

'If we keep focusing on trust deficit between India and Pak, then you miss out the doables'

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This present phase of Indo-Pakistan relations is full of promise and hope. I think it was in Thimpu, Bhutan, when the two Prime Ministers met on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said what was most important is confidence and trust, and the modality to do that is to have as much contact at all levels as possible. The more we meet, the more we talk, the more comfortable we get. In one of my public remarks that I had made on my arrival, I had said that I detected a sea change in the atmosphere. I see a school of sceptics who dismiss it as wishful thinking. I believe it is better to have that wishful thinking for the opening and writing of a new chapter in Indo-Pak relations. Our region is changing very fast. It is certainly in Pakistan's national interest to have a stable friendly neighbourhood. We have tremendous respect for this leadership, particularly Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

I believe that there is immense scope for creative diplomacy. I think it is important to have a deeper engagement to be able to understand each other better. You can only do that with a bit of imagination and creativity. The same statements repeated year after year – cordial, constructive, etc. – do not inspire the imagination of people. There is a feel-good sense and an ardent desire on the part of the leadership to move together.