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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

**PUBLIC OPINION IN PAKISTAN IS GENERALLY
CAUTIOUS IN PINNING HOPES ON THE SUMMIT.**

Results released on: July 12, 2001



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PUBLIC OPINION IN PAKISTAN IS GENERALLY CAUTIOUS IN PINNING HOPES ON THE SUMMIT.

Islamabad, July 12, 2001

According to a survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan on the eve of Musharaf Vajpae Summit, the Pakistani public opinion is generally cautious in pinning hopes on the outcome of the meeting between long time adversary nations. Only 31% said they expected Indo Pakistan relations to improve as a result of the summit, 53% believed the summit would make no difference while 16% were of the view that the relationship might even deteriorate in the wake of this meeting. The respondents were further asked if they expected any progress during the summit on the perennial dispute on Kashmir. Hopes on this issue were more subdued, as only 16% expected any progress on the Kashmir issue. The survey was conducted among a statistically representative sample of men and women in the urban and rural areas of all the four provinces of the country. It included respondents belonging to various age, income, education and linguistic backgrounds.

Notwithstanding low expectations about the outcome of the summit, there is considerable interest in its proceedings and very few shield away from giving their opinions during the survey. Experts at Gallup have pointed out that even though India is the most distrusted nation in Pakistan, there is considerable support for peace initiatives. Only 10% trust India while 60% distrust it and the remaining 30% are somewhere in the middle. Nevertheless a majority supports a no war pact with India, and nearly three fourth of the public is in favour of opening up travel and having sports competition with its adversary nation. Views are, however, divided on trade and cultural exchange, as 47% oppose trade relations, 54% oppose educational exchanges and 58% oppose cultural exchange. The two leaders thus have a difficult task ahead of them.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International among nearly 1500 statistically selected households in both urban and rural areas of all the four provinces of Pakistan. The sample comprised a cross section of various income, education and geographic segments. The text of this report can also be seen on the internet at: www.gallup.com.pk.