



RESEARCH PAPER

**Pakistan-India Relations: Bridging the Gap through Cricket
Diplomacy for Peace and Political Integration**

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ABSTRACT

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Pakistan came into being as a result of partition of India on August 14, 1947 which was a British Indian Colony. There are many unresolved disputes between Pakistan and India. Kashmir is the bone of contention and has caused severe damages to the socio-economic conditions of both the countries. Although the Kashmir dispute has been presented at different international forums like the United Nations Organization yet after 73 years the dispute has not been resolved. There are tensions on both sides of the border. The "lowering of the flags", ceremony at the Wagha border is an interesting event and the chanting of slogans from both sides promote hatred between the people of both the countries. Though there are many misunderstandings between the two nations but there is still ray of hope. Cricket has most of the times played a role of successful diplomacy when the tensions were on peak. It has promoted harmony among the people of both the nations. Cricket has contributed in peace building. The most famous game of both the countries, is cricket that has also suffered and remained suspended at different times due to the escalations. Cricket has become a source of inter-state marriages as Pakistani cricketers have married to Indians. Cricket has been observed as addiction in the spectators of Pakistan and India. It sparks the sentiments of the spectators and their support for the players in the cricket ground during match.

Introduction

India-Pakistan relations have been analyzed as the most dangerous political standoff since the partition of India 1947. Regional instability of South Asia is

measured as the most ugly and unpredictable matter in international politics since the end of Cold War. Before leaving the President office, Clinton advised the incoming President Bush that ongoing rivalry of India and Pakistan should be top priority in the list of priorities for American administration because both are nuclear powers. (McLeod, 2008).

Process of Partition between India and Pakistan was evaluated as the foremost reason for enduring hostility. Pakistan considered that the terms of partition have not been adhered by India in letter and spirit. Kashmir remains as unfinished business of 1947 partition and it is widely analyzed as bone of contention between Indian and Pakistan. Moreover, defaulting on the assets division, international boundary manipulation and opposing the reality of Pakistan by creating problems for new state caused friction with India (Raghavan, 2020).

Pakistan and India have remained perpetual victims because of fundamental differences in their socio-economic, political, religious and cultural outlooks. Differences fueled the mutual hate, contrive fear and it created endless rivalry between both the nations. The bloody armed conflicts of 1947-48, 1965, and Kargil conflict in 1999 have been on the enduring dispute of Kashmir. Military standoff took place twice between India and Pakistan. War like situation was created in 1986-1987 during the 'Operation Brasstracks' and again both the sides were at the brink of war during 'Operation Prokharan' in 2001-2002 which was launched by India after terrorist attacks on Indian Parliament in December 2001 (Ashraf, 2007).

Certainly, the conflict of Kashmir has turned out the South Asian region in a putrefied ulcer. The hostility between both nuclear-armed nations has the potential of nuclear exchange which has been analyzed more alarming. In August 2019, Modi government revocation of Kashmir's special status by rescinding Article 370 infuriated Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan accused Modi of being a chauvinistic. Primarily un-solved Kashmir dispute is the root cause of friction between Pakistan and India (Jain, 2021).

Sports-based approaches have contributed to develop peace-building objectives in the age of globalization. The United Nation General Assembly has passed Resolution 66/7 recognizing the contributions of sports for peace-building. The Common Wealth engagement with Sports for Development and Peace (SDP) provided the possibilities of integration for inter-state sports federations to organize multiple games for peace promotion in its member countries. Sports have been utilized to strengthen the objective of United Nations for achieving collective peace and harmony among its member states. Acknowledging the worth of sports for development of international peace by SDP, it is observed that United Nations Office on Sport for Development for Peace (UNOSDP) was established in 2005 (Dudfield, 2014).

International games and the pursuit of peace have been integrated with each other since long. In the end of the nineteenth century, the founder of modern Olympic Games, Pierre De Coubertin expressed that the real aim of organizing sports events is to develop peace among nations of world. Coubertin remained deeply in touch with the many peace movements of Western world and he believed that international competitions of sports and world fairs would reduce the possibilities of warfare. He also believed that international players have the potential to secure universal peace but it would take nearly a century to meet his idealist approach. In 2000, Kofi Annan the General Secretary of United Nations declared that Olympic Ideals are also the Ideals of the United Nations. The promotion of tolerance, equality, fair play and peace are the central theme of the United Nations. Events of Sports could play vital role in reducing hate and aggression among the nations (Burke, 2019).

Cricket Diplomacy, tool of People-to-People Integration.

Sports have always played their role in bringing nations closer to one another. Regional, Inter-state, and world sports events have supported the multilateral cooperation and harmony among the nations. Cricket is one of the most popular and passionate game for the people of Pakistan and India. In case of India-Pakistan, the game of cricket bridged gaps in the critical period between both the countries. Cricket was diplomatically used many times to cool the heat of uneven conditions between Pakistan and India. Internationally, cricket is one of the most famous games and it is also very popular in South Asian region particularly India and Pakistan. Cricket diplomacy can play vital role in removing the gaps and distrust among the people of both nations. Passion of the spectators is always high when the teams of both of the nations are in the ground. Cricket between both of the nations can act like a 'Bridge of Peace.' Cricket can also be utilized as an important tool of creating confidence building measures between both of the nations.

Shaharyar Muhammad Khan, the chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has shared experience in his book '*Cricket: A Bridge of Peace*' as a manager of the Pakistan's cricket team toured in 1999 to India in these words.

"I had not intended to publish my impression until the unexpectedly warm welcome by the people of India to the enemy team. Their enthusiastic response planted the seed in my mind that cricket's vast untapped energy could be harnessed for understanding and tolerance. After a lifetime in diplomacy, attempting, most unsuccessfully, to overcome tensions, hostility and conflict, I realized cricket could act as bridge of peace" (Khan, 2005).

Momentous Glance of Cricket before 1965 War

After Independence of sub-continent in 1947 from British, Pakistan cricket team appeared on the timeline of International Cricket in 1952. Pakistan played its first test series with India in 1952. Pakistan cricket team toured India led by Abdul

HafeezKardar. After two years, India under captainship Vinoo Mankad Indian cricket team paid the first official visit to Pakistan. In the decade of 1950 both Pakistan and India had cricket tours and played cricket matches in a very friendly atmosphere.

India toured again Pakistan in 1960 under the captainship of Vinoo Mankad. The first test match on the land of Pakistan was played in Dacca, the capital of East Pakistan between India and Pakistan. The match was ended in a draw after four days cricket. The second test match was played in Bahawalpur. India and Pakistan cricket teams met in *Bagh-e-Jinnah* (Lawrence Garden) cricket ground in Lahore. Thousands of Indian spectators crossed the border to watch the third test match. It was the first time since partition that a great number of people crossed the border. Pakistan opened the border for thousands of Indian cricket devotees and dropped its visa policy. On every day basis, two special trains were arranged for Indian spectators by Pakistan. Permits were granted to motor vehicles for crossing the border. Rooms in schools and hostels were set aside for Indian cricket fans to stay in Lahore. The *Tribune*, a leading Hindu newspaper reported that Lahore Mall Road and Anarkali Bazar were viewed fully crowded with Indian and Pakistani people greeting to one another. Tears of happiness in their eyes could be traced easily in the people of both sides. According to newspaper, many Indians visited their homes which they had left at the time of 1947 partition. Indian visitors were welcomed and entertained with tea and meals by Pakistani people. It all happened because of cricket series between India and Pakistan (Obome, 2015:106-108).

Zia Introduced the Cricket Diplomacy in Confrontation

Cricket has proved as a meaningful integration tool for the citizens of both of the sides. It bonded the people of both the sides beyond the territorial boundaries. India and Pakistan were born with traditional hostility as Kashmir dispute has disrupted both nations' bilateral ties. Dispute is still unsolved and it has caused three conventional and one limited war of Kargil. The war of 1965 and 1971 stopped the cricket integration between both the countries. Both sides remained locked in the context of cricket diplomacy and did not play even a single match during 1962-1977 (Iftikar, 2017).

In 1986, huge military movements of both India and Pakistan, on common borders have created the pressure and uncertainty. During the Bangalore Summit in November 1986, Indian Prime Minister and Pakistan President got the chance to meet each other and both leaders agreed to normalize the relations. Certain measures were adopted such as illegal border crossing, controlling the drug transferring and actions against terrorism and smuggling. President General Zia aimed at the joint contribution toward collective integrations and cricket is one of them (Gonsalves&Jetly, 1999).

In 1987, former President of Pakistan Zia-Ul-Haq introduced cricket diplomacy between India and Pakistan. He surprised the international community by a sudden visit to India and watched a cricket match between Pakistan and India. Before Zia's visit, relations of both of the states were at serious level of hostility. The visit of Zia-ul-Haq helped to defuse the highly tense warfare situation of both India and Pakistan. It is analyzed that in South Asian region the word 'Cricket Diplomacy' was coined formally after Zia's visit to India (Mazahir, Muhammd, Yaseen, & Iqbal, 2020).

President Zia deliberately visited India by using cricket diplomacy. Reports have been received during 1982-84 that India had established a plan to attack over the Kahuta nuclear installation complex. It was claimed on the basis of American intelligence reports. Moreover it was also assumed that Israel was the possible partner to strike over Kahuta. Such reports had caused worries to the policy makers of Islamabad. Zia formulated an agreement not to strike over the nuclear installations of both of the countries. Brasstacks 1986-87 added more fuel over the security concerns of Islamabad. Pakistan was worried about the Siachen escalation of 1984 while India blamed Pakistan for using Sikh Card to destabilize her sovereignty (Koithara, 2004).

Indian huge deployment on the Indo-Pakistan borders became the reason of President Zia's sudden visit to India. Zia utilized the tool of Cricket for de-escalation of military deployment on the joint border of both of the countries. During the cricket match in Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, Zia met with Rajiv Gandhi. Indian media gave the favorable coverage to end the Brasstacks crisis. Indian and Pakistani troops returned to their normal positions and Brasstacks crisis had been laid to rest. Cricket diplomacy generated the possibility of integration between the leadership of Pakistan and India to end the crisis at the eleventh hour (Hagerty, 1998).

President Zia-ul-Haq's cricket diplomacy did not bring any significant swift in the bilateral relations of Pakistan and India. It was viewed that Indian cricket team did not tour Pakistan until 1997. Zia diplomacy of cricket was analyzed as purely cosmetic. On the other hand it has been noted that Zia started new phase of diplomacy through cricket game in context of India-Pakistan bilateral dealings for the future prospective (Jaffrelot, 2004).

Indian Cricket team visited Pakistan in 1997. Both teams played limited One Day International Cricket Matches on the cricket grounds of Pakistani soil. The revival of cricket diplomacy could not last for a long time. In May 1998, India conducted nuclear explosion which surprised the whole world. Nuclear explosion has also increased the worries of international community for maintaining peace and stability in South Asia. Soon after the Indian nuclear explosions, Pakistan replied India by conducting its nuclear tests. After both sides nuclear tests, situation was

uncertain and unpredictable. Nawaz and Vajpayee met in 1999 and decided to restart cricketing between both of the countries (Ganguly&Hagerty, 2012).

Revival of Indo-Pakistan Cricketing

In April 1999, Pakistan allowed her Cricket team to participate in Pepsi One Day Cup which was organized in India. After 1987, it was the first Pakistani cricket team that toured India. The former Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board and the then manager of Pakistani cricket team Shahrayar Khan expressed that cricket diplomacy had provided opportunities of mutual communication with the Indian Cricket team. Pakistani cricket team was welcomed warmly in every Indian city during her stay in India. Many fan-following of Pakistani cricket stars were noted in India. Cricket team was given the goodwill gesture such as 40,000 Indian spectators gave the standing ovation to Pakistani cricket team. However, Kargil conflict and Indian Airplane hijacking wiped the refreshed atmosphere of cricket revival between Pakistan and India (Mazhir, Muhammd, &Yaseen, 2020)

Bus diplomacy of Indian Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee took him to Lahore for normalizing the conditions between India and Pakistan. By road journey of Indian Prime Minister produced the Lahore Declaration in February 1999. The provisions of Declaration bounded both India and Pakistan to resolve bilateral issues through talks.

Former Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Shaharyar Muhammad Khan wrote a book titled '*Cricket: A bridge of Peace*' which highlighted his experiences during the tour to India in January-April 1999 as manager of Pakistan cricket team and January-March 2003 South African tour. Shaharyar Khan narrated that unexpectedly he and his team was warmly welcomed by the Indian spectators. It was lifetime experience for me. I myself realized that cricket could bridge the gaps and could also act to overcome the tension and rivalry. Pakistan all-rounder cricketer, former Capitan and currently the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan narrated that when both Pakistan and India, the regional powers of South Asia have been locked in conflict, cricket diplomacy had played a healing role to defuse uncertainty in mutual ties (Keys, 2019).

During Pakistan tour to India, more than 40,000 Indian spectators gave standing ovation in Chennai. It was the historic moment in India-Pakistan cricketing. In Mohali, Sikh girls painted both Pakistani and Indian flags on their cheeks. Pakistani element crowd chanted that Pakistan-Hindustan *DostiZindabad*(long live friendship). Before the arrival of Pakistani team, Shiv Sena had threatened the team for serious consequences if it toured India. Shiv Sena even went one step ahead by digging up the pitch of cricket in New Delhi. The response of Indian public was

proved a clear message to Shiv Sena that peace has more worth instead of confrontation (Kausik, 2015).

Lahore Declaration was signed between Indian and Pakistani leadership with hope of prevention of confrontation. After three months of Vajpayee trip to Lahore. Kargil conflict raised new concerns of regional stability. Lahore Declaration did not contribute and failed to achieve its goals. Pakistan fought Kargil war to international Kashmir issue. Pakistan counted accession of Kashmir illegal and wanted the situation of Kashmir according to the UN Security Council Resolution. Goodwill created in 1999 through cricket tour which was washed away by the Kargil combat. Indian Airline plane hijacking in the same year added more fuel in bilateral ties. India banned bilateral cricket until Pakistan stopped supporting insurgency in Kashmir (Shahid&Perveen, 2015).

Attack on Indian Parliament and its impact

War on Kargil mountain peaks disrupted the bilateral relations of India-Pakistan which were analyzed to come back on the track after Lahore *Dosti Bus Yahtara* (Friendship Bus Journey). Terrorists attacked on the Indian Parliament building in New Delhi on December 13, 2001 which created a new atmosphere of hostility and aggression. Nine month long military standoff 2001-2002 challenged the regional security and once again South Asia was analyzed to the brink of nuclear war. Both India and Pakistan mobilized their heavy armed forces to border areas and eye to eye ball confrontation observed during tense military standoff. Like Kargil again international diplomacy defused the crisis. Both Kargil and attack on the Indian Parliament had upset social and political events including cricket between both of the nations (Lavoy, 2009, p. 14).

Generally, sports are the reflection of society. In South Asian region, games received much attention of the people. Pakistani, Indian, Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi cricket teams have huge fan-following and also counted the best teams in international cricket. India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have been the champion of World Cricket Cup. Message of Peace and cooperation from cricket stars are acknowledged and appreciated all over the world.

SAARC 2004 Summit brought back Pak-India Cricketing

In 2004 Musharraf and Vajpayee agreed that 'Cricket Diplomacy' would help to increase the bilateral trust between Pakistan and India. On the media, President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf showed his willingness to visit India for watching Pakistan-India cricket match and to hold political talks with India. New Delhi responded with an invitation to Musharraf. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Musharraf met each other and declared that the peace talks are the

need of hour to normalization the conditions in both of the nations and cricket can be used as a key tool to bring both of the nation's closer to each other (Kobierecki, 2020)

In 2004, Vajpayee and President Musharraf met sideline during the SAARC Summit. Both leaders agreed for the revival of cricket diplomacy to increase people to people integration between Pakistan and India through games. The step was taken to build better relationship between both of the states. After the sideline sitting of PM Vajpayee and President Musharraf, it was announced that cricket team of India would tour to Pakistan in March/April 2004. Cricket reviving decision was a momentous event for the Cricket devotees in both countries. Soon after the decision, Chairman PCB approached BCCI for arranging schedule of five ODIs and three test matches (Khan & Khan, 2013).

Musharraf and Vajpayee revived cricket diplomacy between Pakistan and India in 2004 after sideline meeting in Islamabad. Both nations finalized the cricket series. India-Pakistan cricket series was named 'Friendship Series'. Ramiz Raja former cricketer and the then Chief Operating Officer of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and currently a prominent cricket commentator expressed that people to people contacts between two nations could improve trust level and cricket could be proved major vehicle to meet the purpose. Imran Khan, Former captain of Pakistan Cricket team and currently Prime Minister of Pakistan narrated that he had never viewed before such a favorable atmosphere of friendship in Pakistan-India cricket series which he had observed in Friendship Series of both nations (Mazhir, Muhammd, & Yaseen, 2020).

Peace Building through Pak-India Cricketing

Vajpayee arranged a meeting with Indian Cricket team players before their flight to Pakistan for cricket tour. Vajpayee urged the cricketers not only to win the cricket matches but also win the hearts of Pakistani nation during their stay in Pakistan. Prime Minister presented a bat to the Indian cricket team skipper Sourav Ganguly. It was written on the bat with highlighted words that '*Khel he Nahi, Dilbhi Jitiye*' ('Not only game, win hearts as well'). Indian media reported that messages were flowed that Vajpayee gave the gift of Cricket revival for creating peace and harmony between India and Pakistan. He also wished best of luck for Indian team to win the cricket series. From opposition, Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi represented the Congress outlet and watched India-Pakistan match at National Stadium in Karachi. Rahul and Priyanka emphasized on the importance of people to people contacts between India and Pakistan. Both of them also acknowledged the role and potential of cricket diplomacy for peace promotion. India won the One Day series and Vajpayee telephoned and congratulated to skipper Ganguly on miraculous victory. Prime Minister appreciated Rahul Dravid and Muhammad Kashif for their brilliant performance in the whole cricket series. Some

observers analyzed that the participation of Zaheer, Irfan Pathan and Kashif in Indian cricket squad was to reshape the BJP image from a hard liner right-wing party to soft liberal political party just to win the favor of Muslim voters in Uttar Pradesh election (Bandyopadhyay, 2008).

In April 2005, President Musharraf visited to India for watching one day international cricket match. President Musharraf met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. A joint statement was issued after meeting in which both leaders showed their determination for peace talks. Backchannel diplomacy between their envoys remained about issues of Kashmir and Siachen. In June Mr. Singh visited region of Siachen and called for it to become the Peace Mountain. In June 2005, Mr. Advani, the leader of opposition visited Pakistan. He praised Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan during his visit to Karachi mausoleum. It was the game of cricket which provided the possibilities of mutual integration among political leadership both of the sides (MacDonald, 2017).

Three years of cricketing 2005-2007 were viewed as golden era of cricketing between India and Pakistan. Both sides cricket lovers welcomed warmly to each other. Cordial images were viewed during the cricket series by cricket fans of both sides largely. Political relations of Pakistan-India during 2004-2008 are traced as a golden era of mutual relationship. Terrorist attacks in Mumbai destroyed the whole atmosphere of peace process. Before Mumbai attacks, cricket diplomacy was not suffered even when Samjhota Express train was attacked with bombs by Hindu extremists. Terrorist shooting on train killed 68 Pakistani nationals and left many severe injured during their journey from India to Pakistan (Mazhir, Muhammd, & Yaseen, 2020).

Mumbai Attacks damaged bilateral Relations of India-Pakistan

Relations of Pakistan and India reached on boiling temperature when terrorists attacked in south Mumbai's seven different places and killed 173 people and left 293 injured in November 26, 2008. Islamic militant groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad disrupted the relations of India-Pakistan. Mumbai blasts 2008 had derailed peace talks and created serious confrontation in Indo-Pak ties. All kinds of developments for confidence building measures and peace promotion stopped in the aftermath of Mumbai shooting between Pakistan-India. The lethal attacks hindered the peace process between India and Pakistan and damaged all efforts that were being made in order to achieve harmonized relations between both states. On the other hand Pakistan had already banned both Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad in 2001 by declaring them terrorist organizations (Javaid & Kamal, 2013).

Gilani Visited India to Watch Pak-India World Cup Semi-Final

Indian Prime Minister Mr. Singh invited his Pakistani counterpart Prime Minister Mr. Gilani with an invitation to watch the India-Pakistan Cricket World Cup semi-final at Mohali in India. Through cricket diplomacy, the initiative was taken to develop a better atmosphere for political talks. Cricket game helped to ease the tension between the two traditional rivals. Cricket diplomacy is closely connected with the popularity of cricket game in both Pakistan and India. Both sides' people love their cricket heroes and perceive them as 'Ambassadors of Peace'. Most importantly, it is an underline fact that sports are utilized by leaders to meet each other in crisis (Kobierecki, 2020).

In 2011, Yousaf Raza Gilani visited India. He watched the Semi-final Match of Cricket World Cup which was played between India and Pakistan on March 30, 2011. Before leaving for Mohali, Gilani told media at Chaklala Airbase that Pakistan always wanted to work for peace and he was happy that peace talks were going to be started again. Gilani added more that he was optimistic that relations of India-Pakistan would surely move towards smooth track through dialogue. SAARC created the possibility for the leadership of both countries to visit one another countries through sports. It was viewed that Prime Minister Gilani was much hopeful to start a new era of good relations with India by addressing ongoing bilateral issues (Mahapatra, 2012).

Cricket diplomacy came once again on the high pitch between Pakistan and India in 2012. The approach of creating harmony and peace progressed in the shape of trust building through cricket. Pakistan Cricket team toured India in December 2012. Pakistan played one T 20 and three One Day cricket matches during the tour to India. Cricket game produced a way forward to improve better backdoor channel diplomacy between both of the nations (Iftikar, 2017).

Need of Sportsmanship for Promoting Peace

Grapples of hostility between India-Pakistan can be examined in both nations cricket matches. In Sharjah, JavidMiandad won the match by hitting a six on the last ball of Chetan Sharma still rankles in the minds of Indian as low point for the whole nation. In 1996 Cricket World Cup, Pakistan lost the match from India in Bangalore WaseemAkram, Pakistan left-handed fast bowler was stoned by the Indian spectators. From 1992-2003, in four Cricket World Cup matches, all matches between Pakistan and India had tested the nerves of both Pakistan and Indian cricket fans. The brand of Cricketing in both nations has emerged as sign of national pride. Indian Cricket team all-rounder Kapil Dev shared his experience that there was no place of sentiments when Indian and Pakistani teams play against one another. Political differences between both of the sides have also its reflection in the cricket game. Both

Indian and Pakistani spectators electrified the matches as it is matter of do and die (Kausik, 2015).

There is need of regular matches to overcome the aggressive emotions. Sports should always be taken for pleasure and for healthy exercise. It is analyzed that the cricket stars of India and Pakistan have friendly relations with one another and the spectators as well. Both sides of cricketers have fan- following, regionally and internationally. It is examined that the cricket stars from Pakistan have chosen their life partners from India which is a sign of fraternity and development of trust and confidence in the people of both of the nations.

In early 2010, Indian tennis star Sania Mirza announced to marry with Shoaib Malik, a prominent all-rounder of Pakistani cricket team. It was noted that Sania Mirza broke off her childhood engagement to marry Shoaib Malik and in the same way Shoaib Malik divorced Ayesha Siddiqui belonged from Hyderabad, India to marry Sania Mirza. The marriage was politicized by the right-wing political parties such as BJP and Shiv Sena. Mirza marriage opened up the relationship of both nations beyond the borders. In spite of political and mental differences Indians and Pakistanis historically belong to the same culture. It is examined that before partition India and Pakistan had recollections of sweet memories. Shoaib and Sania Mirza marriage brought new perspective of Indo-Pak relations on the basis equality (DE & Moinuddin, 2016).

Conclusion

The study has analyzed that the dispute of Kashmir has its deep reflection on the ties of both sides. All confrontational subjects have their roots in Kashmir issue. The evil of cross-border terrorism has derailed the peace process many times and it has also disrupted the mutual ties of Indo-Pakistan by generating long gap to restart peace talks. Regional peace has been observed instable when non-state actors have created an event of cross-border terrorism.

Human security and prosperity in South Asia is deeply linked with the subject of good relations between Pakistan and India. Civil society of both sides support the policy of reconciliation to bring peace in the region. The path for moving forward with optimistic approach goes through meaningful solution of the ongoing bilateral issues of conflicts. Both sides have to forget the bitter realities and bad experiences of past times such as cross-border terrorism and insurgency in one another countries to stabilize the region. Truth should be accepted as Vajpayee during his Lahore visit admitted that Pakistan is a reality and we want to develop relations based on long friendship as prosperous Pakistan in favor of India.

Sports brings the opportunities of integration and especially the popularity of cricket game has been used for overcoming the uncertain situation between both of the nations. Cricket diplomacy has the potential to motivate both sides to reduce anger and hate for each other through creating goodwill gestures as examined in the study both sides cricket officials and teams were warmly welcomed during their tours in one another countries. Musharraf believed that cricket pitch can be useful tool to develop better ties if there is any ice which cannot be melt.

Between the periods of 2004-2008, in the diplomatic relations of Pakistan-India have been evaluated more comfortable and ideal as compared to other periods. Cricket game has been emerged as strong tool of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in case of India-Pakistan in the above-mentioned era. Both sides toured one another's country and genuine goodwill gesture's events were captured in the lens of camera forever. Cricket diplomacy plays its role opposite the gun diplomacy. It also builds the political vacuum and creates the possibilities of healthy environment for peace talks.

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