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**T**hank you very much, Gentlemen, for giving me the floor!  
And I really appreciate the Institute of Oriental Studies, the Director and all the organizers which made it possible for all of us to assemble here!

I also welcome our friends from Pakistan!

We know all of them very well!

It has been very incisive discussion from the very beginning and it shows that there is a convergence of ideas between Pakistan and Russia. Therefore, both the countries are steadily growing in bilateral relationship. Currently, there are two important points that is connectivity which complements with the efforts to secure Pakistan's energy needs. The other one is approach in the way Russia is progressing towards Pakistan and Pakistan is progressing towards Russia, despite of all the international sanctions regime and complications between bilateral relations of Russia-India, Pakistan-United States, Pakistan-EU, Pakistan-West, and Pakistan-Ukraine. There is a need to address this issue as well as realize that it is a very complex emerging new economic order, and it is very much on the course with China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran and other willing SCO members who are really interested about something to carve more independent and also interdependent in terms of the connectivity.

The potential of this new economic order is huge; the main evidence is during Ukraine crisis. Europe and Middle-East, and other countries realized that there is a need to recalibrate the IRs sort of practical implications for the countries. It should not be mutually exclusive relationship, whereas Pakistan has relations with U.S., West and other countries. On the other side, Russia has historically good relations with India on which Pakistan has no objection. It should not be mutually exclusive but mutually inclusive. There are number of reasons for that i. e. policy issues, dependency of each other. Pakistan's role in the region has remained absolutely important. The new role can be decided within the parties such as Russia, China, and Middle-Eastern countries. At the same time, Pakistan has also been a victim in Afghanistan by the foreign sponsored militant groups and other intelligence agencies operating there. Pakistan has suffered the most in terms of loss of lives. Therefore, we are always alert to this happening to us unfortunately. We have been into alignment of the regional connectivity and the basic doctrine of international relations that Pakistan, Russia and China need to compliment the endeavors of emergence of new economic corridor. It is neither a challenge to the existing one nor a competition to capitalism or any other economic system in the world. But actually it is important for Pakistan's evolving and modern needs. Pakistan is interested to expand its relations with Russia, which cannot be called as strategic relationship but more of cordial relations. Pakistan is steadily approaching towards forming an economically oriented strategic relations and that has main component i. e. energy needs.

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Russia is under sanctions, but the country has not only managed to sustain sanctions but came out hard on other economies. The countries who imposed sanctions decided to continue buying oil informally from Russia. The United States made some exceptions to its ban on Russian oil imports. Moreover, France, Germany and other European countries are still buying oil and gas from Russia. China and India's trade with Russia soared highly as the two countries imported record volumes of Russian oil. Also, India not only bought the oil but also sold it on discount in the international markets.

In case of Pakistan, the efforts of the current and previous Governments must be appreciated for the contribution in initiating and deconstructing the complexity between Russia-Pakistan. Pakistan's approach towards Russia is that Pakistan is open to enhance two areas, especially people to people contact which is very important. Russian is not known in Pakistan properly, it could be an interesting venture between the Institute of Oriental Studies, or other think-tanks of two countries to develop a language center where Russian language as well as potential of bilateral trade and chamber of commerce can be promoted and projected. These are the practical steps that can be taken, which do not need high end foreign policy and security, but it needs a few requirements to consider. But since there is a possibility emerging between the bilateral currency exchange, the two countries are still testing that method, so this could be another area that Pakistan and Russia should contemplate.

In case of defense and military, Pakistan always considers that not only Russia but also other countries have to balance the conventional forces in the region. At the moment, Pakistan does not have weapons like other countries due to the lack of capacity, but Pakistan is focused to enhance its capacity and improve bilateral relations in defense area with Russia. Pakistan is interested to seek and discuss that how Russia can help the country to acquire conventional weapons which are more related and can configure to its existing weapon system. Already, Pak-Russia has exchanged defense weapons and military equipment and in 2021 Russia also supplied a batch of Mi-35M helicopters. In terms of connectivity and security, cooperation in Afghanistan is important. There are two areas i. e. prevention of drug trafficking which is a threat to adjacent states, Russia and the region. Second area of cooperation is that Russian authorities should consider neutralizing those militant groups which are being transported by the regional countries from outside in Afghanistan to contest and compete Taliban and also stress Pakistan's security practices inside the country.

There is no problem in advancing Pakistan-Russian relations. Former and current ambassadors of the countries are contributing enormously in improving relations even if the Government changes in Pakistan. It is because of the basic doctrine in Pakistan's security and foreign policy, which now includes economic and energy security. Economically, it is a difficult time for Russia, Pakistan as well as for regional and global economies, but there is a hope to move towards steady progress and enhance the relationship in which we can establish a mutually inclusive system of relationship where we don't have any objection whatever Russia and India had historically and Russia should also not have objection whatever we will have with the West in order to fulfill other requirements of our population.

I thank you very much and appreciate your kind opportunity!