

Mapping of Outsource Diplomatic Initiatives: A Case of Pakistan-India Relations

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ABSTRACT

Pakistan and India share common history of hundreds of years as one country. The pre-partition history represents different political and social tussles of Muslims and Hindus. This divide of ambitions is also present in recent India and Pakistan. Some outstanding issues like Kashmir are of pivotal importance in bilateral relations of both countries; both have fought bloody wars due to these unresolved issues. Dialogue and diplomacy has helped both countries to normalise their relations after these gory conflicts like Tashkent and Shimla accords. Outsource diplomacy refers to covert and informal lines of communication held open between two adversaries. It is often communicated through an informal intermediary or through a third party. In this discourse the disputant parties interact in an external sphere of normal circle of communication. When it refers to Pakistan and India It represents the unofficial and informal channels of communications to settle disputes. Back door has helped both states to normalise relations and cover up their trust deficit for peaceful coexistence

Key Words: **Outsource Diplomacy, Backdoor Diplomacy, Amn ki Aasha, Interdependence & SAARC.**

Introduction

The long standing conflicts and adversities between India and Pakistan have made people frustrated, especially the most concerned, people of both societies, peace mongers and international society. Both sides have inflicted many adventures against each other, still the way ahead is nothing but cooperation and coexistence. The Informal peace process between both countries started in early 1970s.

The birth of informal diplomacy counting from individual to individual interactions, never ending visits by parliamentarians, media persons and scholars and the beginning of multidimensional tracks in the form of more movement across the Wahga Border, basically are the mere by-products of dreary performance of the administrators of the two states. These informal and private manoeuvres have assisted to improve the environment spread over the two states by keeping the informal networks of communication open when the two sides officially close their all links. It has happened in past during reconciliations process, like; 2008 Mumbai attacks and 2019 Pulwama incident. It's needed to realise the role of informal state craft for resolving long standing conflicts. How we can consider a necessity of developing a unique tendency where the need of cooperation will not be affected by the conflict of interest.

Backdoor and Track two diplomacy has paved a way out for both countries to resolve their outstanding issues. Both parties can sustain this sort of channel irrespective of their official clumsy relations. This has helped in past and can be utilized again in future. The trust deficit and hard official positions make it very tough for both countries to deal with each other in the time of crisis. History reflects that Informal and backdoor communication channels can operate between rivals in time of war and cold.

Cultural diplomacy

Christopher Merrill describe cultural diplomacy as, “efforts to create discussions on the playing arenas of culture in which people from different cultures and nations attend each other, discover creativity together, and develop a deeper sense of the world and of each other” (Shah B. , 2014). Culture is element of soft power and is considered to be more attractive part of human societies due to its humanitarian character which mostly represent the peaceful side of a society like literature, music, drama art, films, traditions, values and norms. It is somehow digestible for adversaries due to its soft character.

Globalisation has brought many horizons of cooperation and interactions between the distant societies. Pakistan and India have been in situation where interactions are very rare between top leaderships due to sustained hostile environment during the course of history. Wars, turmoil and mistrust have always contributed to this lack of interaction between both parties. In this sort of environment there are very few chances of any contact between the general public of both the countries. The strong check on every trans-border movement and very fragile immigration policies towards each other's citizens make the case worse but still there are some opportunities which have been utilised in past and are active in present time have helped the peace process between both the rivals.

Mostly these activities are part of broader peace process between both the countries and generally backed by Governments of the countries. These activities are channelized to attain the goal of trust building and normalising relations. There are so many misunderstandings between both parties due to their literature which

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mostly praise their respective side, glorify their achievements and try to deteriorate the image of other side through text books and patriotic writings. In Indian text book it is mentioned that, “The Babri Mosque was built after demolishing a temple, which is exactly the same place where the Indian god „Rama” was born”. Similarly in Pakistani books the event of 1965 is pictures as “Hindus attacked Pakistan’s territory in hour of night to take advantage of dark and due to their inherent cowardliness from Pakistan army” these type of statements in literature creates an impact on mind set of general public who start dehumanising other side through this type of indoctrination of hostile Ideologies (Mohmand & Naqvi, 2008).

Similarly the role of cultural delegations and film stars for crafting peace between the both countries is also vital to cause of peace. Pakistani and Indian actors who work beyond the lines of difference in other countries especially singers like Atif Aslam, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, Salman Ahmad and many others who try to soften the image of Pakistan on the other side of border. Mystic nature of music plays a positive role in bringing societies together. For much music is more appealing element of culture which can help reducing differences and mistrust. Musicians and singers of both countries share common language and taste of music which relates to their common history of hundreds of years (Asghar, 2010).

People like Mahesh Bhutt, Vinod Khanna, Kirron Kher, Arbaaz khan and many other Indian stars have contributed to the cause of cultural harmony between both the countries. Pakistani cinema is not very popular at global level but Indian cinema is followed all across the globe so any joint venture of both countries and their artists bring fresh air into the hostile environment. Shahrukh Khan is a famous actor of Indian film industry who is recognised worldwide due to his acting and positive social role. He has worked in movies like “*Veer Zara*” 2004 and “*Main Hoon Na*” 2004 which depict the humanitarian cost of the conflict of both countries. Both movies were aimed to reduce the gap of both societies through the axiom of peace and coexistence. Pakistani Media also promote the Indian content due to its local demand and sense of cultural liberalisation.

Role of media

Media is very effective tool of propaganda especially the electronic media. Napoleon once said, “four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets” (Kasuri, 2015). Indian and Pakistani news channels are somehow responsible for fragile relations and misunderstandings about each other. The jingo ism by media coverage which prevail after some unfortunate incident mostly fuel the fire more like soon after the Mumbai train attacks of 2006, Mumbai attacks of 2008 and recently after Pulwama 2019; media created a war theatre on TV screen.

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In this regard the Times of India and Jang/Geo group have tried to promote the peace and friendly ties through “*Amn ki Aasha*”. This narrative can promote a more responsible coverage on foreign policy matters by media. Media also face strong criticism from some extremist fractions of the society who accuse media for overfriendly approach and soft stance on issues of national interest.

Without the role of SAFMA (South Asian Free Media Association) Pakistan India’s unofficial contacts through media cannot be summarized. An organization which emerged in South Asia representing the Journalists of the region in Musharraf era entitled to work for journalists of the region as well as for the better ties of India and Pakistan. It was established in year 2000 in Islamabad with task of excess to information and free media (Katyal, 2006). The journalists of India and Pakistan were able to attend each other on this forum which made them realised the urgent need of cooperation and peace between both the countries.

In 2004 with collaboration of SAARC, SAFMA brought an agenda of reconciliation and economic cooperation for countries of SAARC especially for India and Pakistan. The organisation further highlighted the need of counter terrorism narrative and results oriented peace talks of India and Pakistan. Similarly SAFMA also succeeded in arranging a visit of Pakistani journalist to Jammu and Kashmir for direct contact of Pakistani media with Kashmiri communities. The role of SAFMA was also praised by Pakistan’s former Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri (Katyal, 2006).

Media has limitations due to some hardliners who mostly see these initiatives as part of foreign agenda through foreign funding which muddle the issue. On the other hand few channels some time forgo the important national issues which demonstrate their sympathies and abnormal orientations.

Role of sports

Sports are very popular in both the countries especially cricket is considered to be the most favourite sports in South Asia. Cricket is considered as religion in India due to its popularity similarly some other sports like Kabaddi and Hockey are also played and liked on both sides of border.

Pakistan’s President Zia-ul-Haq was invited by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Feb 1987 for a Test Match between India and Pakistan at Jaipur to reduce the heat of the moment. The fire was flamed between both sides due to the Military exercise of Indian army in Rajasthan near Pakistan’s border. The visit was successful because it helped to normalize the relations of Pakistan and India. The armies step backed from red alert position after the visit. Similarly after the failure of Agra Summit President Musharraf and Manmohan Singh watched the One Day International match at Ferus Shah Kotla Stadium, Delhi in 2005, a carnival and friendly gesture by both leaders for cooperation and coexistence. In 2011 Manmohan Singh again invited the Pakistan’s Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani to join the Semi Final of World Cup in Mohali as part of Cricket Diplomacy. This visit after 2008 Mumbai Attacks was a meaningful step towards better relations of

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both countries. Mohali Cricket Diplomacy brought a sense which revived the Composite Dialogue which was terminated due to Mumbai Attacks (Abid, Hasnat, & Ejaz, 2011).

In 1999 after the event of Kargil when Pakistan defeated India under the captaincy of Wasim Akram, Chennai crowd applauded for whole squad of Pakistan. Similarly in 2004 Match of India Pakistan, the Pakistan's crowd was appreciating Indian bowler Balaji for his splendid spell (Showkat, 2013). Likewise Shoaib Akhtar and Shahid Afridi are followed by Indian fans.

Commentators and experts appreciate the game without considering the rivalry. Sanjay Manjrekar, Ravi Shastri, Rumees Raja and Wasim Akram praise the good display of game from opposing side big heartedly during Pakistan India matches which also earn them respect in other country. Wasim Akram is famous for his swing bowling in whole Cricket Community and India, he has worked in India as trainer and coach which shows how much respect he earn in India due to his game and commentary. Similarly Imran Khan is also respected figure in whole India due to his worldwide fan following. Whenever Pakistan play with India the situation become much tensed due to historical rivalry of both countries. Cricket has always brought people closer from both states.

Trade

Globalization has brought forward many opportunities in terms of trade and economic interdependence. Countries peruse favourable economic preferences and policies for achieving economic objectives around the world. Regional trade and cooperation in many regions of the world has brought great interdependence which upshot stability. Competing rivals like US and China also engage with each other through trade and commerce. Similarly Russia and United State rivals of Cold War also promote economic cooperation despite their strategic competition around the globe. Middle East, Europe, Central Asia and South East Asia represent the increasing regional cooperation for common interest of trade and commerce. European Union and GCC are showcase examples of regional economic cooperation.

South Asia as a region do suffer this inherent inability of economic cooperation due to fragile relations of Pakistan and India. These relations not only restrict regional cooperation but also effect bilateral trade of each other. Both countries have great potential of bilateral trade, but animosity has prevented and has always restricted flow of goods from both sides.

Earlier in 2004, there was insignificant movement of commodities between India and Pakistan. Though, India had granted Pakistan the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) status back in 1996, the Pakistani trade with India is negligible in terms of exports. Pakistan's volume of export to India was 84 million US dollars in 2003 which increase significantly in 2013 with \$403 million. But it again decreased in

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year 2015 and reached \$312. While imports increased rapidly with the normalisation of economic ties of both countries from \$184 million to \$2.18 billion before 2014. It decreased again in year 2015 with \$1.96 billion (Nakhoda, 2016).

India exported \$340 million of chemical products, \$263 million of vegetables and textile products of \$837 million to in year 2015 through official channel of trade. Where Pakistan exported \$20 million worth of base metal, Vegetables of \$77 million, \$14 million worth of medical products, \$61 million of textile products and \$62 million worth of mineral items in year 2015 (Nakhoda, 2016).

Entire volume of goods traded from India, Pakistan stands in the 1st five destinations for numerous items such as, tomatoes powdered milk, peas, polypropylene, coconuts, polyester, staple yarn, raw cotton, imitation jewellery and synthetic woven fabric. Likewise, India is a chief target for Pakistani export items of dried dates, Portland cement, gypsum, woven denim, fabric, raw cotton, tanned leather, medical and surgical apparatuses and scrap and waste of many metals. About 80% of the products trafficked in both countries are either intermediate goods or raw materials. The quantity of finished items are nominal. Hence, majority of the products traded between the both neighbours are fragmentary goods or raw material (Nakhoda, 2016). There is some informal trade as well between both countries which need to be channelized to increase the formal volume of trade.

Regional organizations have promoted regional collaboration and doubled the engagements of leaderships of both countries through annual summits focusing on regional cooperation like SAARC and SCO initiatives. Trade agreements to promote regional trade through SAFTA which became operational in year 2006 is a free trade agreement between SAARC members (Nisha & Sanjib, 2015). These types of initiatives support both India and Pakistan for economic cooperation through regional organization platform.

Civil society and peace activists

Many civil society groups and NGOs are promoting and working for peace and harmony between two states. Organisations like Green circle Organization (GCO), Pakistan Institute of Secular and Peace Studies (ISSP), South Asian Free Media Association and “Amn Ki Asha” joint media venture of newspapers of Pakistan and India.

GCO has played a vital role in reviving memories of those who left their homes due to partition in 1947. They provided those the opportunities to visit their homes in both India and Pakistan. Many left their properties during partition and left everything behind. GCO arranged those tours to allow these people to meet their relatives, neighbours and childhood friends who were separated after Independence of 1947 (Mohmand & Naqvi, 2008).

ISSP took an initiative of a mass signature campaign in both countries in educational institutions, public bus stations and public places. About 22000 people

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signed “Signatories for Peace” for the cause of soft visa policies in both countries (Mohmand & Naqvi, 2008). That campaign expressed the willingness of common people for peace and harmony despite their official policies of governments.

Another organisation of international peace activists for friendship between belligerent countries “Friends within Borders” supported the campaign of desire of peace through collaboration of two daily newspapers of Pakistan and India. There are so many individuals and NGOs who support the cause of peace in their respective capacity.

Influential personalities

Influential people of both sides try to reduce the differences through their positive role. These people through their social influence and opinions soften the official stiffness. This sort of influence is not very effective in case of Pakistan India but still it has some positive results with some exceptions.

Molana Fazal ur Rahman visits India quite often, in year 2003 Molana also met with India Prime Minister A. B. Vajpayee during his visit to India. During his Visit in Kashmir Indian Army was attacked twice by Mujahedeen which was officially condemned by Molana in his trip. He referred these attacks as spoiler to Pakistan India peace process. India also welcomed his approach and Prime Minister of India warmly welcomed Molana and held 90 minutes meeting with Mr. Rahman in cordial environment (Malik, 2012). His party has linkages with Jamiat-e-Ulemai Hind (JEUH) which help bringing political and religious elements of both countries together. Molana is renowned politician of Pakistan having strong linkages with political diaspora and religious fractions of Pakistan. Molana Fazal ur Rahman was Chairman of Kashmir Committee as well.

In 2001 an Indian religious delegation of religious Deobandi sect visited Pakistan for attending meeting of JUI in Peshawar. Similarly Syed Ahmad, Imam of Jammia Masjid Delhi visited Pakistan in 2001. This effort was to join the peace mission of both neighbours by including religious heavyweights of India and Pakistan in informal peace process. The Imam of Delhi mosque held many meetings with religious leaders of Pakistan. The agenda of these meetings was not publically expressed and remained low key due to discussions on Kashmir for discovering new options on the issue. He was not successful in winning much from Pakistan due to hard lined religious clergy of Pakistan especially on issue of disputed Kashmir (Malik, 2012).

Mushahid Hussain Syed, Shiri Rehman, Pervais Musharraf Imran Khan, Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri and many others have promoted this process of trust building from Pakistan’s side similarly from Indian side Jaswant Singh, Arundhati Roy and many others have play their role in peace keeping efforts through their writings and media briefs. These Heavyweights trip each other countries and many try to reduce tensions through their voice in their capacity.

SAARC role in Pak-India rapprochement

International and regional organizations have played very vital role in bringing hostile parties together. The globalised environments where states are becoming more and more dependent on each other has reduced the animosities and promote development and cooperation through collective efforts. Regional organisations; like European Union and “Gulf Cooperation Council” have helped Europe and Middle East to promote cooperation and development. Similar model was needed in in the South Asian region.

In 1985 South Asian Association for regional cooperation was established in Bangladesh Dhaka (About SAARC, 2009). In start both India and Pakistan were abstaining to join this forum, but eventually they joined because this initiative was aimed to increase devolvement and cooperation of South Asian countries, which would remain unfulfilled without participation of two major states of the region. The purpose of SAARC was to increase economic growth, promote cooperation and to resolve conflicts of its member countries.

SAARC is considered to be most effective platform for Pakistan and India to sit against each other to discuss their issues and display the will and responsibility to other small nations of the region. India is major power of the region with its human capital and economic potential. Mohammad Khan Junejo inaugurated the SAARC conference of 1986 and proposed a joint negotiation of SAARC member countries with industrialised nations of world to eradicate the economic hurdles of potential industrial actors around the world this proposal was endorsed by all the member countries of SAARC including India. The collective goal of free trade and economic upheaval brought both countries on one page. SAARC summits have provided many opportunities to leaderships of both countries to shake each other hands in friendly environment. The 12th, 2004 SAARC Islamabad summit is a milestone in bilateral relations of both states when Mr. Vagpai and Musharraf initiated and agreed on composite dialogue process and cultural cooperation. Musharraf outlined future strategy of bilateral talks with India at SAARC forum which incorporated Kashmir, Denuclearization of region, economic cooperation and peace and security (Jabeen, Mazhar, & Goraya, 2010).

“South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement” in 1995 and “South Asian Free Trade Agreement” in 2006 are other economic measure of cooperation under the auspices of SAARC (Jabeen, Mazhar, & Goraya, 2010). The organisation has brought forward some new avenues of cooperation in media, education, commerce, connectivity and culture. But recent boycott by India of SAARC summit 2016, due to recent border tensions between India and Pakistan which was scheduled in Islamabad has raised some serious concerns about the future of SAARCs diplomatic implications for both countries. The withdrawal of Modi administration also provided a reason to some other member countries to refuse their participation in cancelled 2016, Islamabad summit.

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Kashmir “Non paper” diplomacy

Kashmir is the core cause of sore relationship. This was somehow sensed by the both sides after so many failed efforts of reconciliation. The people to people contact, jargons of friend ship and tables full of delicious dishes were not going to help both sides eliminate their deep routed grievances especially associated with the burning valley of disputed Kashmir. Indian Prime Minister Mr. Vagpai was the 1st leader after Mr. Rajiv Gandhi who visited Pakistan after the gap of 10 years. Prime Minister Vagpai came on Wahga and at his arrival Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif opened the borders gate. This was a historic “Bus Yatra” of BJP’s Prime Minister but this carnival atmosphere didn’t last for so long. Musharraf led coup of Pakistan’s Military and Kargil adventure dissipated that scenario. After that Indian Parliament attack of 2001, which ensued eye ball to eye ball deployment of both military forces, even worsened the situation (Baruah, 1999).

Musharraf’s handshake with Mr. Vagpai in 2002, Kathmandu SAARC summit despite the tense relations of both countries, was a symbolic friendship gesture from Pakistani President which was a start of new era between both countries (Naqvi, 2002). SAARC summit didn’t produce much for composite dialogue process but helped both countries relax and revisit their perceptions regarding each other. The famous 2004 visit of Mr. Vagpai to Islamabad for 12th SAARC summit paved a way for Kashmir settlement through backchannel negotiation.

Back in March 1999 foreign minister of Pakistan and India Sartaj Aziz and Jaswant Singh discussed a proposal regarding the demographic distribution of Kashmir along the line of Chenab known as “Chenab Formula” in a SAARC meeting of foreign ministers at Eliya, Sri Lanka. This formula was also discussed in backdoor passage between special envoys of both countries. The proposal prescribed the division of Muslim and Hindu majority areas but it was rather unpopular in many circles at both sides (Aziz, 2009).

But the rich traces of backchannel between India and Pakistan can be found in 1999 after the visit of Prime Minister Vagpai. Pakistan appointed Niaz A. Naik as a special envoy to India to perform backdoor with his Indian counterpart R. K. Mishra after the Lahore summit of 1999. Indian legate R. K. Mishra was a renowned figure and trouser journalist having editorial duties of “Link Magazine” and “The Patriot”. Mishra was also the member of “Rajya Sabha” of India whereas, Niaz A. Naik was a veteran diplomat and foreign secretary of Pakistan. Niaz Naik was official entrant of Nawaz Sharif government having formal responsibility of foreign office. Brijesh Mishra was not a formal diplomat but was having full confidence of Mr. Vagpai for this special task. Mishra accompanied Indian Prime Minister in that historic “Bus Yatra” and was an optimistic emissary regarding the peace process of both countries. Surly his eagerness and expertise

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would have provided him, this special opportunity to soften the ties of both rivals on long standing conflicts through non-conventional means of settlements. Mishra was National Security Advisor from 1998-2004 to Prime Minister Vagpai and was responsible for all these efforts in those hard times to preserve that backdoor route between both parties from Indian side. The BJP government unusually backed this informal effort, which was a very dynamic change in the nature of uncompromising BJP (Kasuri, 2015).

After the election Mr. Vagpai was replaced by Congress Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who was a competent economist and a very careful Premier at his office. In Pakistan Musharraf was consolidating his rule through mass campaign of war on terror through the support of international community and US. The environment was very fertile for any such backchannel. The joint statement of January 2004 of Musharraf and Vagpai helped both sides to channel their surreptitious diplomacy. The government change also brought the change of special envoy from India, Prime Minister Manmohan appointed J. N. Dixit as National Security Advisor who continued this assignment from India. Musharraf nominated his old collage mate Mr. Tariq Aziz, as a Pakistani front man for this back channel settlement. Tariq Aziz was not having any formal or official responsibility at foreign office but was assigned with the charge of National Security Advisor and principle secretary ship of President Musharraf. He was a former taxation officer of civil service and his capacity as a backchannel front man was sometime questioned by some foreign secretaries (Kasuri, 2015).

J. N. Dixit was the former foreign secretary of India and remained in office between years 2004 to 2005. He was a loud anchor of “Out of the Box Policy” towards Kashmir conflict according to the former Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri. Dixit died and the responsibility of National Security Advisor and special envoy ship was transferred to Satinder Lambah who was a very experienced former diplomat who established the Indian embassy in Bangladesh in 1972. Lambah was the third negotiator from India for this backdoor rapprochement of India with Pakistan.

Mr. Lambah and Tariq Aziz carried out this backdoor channel between the year 2004 to 2007 and met with each other dozen times to discuss and negotiate the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in hotel dormitories at Dubai, Singapore and London (Coll, 2009). These three years were very alive and productive for both the countries in terms of peace and negotiations. Both legates used to converse their respective leadership for the approval and consultation of the negotiating drafts before and after the meeting. According to Mr. Kasuri, Pakistan’s front man Tariq Aziz several time presented and discussed the negotiating draft with President Musharraf in joint meeting of military and foreign office officials (Coll, 2009). These gatherings were highly confidential and never went public due to sensitivity of the matter.

The “out of the box” approach of Musharraf and his vision of building confidence between the leadership of both countries couldn’t materialised, but his Kashmir Formula was well acknowledged by some at the both sides. The

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backchannel was about to bear fruit in 2007 according to many who were part of that process. Pakistan's military leadership was in total buoyancy for every step taken during these settlements. Even Kashmiri leaders were also consulted time to time because it is staunch believe in Pakistan that any solution without the confirmation of Kashmiri people will not serve the cause of Kashmir settlement. The foreign minister Kasuri met with many Kashmiri leaders for this purpose. On the Indian side The Prime Minister Manmohan was also very vigilant and didn't let many to interfere in this practise except his five or six close officials (Kasuri, 2015).

The settlement was also about to resolve Sir Creek, a water way dispute. Siachen demilitarization along with Kashmir framework was also part of 2007 joint future mechanism which was formally planned in Manmohan visit of Pakistan. The only thing, which was pinching both sides leadership was the acceptance of any such proposal by their people and hard-core nationalist fractions at both sides. Musharraf and Manmohan were willing and almost ready to change the nature of conflict for the settlement of Kashmir. Kashmir was going to be the major breakthrough in 2007, which was identified as the major reason of mistrust and suspicion in many failed negotiating rounds (Coll, 2009).

The expected solution was prescribed by Musharraf in his interview with NDTV. According to NDTV it was the 1st official withdraw of Pakistan from its certified stance on Kashmir (Naqvi, Musharraf's four-stage Kashmir peace plan: We can make borders irrelevant: India, 2006).

1. Border and mobilization

No alteration of LOC but the borders will be porous and will facilitate the free movement of goods and Kashmiri people.

2. Demilitarization

Scheduled demilitarization of the region of Kashmir. Withdrawal of heavy military deployments from both sides.

3. Self-governance

People will have the right of self-governance and autonomy.

4. Joint mechanism

A joint mechanism for economic uplifting, integration and political stability of the region through Pakistan, India and Kashmiris.

These four points were part of those backdoor settlements which was going on between both parties, which were informally revealed by President Musharraf in a print media appearance. The principal idea was to make the borders irrelevant like many developed economies of EU.

Conclusion

Both states have undergone a process of backdoor negotiations during last two decades which helped a bit in reviewing their rigid posture towards each other.

Recently after abrogation of article 370 by Indian Government the situation is very alarming even the conventional diplomacy has totally clogged. In this crisis surely it's the high time for backdoor and non-conventional diplomacy due its dynamic character. Pakistan is reluctant for peaceful coexistence through religious and sports diplomacy but India is still in a state of mistrusts regarding informal CBMs. Frequent public interactions on different avenues can still promote the sense of peaceful coexistence.

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