

## Is India-Pakistan peace around?

Jawed Naqvi Published September 14, 2022

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IS the **prospect** امکان of India-Pakistan peace becoming visible on the not too distant **horizon** افق ? The hopeful **query** استفسار، کبھی کبھار یا کسی کسی جگہ پہ آنے والے **springs from sporadic** تحقیق signals, including some of international import, and a lot of **guesswork** قیاس آرائی، important enough to **stick one's neck out**.

Indian and Pakistani prime ministers will be in Samarkand on Thursday to participate in a two-day summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation` (**SCO**). Uzbekistan, where Samarkand is, has a history of **nudging** تھپتپانا India and Pakistan to **terminate** ختم کرنا their mistrust. The 1965 **Tashkent Agreement** may not have been to Z.A. Bhutto's liking but it did bring **closure** خاتمہ to a **needless** فضول war between the two neighbours.

Equally important from the SCO's **perspective** نقطہ نظر is the fact that India will be the host of the annual meet next year, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **presumably** ممکنہ شاید, would want to be a successful bash ( a heavy blow).

**Obstructing** رکاوٹ ڈالنا the **potentially** ممکنہ طور پر grand **diplomatic** سفارتی dream is Delhi's current **patch** ٹانکا of **strained** کشیدہ ties with China and the strategic **doldrums**

swamping پہنسا relations with Pakistan. Above all, the persistent مسلسل US resolve عزم to torpedo بنانا the SCO, of which China and Russia are the ideological lynchpins ریڑھ کی ہڈی, not to speak of the summit in Samarkand, which is expected to produce an alternative متبادل narrative to the Ukraine conflict and other global issues, remains an ever-present concern تشویش.

Should things go well in Samarkand, an SCO summit in India could become a key element in Mr Modi's third consecutive مسلسل re-election bid in 2024. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on his part, needs urgent relief from the combined effects of the political quagmire دلدل his ruling alliance اتحاد finds itself in, deepened by the natural calamity آفت striking the country in its most furious غضبناک and devastating avatar مظہر in recent memory. Both pose a challenge to the tenuous کمزور alliance politically, which means more economic instability عدم استحکام. Niggardly سے یا کنجوسی سے but optically طور پر ahead of چال the SCO meet. handy کارآمد moral support from the US with spare parts for F-16s could be a signal and a ploy چال ahead of سے قبل the SCO meet.

The US is committed body and soul to Ukraine in its conflict with Russia, and is in a mental state that Jamey Falls would have identified with. Older former alumni سابق طالب علم would remember the school teacher at La Martiniere in Lucknow, chiefly the occasions when he was distracted from his lectures. "Give him what he wants, man. Just don't disturb the class." So went the legendary counsel from Mr Falls to the

occasional **horseplay** **مستی** موج on the back benches, mostly involving Anglo-Indian boys, which he found distracting.

The US in a similar manner is pressing everyone it can, to not disturb the class, **shepherding** **چروا رہا ہے** everyone along to **forgo** **کرنا ترک** their respective ongoing **tiffs** **جھگڑوں**, for example, by **notably** **خاص طور پر** **bearing down** on Serbs in the former Yugoslavia to ease up their **standoff** **کشمکش** with **ethnic** **نسلی** **rivals** **دشمن**. The US quite possibly needs to see a **suspension** of **sullen** **ناخوش** **aloofness** **غم خیز، لاتعلقی** in South Asia too to get all sides to single-mindedly display **empathy** **ہمدردی** for its narrative of the **trauma** **صدمہ** **unleashed** **جاری کرنا** on Ukraine. Its public **intent** **ارادہ** to weaken Russia or even destroy it economically seems to have recoiled **پسپا**, however, and is said to have only **strengthened** **مضبوط بنانے** Vladimir Putin's hold on the country.

**Going by the prospects in view** **امکانات کو مدنظر رکھتے ہوئے**, the SCO summit could **set the tone** for the next steps in the European conflict that has **brought the global economy to its knees**. The India-Pakistan **equation** **مساوات** is integral **لازمی** to the peace agenda. In this regard the east-west **lobbies** would not find much to disagree on. Mr Modi would be closely watched for his interactions with Russian and Chinese presidents, who both will be encouraging if also watching his widely expected interaction with Pakistan's prime minister.

**Sprucing up** **تیار کرنا**, بناانا, Pakistan's F-16 **warplanes** **جنگی**

should struggle to **chip away** at the **proximity** Pakistan has acquired with the China-led club of Asian nations plus Russia.

The SCO was created to push back against **precisely** these moves from the west. Luckily both sides seem to have a need to bring the two countries close preferably (or **cynically**) without **paring down** their **gargantuan** for military hardware. Some positive military disengagement and a promise of more, similar measures on the Sino-Indian border may have been planned to time with the Samarkand meet.

Yet who can deny the oversized **fly in the ointment**, when it comes to India-Pakistan **rapprochement** **befriends** the grass, it could face **starvation**, an agreeable Urdu saying goes. **Hatred** for Pakistan has been an article of faith with Hindutva. Its **cohorts** in India's ruling establishment would **gasp** without the **putrid** air of **perpetual** **hostilities**. Hindutva would **starve** without the required animus with Pakistan. On the other hand, Hindutva is not unknown for **leaning** on **opportunism** as a political tool. It can kill people for eating beef in one part of India, and not impose any such **fiat** in others, notably in Goa and Manipur.

Moreover, there is something about Nawaz Sharif and his party that Indian leaders find easier to work with. The Lahore

summit and the unannounced **gatecrashing** by Modi at a Sharif event a few years ago **bear witness** تصدیق کرنا، گواہی دینا. There is also considerable business interest in India in opening trade ties with Pakistan, which is seen as a **conduit** راستہ to Central Asian linkages. Remember that there's always some **mysterious** پراسرار businessman supposedly representing the government and fixing things for Delhi while being parked in a Lahore hotel. It was the late Dhirubhai Ambani who **dispatched** کیا a message to Gen Pervez Musharraf, presumably through an important player in Washington D.C., to not mistreat Sharif.

Could the summit in Samarkand nudge both countries to resume their **stalled** رکی ہوئی dialogue once again? It's pure **speculation** قیاس آرائی at present but not **bereft** محروم of compelling logic. **Reviving** بحال کرنا the **Saarc** meet that was due to be held in Pakistan before the **advent** آمد of Mr Modi could become an attractive proposition from an economic perspective. For domestic politics too, **divisive** تقسیم کرنے والے **tactics** حربے are losing their currency. Peace with China and Pakistan could **set the cat among the pigeons** for a **perennially** دائمی طور پر underprepared opposition.

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## Brotherly Afghanistan?

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ON September 7, Pakistan defeated Afghanistan in a **thrilling** **cricket match** in Sharjah. The Afghan **popular** عوام کا reaction to this defeat was **intense** شدید, and **puzzling** حیران کن. Why did the Afghan people **exhibit** کیا مظاہرہ such a strong dislike for Pakistan? After all, Afghanistan had lost matches to most other teams as well. **Ordinarily** عام طور پر, this is not an issue of much **consequence** نتیجہ خیز, but this has **triggered** a wider debate, first on social media, then the **think tanks** حکومت یا کسی بھی تنظیم کے ذریعہ بہت سے معاملات میں مشورہ دینے یا معاونت کے لئے ماہر افراد کا ایک گروپ and **academia** تعلیمی ادارے, and now almost everywhere to understand what is wrong with this bilateral دو طرفہ relationship.

Some analysts tend to trace the roots of this **uneasy** بے چین relationship to the **complicated** پیچیدہ history of the region. The Mughal rule over large parts of Afghanistan, Afghan **raiders** حملہ آور who **ventured** داخل ہوئے into northern India, the Sikh rule which pushed back the Afghans, and then the Anglo-

Afghan wars had generated an **accumulated** مجموعی **bitterness** تلخی that eventually manifested itself in the Afghan refusal to accept the Durand Line as the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Most historical accounts **reveal** پتہ دینا، ظاہر ہونا that the Durand Line of 1893 was based on a **consensus** اتفاق رائے reached after some give and take.

However, present-day Afghans contest that fact. After 1947, in Afghan **narratives** بیانیے , Pakistan came to **epitomise** یا نمونہ the 'enemy' that the Afghans must fight to **assert** دعویٰ کرنا their **nationhood** قومیت and **reclaim** کرنا دوبارہ حاصل کرنا the lands that they thought were theirs, **notwithstanding** کے باوجود the fact that Pakistan had not **negotiated** بات چیت کی the Durand Line and only **inherited** کیا وراثت میں حاصل کیا it from British India as the border with Afghanistan.

It, thus, came as no surprise that Afghanistan became the only country to oppose the membership of Pakistan to the United Nations, though it **withdrew** لیا واپس its **objections** اعتراضات **subsequently** بعد میں. In later years, the Pashtunistan issue was raised by some Afghan rulers, **disregarding** نظر انداز کرتے ہوئے the fact that Pashtuns on the Pakistan side of the border were more **numerous** زیادہ than in Afghanistan, which in fact is a multi-ethnic society.

**Beyond** سے ہٹ کر the historical **context** تناظر , the Afghan **hostility** دشمنی further **emanates** پیدا ہونا from the recent past. In the last four decades, first the **Soviet** and then American

occupation of Afghanistan led to millions of Afghans losing their lives and millions more **displaced** بے گھر. Allowing the 'Afghan jihad' to **nurture** پروان چڑھنا in Pakistani territory, participating in the US-led **war on terror** دہشتگردی کے خلاف جنگ, and giving **refuge** پناہ to millions of Afghans have **altered** بدل دیا the very **fabric** ساخت، پہچان, of our own society; indeed, we paid a heavy price to **liberate** آزاد کرانا Afghanistan from foreign occupation. Even so, Pakistan and its government **unreservedly** بے دریغ helped the Afghan nation by opening our doors and hearts for millions of its people who have, ever since, lived in Pakistan, studied in Pakistani universities, received treatment in Pakistani hospitals, and enjoyed Pakistan's hospitality in every other respect.

Yet, today we find the majority of Afghans bitter تلخ about Pakistan. We need to **introspect** خود جائزہ لینا what went wrong despite Pakistan's **consistent** مسلسل desire to have brotherly ties with the next-door neighbour.

**In the wake** بعد کے of 9/11, when the US **invaded** حملہ کیا Afghanistan, and the Taliban chose to **resist** مزاحمت کرنا the occupation, Pakistan **argued** دی دلیل that a political solution rather than a military victory should be the **preferred** ترجیحی option. The Americans finally decided to engage with the Taliban, and after a deal, they left Afghanistan. The Afghan government and its national army **sponsored** سرپرستی میں by the US fell almost **instantly** فوری طور پر. During these two decades, the governments of Ashraf Ghani and Hamid Karzai



extensively **bashed** تنقید کا نشانہ بنایا Pakistan and even played the India card against it. There are reports that India invested heavily in Afghan media to create the image of Pakistan as an enemy of Afghan people, **downplaying** کم کرنا the enormous help the country had extended to Afghan governments, traders, students, and even their cricket team. A whole generation of Afghans has grown up influenced متاثر by this propaganda.

So, what can Pakistan do to manage the unsettling relationship with Afghanistan? **One way forward** آگے بڑھنے کا ایک راستہ is to treat Afghanistan as a normal, independent, **sovereign** خودمختار country, similar to the bilateral relationships we wish to have with other neighbours and beyond. **In no case** میں should Pakistan speak for the present or future rulers of Afghanistan. Our political leaders should hold a **candid** صاف ، واضح dialogue with Afghans that peaceful **coexistence** بقائے باہمی, strong economic relations, and **robust** مضبوط **counterterrorism** دہشتگردی cooperation are in the interest of both countries.

**In line** مطابق کے with Pakistan's desire to **prioritise** ترجیح دینا **geoeconomics**, the focus of our interactions with Afghanistan should be on bilateral trade, Afghan **transit trade**, and connectivity with energy-rich Central Asia and China. A **robust** مضبوط economic relationship builds peace **constituencies** حلقے and **restores** بحال کرنا trust. When the people of Afghanistan see the **tangible** ٹھوس economic benefits **emanating** نکلنے out of its relationship with Pakistan, mutual trust will set in. We need to be patient and **pragmatic** عملی, and avoid hollow

expressions of brotherhood. Let actions speak louder than words.

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### spring from

: to start from or be caused by (something) The idea sprang from a dream I had

### Stick ones neck out

To personally assume or expose oneself to some risk, danger, or responsibility;

to imperil خطرے میں oneself or put oneself in harm's way

### SCO

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a Eurasian political, economic and security organization. In terms of geographic scope and population, it is the world's largest regional organization, covering approximately 60% of the area of Eurasia, 40% of the world population, and more than 30% of

global GDP.

The **Tashkent Declaration** was a peace agreement between India and Pakistan signed on 10 January 1966 that resolved the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965. Peace had been achieved on 23 September by the intervention of the external powers that pushed the two nations to cease fire, afraid the conflict could escalate and draw in other powers.

**Doldrums**

noun

a state or period of stagnation or depression.

"the mortgage market has been in the doldrums for three years

**bear down**

to exert full strength and concentrated attention

**set the tone**

: to establish a quality, feeling, or attitude by a manner of speaking or writing Her lighthearted question set the tone for the rest of the interview.

**Bring to knees**

: to completely defeat or overwhelm (someone) The general vowed he would bring the enemy to their knees.

The term **lobby** refers to a group of people who band together and try to influence people in public office and politicians. A lobby is typically formed to influence government officials to act in a way that is beneficial to the lobby's or an industry's best interests, either through favorable legislation or by blocking unfavorable measures. The term is also used as a verb to describe the influence that a group of individuals exerts over other people.

### **Fly in the ointment**

– a single thing or person that is spoiling a situation that could have been very positive or enjoyable.

### **gate-crashing**

to go to a party or other event when you have not been invited:  
He decided to gatecrash the wedding

### **SAARC**

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia. Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Founded: December 8, 1985

### **put the cat among the pigeons**

say or do something that is likely to cause trouble or controversy

The **Soviet** Union, officially the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), was a transcontinental country that spanned much of Eurasia from 1922 to 1991. A flagship communist state, it was nominally a federal union of twenty one republics; in practice, both its government and its economy were highly centralized until its final years. It was a one-party state governed by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, with the city of Moscow serving as its capital as well as that of its largest and most populous republic: the Russian SFSR.

The meaning of **GEO-ECONOMICS** is the combination of economic and geographic factors relating to international trade

**Transit trade** عبوری تجارت

the business connected with the passage of goods through a country to their destination.

## Today's words Synonyms

apocalyptic (adjective): catastrophic; momentous; ominous.

indigenous (adjective): native; aboriginal; local.

squalid (adjective): improper; unseemly; unsavoury.

repercussion (noun): consequence; result; effect.

revulsion (noun): hatred; repulsion; abhorrence.

extravagant (adjective): exorbitant; extortionate; excessive.

stagger (verb): astonish; amaze; shock.

manoeuvre (noun): operation; exercise; activity.

worrisome (adjective): worrying; daunting; alarming.

ebb (verb): recede; retreat; diminish.

recurring (adjective): constant continuous habitual.

## Today's Vocabulary and their Use

impediment رکاوٹ: a serious impediment to scientific progress.

unabated بلا روک ٹوک: the storm was raging unabated.

denounce کرنا مذمت: the Assembly denounced the use of violence.

antipathy دشمنی یا نفرت: his fundamental antipathy to capitalism.