

MEDIATING ROLE OF MEDIA IN ACHIEVING UN'S SDG-2030 GOAL 16 FOR REGIONAL PEACE THROUGH CONFLICT RESOLUTION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN(A MIXED METHOD APPROACH JAN.1ST.2019 TO DEC.31ST.2023).

Dr. Syed Shujat Husain

Postdoctoral Fellow, Islamic Research Institute, IIUI

Assistant Professor (Media Science)

Iqra University, Main Campus

Karachi - Pakistan

syed.shujat@iqra.edu.pk, shujaathussain275@gmail.com

Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal

Dean Social Sciences & Professor of Media Department

IIUI

Islamabad - Pakistan

drzafar.iqbal@iiu.edu.pk

Abstract:

The study aims to explore the media coverage of the efforts made by India and Pakistan to resolve conflicts and promote peace to accomplish the United Nation's SDG 2030 agenda. By 2030, these worldwide objectives should be achieved. The study revolves around the matter of regional Peace. The study's goal is to draw attention towards various steps taken for resolving conflicts between India and Pakistan. The study also examines how media coverage impacts perceptions, public opinion, and policymaking regarding India-Pakistan relations, highlighting both potential and challenges in achieving peaceful outcomes through media engagement. It reveals that editorials can play a crucial role in mediating conflict between the two countries. The article analyzes the political situation in Pakistan, particularly focusing on the instability of the government, the role of the establishment, and the implications for Pakistan-India relations. It also emphasizes the importance of India's strategic and diplomatic efforts in response to the situation in Jammu & Kashmir and underscores the need for India to mobilize its resources to counter Pakistan's diplomatic moves. The results may be useful in fostering regional peace as SDG-2030 approaches. A mixed method approach was adopted for data collection. The qualitative and quantitative data will be acquired through content analysis of Pakistan's daily Dawn and India's TOI. Purposive sampling of newspapers Times of India and Dawn has been used to acquire data from Jan.1st.2019 to 31Dec.2023. The study employed the approach of Media Framing and Agenda setting theory.

Introduction

A peace initiative was started in 1998 by the foreign ministries of India and Pakistan to reduce regional tension. The Lahore Declaration was founded on an agreement that both governments signed on February 22, 1999, affirming the value of creating a climate of peace and security and settling any bilateral disputes. There are many of potential avenues for communication between India and Pakistan People in both countries are significantly more likely to support normalizing the relations between the two countries than they are to think that Pakistan and India are stuck in a continuous relatively non standoff.

A reservoir of centuries of shared experience and cultural affinities coexists with the unwavering animosity between India and Pakistan, which is partially ingrained in the stressful situations of their independence. This makes native diplomacy possible, as evidenced by former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's reception at Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inauguration ceremony in 2014 and the latter's unexpected visit to Lahore in December 2015. The Kashmir issue is the source of all hostilities between Pakistan and India. Pakistan emphasizes the Kashmiris' freedom to select among the two republics and views Kashmir as an unfinished business from the partition of British India. (Saran et al., 2018)

In a region where leadership and administration must concentrate on the major issues of socioeconomic growth, demography, food and water security, and climate change, improving ties between Pakistan and India is essential. Although there are avenues for communication and some desire to strengthen the bond, the standard of bilateral impasse assures a continual and hazardous risk of fresh crises and future conflicts. The nuclear state of each underscores the significance of doctrinal issues and the usefulness of concepts like a return to minimal credible deterrence. The nuclear status of each serves as a constant warning of the possible escalatory consequences if persistent tensions are not resolved. The lengthy history of India-Pakistan tensions in South Asia provides several managerial lessons.

Literature review

Since its creation, Pakistan has embedded the idea of forging cordial ties with Muslim nations into the core fabric of its foreign policy. This amiable story originated from Jinnah's statements in Pakistan's first constituent assembly, when he stressed the importance of forging amicable connections with all nations, but particularly with Muslim nations.

In their article, Gabel, Reichert & Reuter (2022) used a qualitative content analysis to examine how people react on Twitter to the bloody killing of a militant combatant in the Jammu and Kashmir war. The information was grouped into three categories to demonstrate how social media was used in this dispute. People use Twitter and other low-barrier portals to spread awareness.

Twitter demonstrates that individuals on social media support and express their nationalism. People use Twitter to express their allegiance to either Burhan Wani or to oppose him. The repeated reciprocal allegations between the conflicting parties, India and Pakistan, revealed the nations' fundamental disparities.

Some Twitter users utilize the opportunity to ponder on societal concerns that have been simmering for some time. Twitter serves as a bridge between the individuals on the ground and academics or perhaps the 'political elite' for many individuals. As a result, Twitter is being used as a political platform to enlighten not just people who are impacted, but also others who are interested in their views. The study analyses Twitter on diverse themes, demonstrates that Twitter is a powerful tool for numerous types of research designs.

Abid (2017) conducted a study to examine the influence of the media in settling tensions between Pakistan and India. The Nation and The News, two renowned English newspapers in Pakistan, were chosen for the task. The Hindu and The Times of India were chosen for analysis. The findings demonstrate a consistent pattern of newspaper support for their respective administrations on all five problems stated above. This pattern of support for their governments reflects how both Pakistani and Indian publications serve as a forum to legitimize their respective governments' policies and tactics.

A collaborative research on the framework of bilateral ties between the two nations was performed by The Times of India and Dawn from Pakistan. Regarding the bilateral relations with India, Daily Dawn continued to be supportive, upbeat, and somewhat impartial, although the editorials' overarching tone was one of optimism and positivity. The majority of the newspaper's frames and the editorial's overarching themes were negative and laid blame on other nations. The study concluded that The Times of India, on the other hand, assessed the bilateral relations between the two nations to be comparatively unfavorable. The majority of the frames utilized by the paper, as well as the general themes of its editorials, were pessimistic and blamed competitor nations. (Shaheen, Alam, & Ghauri, M, 2018)

Jamal, Qadri and Khan (2021) raised a crucial point in their study's findings that are surprising. Since India's political climate was more pro-war. The study explores the media coverage of the Pulwama assault and the Balakot air strike in the daily Dawn and The Hindu. The Indo-Pak media uses peace journalism to some extent, especially during times of policy crisis. The study showed a strong inclination toward peace journalism in the daily Dawn, with a 53.7% rate, compared to a daily The Hindu with a peace-oriented coverage rate of 23.8%. On both of the specified topics, a total of 162 news articles were extensively examined.

Iqbal and Hussain (2017) presented a research focused on a quantitative content analysis of conflict coverage in the media from 2014 to 2015, during the times of high and low intensity. The results imply that Pakistani news TV stations de-contextualized and escalated their coverage of the Taliban and the ethnic-political strife in Karachi. Baluchistan and sectarian wars, on the other hand, were mostly covered in de-escalatory terms due to different socio-cultural factors that affected the coverage. The results are in line with the body of research on conflict journalism, which contends that when national security is under threat, the media generally takes a more propagandistic and nationalistic attitude, but when such risks are deemed to be minimal, it takes a more humanistic one.

Objectives:

- 1- If media actively promote peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then there will be a greater chance of achieving UN's SDG 2030 Goal 16 for regional peace (peaceful and inclusive societies) for conflict resolution between the two countries.
- 2- If media actively promote peacebuilding narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then it will help create public opinion.
- 3- If media actively promote peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then it will help Decision makers.
- 4- If media outlets primarily focus on sensationalized reporting, emphasize nationalist narratives, and fuel distrust between India and Pakistan, then it will hinder the achievement of UN's SDG Goal 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies) for conflict resolution between the two countries.

Hypothesis:

- If media actively promote peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then there will be a greater chance of achieving UN's SDG 2030 Goal 16 for regional peace (peaceful and inclusive societies) for conflict resolution between the two countries.
- If media actively promote peacebuilding narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then it will help create public opinion.
- If media actively promote peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then it will help Decision makers.
- If media outlets primarily focus on sensationalized reporting, emphasize nationalist narratives, and fuel distrust between India and Pakistan, then it will hinder the achievement of UN's SDG Goal 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies) for conflict resolution between the two countries.

Methodology:

The researcher used content analysis to ascertain the media's stance on peace and conflict reporting in Pakistan and India. Purposive sampling of two widely circulated newspapers of India and Pakistan are selected. Times of India from India and Dawn from Pakistan Content analysis of five years has been done.

Theoretical Framework:

Since the researcher intends to analyze the mediating role of media for resolving the disputes between India and Pakistan. Moreover the study also examines the media coverage of conflicts between India and Pakistan. The study employs Agenda Setting theory and the Media Framing Theory.

1. Agenda-Setting Theory

The Agenda-setting theory holds that the mainstream media sets the agenda for social discourse. Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw originally put forth the concept in 1972. According to the theory, the mainstream media sets agendas on two different levels.

- First level agenda setting - At this level, the media attempts to sway the audience's opinions by concentrating on a certain group of topics while excluding others. Another name for it is object salience.
- Second level agenda setting — at this level, the media tries to sway public opinion on particular topics. Another name for this is attribute salience.

2. Framing Theory

The agenda-setting theory serves as a foundation for the framing theory of mass communication. It pays attention to the methods used to communicate information to the audience in an effort to shape perceptions.

The framing theory and second-level agenda setting are closely related. Erving Goffman, a sociologist who lived from 1922 to 1982, used the word "frame" to describe a culturally influenced construction of reality that people use to make sense of their surroundings.

Content analysis of Editorials published in five years from Jan.1st. 2019 to Dec.31st 2023 has been done.

India Pakistan are suffering from conflicts but not enjoying good relationship. The Researcher conducting this research to find the mediating role of media for the achieving UN's SDG-2030 goal 16 with especial reference to India Pakistan dailies, Dawn and Times of India. Here are the editorials of both dailies from Jan.1st 2019 to Dec.31st.2023. The researcher is using the method of content analysis of these editorials and trying to get the mediating role of Media

Findings and Discussion (DAWN) **(See Annexure #1 & 2)**

1. Pulwama Attack

Tone: Concerned and Critical

- **Rising Tensions:** Tensions between India and Pakistan have escalated due to a militant attack in Pulwama, Kashmir, killing over 40 Indian troops.
- **Blame Game:** Allegations link the attackers to Pakistan, which denies involvement. Both countries have summoned their envoys, leading to a cycle of accusations and denials without joint engagement.
- **Local Impact:** The bomber was from India-held Kashmir (IHK), where India's harsh tactics have alienated locals.
- **Call for Negotiations:** The editorial urges negotiations involving Pakistan, India, and Kashmiris to resolve the conflict. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)

2. Playing with Fire

Tone: Urgency and Alarm

- **Revocation of Special Status:** The Indian government's decision to revoke Kashmir's special status has raised concerns about regional stability.
- **Criticism of India's Actions:** The BJP's influence over Prime Minister Modi to dismiss international opinion is highlighted.
- **International Response:** The US's indirect support for India's actions is criticized.
- **Kashmiri Leadership:** United opposition against India's annexation moves.
- **Call for Confrontation:** Urges Kashmiri leaders to confront India, emphasizing the survival of Kashmir's distinct identity.
- **Pakistan's Diplomacy:** Pakistan's outreach to foreign leaders on the issue is noted positively. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)

3. A World in Denial

Tone: Frustrated

- **Solidarity with Kashmir:** Pakistan's Independence Day prompted solidarity with Kashmiris, deprived of freedom for decades.
- **Warnings Against India:** Prime Minister Imran Khan warns India against military actions, likening the situation to Nazi Germany.
- **Global Apathy:** Disillusionment over the global community's apathetic response to India's actions, with economic interests overshadowing human rights.
- **Urgency for Action:** Emphasizes the need for the world to address the injustice against Kashmiris, warning of potential radicalization. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)

4. The Road Ahead

Tone: Critical and Disappointed

- Domestic and Foreign Challenges: Criticizes both the government and opposition for their recklessness and lack of progress.
- Leadership Failures: Highlights the failure of leaders to implement election promises and the rising discontent among the population.
- Call for Unity: Stresses the need for unity and adherence to the rule of law, invoking the values of Jinnah.
- Expectation from Leaders: Urges leaders to rededicate themselves to the nation's foundational values.
- 5. Babri Masjid Verdict (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)

Tone: Critical and Pessimistic

- Polarization and Condemnation: Criticizes the demolition of Babri Masjid and the Supreme Court's decision to allow a temple, fueling Hindu-Muslim tensions.
- Irony: Highlights the irony of promoting peace with the Kartarpur Corridor while supporting the mosque's destruction.
- Future of Democracy: Questions whether India will remain democratic or become a Hindu rashtra marginalizing minorities. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)
- 6. IHK's Grim Reality

Tone: Accusatory and Alarmist

- Revocation of Article 370: Criticizes India's removal of Kashmir's special status, violating UN commitments.
- Potential Consequences: Warns of potential violence and demographic changes in Kashmir.
- Global Indifference: Condemns the world's indifference to the situation.
- Call for Action: Urges Pakistan to campaign against these developments, linking support for Afghanistan's normalization with Kashmir. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)
- 7. Fake News & War Hysteria

Tone: Serious and Concerned

- Dangers of Misinformation: Highlights the risks of fake news and media coverage in the Pakistan-India standoff.
- Media Responsibility: Emphasizes the media's duty to report truthfully and avoid warmongering.
- Call for Rational Analysis: Urges for rational analysis and discussions to counter fake news. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)
- 8. After Modi's Win

Tone: Critical and Concerned

- BJP's Victory: Criticizes BJP's use of religious hatred and air strikes to fuel nationalist sentiment.
- Peace and Dialogue: Stresses the need for sustainable peace through dialogue, noting India's past reluctance.

- Future of Peace: Emphasizes the importance of India changing its attitude to achieve regional peace. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)
- 9. UNSC Meeting on IHK

Tone: Critical and Concerned

- Negative Terms: Uses strong negative terms to criticize India's actions.
- India's Divisive Tactics: Emphasizes India's divisive tactics in elections and policies.
- Urgency: Highlights the urgency for dialogue and sustainable peace.
- Support for Pakistan: Implicitly supports Pakistan's position and stresses the need for a solution. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)
- 10. Kashmir Reactions

Tone: Critical and Condemnatory

- International Criticism: Highlights criticism from the US, Malaysia, and Turkey against India's actions in Kashmir.
- Human Rights Violations: Emphasizes the human rights violations in Kashmir and international disapproval.
- India's Options: Suggests India can either continue its current approach or adopt dialogue and statesmanship. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)
- 11. Kashmir Mediation

Tone: Critical and Urgent

- India's Obduracy: Criticizes India's refusal to address the Kashmir issue.
- Human Rights Ignored: Highlights India's neglect of human rights violations in Kashmir.
- Call for Resolution: Urges immediate action to resolve the Kashmir issue for regional peace. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)
- 12. NSC on Kashmir

Tone: Critical and Assertive

- Pakistan's Response: Criticizes India's actions and asserts Pakistan's stance on downgrading relations and seeking UN intervention.
- Diplomacy Emphasis: Emphasizes the need for a strong diplomatic offensive.
- Urgency: Calls for concrete steps to address the situation. (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)
- 13. A Tepid Response

Tone: Critical and Frustrated

- International Response: Criticizes the lack of robust international condemnation of India's actions in Kashmir.
- Diplomacy Failure: Blames Pakistan's ineffective diplomacy for the tepid response.
- Call for Effective Strategy: Urges Pakistan to develop a more effective diplomatic strategy.
- Pak-India Trains Stopped (Refer to Annexure # 1 for more details)

Tone: Critical and Frustrated

- Summary: The halting of Samjhauta Express and Thar Express to India, following India's revocation of Kashmir's autonomy, is seen as an ill-advised move. The editorial criticizes the impact on divided families and pilgrims, suggesting the ban strengthens India's anti-Pakistan rhetoric and won't achieve desired outcomes.

- Kartarpur Corridor

Tone: Cautious Optimism

- Summary: The opening of the Kartarpur Corridor is praised as a step towards peace and fostering people-to-people contact through religious tourism. The editorial calls for reciprocal actions from India and underscores the importance of resolving the Kashmir issue for lasting peace.

- Modi's Actions

Tone: Highly Critical and Accusatory

- Summary: Modi's annexation of Kashmir is condemned for escalating violence and oppression. The editorial draws parallels to Palestine and accuses Modi of distracting from economic issues and promoting Hindu nationalism. It also criticizes the global community's tepid response and urges diplomatic engagement to challenge India's actions.

- Riots in Delhi

Tone: Critical and Alarmed

- Summary: The editorial condemns the violence in New Delhi, exposing the Indian state's failure to uphold secularism. It highlights the brutality against Muslims and the need for government intervention to prevent further escalation and protect lives.

- A Common Threat

Tone: Cautious Optimism

- Summary: Pakistan and India's cooperation against locusts is seen as a hopeful sign of regional collaboration despite strained relations. The editorial suggests multilateral approaches to address common threats like pollution and pandemics, envisioning long-term trust-building.

- Changing Dynamics

Tone: Strategic and Hopeful

- Summary: The Iran-China deal is highlighted as an opportunity for Pakistan to enhance regional ties and benefit economically. The editorial stresses the need for deft diplomacy and urges India to reconsider its alignment with the US for regional peace.

- Desecration of Temple

Tone: Outrage and Frustration

- Summary: The vandalism of a Hindu temple in Bhong is condemned, emphasizing the vulnerability of minorities in Pakistan. The editorial calls for strict punishment for the perpetrators and immediate repairs to the temple, reflecting a sense of urgency and demand for justice.

- A Fresh Start?

Tone: Cautious Optimism

- Summary: Recent diplomatic gestures between Pakistan and India, including a ceasefire and exchange of letters, are seen as potential steps towards peace. The editorial stresses the need for confidence-building measures and dialogue, acknowledging the challenges but expressing hope for progress.
- Exchange of Letters

Tone: Cautiously Optimistic

- Summary: The editorial sees the exchange of letters and trade resumption between Pakistan and India as positive steps. It emphasizes the need for continued dialogue and confidence-building measures, while acknowledging the deep-seated distrust and complex issues like Kashmir.
- LoC Ceasefire

Tone: Cautiously Optimistic

- Summary: The agreement to honor the 2003 LoC ceasefire is welcomed as a positive shift in Pakistan-India relations. The editorial highlights the benefits for border residents and calls for India to address core issues for sustainable peace.
- Kashmir's Plight

Tone: Condemnatory

- Summary: The editorial condemns India's actions in Kashmir, highlighting continued unrest and human rights abuses. It criticizes the international community's weak response and urges India to engage in dialogue with Pakistan and Kashmiris for a peaceful resolution.
- India's Space Quest

Tone: Mixed (Proud, Critical, Hopeful)

- Summary: India's successful Chandrayaan-3 mission is praised, while Pakistan's stagnant space program is criticized. The editorial calls for Pakistan to revamp its space agency and invest in scientific education, inspired by India's achievements. (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details)

- **Findings and Discussion (TIMES OF INDIA)**

- (See Annexure #1 &2)

More hard options: India must work to make Pakistan an international pariah unless it deals with terror.

Summary: India must confront the risks of going after terror havens in Pakistan, as the country has promised to "retaliate" by entering Indian airspace. The entire political class must come together and support the government and armed forces, while the government must be restrained

from making political capital out of the situation. Pakistan may use India's fractious polity to take advantage of the Lok Sabha election. If the Indian political class can demonstrate unity against terror and prevent internal division, it will be half the battle won. India should also pursue diplomatic hard options against Pakistan, such as boycotting the ICC World Cup cricket tournament and expelling Pakistan from the ICC World Cup.

The article discusses a tense military situation, emphasizing the dangers of responsible action, urgent demands for Indian government and political class, patriotic sentiments, critical criticism of Pakistan's actions, and strategic proposals (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details)..

For real peace: Let release of Varthaman trigger a process to take down terror safe havens
De-escalation of hostilities is requested between India and Pakistan in the wake of the IAF raid on a Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) terror center in Balakot. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan called the likely release of the captured Indian pilot, Wg Cdr Abhinandan Varthaman, today a "peace gesture". The strike has been described as a "counterterrorism action" by US Secretary of State John Pompeo, who has also urged Pakistan to take significant action against terrorist organizations that are active on its territory. Nations hoping for long-term peace should put pressure on Pakistan to stop supplying terror to its neighbors. India had to intensify its diplomatic efforts in pressuring Pakistan to take decisive action in eliminating its terror infrastructure. Proposals have been made by the US, UK, and France to label JeM leader Masood Azhar as a global terrorist. (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

The tone of the article is serious and firm. The author calls for de-escalation but emphasizes the need for Pakistan to take concrete actions against terrorism. The author criticizes Pakistan's past behavior and expresses skepticism about their current offers. The overall tone is one of demanding accountability from Pakistan.

Political parties should avoid politicizing actions of armed forces at this juncture

Summary: India's aim to force Pakistan to stop using terrorism as a strategic tool requires a cohesive national effort. The joint statement by 21 opposition political parties urges the BJP to stop politicizing armed forces efforts. Indian political parties have traditionally closed ranks in matters of defense and foreign policy. Differences in policy issues, including national security, should be debated in parliament and not allowed to percolate into election rhetoric. The BJP should lead in this challenging moment (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Tone

The article is serious, concerned, critical, hopeful, and urgent, addressing national security and terrorism. It criticizes the politicization of these issues, calls for a return to national unity, and urges all parties, particularly the ruling BJP, to prioritize national interests.

Pulwama effect: National security could become BJP's unique selling point in upcoming Lok Sabha polls

Tone: The article analyzes the BJP's electoral strategy, focusing on national security, surgical strikes on Pakistan, contrasting it with similar policies. It discusses historical contexts, counterarguments, and potential opposition alliance challenges.

Summary: With its surgical strikes, the BJP is aiming to use Pakistan as its USP in the next elections. It appears that the opposition faces difficulties with matters pertaining to industry, GDP, welfare, jobs, agriculture, and reforms. But the BJP may use the revenge strikes on Pulwama and Uri as a political tool. Opinions from the middle class are now more widely disseminated thanks to smartphones and other viral digital information, and the timing of the Balakot strikes is favorable for the BJP. In a close first-past-the-post election, the impact on seats would greatly boost the BJP's chances if this could swing even a small percentage of votes. But even if the opposition parties band together to stop the division of votes, they might still encounter resistance. (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Shifting winds: Pakistan's tantrums over India's OIC invite reveal a sore loser. India must press forward

Shifting winds: Pakistan's tantrums over India's OIC invite reveal a sore loser. India must press forward. Pakistan has opted not to participate in the plenary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) foreign ministers summit, after the UAE's invitation to India to be the guest of honor. India is an ideal OIC partner because of its multiculturalism and its position against state-sponsored terrorism, but it is regrettable that Pakistan has included resolutions that make harsh allusions to India's Kashmir policy. India's exclusion from the OIC over its half-century existence was rectified at a pivotal juncture, as both nations are gradually moving away from a state of potential conflict. Because of its religious nationalism, Pakistan is the only country that is an exception in this sense. Pakistan needs to recognize that the "Muslims vs. Hindus" narrative is no longer relevant and take action against terror groups that are hostile to India. (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

The tone of the article is a mix of several elements:

- **Assertive:** It emphasizes India's right to be included in the OIC and highlights its growing diplomatic ties with Arab nations.

- Critical: It criticizes Pakistan's use of the OIC platform for anti-India rhetoric and its alleged support for terror groups.
- Diplomatic: While critical of Pakistan, it avoids overly harsh language and focuses on the changing dynamics within the OIC.
- Forward-looking: It expresses optimism about India's future cooperation with the OIC and Arab countries.

Tone:

Assertive: The article confidently presents India's perspective and its growing influence.

Summary: Pakistan has opted not to participate in the plenary session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) foreign ministers summit, after the UAE's invitation to India to be the guest of honor. India is an ideal OIC partner because of its multiculturalism and its position against state-sponsored terrorism, but it is regrettable that Pakistan has included resolutions that make harsh allusions to India's Kashmir policy. India's exclusion from the OIC over its half-century existence was rectified at a pivotal juncture, as both nations are gradually moving away from a state of impending conflict. Because of its religious nationalism and animosity against India, Pakistan is the only country that is resistant to these changes. Pakistan needs to recognize that the "Muslims vs. Hindus" narrative is no longer relevant and take action against terror groups that are hostile to India. (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Rafale, Bofors: Current defence procurement procedures are jeopardising national security

The tone of this article is critical and concerned.

India's Rafale fighter jet deal has been a topic of discussion following its surgical strike on a Jaish-e-Muhammad terror camp in Pakistan's Balakot. The Indian air force's ageing MiG-21 Bisons face Pakistan's F-16s, highlighting the need for modern aircraft. However, India's defence procurement policy has been criticized for delays in acquiring Rafale, a move that has elicited more controversy. The Supreme Court has questioned the government's evasiveness in answering questions about Rafale, leading to a reopening of the Rafale case. The government's claim of being proactive in acquiring Rafale is unfounded, as it won't receive a single Rafale by the end of its tenure. The urgent need for advanced fighter jets is also a concern (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Pakistan army lies about JeM — world should call its bluff

Tone: Critical and accusatory towards Pakistan, particularly the Pakistani military

Summary: The Pakistan army's claim that Jaish-e-Muhammad does not exist in the country contradicts recent statements, such as the foreign minister's admission of Masood Azhar's presence and claims of detaining Azhar's brother and son in a "terror crackdown". This contradicts the international community's understanding of Pakistan's stances, which include

harboring a wanted terrorist in India and using China to prevent Azhar from being sanctioned by the UN Security Council (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Army reforms: A leaner, modern military is the need of the hour for India

Tone: Advocacy and urgency

□ **Advocacy:** The author argues strongly for the need to modernize the Indian military, focusing on structural reforms, leaner forces, and technological advancements. They advocate for specific actions like creating a Chief of Defense Staff and a robust indigenous military-industrial complex.

□ **Urgency:** The author emphasizes the need for immediate action. Phrases like "desperately needs modernization," "urgent need," and "seriously jeopardising" highlight the critical nature of the situation.

Summary:

The Indian army has undergone reforms approved by the defense ministry. These include the posting of 229 officers to operational positions, the appointment of a new deputy chief for military operations and strategic planning, and the establishment of new wings for human rights and vigilance. To prepare for the realities of the future battlefield, a new information warfare wing is being established. By cutting 1.5 lakh soldiers over the course of the next six to seven years, the reforms hope to modernize the army and save over Rs 7,000 crore in revenue expenditures yearly. In order to facilitate combined theater commands, establish a chief of defense staff position, and expedite defense purchase processes, the government has published regulations. Oversight by a bipartisan parliamentary committee is required to expedite the process and establish a strong domestic military-industrial complex. (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Masood Azhar effect: After India's reset with Pakistan it is time for a reset with China

Tone: The tone of the article is critical and assertive, particularly towards China and Pakistan.

Here's a breakdown of the tone:

- **Critical:** The article strongly criticizes China for:
 - Failing to address terrorism emanating from Pakistan.
 - Blocking sanctions on Masood Azhar.
 - Having a double standard when dealing with India.
 - Ignoring human rights abuses against Uighurs.
- **Assertive:** The article urges India to take a more assertive stance against China:
 - By highlighting human rights issues.
 - By being less cautious about China's sensitivities.
 - By challenging China's actions at the UN.

Summary:

China's ambitions to become the pre-eminent geopolitical power require significant contributions to global common goods, such as terrorism and regional security. However, China's role as Pakistan's strategic patron has been problematic, with China blocking a proposal to ban Jaish-e-Muhammad chief Masood Azhar for the fourth time at the UN. India broke free from its proxy war with Pakistan, but China's actions at the UNSC reveal it as the elephant in the room that New Delhi must now wake up to. India should respect a one-China policy, highlight human rights abuses against Uighurs, and squeeze Chinese business without fear of retaliation. India's traditionally deferential policy towards China should be broken to ensure the country's claims of ushering in a 'new India' have substance.

Pakistan PM Imran Khan is perpetuating denial about terrorism

Tone: critical and accusatory towards Pakistan and its Prime Minister Imran Khan.

It portrays Imran Khan's statements as false and misleading, suggests that Pakistan is in denial about its role in terrorism, and criticizes the Pakistani government and military for their actions and policies. The language is strong and the perspective is clearly aligned against Pakistan, emphasizing the negative consequences of its actions and policies.

Summary:

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed concerns about an offensive strike against his country due to the "war hysteria" in India and blames the BJP government for promoting anti-Pakistan sentiment. He claims that Pakistan is nervous about the rising cost of cross-border terrorism in India. Pakistan has been an aggressor against India since 1947, with Pakistan-based terror groups causing thousands of civilian deaths in Kashmir. Imran has lied about the damages incurred by Pakistan's terror policy, highlighting the denial that Pakistan has been in for three decades (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

New normal: India's highlighting of maltreatment of Pakistani minorities is the right step

Tone: Critical and assertive

Critical of Pakistan: The article highlights human rights abuses in Pakistan, particularly against Hindus and minorities, using words like "deplorable," "shockingly common," and "looking the other way."

Assertive of India's position: The article argues for a change in India's approach, urging them to "call out" Pakistan and "show them the mirror."

Summary

India has reacted to the case of two teenaged Hindu sisters abducted, forcibly converted to Islam, and married to Muslim men in Pakistan's Sindh. The incident sparked a heated exchange between India and Pakistan, with the Indian government demanding remedial action to protect minorities. India has traditionally acted defensively on human rights issues, allowing countries like Pakistan to raise questions about India's track record in protecting minority Muslims.

However, the situation is worse for minorities in countries like Pakistan and China, where blasphemy laws often cover mob lynching against liberals and minorities. India should not hesitate to call out Pakistan on its own human rights record and China for its appalling treatment of Uighur Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists.

PM Modi's Meerut rally saw heavy messaging on Pakistan; but does it help?

Tone:

The tone of the article is analytical and critical. It examines Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strategies and the potential impact of his focus on hyper-nationalism and Pakistan in the upcoming election season. The article also critiques the opposition's likely responses and emphasizes the importance of focusing on development and economic issues. It provides a balanced view by acknowledging Modi's achievements while also pointing out the possible pitfalls of his approach.

Summary:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first rally in Meerut suggests that hyper-nationalism and Pakistan will dominate his speeches this election season. By taunting the opposition for earning brownie points in Pakistan, Modi is spoiling for a fight on the issue. Both the PM and the opposition will do well to keep the conversation moored around development. Modi's credit lies in piloting welfare schemes and taming price rise, but focusing on Pakistan may backfire for him. The opposition has BJP foibles like demonetization and jobs scenarios, which voters may still trust if they believe BJP has a long-term economic plan.

China is miscalculating its interests by siding with Pakistani terror groups

Tone

The tone of the article is assertive and critical. It takes a strong stance against China's actions at the United Nations and in its support for Pakistani terror groups, while also critiquing the policies of the Donald Trump administration and the opposition in India. The article emphasizes the need for clarity and accountability in international relations, particularly regarding terrorism and economic policies.

Summary

The Trump administration has asked China to explain why it is blocking resolutions to designate Masood Azhar, head of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad, as a global terrorist. The US resolution, supported by France and Britain, demonstrates President Trump's commitment to toughening Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and its defenders in the region. Beijing's support of Pakistani terror groups is miscalculated, as India is not a threat to China and allying with countries like Pakistan could turn Sino-US relations belligerent (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

China is miscalculating its interests by siding with Pakistani terror groups

Tone:

The tone of the article is serious and cautionary. It addresses the gravity of the situation involving violence against Pakistani refugees in Sri Lanka and highlights the broader implications of these incidents. The article aims to alert readers to the potential for increased communal tensions and the strategic intentions of terrorist groups to exploit such divisions. It concludes with a call for unity and resilience to prevent further social conflict and to counteract the terrorists' goals.

Summary

Social ties in Sri Lanka have been strained by terror bombings, resulting in violent attacks on Pakistani immigrants by locals in Negombo. Because of their ties to Pakistan, the attack is thought to have been motivated by suspicion of having ties to terrorism. To inflame inter communal strife and take advantage of Sri Lanka's precarious ethno-religious fabric, the terrorists targeted churches. The explosions, which take advantage of social unrest and repressed feelings, have been attributed to the terrorist organization known as the Islamic State. Given the history of religious and ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka, which includes the Tamil Tigers, it is possible that the bombs have set off fresh civil unrest. (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Modi sends a clear message to Pakistan by leaving out Imran

Tone

The tone of the article is analytical and critical. It focuses on the strategic and political decisions made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in relation to Pakistan, highlighting past and recent events that have shaped the relationship between the two countries. The article critically assesses Modi's approach to dealing with Pakistan, especially in the context of terrorism and diplomatic engagement. It provides a detailed account of the events leading up to Modi's decision to exclude Pakistan's Prime Minister from his swearing-in ceremony, underscoring the challenges and rationale behind this move.

Summary

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has excluded Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan from his second term swearing-in ceremony. Modi had invited Nawaz Sharif five years ago, but after ISI-backed terror attacks, Pakistan left no room for dialogue. The Pulwama suicide bombing and Modi's air strikes led to a paradigm shift in India's response. Modi's recent parliamentary elections have given him no incentive to reciprocate Khan's rhetoric. The Modi government has managed to pressurize China to unblock its UN designation of Jaish chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, coincidentally with Pakistan's economic crisis and IMF bailout (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Quiet diplomacy: Backchannel talks should be the way forward with Pakistan

Tone

The tone of the article is analytical and pragmatic. It is a comprehensive and critical account about India-Pakistan relations both from a logical and strategic perspective, with content on the obstacles to fostering peace and cooperation and the possible ways to do so. The writer brings up the problems and hurdles involved in formal discussion, remain the key elements, thus he suggests that the good off the record negotiations be initiated. The language is grave and thoughtful, specifies the importance of making an environment free of terrorism and violence for the sake of development. It also carries an indication of the writer's doubt about Pakistan's actually being able to establish its own internal situation and balance its economy.

Summary

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that building trust and peaceful conditions for cooperation, peace, progress, and prosperity in the region was critical. According to him, India and Pakistan can never engage in proper talks as Islamabad is a state that spreads terrorism. The uninterrupted formal discussions are the main obstacle according to the critic of not knowing the right Pakistani leader that can lead to the peace process and create a tranquil environment. Unfortunately, this obstacle becomes even greater due to the uncertain leadership situation in Pakistan, which may hinder the process of dialogues. Nevertheless, the idea of peaceful, cordial ties is in the mutual interests of both countries. Also, informal backchannel negotiations with Pakistan can be helpful. This option gives New Delhi the chance to connect with Pakistani military and provide assurances along with curbing the threats of posturing and virtue signaling. The Modi government's second term that manages Pakistan's economy and forcefully establish a peace economy, thereby putting in place the foundation for future peace talks(Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

CRPF attacked again: Anantnag strike shows Pakistan-based terror continues to be a challenge

Tone

The style of the article sways well amongst the serious, pressing, and somehow, blaming moods. It brings to light the intensity of the attack of those Pakistani terror-group people and the notorious crisis of terrorism in the region. The type of language used gives a sense of the seriousness of the problem, the complex nature of the problems in relation to terrorism of various kinds as well as the necessity to remain wary and strive for continuous vigilance and warm counterterrorism efforts. The article is also opposed to the Pakistani government and its alleged backing of these activities. Therefore, this is a very important note that has to be read carefully by the readers.

Summary

A recent terror attack in Anantnag district, south Kashmir, killed five CRPF personnel and injured another. The attack, which was carried out by the one called Al Umar Mujahedeen, is the first on the force since the Pulwama suicide bombing. The attack points out the necessity of continuing intelligence-based anti-terror operations against the Pakistan-based terrorist groups, for they frequently come up with new names to escape the international sanctions. The attack is a clear indication that India has to be on the lookout and initiate intelligence-based anti terror operations against moborganizations that are spread overseas, as their major backing is related to Pakistan (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Pressure on Pakistan on the terror front makes it seek talks with India

Tone

The article contends with the subject in a critical and analytical way. It takes a critical look at the activities and policies of both the Pakistan government and the military as well as the global reaction to these activities. It recognizes the probability of discontent with the changes Pakistan will make. It recommends caution over engagement with Pakistan for New Delhi. The language is terse and solemn, which is in line with the seriousness of the geopolitics that are discussed.

Summary

The Anantnag District, which is located in the southern part of the Kashmir region, was the site of a recent incident that resulted in the death of five CRPF personnel and the injury of another. This assault, which was carried out by the outlaw Al Umar Mujahedeen, is the first of the force that witnessed after the Pulwama bombing event. The declaration states that the actors continue to face persistent confrontation by the intelligence services due to their expansion into different jurisdictions and the use of multiple trade names. The evidence of terrorists misusing the local area could be the use of the word 'mi' and the lack of. The attack draws attention to the urgency of intelligence-driven anti-terror operations through different channels against these groups, as they might be found in different territories or may just ignore uno sanctions. The attack points out the need for India to keep in touch with their contacts in other countries and support intelligence-based counter-terror operations against transnational terrorism, as Pakistan also plays a vital role in these networks (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Tell India's story: India must mobilize all resources to counter Pakistan's J&K propaganda

Tone

The piece has an affirmative as well as non-confronting tone. It is an essay which places India in context in the face of the attack on Jammu & Kashmir and India's objective to counter any diplomatic approach. In addition, the writer provides his stance of the promotion and strengthening of relations between two countries with the realization of their internal problems and the settlement of the territorial dispute as the only way to settle disputes peacefully. The

general tone is about being cautious and developing long-term strategies that will allow India to protect its interests and maintain the stability of the region.

Summary

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar's visit to China is highly significant as the Indian government's decision to repeal special status for Jammu & Kashmir will impact his talks with his Chinese counterpart. Pakistan is also trying to gain international support for its Kashmir position, which India is challenged to confront. The western views on the legal, diplomatic, political, and historical sides of the Kashmir issue are not always well-informed and China has a track record of supporting Pakistan. India should harness its diplomatic channels and brief its foreign allies on the actuality of the ground because Pakistan might use terrorist strikes against India. China has shown a sharp response at the Indian's move in creating the Ladakh as a Union Territory but Jaishankar reinstated that the differences between two countries should be resolved (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Fire with fire: It is a different India that Pakistan is dealing with. New Delhi must respond to provocations

Tone

The tone of the article is critical and accusatory. The author criticizes Pakistan for resuming hostile actions against India shortly after receiving a reprieve from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The article portrays Pakistan as untrustworthy and intent on harming India despite past setbacks. It also underscores the necessity for India to remain vigilant and responsive. Furthermore, the article expresses frustration with countries like China, Turkey, and Malaysia for supporting Pakistan in international forums

Summary

Pakistan has repaid the international community's trust by escalating cross-border firing after FATF reprieve, indicating a desire to resume hostile actions against India. The Indian response, including artillery fire, is appropriate, as Pakistan is not deterred by restraint. Despite several bloody noses, Pakistan remains fixated on hurting India, with attempts to push terrorists into Kashmir Valley and stoke violence continuing. With winter approaching, cross-border firing may be a last-ditch attempt to provide cover for infiltrators. China, Turkey, and Malaysia's protection of Pakistan in forums like FATF could lead to international embarrassment (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Why opening Siachen to tourism is a good idea

Tone

The tone of the article is supportive and optimistic. It praises the government's decision to open Siachen Glacier to tourists, highlighting the benefits such a move would bring both to the region's economy and national awareness. The article also acknowledges the sacrifices made by

soldiers in the harsh conditions of Siachen and underscores the strategic importance of the area. Additionally, it emphasizes the need for responsible tourism to maintain the cleanliness of the glacier.

Summary

The opening of Siachen glacier to tourists by the Indian government hasn't prevented the tensions between India and Pakistan over the demarcation of the ground position line from continuing. For Indians, the glacial is of importance due to the fact that it is also a strategic military spot allowing warmth, nourishment as well as medical benefits to the troops. The action will additionally profit Ladakh, a displaced region in Jammu & Kashmir, by boosting its revenue and thus serves to convey a message to Pakistan that Siachen is open to its people (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Kulbhushan Jadhav case: Pakistan again confirms its rogue status

Tone

The tone of the article is sarcastic and accusatory. It strongly criticizes Pakistan for allegedly ignoring the International Court of Justice (ICJ) verdict in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case. The language used is strong and expresses injustice and frustration with Pakistan's actions. The statement portrays Pakistan as aggressive, unreliable and a security threat to the region, and calls for the international community to treat Jadhav as a pariah state if he is killed.

Summary

Pakistan has rejected a call by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to review the death sentence handed down to Kulbhushan Jadhav, saying the Indian has refused to file a review petition. Earlier, the ICJ had asked Pakistan to reconsider Jadhav's sentence, but Pakistan has only complied with its mercy plea. Jadhav was sentenced to death for espionage and terrorism without a fair trial or appeal. Pakistan's actions underscore its perverse posturing and disregard for international norms, making it a security threat to the region (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Pakistan's choice: Make peace with India or end up as a Chinese vassal state

Tone

The tone of the article is critical and analytical. It reflects doubts and concerns about the implications of Sino-Pakistani relations, especially with regard to the blockade of the Indo-China border. The article criticizes Pakistan's dependence on China, and highlights possible negative consequences of rising debt, corruption, loss of sovereignty etc. It also welcomes the indebtedness of the Sino-Pakistani alliance have long been questioned because of their differing positions on issues such as the treatment of Uighur Muslims. Overall, the tone is cautious and somewhat pessimistic about Pakistan's current course

Summary

Tensions between China and India are rising due to the China-Pakistan axis, as Pakistan is on the verge of becoming China's puppet state. Although the \$62 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) may benefit China strategically, it may also raise Pakistan's debt and benefit a small number of Pakistanis. President Xi Jinping's trip to Pakistan has been postponed due to the issue, a sign of Beijing's displeasure with the country's military. China and Pakistan are very different from each other, except that they both detest India. Pakistan needs to reconcile with New Delhi to get out of its current situation or else it will be relegated to the status of a Soviet bloc satellite. (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

After ceasefire agreement: New Delhi must continue to keep its guard up against Islamabad-sponsored terrorism

Tone

The tone of the article is analytical and cautious. It provides a detailed background of the situation, discussing the historical context and potential motives behind the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan. The article raises skepticism about the longevity and sincerity of the ceasefire, suggesting that while the commitment is a positive step, it remains to be seen whether it will result in meaningful changes, especially regarding anti-India terror activities. The tone reflects a balanced perspective, recognizing the potential for positive outcomes while also highlighting the need for vigilance and concrete actions.

Summary

India and Pakistan agreed to cease further hostilities after a turbulent 2020, affecting the people of the LOC in Jammu and Kashmir and the international border, this move can be seen as a temporary turning point in Pakistan's case and independence from political opposition. Fighting for a ceasefire could mean the US. that Pakistan is willing to restore relations with Washington, as a non-alcoholic approach could push Pakistan further into China. However, India believes that any peace deal should be backed up by concrete action against anti-India terrorist groups operating from Pakistani soil. For New Delhi, a wait-and-see approach is suggested (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Temper expectations: Presence of non-state actors poses a significant challenge to the Indo-Pak ceasefire

Tone

The tone of the story is cautiously optimistic but cautious and pragmatic. It acknowledges that the importance of a ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan, highlighting its positive aspects features and potential benefits. But concerns have also been expressed about the complications non-state historical patterns of instability and betrayal in bilateral relations. The article highlights the need for India to remain vigilant and not overblow expectations optimistic.

Summary

An al-Qaida offshoot in the Kashmir Valley has criticized the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan, describing it as an act of betrayal. The ceasefire comes after three consecutive years of increased ceasefire violations, with over a 100% increase since 2018. The agreement is beneficial for disengagement negotiations on the LAC with China. However, it is not immune to terror groups, who have arisen due to Pakistan's strategic use of terrorism. PM Imran Khan has stated that India must create an "enabling environment for further progress," but India's guard must remain strong.

Imran Khan's troubles: But a political change in Islamabad will make little difference to India-Pakistan ties

Tone

The tone of the article is analytical and critical. It offers a detailed examination of the political situation in Pakistan, particularly focusing on the instability of Imran Khan's government, the role of the military, and the implications for India-Pakistan relations. The tone is also somewhat skeptical and cautionary, especially regarding the potential for peace between India and Pakistan given the ongoing influence of the Pakistani military and ISI.

Summary

Opposition attempts to approve a resolution of no confidence are posing a threat to Pakistan's Imran Khan government. Khan has to deal with PTI dissidents as well as unhappy coalition partners. Khan's relationship with the military has suffered as a result of the alleged withdrawal of support from the Pakistani army, which started in October of last year. The situation is made more difficult by accusations of corruption and economic mismanagement. Traditionally, the generals at Rawalpindi GHQ have received support from Khan's coalition partners, PML(Q) and MQM. According to India, the removal of Khan won't have a major effect on relations between the two countries because there is no proof that the Pakistani army has changed its position on utilizing terrorism as a state policy against Afghanistan and India. India needs to be vigilant and watch out for the China-Pakistan axis.(Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Just not cricket: J&K cops arrest students celebrating India's loss in World Cup final. That's how UAPA is misused

Tone

The tone of the article is critical and concerned. It criticizes the use of the UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) by law enforcement to arrest students for expressing certain views, highlighting the harshness and potential misuse of the law. The article expresses concern over the fairness and justice of pre-trial jail terms and the high pendency rates in both investigations and trials under UAPA. It also points out the broader implications of such legal actions, suggesting that they are used as a means of intimidation rather than genuine counter-terrorism measures.

Summary

Indian police have arrested college students for chanting "long live Pakistan" on many occasions, using the harsh anti-terror law UAPA. When Pakistan won the cricket match in 2021, there was a wave of arrests in Srinagar and Uttar Pradesh for what the police in that state called "sedition." The government has put the sedition law on hold while it updates its criminal laws. According to UAPA, arrestees may be held in jail for extended pre-trial periods without being given a reason, and incarceration rather than bail is increasingly common. A 2021 amendment dangerously tightened the law, making it possible for someone to be labeled as a "terrorist" even if they have no association or membership with any group. Pretrial detention lengths work against justice and fairness; in 2021, over 2,000 cases were under police investigation and had been lingering for more than three years. (Refer to Annexure # 2 for more details).

Results

Dawn

Hypothesis:

H1: If media actively promote peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then there will be a greater chance of achieving UN's SDG Goal 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies) for conflict resolution between the two countries.

Given this evaluation, the findings:

- Do not fully **approve** your hypothesis because the media's critical and urgent tones indicate that while they highlight the need for peace and dialogue, the current reporting does not seem to be fostering an environment of balanced reporting or facilitating effective communication channels.
- Suggest that while there are calls for negotiation and diplomacy, the predominant tones of frustration, criticism, and alarm may not contribute effectively to peacebuilding narratives as envisaged by your hypothesis.

H2- If media actively promote peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then it will help create public opinion.

Given this evaluation, the findings:

- Partially **approve** your hypothesis because the media does play a significant role in shaping public opinion by highlighting the complexities of the conflict, calling for dialogue, and criticizing actions that undermine peace.
- Suggest that while there is an effort to promote peace building narratives, the critical and urgent tones may not always align with balanced reporting, potentially influencing public opinion in a more polarized direction.

Therefore, the findings indicate that the media has the potential to help create public opinion, but the approach needs to be more consistently balanced and focused on facilitating constructive communication channels for your hypothesis to be fully approved.

H3- If media actively promote peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then it will help Decision makers

The findings do not strongly support your hypothesis that active media promotion of peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitated communication channels will unequivocally help decision-makers. While the media does call for dialogue and balanced reporting at times, the predominant critical and urgent tones may not always align with the constructive support needed by decision-makers to foster peace and effective communication between India and Pakistan.

Therefore, the findings suggest a mixed stance where the media's role in facilitating peace building and communication channels is acknowledged but not consistently aligned with providing unequivocal support that would help decision-makers in a straightforward manner.

Times of India

Hypothesis:

H1: If media actively promote peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then there will be a greater chance of achieving UN's SDG Goal 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies) for conflict resolution between the two countries.

Data support aspects of our hypothesis by discussing peace initiatives or dialogue, overall, the predominant tone of criticism and skepticism towards Pakistan suggests that media reporting currently may not significantly contribute to achieving the UN's SDGs related to peace and cooperation between India and Pakistan. For greater impact, media could focus more on constructive dialogue and peace building efforts rather than perpetuating tensions.

H2: If media actively promote peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then it will help create public opinion.

The findings support our hypothesis to a large extent. Media indeed has the potential to influence public opinion positively by promoting peace building narratives, providing balanced reporting, and facilitating communication channels between India and Pakistan. By doing so, media can contribute to fostering understanding, reducing tensions, and creating a conducive environment for diplomatic efforts and conflict resolution.

H3- If media actively promote peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitate communication channels between India and Pakistan, then it will help Decision makers

The findings support our hypothesis that media can indeed play a constructive role in influencing decision-makers. By promoting peace building narratives, offering balanced reporting on security challenges, and facilitating communication channels between India and Pakistan, the media can contribute to informed policymaking. This includes fostering understanding, promoting dialogue, and highlighting areas where diplomatic efforts can be directed for mutual benefit and regional stability.

Conclusion

The findings do not strongly support the hypothesis that active media promotion of peace building narratives, balanced reporting, and facilitated communication channels will unequivocally help decision-makers. While the media does call for dialogue and balanced reporting at times, the predominant critical and urgent tones may not always align with the constructive support needed by decision-makers to foster peace and effective communication between India and Pakistan.

The findings therefore point to a nuanced approach in which the role of the media in peace building and negotiations is acknowledged but not always consistent with providing unequivocal support in favor of direct decision-makers.

These findings reflect research on how media coverage influences perceptions, public opinion, and policymaking on India-Pakistan relations, and highlight possibilities and challenges to achieve peaceful results through media intervention.

The study suggests that editorials can play an important role in mediating the conflict between India and Pakistan. They can promote peace talks and encourage dialogue, cooperation and understanding. However, their critical and immediate voices don't always help achieve balanced reporting, and keep tensions going. They also shape public opinion by structuring and revealing complexity. Positive editorials that emphasize peace efforts and constructive dialogue can create an environment conducive to conflict resolution. However, their influence on decision makers is more subtle.

Recommendations:

In order to play a mediating role, media, editorials and journalists should focus on encouraging constructive dialogue and understanding, to promote balanced reporting that takes into account the perspectives of both countries without causing tension encourage the increase. They should also aim to encourage nuanced public discourse in support of long-term peace efforts. Overall, effective editorial content relies on a balanced, constructive and forward-looking approach to reporting and advocacy through digital channels

REFERENCES:

- Abid, M. (2017). Welcome to Pakistan research repository: The role of media in conflict resolution: The case of Pakistan and India. Retrieved from <https://pr.hec.gov.pk/jspui/handle/123456789/16617>
- Ahmer, Moonis. (2011). Kashmir and the process of conflict resolution. Dawn35 editorials
- Din, J. U., Qadri, M. A., & Khan, R. U. (2021). Indo-pak media approach towards peace and war journalism during the policy crisis: Analyzing the coverage of Pulwama attack and Balakot air-strike in daily dawn and the Hindu. *Review of Applied Management and Social Sciences*, 4(2), 421-430. <https://doi.org/10.47067/ramss.v4i2.143>
- Gabel, S., Reichert, L., & Reuter, C. (2022). Discussing conflict in social media: The use of Twitter in the Jammu and Kashmir conflict. *Media, War & Conflict*, 15(4), 504–529. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1750635220970997>
- Jones, P. (2022). Track two diplomacy and the India-Pakistan conflict. *Routledge Handbook of the International Relations of South Asia*, 184-196. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003246626-17>
- Kaldip Nayyar. (2003). *Wall of Wagha*. Gyan Publishing House
- Kissinger, Henry. (2014) *World order. Reflection of Character of Nation and the cause of History*.
- Mubarak, Ali. (1993). *In the Shadow of History*. Progressive Publishers.
- Muhammad Zubair Iqbal and Shabbir Hussain. (2017). Conflict and peace journalism: Role of media in Pakistan. *Strategic Studies*, 37(2), 90-108. <https://doi.org/10.53532/ss.037.02.00226>
- Saran, S., Khan, R., Datta, S., Neog, R., Khan, Z., Dowling, L., Sun, Y., Krepon, M., & Rehman, I. (2018). Investigating crises: South Asia's lessons, evolving dynamics, and trajectories.
- Shaheen, R., Alam, A., & Ghauri, M. (2018). Portrayal of Pak-India relations in their elite press. Retrieved from [https://doi.org/10.47205/plhr.2021\(5-II\)2.34](https://doi.org/10.47205/plhr.2021(5-II)2.34)
- Talbot, Strobe. (2004) *Engaging India Diplomacy, Democracy and Bomb*. TOI27 Editorials
- Will Durant. (1998). *The story of Philosophy*: Newyear Simon & Schester
- William Philips. (1976). *Crisis Management Confrontation Diplomacy in the Nuclear age*.

Annexure 1 & 2

Annexure 1 & 2

Annexure # 1

List & Details of Dawn Editorials from 2019 till 2023

Dawn					
S. No	Title	Date	Tone	Remarks	
2019					
•	Pulwama attack	February 16, 2019	Concerned & Critical.	Positive	
•	Riots in Delhi	February 27, 2019	Critical, Alarming	Positive	
•	Fake news & war hysteria	March 11th, 2019	Serious, concerned	Positive	
•	After Modi's win	May 24, 2019	Critical, concerned	Positive	
•	A common threat	June 6, 2020	Cautious	Positive	
•	Changing dynamics	July 23, 2020	Critical, Urgency, strategic	Positive	
•	Kashmir mediation	August 2, 2019	Critical, urgent call of action	Positive	
•	IHK's grim reality	August 6, 2019	Accusing, Alarming	Negative	
•	Playing with fire	August 7, 2019	Urgency & alarm.	Positive	
•	NSC on Kashmir	August 8, 2019	Critical, assertive	Positive	
•	A tepid response	August 9, 2019	Critical, frustrated	Positive	
•	Pak-India trains stopped	August 10, 2019	Critical, frustrated	Positive	
•	Modi's actions	August 17, 2019	Critical, accusatory	Positive	
•	UNSC meeting on IHK	August 18, 2019	Critical, concerned	Positive	
•	Kashmir reactions	October 24, 2019	Critical, condemnatory	Positive	
•	Babri Masjid verdict	November 10, 2019	Critical, pessimistic	Negative	5
•	Kartarpur Corridor	November 12, 2019	Cautious	Positive	

2020					
	• Sectarian tensions	September 21, 2020	Alarming, Critical	Negative	
2021					
	• LoC ceasefire	February 27, 2021	Cautiously optimistic	Positive	
	• A fresh start?	March 25, 2021	Cautious optimism	Positive	
	• Exchange of letters	April 1, 2021	Cautious optimism	Positive	
	• Desecration of temple	August 6, 2021	Outrage, Frustration	Negative	
2022					
	• Kashmir's plight	August 6, 2022	Critical, Urgency, Condemnatory	Positive	
2023					
	• India's space quest	August 25, 2023	Critical, Hopeful	Positive	

Annexure # 2

List & Details of Times of India Editorials from 2019 to 2023

2019					
Times of India					
S. No	Title	Date	Tone	Remarks	
February					
	• More hard options: India must work to make Pakistan an	Feb 27	Serious, urgent, patriotic	Positive	

	international pariah unless it deals with terror				
	• For real peace: Let release of Varthaman trigger a process to take down terror safe havens	Feb 28	Firm and strong	Positive	
	• Political parties should avoid politicising actions of armed forces at this juncture	Feb 28	Concerned, critical	Negative	
March					
	• Shifting winds: Pakistan's tantrums over India's OIC invite reveal a sore loser. India must press forward	March 3	Assertive, critical, diplomatic, forward looking	neutral	
	• Pulwama effect: National security could become BJP's unique selling point in upcoming Lok Sabha polls	March 4	Analytical and speculative.	Neutral	
	• Shifting winds: Pakistan's tantrums over	March 3	Critical and assertive	Negative	

	India's OIC invite reveal a sore loser. India must press forward				
	• Rafale, Bofors: Current defence procurement procedures are jeopardising national security	March 7	Critical and concerned	Neutral	
	• Pakistan army lies about JeM — world should call its bluff	March 7	Critical and accusatory towards Pakistan, particularly the Pakistani military.	Negative	
	• Army reforms: A leaner, modern military is the need of the hour for India	March 10	Advocacy and urgency	Negative	
	• Masood Azhar effect: After India's reset with Pakistan it is time for a reset with China	March 14	Critical, assertive	negative	
	• Pakistan PM Imran Khan is perpetuating denial about	March 27	critical and accusatory towards Pakistan	Negative	

	terrorism				
•	New normal: India's highlighting of maltreatment of Pakistani minorities is the right step	March 25	Critical of Pakistan, assertive	Negative	
•	PM Modi's Meerut rally saw heavy messaging on Pakistan; but does it help?	March 29	analytical and critical.	Negative	
•	China is miscalculating its interests by siding with Pakistani terror groups	March 29	Assertive, critical against china for supporting Pakistan	Negative	
•	Stand United: Sri Lanka must not fall into the terrorists' trap and allow communal disharmony	April 26	Serious and cautionary	Negative	
•	Modi sends a clear message to Pakistan by leaving out Imran	May 28	Analytical and critical.	Negative	
•	Quiet diplomacy: Backchannel talks should be the way forward with	May 27	Analytical and critical.	negative	

	Pakistan				
	• CRPF attacked again: Anantnag strike shows Pakistan-based terror continues to be a challenge	June 13	Serious, Urgent	Neutral	
	• Pressure on Pakistan on the terror front makes it seek talks with India	June 21	Critical, analytical	Negative	
	• Tell India's story: India must mobilise all resources to counter Pakistan's J&K propaganda	August 13	Assertive and Diplomatic	Negative	
	• Congress support to government on its position against Pakistan is important. Together, government and opposition can help restore normalcy in Kashmir	Sept 30	Assertive, Nationalist	Negative	
	• Fire with fire: It is a different India that Pakistan is dealing with. New	Oct 21	Critical and accusatory	Negative	

	Delhi must respond to provocations				
	• Why opening Siachen to tourism is a good idea	Oct 22	Supportive and optimistic	Positive	
2020					
	• Kulbhushan Jadhav case: Pakistan again confirms its rogue status	July 9	critical and accusatory	Negative	
	• Pakistan's choice: Make peace with India or end up as a Chinese vassal state	Sept 8	critical and analytical	Negative	
2021					
	• After ceasefire agreement: New Delhi must continue to keep its guard up against Islamabad-sponsored terrorism	Feb 26	analytical and cautious	Negative	
	• Temper expectations: Presence of non-	March 1	Optimistic and pragmatic	Positive	

	state actors poses a significant challenge to the Indo-Pak ceasefire				
2022					
	• Imran Khan's troubles: But a political change in Islamabad will make little difference to India-Pakistan ties	March 28	Analytical, critical	negative	
2023					
	• Just not cricket: J&K cops arrest students celebrating India's loss in World Cup final. That's how UAPA is misused	Nov 29	Critical and concerned	Neutral	