meeting and the second was conducted a few weeks after the meeting. Both surveys interviewed a scientific sample selected randomly from 100 localities in the cities and to examine the variations in different groups of the population.

The Gallup surveys show that the Zia-Rajiv meeting in Delhi in December of last year made a significant impression on attitudes in Pakistan about India. This change is particularly visible in Pakistani concerns about a war with India.

In a survey conducted shortly before Zia's meeting with Rajiv, 26% of the population thought the chances of a war between India and Pakistan were very high. This figure dropped to 15% in a survey conducted in early February 1986. Similarly, while only 14% of the respondents felt confident that there were no chances of war between India and Pakistan in December 1985, the figure increased to 24% in February 1986. But, while the fears of an imminent war have subsided, there is no change in Pakistani fears about India's nuclear option. 53% of respondents in the latest poll believe that India is likely to use nuclear weapons in a war with Pakistan. This figure, in a comparable sample in 1981 was 48%.

The latest poll shows that only 14% express any trust in India's assurance that it would not attack Pakistan's nuclear facilities. As opposed to this a 79% of the respondents in this national urban survey said that Pakistan should not trust India's assurances.

While fears about India's nuclear weapons persist, and Pakistanis are unwilling to trust India's assurances, the attitudes on more trade and freedom of movement between the two countries are very positive. 72% of the respondents favour trade between India and Pakistan and 70% favour relaxing travel restrictions between the two countries. Views on educational exchange are also very positive, with 67% supporting exchange of students for training in various fields. However, cultural exchanges draw less support. 56% oppose cooperation or exchange in the field of films and movies, 50% oppose exchange of cultural and 41% oppose exchange of TV and Radio programs.

In your view, what are the chances of a war between India and Pakistan.

	<u>Percent of respondents</u>	
	<u>December 1985</u>	<u>February 1986</u>
Very high	26	15
Some chances	37	40
No chances	14	24
No opinion	23	21

In their recent meeting, the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Ghandi has assured President Zia-ul-Haq that India will not attack Pakistan's nuclear facilities. In your view, should Pakistan trust this assurance?

	<u>Percent of respondents</u>
Yes	14
No	71
No opinion	15

Views on trade and cultural
Exchange between India and Pakistan.

	<u>Percent of respondents</u>		
	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Trade	72	22	6
Exchange of Students	67	28	5
Freedom of movement / tourism	70	26	4
Exchange of movies	40	56	4
Exchange of cultural troupes	45	50	5
Exchange of TV, Radio programmes	54	41	5