



CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

2020

PAK-RUSSIA TIES: AMBASSADOR DANILA GANICH



CASS CONVERSATIONS
WITH AMBASSADORS

22 September 2020

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2020**

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Event Coordinator

Dr Adil Sultan

Rapporteurs

Omer Aamir and Hananah Zarrar

Senior Editor

Sarah Siddiq Aneel

Proofread & Composed by

Mariam Siddiqui

All correspondence pertaining to this report should be addressed to the CASS, through post or email at the following address:

Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS)

Old Airport Road

Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: +92 051 5405011

Institutional URL: <https://casstt.com/>

Email: cass.thinkers@gmail.com

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the *CASS Conversations with Ambassadors Series* **H.E. Danila Ganich**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Pakistan visited CASS on 22 September 2020 in order to discuss bilateral relations and highlight issues of mutual interest. The discussion, held at CASS auditorium, was attended by President, directors, researchers of the Centre and officers of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

Earlier, Alexey Dedov was holding the post of Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Pakistan for six years. Ambassador Ganich, appointed in April 2019, was previously Deputy Director of the Second Department of Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

INTRODUCTION

Given the evolving geostrategic environment and regional dynamics, Russia's interest in South Asia has been increasing. Irrespective of shifts in power and policies of various governments, Russia and Pakistan have continued to focus on exploring the convergences of their interests, both bilaterally and regionally.

Some predominant sectors where Russia and Pakistan have enhanced their cooperation include supporting each other on multilateral forums for regional integration and peace; managing bilateral political and diplomatic interactions; and recently (before the COVID-19 pandemic) both countries were working to expand cross-cultural exchanges through scholarships and fellowships in order to spread their outreach and inter-state public interactions. The one major area where cooperation needs to be enhanced is the economic sector.

Both countries lack sufficient economic and trade cooperation due to two main obstacles: language barrier and lack of understanding about each other's market demands, especially different interpretations vis-à-vis profit maximisation. Despite these constraints, Pakistan and Russia are effectively working to find common interests and engagement via intergovernmental and inter-agency collaboration.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- i.** Pakistan ranks high in Russia's foreign policy in South Asia evident from the regularity and frequency of high-level official meetings as well as delegation exchanges between various ministries and agencies of the two countries.
- ii.** Despite a conflictual past and shifts in power, Islamabad and Moscow share a positive national perception of each other along with a forward-looking approach.
- iii.** In recent decades, political, security and diplomatic Russo-Pak ties have improved.
- iv.** Russia is particularly interested in augmenting its economic position. In this regard, economic collaboration with Pakistan has not been sufficient and is yet to be fully explored. The basic factors that hinder economic and business cooperation between the two countries are language and culture barrier and the difference of mindset when it comes to trade and profit incentive.
- v.** In multilateral fora, Russia and Pakistan are more or less on the same page and support similar strategic choices, an example being mutual convergence regarding the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.
- vi.** With regard to great power politics, the Russian Federation is in a reactive mode with the Kremlin's reactions calibrated in response to steps taken by the United States (US) in the geoeconomic, geostrategic and geopolitical domain.
- vii.** Russia aims to remain neutral in South Asia while focusing primarily on market expansion and economic growth. Moscow intends to enhance its trade with both Pakistan and India.
- viii.** Given its own internal domestic and ongoing border issues, Russia is reluctant to be involved in other countries' territorial issues e.g. the Jammu and Kashmir conflict. This is why it does not wish to take sides and will be more forthcoming in playing the role as a neutral arbitrator if called upon to do so.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

OPENING REMARKS

MS SITARA NOOR

Senior Researcher at CASS, Ms Sitara Noor moderated the talk and briefly highlighted the ebb and flow of Pak-Russia bilateral relations.



Within the current spectrum of geopolitical manoeuvring, the gradual warming up of ties between the two nations has started to emerge as a new geopolitical reality.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

H.E. AMBASSADOR DANILA GANICH

Ambassador Danila Ganich highlighted that Pakistan is a significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location.

History of Relations

It is significant to note that even during the Afghan war, the perception of ordinary Pakistanis towards Russia remained peaceful.



While Soviet-Pakistan cooperation could not evade the negative effects of tumultuous and complex developments in Afghanistan in which both the countries happened to be involved during the Cold War, official perceptions towards each other also remained positive despite the underlying divergence of interests. Irrespective of shifting power in Pakistan over time, both countries share a stable relationship focused on promoting mutually beneficial cooperation.

Areas of Success

Recent years have witnessed steadfast progress in bilateral relations. Leaders of Russia and Pakistan meet regularly to exchange views on key issues of regional and bilateral agenda. **Regular official high-level visits** from both sides have given added impetus to this mutually beneficial partnership which is one of the reasons why a visit by President Putin has not yet transpired. Moreover, in the education sector, both countries are actively promoting exchange programs and scholarships.

Russia and Pakistan actively interact in multilateral organisations and have **close positions on a wide range of international problems**, including the issues of peaceful settlement of conflicts; establishment of a multipolar world order; strengthening the UN's central role; and supremacy of international law in interstate relations.

Russia attaches particular importance to cooperation with Pakistan in the framework of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**. This body has gained credibility and is rapidly evolving into a key part of the regional security architecture and a useful tool to carry out cross-regional economic, energy and infrastructure projects.

Areas for Improvement

Enhancement of trade and economic cooperation with Pakistan is an area that needs significantly more attention. There is a need to expand economic contacts to the same level as the diplomatic and security dialogue that both countries enjoy today. The current bilateral trade volume of approximately USD 550 million does not correspond with its actual potential.

Factors hampering the enhancement of bilateral economic cooperation include the following:

1. Language Barrier between the Two States

Pakistan has English as its second official language. This is beneficial to Pakistanis as the vast majority of ideas and narratives circulating the globe through social and/or mass media are using the English medium. Pakistanis are blessed as they can speak several important languages, which open doors to the whole world. In fact, the intent to undermine

English in the Single National Curriculum would be counterproductive. The case of Russia is different as one cannot carry out any business, gain education or employment unless and until s/he is fluent in the Russian language. This reason is the primary factor that restricts opportunities for Russia in the world and vice versa.

2. Colonial Legacy

Pakistanis, to some extent, also understand the English culture. More than one million Pakistanis are dual nationals, with the majority of them being British citizens. On the other hand, the lack of diffusion and cross-cultural exchange between Pakistan and Russia limits opportunities for people on either side.

3. Paucity of Market Understanding

Apart from the above reasons, lack of banking and payment channels, high tariffs, a strict Russian business visa regime, no direct passenger and cargo flights, long shipment periods, etc. are also hampering trade potential. Pakistan and Russia also lag behind in understanding each other's markets. In Pakistan, a profit of 5-7 per cent is considered an adequate target, while Russian markets/businesses expect a profit of around 99 per cent. Despite these hurdles, trade between the two countries has gone up, which is a good sign for both sides.

The Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation between Russia and Pakistan has been working hard to build business ties. The next meeting of the IGC is planned for 2021. Working together in the IGC will enable both countries to take significant steps to implement far-reaching projects; and proceed from framework cooperation agreements to business contracts.

Strategic Partnership

In the strategic domain, both countries are in favour of promoting a stable security architecture in the region. The convergence of strategic interests has brought Islamabad and the Kremlin closer. In the recent past, several high-level visits have taken place to explore a security partnership focused on combating transnational threats.

Islamabad has shown its support regarding the decision of the Russian Federation in preventing the deployment of intermediate-range missiles. Leaders of both countries have almost similar views about regional and international conflict management and prevention.

QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION

Russia's Relationship with the US

Currently, Russia is in a reactive mode, i.e. whatever it does, is a response to the US' actions. The US wants global dominance in every aspect which Russia tries to undercut. While still lagging behind the US in technological and financial domains (due to lack of development of the private sector), Russia is still eager to preserve and use its defence capabilities as well as possess enough resources to manage any crisis in time. The devastation caused by a nuclear war will impact not just one country but the entire globe. Young policymakers who may want to opt for rash strategic decisions are naïve about the adversary's capabilities; and should be mindful of what nuclear history has taught the world.

Afghan Peace Process

Russia has realised that the Taliban represent an actual movement signifying the genuine aspirations of a segment of the Afghan population. In contrast, the current government is resented by many Afghani nationals. Russia wants to facilitate a stable government in Afghanistan that possesses a friendly or neutral approach towards Russia because the latter does not want any chaos and instability near its borders. At the same time, several factors are hampering the peace process, one of which is the expected pause of political life in Washington due to presidential elections.

President Ghani knows that a successful intra-Afghan dialogue will erode his power. Thus, he has tried to delay the progress of peace talks and agreements. No progress can be expected till next year, i.e. until a new US administration takes reins.

Instability in Afghanistan, especially in light of the expected withdrawal of NATO/ISAF contingents, concerns both countries. Like Pakistan, Russia is interested in a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan; while contrarily the US wants a strategic presence in the territory and region.

US Withdrawal from Strategic Agreements

When it comes to the evolving strategic dynamics and the US-Russia relations under the umbrella of Washington's strategic advancements and withdrawal from a number of treaties, no one can stop the latter from its actions because it remains the sole superpower in the world. However, the world is seeing the emergence of other power centres in global politics.

Russia, particularly, is not interested in forming military alliances. Instead, it needs internal reforms, principally in the economic domain. It is important to focus on what is going inside one's country rather than being concerned with foreign developments.

Russia has a young government with some ministers under the age of 45. These ministers are not well versed with the historical dynamics of Cold War politics.

Russia's Stance on Jammu & Kashmir

The world is grappling not only with COVID-19 but also conflicts in many other parts of the globe as well. At present, all nation-states are preoccupied with their national interests and their own regional conflicts. No state is ready to jump in another state's war. President Putin is preoccupied with issues in the Middle East, Belarus and Ukraine. These preoccupations do not allow him to give proper attention to conflicts in South Asia.

However, Russia would be interested in playing its part in warming up of bilateral relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbours as a neutral arbitrator between Pakistan and India over the issue of Kashmir.

Pakistan's all-weather strategic ally China has a neutral stance regarding this dispute, so how can Russia be expected to tilt in favour of Pakistan? Russia right now is primarily concerned with the situation in its neighbourhood, especially in Belarus since a large segment of the population is protesting against their leader Alexander Lukashenko and this is worrisome for Russia (Belarus has ethnolinguistic ties and shares a long border with Russian Federation).

Insufficient Economic Cooperation and Role of the US

Due to economic compulsions and pressure from the US, Pakistan has delayed progress in the gas pipeline project which Russia was eager to invest in. Thus, economic sanctions and external pressures are hindering development of the two countries' mutual economic cooperation.

Russia has been facing sanctions from the US and the European Union. Therefore, it cannot lose any favourable markets in the world. Since Russia gets enormous profits from the Indian defence markets, Pakistan must keep this compulsion in context.

Russo-Pak Ties vis-à-vis SCO and China

China is a prominent member of SCO and the organisation is making progress. As an alliance of major regional states, SCO has a bright future.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL (RETD) KALEEM SAADAT

Concluding the interactive session, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Kaleem Saadat thanked Ambassador Danila Ganich for covering the diverse areas of cooperation and engagement between Pakistan and Russia. He was also appreciative of the Ambassador for providing Russian insight regarding the region and the emerging world order. President CASS stated an anecdote regarding historical ties between Khans of Kalat and Tsars of Russia. He went on to mention that



two cataclysmic events occurred in the Russo-Pak relationship: the disintegration of Pakistan; and the dismemberment of the Soviet Union.

Global politics have become issue-based. Politics may say one thing but economic compulsions force you to do things that may not seem logical at that instance. Contemporary era does not allow ideological rigidity; rather, it demands flexibility and pragmatism to avoid past mistakes and focus on prospects for the future. Russia has played its cards well in recent years, be it the case of Crimea or Syria. However, Pakistan is not economically sovereign, therefore, it is pressurised by Western powers to toe their line.

President CASS concluded that there are significant points of convergence between Russia and Pakistan, which are yet to be exploited in order to strengthen the existing Russo-Pak relationship and reap its benefits. He hoped that Pakistani Russian relations would remain on an upward trajectory in the future.

ANNEXURE I

Event Pictures



ANNEXURE II

Press Release**CASS CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADORS*****“Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future”***

22 September 2020

“There should not be law of the jungle in the international system.”

- Pakistan is a valued and significant partner for Russia given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location.
- Both Pakistan and Russia have strong reasons for wanting peace and stability in Afghanistan. In this regard, Russia will facilitate any reasonable solution for peace and reconciliation. Unfortunately, prospects for the intra-Afghan dialogue remain bleak for the foreseeable future.
- Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and is against an arms race in outer space as well.
- Russia is eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline.

These were some of the thoughts shared by **H.E Ambassador Danila V. Ganich** at the **CASS Conversations with Ambassadors** on *‘Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future’* organised by the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies, here in the capital today.

Ambassador Ganich, a seasoned diplomat, in his frank and interactive discussion highlighted that no matter which government or leader has been in power in Pakistan or Russia, relations between the two countries have remained cordial and based on mutual trust. Both maintain close dialogue with each other on a wide range of issues of regional and international importance through relevant consultative mechanisms, especially on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, he shared.

Sharing details about trade between Pakistan and Russia, Ambassador Ganich was of the view that while the volume of trade has been promising at \$500 million, trade cooperation has not corresponded to its potential. “The low level of direct commercial ties and insufficient knowledge about each other’s business practices, capabilities and language barriers continue to hamper progress in this much needed area,” the Ambassador lamented.



Ambassador Ganich stressed that Russia intends to increase the number of scholarships offered to Pakistani students since cooperation in this area is of great interest to both states, but the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted this plan. “We intend to promote greater and more mutually beneficial cultural and scientific ties with Pakistan,” he said. The Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan are on the same page about respecting the sanctity of the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts.

Talking about the ongoing intra-Afghan talks, Ambassador Ganich remarked that Russia has realised that the Taliban movement is a national movement, no matter how others may try to label it; and the present government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people. Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border, but noted that several factors are hampering the current peace process, including upcoming presidential elections in the United States and the desire of the current political dispensation in Kabul wanting to preserve its power and delay peace. “Nothing major is likely to happen until next spring,” he predicted. Moderated by **Ms Sitara Noor**, Senior Researcher at CASS, the discussion was followed by a candid and open Question/Answer session between Ambassador Ganich and the participants.

Delivering his Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks, President of CASS **Air Chief Marshal (R) Kaleem Saadat** provided a historical overview of Pakistan’s relationship with Russia and shared that while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted dating back to the time of the Czars and Khans of Kalat. While discussing Kremlin’s substantive relations with India, especially in the arms sector, Air Chief Marshal Saadat argued that there are certain times in history when one cannot remain on the sidelines. “This is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests. Pragmatism, flexibility and the larger interests of humankind must prevail.” He agreed that the West has double standards when it comes to pointing out human rights issues in China, Russia or even Pakistan, but remains silent on graver violations by India in Jammu and Kashmir. President CASS gave credit to Russia for playing its cards well in an often biased and one-sided international world order. He concluded that both Pakistan and Russia need to set their own house in order and undertake internal reforms and patience to see them take effect.



ANNEXURE III**Media Coverage****CASS CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADORS*****“Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future”*****22 September 2020**

1.



23 September 2020

RUSSIA VALUES TIES WITH PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Russian Federation, Danila V. Ganich, while addressing a seminar at the Center for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) on Tuesday, valued Pakistan as a significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location.

Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well, the ambassador of Russia during a discussion at a seminar on “Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future” said. The Russian envoy said that his country was eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region. The ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan are on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts. He also remarked that the present Afghan government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people. The ambassador observed that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border, and underscored that several factors were hampering the current peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power.

In his concluding remarks and Vote of Thanks, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (R) Kaleem Saadat said that while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted.

While discussing Kremlin’s relations with India, especially in the arms sector, the president CASS argued that there are certain times in history when one could not remain on the sidelines as this is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/718892-russia-values-ties-with-pakistan>

2.



23 September 2020

Russia, Pakistan do not want regional arm race: Russian Envoy

ISLAMABAD - Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) on Tuesday arranged a discussion session with the Russian Ambassador on the topic of "Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future."

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Russian Federation Danila V. Ganich highlighted that Pakistan was a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geo-strategic location, said a CASS media release. The Russian Ambassador stated that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well.

He added that Russia was eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region.

The Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan were on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts.

He also remarked that the present Afghan government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people. He said that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border, and underscored that several factors were hampering the current peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power. Delivering his Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Kaleem Saadat shared that while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted.

While discussing Kremlin's relations with India, especially in the arms sector, President CASS argued that there are certain times in history when one cannot remain on the sidelines, as this is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests.

<https://nation.com.pk/23-Sep-2020/russia-pakistan-do-not-want-regional-arm-race-russian-envoy>

3.

Pakistan OBSERVER

23 September 2020

Russia values ties with Pakistan as significant partner, important country of region: Ambassador

Ambassador of Russian Federation Danila V Ganich, during a discussion on Russia-Pakistan relations highlighted Pakistan as a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location.

The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) had organised the discussion titled “Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future.”

Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well, said the ambassador adding his country was eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region.

The Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan were on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states in this multi-polar world and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts.

He also remarked that the present Afghan government did not reflect aspirations of the Afghan people. Russia, too, does not want instability and chaos on its border, said the ambassador underscoring that several factors were hampering the current peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power.

In his concluding remarks and vote of thanks, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Kaleem Saadat said while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted.

While discussing the Kremlin’s relations with India, especially in the arms sector, President CASS argued that there were certain times in history when one could not remain on the sidelines, as this is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests.

Courtesy: Zubair Qureshi

<https://pakobserver.net/russia-values-ties-with-pakistan-as-significant-partner-important-country-of-region-ambassador/>

4.



22 September 2020

Russian envoy says Pakistan an important partner

ISLAMABAD: Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies arranged a discussion session with the Russian Ambassador on the topic of “Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future.”

Danila V. Ganich, Ambassador of Russian Federation during the discussion highlighted that Pakistan is a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location. The Russian Ambassador stated that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well.

He added that Russia is eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region.

The Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan are on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts.

He also remarked that the present Afghan government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people. He added that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border, and underscored that several factors were hampering the current peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power.

Delivering his Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Kaleem Saadat shared that while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted. While discussing Kremlin’s relations with India, especially in the arms sector, President CASS argued that there are certain times in history when one cannot remain on the sidelines, as this is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests.

Courtesy: Shujat Hamza

<https://islamabadpost.com.pk/russian-envoy-says-pakistan-an-important-partner/>

5.

The Asian Telegraph

23 September 2020



Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects For The Future

Pakistan a valued & significant partner for Russia: Russian Ambassador

ISLAMABAD
 Danila V. Ganich, Ambassador of Russian Federation during the discussion highlighted that Pakistan is a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location. The Russian Ambassador stated that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well. He added that Russia is eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region. Addressing a discussion session on the

topic of "Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future" organized by Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies here the Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan are on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts. He also remarked that the present Afghan government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people. He added that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border, and underscored that several factors were hampering the current

peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power. Delivering his Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Kaleem Saadat shared that while Pakistan-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted. While discussing Kremlin's relations with India, especially in the arms sector, President CASS argued that there are certain times in history when one cannot remain on the sidelines, as this is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests.



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22 September 2020

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'Russia, Pak. did not want regional arm race'

ISLAMABAD (APP) - Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) on Tuesday arranged a discussion session with the Russian Ambassador on the topic of "Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future."

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Russian Federation, Danilo Gorchich highlighted that Pakistan was a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geo-strategic location, said a CASS media release.

He stated that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well. He added that Russia was eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region. The envoy stressed that Russia and Pakistan were on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretext. He also remarked that the present Afghan government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people. He said that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border, and underscored that several factors were hampering the current peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power.

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7.

Daily Notable

Editor In Chief Dr Attaul Wadood

22 September 2020

Russian Ambassador speaks on Pakistan-Russia USSIA relations – DN

Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi

According to the sources of Daily Notable, Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies arranged a discussion session with the Russian Ambassador on the topic of

“Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future.”

Danila V. Ganich, Ambassador of Russian Federation during the discussion highlighted that Pakistan is a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location. The Russian Ambassador stated that

Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well. He added that Russia is eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region. Furthermore, the Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan are on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts. He also remarked that the present Afghan government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people.

He added that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border. Moreover, underscored that several factors were hampering the current peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power.

Delivering his Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (R) Kaleem Saadat shared that while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they deeply rooted.

While discussing Kremlin's relations with India, especially in the arms sector, President CASS argued. That there are certain times in history when one cannot remain on the sidelines. As this is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests.

<https://thedailynotable.com/2020/09/22/russian-ambassador-speaks-on-pakistan-russia-ussia-relations-dn/>

8.



22 September 2020

Russia, Pakistan Did Not Want Regional Arm Race: Russian Envoy

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 22nd Sep, 2020) :Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) on Tuesday arranged a discussion session with the Russian Ambassador on the topic of "Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future." Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Russian Federation Danila V. Ganich highlighted that Pakistan was a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geo-strategic location, said a CASS media release.

The Russian Ambassador stated that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well.

He added that Russia was eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region.

The Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan were on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts.

He also remarked that the present Afghan government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people. He said that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border, and underscored that several factors were hampering the current peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power.

Delivering his Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Kaleem Saadat shared that while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted. While discussing Kremlin's relations with India, especially in the arms sector, President CASS argued that there are certain times in history when one cannot remain on the sidelines, as this is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/russia-pakistan-did-not-want-regional-arm-ra-1036683.html>

9.

PAKISTAN TODAY

22 September 2020

PAKISTAN TODAY

Wednesday, 23 September, 2020 | 4 Salar, 1442 | Rs 15.00 | Vol XI No 84 | 12 Pages | Islamabad Edition

Russia eager to invest \$1.7bn in Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline

ISLAMABAD
MIAN ABRAR

Russian Ambassador Danila V. Ganich on Tuesday said that Russia is eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline.

"While the volume of trade has been promising at \$500 million, trade cooperation has not corresponded to its potential. The low level of direct commercial ties and insufficient knowledge about each other's business practices, capabilities and language barriers continue to hamper progress in this much-needed area," the Ambassador lamented.

He was addressing a seminar titled 'Conversation with Ambassadors on Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future' organised by the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS).

Detailing his views on the regional situation, Ambassador Ganich said there should not be law of the jungle in the international system.

He said Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and is against an arms race in outer space as well, adding that both Pakistan and Russia have strong reasons for wanting peace and stability in Afghanistan. "In this regard, Russia will facilitate any reasonable solution for peace and reconciliation. Unfortunately, prospects for the intra-Afghan dialogue remain bleak for the foreseeable future," he added.

Ambassador Ganich also said that Russia intends to increase the number of scholarships offered to Pakistani students since cooperation in this area is of great interest to both states, but the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted this plan. "We intend to promote greater and more mutually beneficial cultural and scientific ties with Pakistan," he said.

Moderated by CASS Senior Researcher Sitara Noor, the discussion was followed by a candid and open question/answer session between the Russian ambassador and participants.

10.

**MEDIA**TODAY

22 September 2020

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR SPEAKS ON PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS: PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE.

Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies arranged a discussion session with the Russian Ambassador on the topic of “Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future.”

H.E Danila V. Ganich, Ambassador of Russian Federation during the discussion highlighted that Pakistan is a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location. The Russian Ambassador stated that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well. He added that Russia is eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region.

The Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan are on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts.

He also remarked that the present Afghan government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people. He added that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border, and underscored that several factors were hampering the current peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power.

Delivering his Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Kaleem Saadat shared that while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted. While discussing Kremlin's relations with India, especially in the arms sector, President CASS argued that there are certain times in history when one cannot remain on the sidelines, as this is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests.

<http://www.mediaonlinetoday.com/russian-ambassador-speaks-on-pakistan-russia-relations-prospects-for-the-future/>

11.

NHT

NATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

22 September 2020

Russian ambassador speaks on Pakistan, Russia ties: prospects for the future

CURRENT AFFAIRS National Herald Tribune

Russian Ambassador speaks on Pakistan: Russia ties: Prospects for the Future”



ISLAMABAD, September 22: H.E. Danila V. Ganiich, Ambassador of Russian Federation during the discussion highlighted that Pakistan is a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location. The Russian Ambassador stated that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well. He added that Russia is eager to invest \$2.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region.

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12.



22 SEPTEMBER 2020

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Moderated by CASS Senior Researcher Sitara Noor, the discussion was followed by a candid and open question/answer session between the Russian ambassador and participants.

Delivering his concluding remarks, CASS President Air Chief Marshal (R) Kaleem Saadat provided a historical overview of Pakistan’s relationship with Russia and shared that while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted dating back to the time of the Czars and Khans of Kalat.

He concluded that both Pakistan and Russia need to set their own house in order and undertake internal reforms and patience to see them take effect.

Courtesy: Mian Abrar

<https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2020/09/22/russia-eager-to-invest-1-7bn-in-karachi-lahore-gas-pipeline/>

13.



22 SEPTEMBER 2020

Pak Russia Relations World Russia, Pakistan did not want regional arm race: Russian Envoy

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The Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan were on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts.

He also remarked that the present Afghan government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people.

He said that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border, and underscored that several factors were hampering the current peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power.

Delivering his Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Kaleem Saadat shared that while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted.

While discussing Kremlin's relations with India, especially in the arms sector, President CASS argued that there are certain times in history when one cannot remain on the sidelines, as this is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests.

<https://newspakistan.tv/russia-pakistan-did-not-want-regional-arm-race-russian-envoy/>

14.

CENTRELINE

22 SEPTEMBER 2020

Russian envoy says Pakistan an important partner

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Courtesy: Shujat Hamza

<https://centreline.com.pk/2020/09/22/russian-envoy-says-pakistan-an-important-partner/>

15.



22 SEPTEMBER 2020

Russian Ambassador speaks on Pakistan-Russia relations: “Prospects for the Future.”

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<https://rava.pk/editors-choice/russian-ambassador-speaks-on-pakistan-russia-relations-prospects-for-the-future>

16.



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Courtesy: Adnan Yousaf

<https://dnanews.com.pk/russian-envoy-says-pakistan-important-partner/amp/>

17.



22 SEPTEMBER 2020

Russia eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, Ambassador

Islamabad, Sept. 22 (Online): Danila V. Ganich, Ambassador of Russian Federation has stated that Russia is eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region. He stated this during a discussion session. Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies arranged a discussion session with the Russian Ambassador on the topic of "Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future. Danila V. Ganich, Ambassador of Russian Federation during the discussion highlighted that Pakistan is a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location. The Russian Ambassador stated that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well. He added that Russia is eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region.

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Courtesy: Mehr Haseeb Ahmed

<https://en.baaghitv.com/russia-eager-to-invest-1-7-billion-in-the-karachi-lahore-gas-pipeline-ambassador/>

18.

22 SEPTEMBER 2020



اسلام آباد، صدر ای اے ایس ایس ایئر چیمبر مارشل (ر) کلیم سعادت، روی سٹیٹ کومیسٹری جنرل کر رہے ہیں

پاک روس اچھے دوست اور شراکت دار ہے، روی سٹیٹ

اسلام آباد (خلاف رپورٹر) روی ایئری لینز کے سٹیٹ راج ای ای ڈیپلومیٹک سٹے کے لیے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان روس کے لیے ایک قابل قدر اور قابل شراکت دار ہے۔ روس، پاکستان کی طرح، خطے اور پوری دنیا میں کبھی اٹلنے کی دہشتیں چاہتا ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ روس کراچی لاہور سس پائپ لائن میں 6.7 بلین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کرنے کے خواہاں ہے، جو اس خطے کی ترقی کے لیے ایک اہم منصوبہ ثابت ہوگا۔ روس اور پاکستان اس متعدد نقطہ میں ریاستوں کی خودیاری کا احترام کرنے کے بارے میں ایک ہی سٹے پر ہیں، اور انسانیت ساری کے بہانے کبھی بھی اقدام کے خلاف ہیں۔ موجودہ افغان حکومت افغان عوام کی انگوٹھی کی عکاسی نہیں کرتی ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ روس، پاکستان کی طرح کبھی بھی سرمایہ سرمایہ اور اشتکار کا خواہاں نہیں ہے، اور اس بات پر زور دیا کہ متعدد عوامل موجودہ امن عمل میں رکاوٹ ہیں، جنہوں نے آئندہ امریکی انتخابات اور افغان حکومت کی اپنی طاقت کو برقرار رکھنے کی خواہش۔ صدر CASS، ایئر چیمبر مارشل (ر) کلیم سعادت نے کہا کہ پاکستان روس کے ساتھ تعلقات میں اچھا اور اتنا چڑھا رہا ہے، لیکن اس کی گہرائی میں بڑھے۔ خاص طور پر بھارت کے ساتھ کریکٹن کے تعلقات پر تبادلہ خیال کرتے ہوئے ہتھیاروں کے شعبے، صدر CASS کا مقصد تھا کہ تاریخ میں ہمیں اوقات ایسے وقت آتے ہیں جب کوئی بھی بڑی طرف نہیں رہتا، کیونکہ یہ وقت نظر پاتی تھی یا ہماری مفادات کا نہیں ہے۔

19.

Newslead

23 SEPTEMBER 2020

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<https://newslead.net/russia-eager-to-invest-1-7-billion-in-the-karachi-lahore-gas-pipeline-ambassador/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

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On September 22, 2020 Ambassador Ganich delivered a lecture at the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) on the prospects of Russia-Pakistan relations in the context of current international processes.
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- Facebook

 **Embassy of Russia in Pakistan** ✓
Yesterday at 02:27 · 🌐

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Russian Foreign Ministry - МИД России

