

On why did the summit flopped:

There was no homework done at all. Both the leaders were meeting each other without an agenda, despite the fact that there were huge expectations from both sides. Appointing special envoys or a political working group could have helped negate the differences. Again, instead of creating a festive picture by decorating major streets in New Delhi with flowers and arches, we could have dealt with the summit in a more business-like manner.

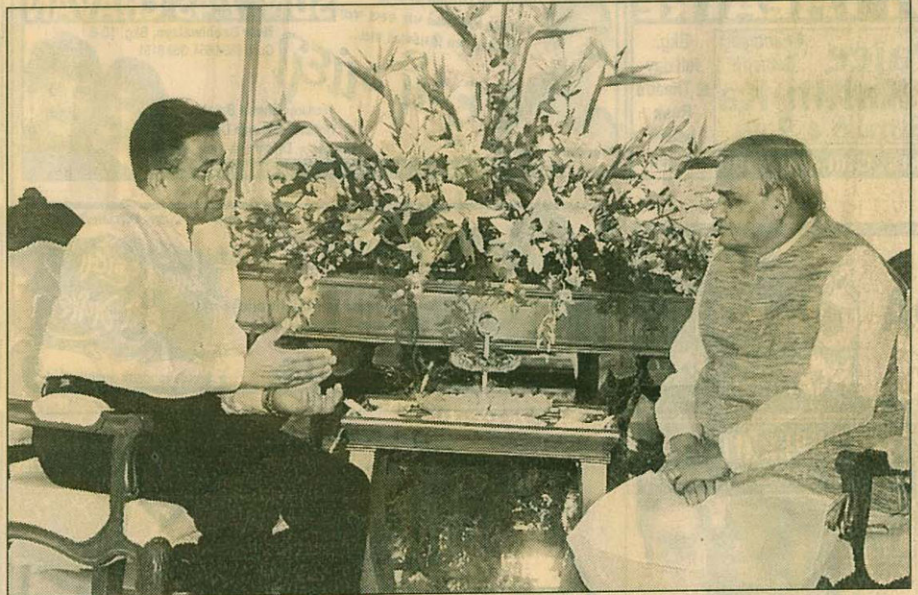
On the infamous tea party held in Pakistan House:

I guess the way it was conducted, states it all. At the entrance, the ushers kept on asking the invitees whether they were Indians or Pakistanis. Indians were asked to hand over their mobile phones and invitation cards, while the Pakistanis were allowed to move inside with their video cameras. It was amazing to see the Pak President completely ignoring Indian leaders and spending most of the time with Pak mediemen. This has been the essence of the Summit -- too much focus on their media and the international media, then the Indian government.

The breakfast meet of editors in Agra:

It was supposed to be exchange of views with the intellectuals, where only editors were included. Again, only PTV was invited and one Indian channel did manage to beam the address. The editors did disagree with the General on many counts, but he didn't seem to be interested in the other side.

On the media circus: The media hype was expected. But there was no concrete exchanges of view equally on both sides. The Pak delegation was busy with the domestic media. PTV had tremendous access to information. Indian channels did try to give a balanced picture. Pak media does have freedom to express.



'A political working group before the Summit could have helped'

*With the much-hyped Musharraf-Vajpayee Summit ending in a deadlock, city-based international conflict resolution expert **Sundeep Waslekar** travels through the roller-coaster ride of last weekend and tells **Smita Deshmukh** what exactly went wrong*

However, most of them toe the government line on international and security affairs.

On the blame game by the Pakistani camp: Blaming Union home minister L K Advani for the failure of talks is a gameplan they had to play since the General's own survival would be in question. For the first few weeks, he can state to his opponents that he did try for some concessions on Kashmir, but failed. But the pressure will

build up soon. After calling the Indian PM a statesman, he had to blame someone for the failure and he chose the cabinet committee on security for the same.

On India's future strategy: There are rumours that the terrorists would strike back in the valley. India must continue to talk and discuss other issues surrounding Kashmir. The confidence building measures must stay on. The way the

media was kept waiting till the last day for briefing was in bad taste. We must now learn how to deal with a contingent of over 200 journalists. Major diplomacy wars are won with the help of the media.

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