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MEDIA COVERAGE

IPRI SEMINAR

Evolving Regional Dynamics and Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations

2 May 2019

NATIONAL ONLINE NEWSPAPERS

1. **THE EXPRESS** **TRIBUNE**

“Russia Keen on Enhancing Bilateral Ties”



By Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: While both Islamabad and Moscow know little about the other’s business potential, there is a keenness in Russia to develop ties with Pakistan.

This was disclosed by Russian Embassy Counsellor Dr Sergei Baranov during his address at a day-long seminar on “Evolving Regional Dynamics and Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations” organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Thursday. Dr Baranov stated that Pakistan is an important partner for Russia with its significance determined by its role in regional politics, its influence in the Muslim world and its geostrategic position. “Interaction with Pakistan in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as a full-fledged member, is very important for Russia to carry out cross-regional economic, energy and infrastructure projects, and we are very glad that Pakistan is practically engaged in SCO, especially in joint counterterrorism efforts,” the counselor stated. He noted that there has been steadfast progress in bilateral relations with leaders from both countries meeting regularly to exchange views on key issues of regional and bilateral importance in recent years.

The counsellor also pointed out that the economic dimension of Pak-Russian cooperation has not corresponded to its potential. “The low level of direct business ties and insufficient knowledge of Russia’s and Pakistan’s business communities about each other’s capabilities remain weak points. In this regard, great expectations are pinned on the Russian-Pakistani Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation which has identified priority avenues of our business and investment cooperation,” he said. Dr Baranov said that Russia was keen to develop strong business-to-business contacts with Pakistani businessmen, besides making sincere efforts to explore mutual trade potential.

Published in The Express Tribune, May 3rd, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1964617/1-russia-keen-enhancing-bilateral-ties/>

Seminar: “Evolving Regional Dynamics and Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations”



May 2, 2019 Editor

Islamabad: Giving an overview of Pakistan-Russia’s bilateral relations in his Welcome Address at the one-day seminar held on Thursday May 2, 2019 on “Evolving Regional Dynamics and Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations”, President of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), **Ambassador Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham Bin Saddique**, outlined that the relationship has carried the baggage of realpolitik when both states pursued their divergent national interests, but “as the Cold war era ended, following a period of somewhat dormancy, both states re-established their relations at a basic level.” Vice Admiral Saddique stressed that there are common areas of cooperation between Pakistan and Russia such as combating terrorism, bilateral trade, economic cooperation and stability in the region, especially Afghanistan. “As Asia emerges as a hub of economic corridors, Pakistan offers attractive economic opportunities to the regional countries and beyond. CPEC, a pilot project of Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a case in point. Initiatives like Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI), Central Asian Region Economic Cooperation (CAREC) programme and ideas like South-South cooperation can provide foundational basis for greater regional homogeneity and integration. Pakistan, being an energy scarce country, Russia has the resources

to offer which if taken advantage of, can boost our struggling economy,” he stressed. He hoped the discussion would answer critical questions, including how Russia will act in a multipolar world; how will India factor, given Indo-Russian strategic partnership, impact Pakistan-Russia relations; what are the prospects of Pakistan-China-Russia relations on trilateral basis; and what could be possible contours of a Pak-Russia strategic framework and roadmap.

Dr Sergei A. Baranov, Counsellor from the Embassy of the Russian Federation, in his Keynote Address, reiterated that Pakistan is first and foremost an important partner for Russia. He shared that the significance of Pakistan is determined by its role in regional politics, its influence in the Muslim world and its geostrategic position. “Interaction with Pakistan in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as a full-fledged member, is very important for Russia to carry out cross-regional economic, energy and infrastructure projects, and we are very glad that Pakistan is practically engaged in SCO, especially in joint counterterrorism efforts.” Dr Baranov highlighted how recent years have witnessed steadfast progress in bilateral relations with leaders from both countries meeting regularly to exchange views on key issues of regional and bilateral importance. “Such meetings give an added impetus to our mutually beneficial partnership”, he remarked. The Counselor also pointed out that the economic dimension of Pak-Russian cooperation has not corresponded to its potential. “The low level of direct business ties and insufficient knowledge of Russia’s and Pakistan’s business communities about each other’s capabilities remain weak points. In this regard, great expectations are pinned on the Russian-Pakistani Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation which has identified priority avenues of our business and investment cooperation.” The Counselor said Russia was keen to develop strong business-to-business contacts between businessmen of Pakistan and Russia, besides making sincere efforts to explore mutual trade potential.



In the working session, chaired by Ambassador (R) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS), **Dr Ahmed Ijaz Malik**, Assistant Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-e-Azam University, highlighted that in view of the global changes post-9/11 and Russia's rebalancing towards South Asia, Pakistan is likely to benefit from its economic assistance and military technological exchanges. This cooperation, however, should not be seen as anti-India since Moscow has been systemically and continually supporting Delhi militarily. This is detrimental to and for Pakistan. Dr Malik further pointed out that in Russia's greater designs, Iran and India figure more prominently than Islamabad. "While Pakistan needs to remain cautious about this, there are areas of convergence. For example, Russia supports Pakistan's accession to the Nuclear Suppliers' Group. Accession of both Pakistan and India to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation further signifies the importance of Pakistan as one of the pivotal states. Russia and Pakistan also agree on issues of counterterrorism," he shared.

Providing a bird's eye view of the scope for economic cooperation in bilateral relations, **Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri**, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), said that it is important to understand Russia's geography, especially when it comes to enhancing economic relations with it since it borders 14 other countries. He said that since becoming part of the World Trade Organization, Russia has consistently worked to improve its trade and commerce environment due to which its Ease of Doing Business ranking is at 35, more than a 100 points better than Pakistan. "What is also important to note is that while Pakistan has a trade deficit with many countries, including China, with Russia, we have a huge trade surplus." Sharing details about the export-import potential between the two, he said that the bulk of Russia's imports from Pakistan consist of citrus, articles of apparel and surgical goods; while Russia's exports to Pakistan consist mainly of bituminous coal, helicopters, newsprint, iron roll, and edible vegetables. Dr Suleri said that it is important to focus on value chain integration with Russia, particularly in surgical instruments; medicines; cotton-based clothing; and fisheries. "In the agriculture sector, it is important to focus on adapting to Non-Tariff Barriers in citrus; and tapping Russian investment in oil and gas sector besides inviting Russian private sector interest in SEZs", he concluded.

Ambassador (R) Mohammad Khalid Khattak, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Russia, was of the view that it is important to look into the history, psyche and mind of Russia and that of the Afghans in order to build a relationship of trust with them. "Russia is a security state and for them security is more important than economics." About the issue of peace in Afghanistan, he lamented that Afghanistan faces two major problems- one, its transition from a tribal state into a national state has been very turbulent; and two, it came into existence without any defined borders or frontiers. He stressed that while an Afghan-led and Afghan-owed peace process is an

important construct, outside powers have to do a lot of basic homework and provide a national format and layer it with a regional and international one, if there is to be any eventual peace in the territory.

Ambassador (R) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS), was of the view that while Pakistan, Iran, China and the Central Asian states have already been playing an instrumental role in the Afghan peace process through several track two initiatives, the Moscow Format talks in November 2018, as well as recent intra Afghan talks in Moscow in February 2019 are very important and historic because they were the first official intra Afghan dialogue, stimulating optimism by bringing a different and much needed dimension to the Afghan peace process. “Russia has done what the US has not been able to do – bring the Taliban to the forefront and hold the first intra-Afghan dialogue between the Taliban and prominent Afghan figures.” Ambassador Chaudhry said that “This is an age in which alliances are issue-based. Russia’s relationship with Pakistan should not be viewed from an India-centric lens.”



<<http://kashmirwatch.com/seminar-on-evolving-regional-dynamics-and-future-of-pakistan-russia-relations/>>

3. PAKISTAN TODAY

Moot suggests Pakistan, Russia to follow CPEC model

Staff Report



ISLAMABAD: Scholars at a seminar urged further cementing Pak-Russia relations with an economic overview, calling for adopting a pattern of China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has provided a new impetus to Pak-China relations. Giving an overview of Pak-Russia bilateral relations during the one-day seminar titled “Evolving Regional Dynamics and Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations”, Islamabad Policy Research Institute President Ambassador Khan Hasham Bin Saddique stressed that there are common areas of cooperation between Pakistan and Russia such as combating terrorism, bilateral trade, economic cooperation and stability in the region, especially with regard to Afghanistan.

“As Asia emerges as a hub of economic corridors, Pakistan offers attractive economic opportunities to the regional countries and beyond. CPEC, a pilot project of Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a case in point. Initiatives like Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI), Central Asian Region Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and ideas like South-South cooperation can provide a foundational basis for greater regional homogeneity and integration,”

he stated. He said Pakistan, being an energy-scarce country, could benefit from energy-rich Russia, as that can boost mutual trade and cooperation.

Dr Sergei A. Baranov, Counsellor from the Embassy of the Russian Federation, reiterated that Pakistan is first and foremost an important partner for Russia. “The significance of Pakistan is determined by its role in regional politics, its influence in the Muslim world and its geostrategic position. Interaction with Pakistan in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as a full-fledged member, is very important for Russia to carry out cross-regional economic, energy and infrastructure projects, and we are very glad that Pakistan is practically engaged in SCO, especially in joint counterterrorism efforts,” he added. Dr Baranov highlighted how recent years have witnessed steadfast progress in bilateral relations with leaders from both countries meeting regularly to exchange views on key issues of regional and bilateral importance. “Such meetings give an added impetus to our mutually beneficial partnership,” he remarked, pointed out that the economic dimension of Pak-Russian cooperation has not corresponded to its potential. “The low level of direct business ties and insufficient knowledge of Russia’s and Pakistan’s business communities about each other’s capabilities remain weak points. In this regard, great expectations are pinned on the Russian-Pakistani Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, which has identified priority avenues of our business and investment cooperation,” he said. The counsellor said Russia was keen to develop strong business-to-business contacts with Pakistan, besides making sincere efforts to explore mutual trade potential.

<<https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/05/02/moot-suggests-pakistan-russia-to-follow-pec-model/>>

4.



Evolving Regional Dynamics and Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations

By pakistanworld@

Islamabad: Giving an overview of Pakistan-Russia's bilateral relations in his Welcome Address at the one-day seminar "Evolving Regional Dynamics and Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations" on 02 May 2019, President of IPRI, **Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham Bin Saddique**, outlined that the relationship has carried the baggage of realpolitik when both states pursued their divergent national interests, but "as the Cold war era ended, following a period of somewhat dormancy, both states re-established their relations at a basic level."



Vice Admiral Saddique stressed that there are common areas of cooperation between Pakistan and Russia such as combating terrorism, bilateral trade, economic cooperation and stability in the region, especially Afghanistan. "As Asia emerges as a hub of economic corridors, Pakistan offers attractive economic opportunities to the regional countries and beyond. CPEC, a pilot project of Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a case in point. Initiatives like Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI), Central Asian Region Economic Cooperation (CAREC) programme and ideas like South-South cooperation can provide foundational basis for greater regional homogeneity and integration. Pakistan, being an energy scarce country, Russia has the resources to offer which if taken advantage of, can boost our struggling economy," he stressed. He hoped the discussion would answer critical questions, including how Russia will act in a

multipolar world; how will India factor, given Indo-Russian strategic partnership, impact Pakistan-Russia relations; what are the prospects of Pakistan-China- Russia relations on trilateral basis; and what could be possible contours of a Pak-Russia strategic framework and roadmap.

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Ambassador (R) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS), was of the view that while Pakistan, Iran, China and the Central Asian states have already been playing an instrumental role in the Afghan peace process through several track two initiatives, the Moscow Format talks in November 2018, as well as recent intra Afghan talks in Moscow in February 2019 are very important and historic because they were the first official intra Afghan dialogue, stimulating optimism by bringing a different and much needed dimension to the Afghan peace process. "Russia has done what the US has not been able to do – bring the Taliban to the forefront and hold the first intra-Afghan dialogue between the Taliban and prominent Afghan figures." Ambassador Chaudhry said that "This is an age in which alliances are issue-based. Russia's relationship with Pakistan should not be viewed from an India-centric lens.

<<https://pakistanintheworld.pk/>>



5. **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor**

CPEC should be taken as an example to strengthen Pakistan-Russia relations

A seminar was held on the topic of Pakistan-Russia relations, in which it was discussed that the two countries should follow the model of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has led to the strengthening of Pakistan-China relations, since the project's launch in 2013. Speaking on the occasion, the President of the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, Ambassador Hasham Bin Saddique said that CPEC provides a case in point for greater harmony and regional integration between the two countries.



CPEC should be taken as an example to strengthen Pakistan-Russia relations

ISLAMABAD: Scholars at a seminar urged further cementing Pak-Russia relations with an economic overview, calling for adopting a pattern of **China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, which has provided a new impetus to Pak-China relations.

Giving an overview of Pak-Russia bilateral relations during the one-day seminar titled “Evolving Regional Dynamics and Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations”, Islamabad Policy Research Institute President Ambassador Khan Hasham Bin Saddique stressed that there are common areas of cooperation between Pakistan and Russia such as combating terrorism, bilateral trade, economic cooperation and stability in the region, especially with regard to Afghanistan.

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Dr Baranov highlighted how recent years have witnessed steadfast progress in bilateral relations with leaders from both countries meeting regularly to exchange views on key issues of regional and bilateral importance. “Such meetings give an added impetus to our mutually beneficial partnership,” he remarked, pointed out that the economic dimension of Pak-Russian cooperation has not corresponded to its potential.

“The low level of direct business ties and insufficient knowledge of Russia’s and Pakistan’s business communities about each other’s capabilities remain weak points. In this regard, great expectations are pinned on the Russian-Pakistani Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, which has identified priority avenues of our business and investment cooperation,” he said. The counsellor said Russia was keen to develop strong business-to-business contacts with Pakistan, besides making sincere efforts to explore mutual trade potential.

<<http://www.cpecinfo.com/news/cpec-should-be-taken-as-an-example-to-strengthen-pakistan-russia-relations/NzA0Mg==>>

PRINT NEWSPAPERS

1. ^{THE EXPRESS} TRIBUNE

development. | STAPLE GRAIN: Farmer run a t

Russia keen on enhancing bilateral ties

Experts say Moscow's closeness with New Delhi should not hinder cooperation

OUR CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD

While both Islamabad and Moscow know little about the other's business potential, there is a keenness in Russia to develop ties with Pakistan. This was disclosed by Russian Embassy Counsellor Dr Sergei Baranov during his address at a day-long seminar on "Evolving Regional Dynamics and Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations" organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Thursday.

Dr Baranov stated that Pakistan is an important partner for Russia with its significance determined by its role in regional politics, its influence in the Muslim world and its geostrategic position.

"Interaction with Pakistan in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as a full-fledged member, is very important for Russia to carry out cross-regional economic, energy and infrastructure projects, and we are very glad that Pakistan is practically engaged in SCO, especially in joint counterterrorism efforts," the counsellor stated.

He noted that there has been steadfast progress in bilateral relations with leaders from both countries meeting regularly to exchange views on key issues of regional and bilateral importance in recent years.

The counsellor also pointed out that the economic dimension of Pak-Russian cooperation has not corresponded to its potential.

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2. **The Asian Telegraph**

Evolving regional dynamics and future of Pakistan-Russia relations

ISLAMABAD

Counselor Russian Embassy Dr Sergei A. Baranov Thursday, reiterated that Pakistan is first and foremost an important partner for Russia. He shared that the significance of Pakistan is determined by its role in regional politics, its influence in the Muslim world and its geostrategic position.

Interaction with Pakistan in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as a full-fledged member, is very important for Russia to carry out cross-regional economic, energy and infrastructure projects, and we are very glad that Pakistan is practically engaged in SCO, especially in joint counterterrorism efforts: Dr Baranov said while delivering his keynote address at the seminar titled 'Evolving Regional Dynamics and Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations' here.

Dr Baranov highlighted how recent years have witnessed steadfast progress in bilateral relations with leaders from both countries meeting regularly to exchange views on key issues of regional and bilat-



eral importance. Such meetings give an added impetus to our mutually beneficial partnership, he remarked. The Counselor

also pointed out that the economic dimension of Pak-Russian cooperation has not corresponded to its potential. —Agencies