

Agra Summit and Media Coverage: An Analysis

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Abstract

Relations between Pakistan and India have been through many ups and downs since 1947. Amidst tensions and conflicts, there were moments of peace and parleys. The Agra Summit of 2001 was an important event in the history of the two countries, as it was a concerted effort to resolve some of the key issues through peaceful means. The meeting created a lot of hope and media frenzy. This paper is based on the coverage of the summit in the mainstream media of two countries. Through careful sampling, The Hindu from India and Dawn from Pakistan were selected to study the coverage. The newspapers were scanned for three-day coverage from July 15-17. The research shows that it was saturation coverage. The Hindu led the drive with 55 stories in three days. Dawn was not far behind it with 33 news pieces. The two papers published total 88 stories in three days, which means that around 30 stories were published per day. It also comes to average 15 news items in each newspaper in a day. The political stories were maximum in number, followed by the news related to culture, travel and food. There were also several stories about Kashmir, terrorism and security issues. The coverage was initially balanced but it slightly became partisan by the end of the summit. The attitude of media changed as it became clear that no breakthrough was possible during the two-day summit.

Key Words: Agra, Summit, Musharraf, Vajpayee, Media, Dawn, The Hindu, Pakistan, India.

Introduction

Relations between Pakistan and India have been marred by suspicions and violence since independence in 1947. As Jasjit Singh says that if there were one single factor that appears to have remained consistently prominent in the Indian-Pakistan relations over the years, it has been mutual mistrust and the politics that have supported it (Singh, 1990).

Another constant in the trajectory of ties is the periodic efforts for peace (Kamath, 2005). In fact, the history of peace efforts between Pakistan and India is as old as their enmity. The first conflict on Kashmir after independence in 1947 was followed by the agreement at the UN to resolve the matter peacefully. The UN resolutions of 1948-49 provided a detailed mechanism to settle the issue.

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The first bilateral peace agreement was the Nehru-Liaquat pact of 1950, which settled the issue of religious minorities. There have been moments for peace in the following decades but the real intensive diplomacy to solve issues started in the 1990s (Gul, 2007).

Several meetings between the diplomats culminated into the visit of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Lahore in February 1999. It was important and the two countries agreed to resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue. But the Lahore initiative was destroyed due to the Kargil war, which brought the two countries to the brink of a nuclear exchange.

It is said that Kargil dealt a severe blow to the mutual trust. However, it also highlighted that the endless tension cannot be a substitute for peace and development. According to experts, there is nothing new about that because pattern of Pakistan-India shows that behind the story of every conflict, there is a parallel history of dialogue between the two countries (Jaffrelot, 2008).

After a temporary freeze of relations for more than a year since Kargil, both sides realized that time had come to move forward. The beginning was made by India when Prime Minister Vajpayee wrote an article in 2001 on the New Year day. He emphasized that India needed to address the Kashmir issue. According to A.G. Noorani (2002) the prime minister of India had made a promising statement on January 1, 2001 (in his "Kashmir Musings") and said that he was looking forward to a meeting between representatives of the two countries.

After expressing openly through media, Prime Minister Vajpayee took about another four month to issue an invitation to President Pervez Musharraf to meet him in the historic city of Agra (Sattar, 2007). The initiative materialized in July when Pervez Musharraf went to India and the two leaders held formal talks on July 15-16. According to former Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar, (Noorani, 2002) Agra meetings were basically one-on-one with one note taker on each side. The negotiations went through many ups and downs. Initially, there was a lot of enthusiasm on both side of the border. Some of the media reports, especially TV coverage, painted a rosy picture regarding the outcome of talks. However, it came out that the optimism was mostly misplaced. As it turned out, the key issue of Kashmir finally stalled the possibility of any breakthrough. There were positive moments and the two sides came closer to sign a joint declaration but the Indian side refused to ink the agreement at the last minutes (Sattar, 2007).

Analysts give different reasons for the failure of Agra Summit (Dixit, 2001). It is often mentioned that the breakfast meeting between Pervez Musharraf and the Indian media on July 16 was responsible for failure because Musharraf

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effectively highlighted the importance of settlement of Kashmir issue for normalization of ties.

His words also echoed in the unsigned draft declaration: “Progress towards settlement of Jammu and Kashmir issue would be conducive towards normalization and will further the establishment of a cooperative relationship in a mutually reinforcing manner” (Sattar, 2007, p.317.).

Experts also believe that the summit was hastily convened and proper homework was not done to make it a success. “The Agra Summit was fiasco, largely because of inadequate preparation (the talks did not even have a settled agenda) and the private skepticism of key policymakers on both sides”(Chari, 2008, p. 150.).

Despite failure, the Agra summit created a huge media hype and also expectations among the masses in the two countries. In fact, it was the first media-ized summit level diplomacy. Every moment of the summit was captured and showed to the people of Pakistan and India.

This paper explores the coverage of Agra summit by media in Pakistan and India. The researchers have also categorized the coverage under various heading.

Since it was not possible to scan all media, so one leading newspaper from each country – Dawn from Pakistan and The Hindu from India - have been selected to see the coverage. It has been decided to scan the coverage for the three days including two days of the summit and one day following it. The front, back and national pages have been used to see the relevant stories.

In case of the coverage of The Hindu, the online editions have been scanned. However hard copies of Dawn have been used to study the coverage. The focus of the researchers was mostly on strategic, political and security related stories. However, stories about culture and food have also been scanned.

Dawn and Agra Summit

Dawn published 33 stories related to Pak-India ties during the three days (Sajjad, 2016). It was quite intensive coverage, as almost all aspects of the summit was highlighted. The details of the coverage by the Dawn is given below.

July 15

The coverage on the first day of the summit was laced with expectations. President Pervez Musharraf had reached India and held preliminary meetings with leaders. The coverage is presented under the following headings.

Political News

The top political news was about a reception for Musharraf by Pakistan's High Commission in New Delhi where the Hurriyat leaders were also invited. It created a big controversy as Indian leadership was not happy with the decision by Pakistan to invite the Hurriyat leaders. Jawed Naqvi (Naqvi, 2001) reported that Musharraf met the APHC leaders invited at the tea party by the High Commission and promised "continued moral and political support" to their struggle for freedom.

The paper also reported that a warm welcome was accorded to President Musharraf by India. Ziauddin reported that Indian President K.R. Narayanan hosted a banquet in the honour of President Musharraf. During the brief speeches at the banquet, both leaders referred to the founding fathers who wanted their countries to live in peace.

The paper on its national pages carried a report by Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), which quoted Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Inamul Haq that they hoped for substantive talks at Agra between the two countries.

Kashmir Issue

Masood Haider reported from New York that Human Right Watch asked Pakistan and India to restore and respect the basic rights of the people of Kashmir.

As Musharraf was having peace talks, AFP (2001) reported from Jammu that India would start withdrawal of about 20,000 troops from Kashmir. Officials told the newswire that 10,000 troops will be withdrawn within a week and the remaining 10,000 over the next month.

Despite goodwill generated by President Musharraf during his visit, the LoC was tense and an Indian defense spokesman was quoted by AFP in the story published in Dawn that the two sides traded fire.

Security and Terrorism

The paper reported that Home Minister L.K. Advani held 25-minute meeting with Musharraf and suggested a treaty for the extradition of criminals. He also

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said peace cannot be held hostage to a single point agenda. There was another report about the meeting of Congress top leader Sonia Gandhi with Pervez Musharraf. According to the paper, Sonia said in the meeting that there should be flexibility on both sides.

In another report, the paper reported that India foreign ministry spokeswoman Nirupma Rao said that they asked Musharraf to extradite Dawood Ibrahim who allegedly was living in Karachi and was needed for alleged role in bombings in India.

Food and Culture

The paper also reported that Musharraf made a nostalgic visit to the house where his family lived before partition and where he was born. In another report, the paper said that Tarlochan Singh, a member of minority commission, met President Musharraf and they discussed how to improve the upkeep of gurdwaras.

July 16

The day was important from coverage perspective because all stories were about the first day of talks between Musharraf and Vajpayee. The coverage is presented below.

Political News

The headline on the front page of Dawn started with a teaser that the joint declaration was delayed. The paper said (Ziauddin, 2001) there were divergence of views over the joint statement and the leaders will meet one-on-one for 10 minutes the next day to sort out the differences. Jawed Naqvi reported that the two sides termed the talks as constructive, as the two leaders made efforts to end differences over Kashmir and other issues.

Kashmir

Dawn published a report by APP that Hizbul Mujahedeen chief Syed Salahuddin welcomed the peace talks. In another story, Tariq Naqash reported from Azad Kashmir that people of Kashmir were anxious for the success of the summit. Separately, AFP reported that Indian military spokesman in Srinagar said that there was no plan to pullout the troops. Thus, the earlier decision to withdraw troops proved an eyewash.

Security and Terrorism

German dpa news agency reported that Pakistan interior secretary rejected allegations that Dawood Ibrahim was hiding in the country. There was also a report by agencies that 38 Mujahedeen and 11 India soldiers were killed in occupied Kashmir due to fighting.

There was a report with Agra dateline that police arrested about a dozen people for protesting in Agra over alleged presence of Indian Prisoners of Wars (POWs) in Pakistani jails.

Food and Culture

The paper on its back page had a report about Musharraf's visit to Taj Mahal with his wife Sehba. According to another report, Sehba had also visited tomb of Salim Chisti in Fatehpur Sikri. Later, she told reporters that she prayed for the success of the summit.

The paper also reported (Sehba, 2001) that Sehba was so impressed with food at Amar villas hotel in Agra, where Musharraf stayed with his wife, that she sought recipes of Mulligatawny soup, Nalli Gosht and Murg ke Parchey.

July 17

It was also an important day for media. The tone of the coverage had changed due to the failure of the summit.

Political News

The front page screaming headline by Dawn announced (Naqvi, 2001) that the peace talk had failed and Musharraf flew home empty handed. Separately, the paper had offered a good brief analysis that the Indians were fed up with Pervez Musharraf doing the loud talks through media against the "deafening silence" by Vajpayee. So they sent him off without even granting a press conference or a joint declaration. The paper also reported Musharraf's breakfast meeting with the Indian editors. It further said that Musharraf's insistence on Kashmir angered India. It concluded that it contributed towards the failure of the talks.

German dpa reported that peace dialogue in Agra lasted for eight hours. Reuters reported that Indian Information Minister Sushma Swaraj said that her failure to not mention Kashmir during the media briefing after the first day was not intentional. Pakistan was angered and felt that she intentionally did not point out that Kashmir was discussed on the first day of the summit.

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The paper also reported that the coalition partners of Indian ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) were cautious to react to the failure of the summit.

Kashmir Issue

AFP reported that five soldiers and 42 people, mostly militants, were killed in the continued violence in Indian Kashmir. The paper on its back page had the lead story based on an interview of Syed Salahuddin with Reuters, who said that the armed struggle in Kashmir would continue.

Security and Terrorism

The paper reported quoting officials that Pakistan was combing its jails to ascertain if any Indian POW was held there, as alleged by relatives of the soldiers who had been missing since 1971 war.

The paper also reported from Mumbai that India sought security for the Iran gas pipeline project.

Foot and Culture

There was a news report that Musharraf called off his planned visit to Ajmer. There was no report about food on the last day of the coverage period.

Table1: Stories with categories published in Dawn from July 15-17

Coverage Dates	Political News	Kashmir Issue	Security and Terrorism	Food and Culture
July 15	4	3	3	2
July 16	2	3	3	3
July 17	5	2	2	1
Total	11	8	8	6

Source: Dawn

The Hindu and Agra Summit

The paper published 52 stories (Sajjad, 2016) linked to Pak-India ties during the selected three days. The details of the coverage in The Hindu is presented below.

July 15

The paper published 22 stories related to Musharraf's visit and interactions with the Indian leaders. The coverage was balanced on the first day of the meeting and it is presented under the following headings.

Political News

The paper published a report by Raja Mohan that there was a chance of fresh start for relations with Pakistan after Musharraf arrived to hold talks. It also reported in another news that President Musharraf was given the ceremonial welcome as he visited the presidential palace to meet President K.R. Narayanan.

The paper carried a PTI report that Chief of Air Staff Marshal A.Y. Tipnis did not salute Pervez Musharraf at the ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and only shook hands - a reminder of 1999 episode when Musharraf as army chief had reportedly refused to come to the border to greet Prime Minister Vajpayee.

Separately, Shujaat Bukhari (Bukhari, 2001) reported that the tea party hosted by Pakistan High Commission for Pervez Musharraf was marred by chaos and confusion.

Kashmir Issue

The Hindu carried another report by Shujaat Bukhari who quoted the APHC leaders that they were satisfied after their meeting with Musharraf. There was another report that Musharraf in his first interaction with a group of intellectuals said he was hopeful of a breakthrough on all issues (including Kashmir).

The paper had interesting news item quoting Pervez Musharraf that there was no military solution to the Kashmir issue. In another news report, the paper said that the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) described Kashmir as an "integral part of India".

Security and Terrorism

It was also reported that Home Minister L.K. Advani conveyed concerns over terrorism to Musharraf in his brief meeting. Separately, Atul Aneja reported that Indian defence ministry proposed a hotline between the two navies.

The paper also reported that Sonia Gandhi met Musharraf with a three-member delegation and discussed various political and security issues. The

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paper also reported that the Agra administration spent Rs 1.5 crore on the security arrangement (Agra, 2001).

Food and Culture

The paper carried a report about the food served to President of Pakistan at the reception by Indian president. It reported that Musharraf termed the food as “undaa hai” (excellent). The details of high-profile luncheon to Musharraf were also published.

In another report, the paper reported that Musharraf’s visit to his ancestral haveli in New Delhi was also an “emotional homecoming”. The Hindu also reported about Musharraf’s visit to Samadhi of Gandhi at Raj Ghat. It said he became the first Pakistani leader to pay the homage. “Never has the requirement of his ideals been more severely felt than today, especially in the context of Pakistan- India relations. May his soul rest in eternal peace,” Musharraf wrote in the visitors’ book.

There was another story was about cancellation of Musharraf’s visit to the Dargah (shrine) of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya in New Delhi. The paper ran a story from Agra that captured the details of the suite of Amar Vilas hotel where President Musharraf was supposed to stay. According to the report, he could see the Taj from the room of the hotel.

The paper also reported that Sehba Musharraf addressed a group of women in New Delhi and talked about different issues. There was also another report about Sehba Musharraf being appreciated by the media.

July 16

It was an important day for media, as newspapers reported the details of the first day of the summit. The Hindu came out with 16 stories related to the summit. The overall tone of the coverage was positive, as the first day of summit has created some hope for peace.

Political News

As the historic talks started at Agra, the media went ecstatic with the hope of a breakthrough. In the front page lead, The Hindu reported that the two countries were hopeful to bury the bitter past for a promising future. However, the big story of the day was about the controversial remarks by Information and Broadcasting Minister Sushma Swaraj (Reddy, 2001) who after the first day of the summit gave the impression that issues other than Kashmir figured prominently in the dialogue.

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Press Trust of India (PTI) correspondent Muralidhar Reddy reported Islamabad that Pakistan was positive about the prospects of the talks. He also reported that Kashmiri militants did not share the optimism. Neena Vyas reported from Agra that it appeared that the two leaders were willing to write a new chapter in the history of relations. In other news, Vyas reported that media was kept on a tight leash during the first day of the summit.

The paper also had a report which said that former Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said that the situation will worsen if the summit failed.

Kashmir

The paper reported that deputy leader of Congress parliamentary party in the Lok Sabha, Madhavrao Scindia, said Pakistani President should have avoided the exclusive meeting with the APHC leaders.

The paper had also an interesting story that when Vajpayee and Musharraf were chatting during the lunch at Taj Palace Hotel, Indian Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah walked towards them to join them in their talks. "Gen. Saheb, this is third party intervention taking place," Mr. Vajpayee, known for his felicity with words, said, official sources told UNI. In response, the Pakistani leader just smiled (Third Party, 2001).

Security and Terrorism

There was report in which a Pakistan official was quoted as saying that underworld don Dawood Ibrahim was not staying in Pakistan. In another story, the paper said that it was time to see if Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) spy agency of Pakistan would stop support for the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) rebels in Assam state of India.

Food and Culture

The Hindu reported that the casual attire of the two leaders was prominent, as on the first day of the summit, President Musharraf wore an open-neck cream colour shirt and black trousers, while Prime Minister Vajpayee was clad in a dhoti, kurta and sleeveless jacket.

Anita Joshua reported from Agra that the capital of Mughal Empire till 17th century was back on the stage due to the summit. Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar filed a story about a poetry recitation show joined by the writers from Pakistan and India who sang for peace.

In another story Joshua reported about Musharraf trip to Taj Mahal with his wife. The PTI reported that Pervez Musharraf said he should have stayed

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longer at Agra. In another report, the paper reported that Sehba Musharraf visited shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Salim Chishti.

July 17

The paper published 14 news stories. The mood had changed as the coverage was about the proceedings of the second day of the summit, which had ended in failure. No breakthrough was achieved and Musharraf had left for Pakistan even without paying a visit to Ajmer Sharif.

Political News

As the two day-summit failed, The Hindu reported, "Fundamental differences over Kashmir and cross-border terrorism turned out to be too strong to let both the countries reach a broad accommodation of each other's core political concerns." (Mohan, 2001)

Pervez Musharraf's breakfast meeting with the Indian journalists was given extensive coverage and his insistence to keep Kashmir at the center of talks invited backlash. The paper reported that it was said that the frank talk by Musharraf contributed to the failure of talks.

Neena Vyas in a report said both countries continued to unleash disinformation to their advantage during the summit. They were trying to address the home audience without realising that it will hurt the goodwill and atmosphere.

Kashmir

As the summit failed, criticism started pouring in. Former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said Vajpayee knew that Pakistan will not budge on Kashmir and still he went ahead to invite Musharraf.

Security and Terrorism

In another report, the paper showed that Prime Minister Vajpayee chaired a crucial meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and it was reported that he was asked to be tough with Musharraf.

The paper reported that Shiv Sena burnt Pakistan flag in front of Mughal Sheraton hotel to protest against the talks. The paper also carried a report by Atul Aneja that the two countries tried to agree on the joint statement but they could not.

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It was also reported by Indian media that spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Nirupma Rao, was “virtually manhandled” by the members of the Pakistani media. The Hindu also reported that media faced problems as the flow of information was blocked.

Food and Culture

The paper reported that Musharraf failed to pay visit to Ajmer as he dashed home after the failure but Sehba made a tour to the Agra Fort. Shujaat Bukhari reported after interviewing Pakistan journalists and academicians that they were hopeful about the direction set by the summit. The PTI reported Musharraf saying that he will never forget the view of historic Taj Mahal from Kohinoor presidential suite of Amar Vilas Hotel. Interestingly, there was no mention of food served to Pervez Musharraf and his delegation.

Table 2: Stories with categories in The Hindu from July 15-17

Coverage Dates	Political News	Kashmir Issue	Security and Terrorism	Food and Culture
July 15	8	3	4	7
July 16	6	2	2	6
July 17	5	1	5	3
Total	19	6	11	16

Source: The Hindu

Findings and Analysis

The coverage shows deep interest of media in the Agra Summit. It was not only the sheer number of news items which appeared in the press, but also the diversity of subject matter was interesting. Though, political and security matters were given prominent treatment for obvious reasons but there was not dearth of news related to the topics of travel, religion, culture and food.

The analysis of the coverage in Dawn and The Hindu shows that political stories were maximum in numbers. The second category of maximum stories in The Hindu was about food and culture, whereas Dawn was more focused on security and terrorism and Kashmir stories. The Hindu also carried stories about Kashmir, terrorism and security issues but they were lesser in numbers as compared to its stories related to subjects like food, travel, and culture. The

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coverage was initially balanced but it slightly became partisan by the end of the summit. The attitude of media changed, as it became clear that no breakthrough was possible in the two days of dialogue.

Still, it was saturation coverage by all standards. The Hindu led the drive with 55 stories in the three days. Dawn was not far behind in the race with 33 news pieces in the selected period. The two paper published total 88 stories in three days, which means that around 30 stories were published per day. It also comes to average 15 news item in each newspaper in a day.

The coverage was quite diverse. Though political stuff was dominant but several other stories on other related interesting topics were also published. Media was also interested in the attire of the two leaders and the foods served on the different occasions.

The coverage is broadly divided in to the following five categories:

- 1- Political News
- 2- Kashmir Issue
- 3- Security and Terrorism
- 4- Food and Culture

The Hindu published 19 political news, whereas its 6 news were related to Kashmir, 11 about security and terrorism, and 16 about food and culture. Dawn carried 11 political stories, 8 related to Kashmir, another 8 about security and terrorism, and 6 about food and culture. Both papers had same preference for political news items but their choices varied in other areas. The Hindu had special focus on lighter subjects like food and culture.

The main news of July 15 was about the reception by Pakistan's High Commission in the honour of Pervez Musharraf, where the Hurriyat leaders were also invited. It created a big controversy but despite the displeasure shown by the Indian government, the event went ahead without any hiccup. Dawn highlighted the promise of "continued moral and political support" by Pakistan to Kashmiris' struggle for freedom. The Hindu tried to downplay it and reported in one of news that it was "marred by chaos and confusion."

Another important story was about the purported decision by Indian government to withdraw about 20,000 troops from Kashmir. AFP reported that 10,000 troops will be withdrawn within a week and the remaining 10,000 over the next month.

An interesting story of the day was about the banquet hosted by Indian President K.R. Narayanan for President Musharraf. During the brief speeches

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at the banquet, both leaders referred to the founding fathers who wanted their countries to live in peace. It shows that there was a desire to keep the atmosphere amiable before talks. Another important story was about Musharraf's nostalgic visit to the family house in New Delhi was also prominently reported.

Among the highlight of July 16 was the story about the controversial remarks by Information and Broadcasting Minister Sushma Swaraj. She while giving briefing about the first day of the summit gave the impression that Kashmir was not prominent in the dialogue. It created controversy as Pakistan was not happy with the impression. It was later cited by Pakistani side as one of the factors leading to hardening of respective positions on key issues.

The lighter side of the visit was kept alive through different stories. For example, in the middle of intense talks, Musharraf took out time to visit Taj Mahal with his wife Sehba Musharraf. It was also prominently reported by the media in both countries. Media continue to publish stories about the food being served during the summit. Dawn reported that Sehba was impressed with food at Agra's Amar villas hotel that she sought recipes of Mulligatawny soup, Nalli Gosht and Murg ke Parchey.

July 17 was important day for coverage, as the situation had changed due to failure of the summit. The biggest front page news for both The Hindu and Dawn was the failure of the summit. "Agra talks fail" was the headline of The Hindu, while Dawn's main story headline read: "Summit fails, Musharraf back home". The papers gave details about the failure of the summit.

The acrimony was back in the coverage, which was turning to be more partisan. For example, The Hindu tried to suggest in one of its report that Musharraf was responsible for the failure of summit due to his blunt talk with the Indian media. Dawn reported that Musharraf had told his host that Kashmir was central to any amity with India. The Hindu reported Prime Minister Vajpayee saying that India would counter terrorism.

Another leading story was Musharraf's decision to cancel his trip to Ajmer to pay respect to the great Muslim saint. It showed that differences were wide and Musharraf was angry as he had gone to India with a hope to achieve some kind of success.

Thus, the coverage in the two leading newspapers was a blend of hard core political issues ranging from Kashmir to terrorism, and the finer aspects of ties like culture, food and visits to the historical places. Several other topics were also explored by other media outlets, making the Agra summit as one of the most reported event in the history of Pakistan-India relations.

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As far as the impact of the coverage of the outcome is concerned, the coverage in the selected three days in the two newspapers was mostly balanced. Initially, the two days saw an optimistic streak as media was hoping for a positive outcome of the summit. That is why along-with the political news, light stuff was also being published.

The situation changed on the third day of the summit but still media followed restraint. Despite the failure of talks, there were news stories which showed the positive side of the meeting and Musharraf's trip. For example, The Hindu reported Pervez Musharraf saying that he would not forget his visit to Taj Mahal. In another report, the paper said that Pakistani media was still optimistic about peace despite failure of the talks. It showed the overall positive spirit of coverage in the mainstream media of the two countries.

Conclusion

Agra Summit created huge interest in Pakistan and India. The media went into overdrive mode and covered each and every moment of the summit. The coverage focused not only at the political and security aspects of relations between Pakistan and India but also cultural and social topics were covered in details.

The initial coverage was optimistic, hoping some kind of breakthrough but the mood changed on the second day of the summit. Already, by the end of the first day, things had started to unpack. The interaction of Musharraf with Indian media set the alarm bells ringing within the Indian security circles. The Indians felt that Pakistan's point of view regarding the centrality of Kashmir was getting more focus. In reaction, India hardened its bargaining position and information minister Sushma Swaraj in her media interaction did not mention Kashmir. It increased the unease in the Pakistani camp, resulting in the acrimony and deepening mistrust.

By the time the second day of meeting ended, it was clear that the summit had failed and even a joint declaration would not be issued. The tone of media had starting to change and it was only matter of days that old allegations were repeated.

The nature of the coverage shows that it was linked with atmosphere of the talks. The coverage was positive when there was hope for a breakthrough. But it changed to pessimism and blame- game mode, once it was clear that the summit had failed.

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