



Pak-Russia Relations: Achieving Cordiality In The Face Of Challenges

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Abstract

A state alone cannot achieve its goals. For this purpose, every state need to enter into relations with other states. This research article is about the growing relations between Pakistan and Russia. Factually both states have observed many ups and downs in their relations but despite the tens history of Pak-Russia relations, this work focus on the opportunities and challenges to the bilateral relations. Further it is intended to find out the prospects for friendly relations between Pakistan and Russia and the benefits of good bilateral relations for both states and ultimately for the whole region. Despite challenges, it is important for both Pakistan and Russia to seize opportunities and strive for a stronger relationship, leading to economic and political progress for both nations.

Key Words: Pakistan, Russia, Bilateral Relations, Challenges, South Asia

Introduction

After the disintegration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Russia lost its position as a superpower in the international community. It was a difficult time for Russia to regain its power and prestige. But soon with the passage of time, Russia starts regaining its

position internationally. While talking about the changed policy of the Russian federation towards South Asia, it is important to discuss that Russia is historically in close strategic partnership with India. But as India entered into strong strategic relations with the United States, Russia changes its policy towards South Asia. The main objective of Russia is to enhance its influence all over the region including Pakistan. In this regard, Russia started working for better relations with regional states but not at the cost of India-Russia relations.

Pakistan and Russia have a tense history of relations. In this regard, causes are many because of which both could not maintain better bilateral relations. Despite the history of worse relations, both states are now showing their interest to enhance their relationship. One can see an increase in diplomatic ties. In almost all aspects of life, both are advancing their efforts to serve their respective national interest. Both the states have identical interests in different spheres of life. Pakistan needs Russia to stabilize its economy while on the other hand; Russia realizes the fact that Pakistan can be a good place for Russian products. Despite all these opportunities, there are some hurdles in Pak-Russia relations. The rival triangle of states (India, US, Afghanistan) could become a hurdle. By ignoring all the hurdles both countries are committed to having good bilateral relations.

Historical Background

Pakistan and Russia in their relations observed mistrust and a policy of confrontation against each other. There is no bilateral issue between states, no common borders and no other conflict. But still, no one can deny the history of their relationship based on misperceptions.

Pakistan got independence in the era of the cold war. The situation was obvious that a newly born state has to face a lot of problems in a situation like the cold war between the two superpowers of the world. Initially, Russia showed no interest in the independence of the two states of the subcontinent. Mohammad Ali Jinnah received no response from USSR however the diplomatic relations between both states took in May 1948.

On 3rd May 1950, the prime minister of Pakistan Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan visited the United States, as he was formally invited by the US. Although the Soviet Union invitation was before that of the United States due to different unfortunate reasons the dates were not finalized for the visit to Moscow in the life of the first prime minister of Pakistan. However, the intentions were not less than good towards that visit. From that very time, Pakistan remained in the alliance of western block in the South Asian region and India chose to be an ally of the Soviet Union. Further, the hope for better relations with Russia become more blurred when Pakistan joined the two western organization, the South East Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO) and Central Treaty Organization (CTO) in 1954 and 1955 respectively (Khan and Amin, 2012).

In the visit to India, Afghanistan and Burma Mr. Khrushchev openly supported India in the special case Kashmir against Pakistan. In 1956 two visits take place between the two states, one is from the Russian side and the way from Pakistan, Mr. Ayyub Khuro with a parliamentary delegation visited the Soviet Union. Due to Pakistan's engagement in the two western military alliances against Russia, Moscow never assisted Pakistan in their territorial disputes especially the Kashmir dispute.

The relationship between Pakistan and Russia felt some warmth when the then minister of Fuel Power and Natural Resources of Pakistan Mr. Zulifqar Ali Bhutto visited Moscow in 1960 and concluded an agreement on fuel and power. As a result of that agreement, Russia provided Fuel to Pakistan for a period of 12 years. Along with experts some of the equipment was also provided to Pakistan and agreed upon that Pakistani will be trained in the particular field.

In the war between Pakistan and India on Kashmir issue, the Russian efforts were historical in the history of the Pak-Russia relations. Besides all United Nations efforts, both the states came to an agreement known as Tashkent Declaration on 4 January 1966 which was totally credited to the Soviet leader Aleksey Kosygin.

On one hand the USSR and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) was in a great contest for the ideological leadership in their areas of influence, on the other hand, Pakistan assisted Mr. Kissinger to visit Peking have negatively affected Russia. Due to smooth relations with China and the USA, Soviet seems Pakistan as the supporter of her enemies. That was the reason that Russia supported India against Pakistan in the East Pakistan crisis. As a result, the creation of Bangladesh took place in 1971. However, during that time there were some positive signs of good bilateral relations between both countries. That was granting of loans, to boost bilateral trade-in 1966-67, to provide technical support to Pakistani engineers, thermal power projects were launched and the steel mills project inaugurated in 1973. Those were steps taken by the Soviet Union to maintain some kind of relationship between Pakistan and Russia (Sultana, Fatima, Afshan, 2019).

Since 1974, the first visit by any Pakistani head of state took place when the Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif visited Russia in 1999. The second after this was the visit of President Musharraf in 2003. After sixteen years of the disintegration of the USSR, the Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov visited Pakistan. That was the first visit to Pakistan by any high official of the Russian government. In the sectors of energy, agriculture, and air services many memoranda of understanding (MOUs) were signed by both countries, when Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari visited Russia in 2011. There were several other areas in which Russia assisted Pakistan e.g. the railway department, the energy sector and the Pakistan steel mills project. In October 2012 the then Pakistani army chief Ashfaq Pervez Kiyani visited Moscow, during his visit he met many Russian politicians and army officials.

This meeting results in the improvement of defence relations. In the same Russian Foreign minister, Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov visited Pakistan and issue some important statements regarding good bilateral relations (Express Tribune, 4, 2012).

According to Stephen Blank of strategic studies institute, Pakistan and Russia have Covertly developed geopolitical and strategic relations behind the scenes of the world politics since Russia has concluded that in the wake of withdrawal of NATO-led ISAF and US forces by 2014, Pakistan will be a crucial player in Afghanistan and hence speed up the advancement of relations with this country (Blank, 2012).

In the process of improving relations with Pakistan the Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin postponed his visit to Pakistan; the Russian sources said that due to some technical issues the visit is temporarily put off. But media give it a negative Face on the bases of Pakistan reluctance to give the project Iran Pakistan gas pipeline to the Russian energy company; on the other side some said the reason behind the cancellation is Indian pressure. Russia has already given an explanation of the visit which means that there was no such issue (Chauhan, 2012).

The strategic dialogue between Pakistan and Russia started in 2013. The air chief of Russia visited Pakistan, followed by three important visits in the upcoming years. After the visit of the air chief, the naval chief also visits Pakistan which paves the way for the visit of Russia defence minister, Sergey Shopify in 2014. That was the first visit of the Russian defence minister in the history of 45 years, as a result, both states enter into an agreement based on defence cooperation. According to that agreement, both states have exchange information on political and military issues, to promote international security, counter worldwide terrorism and control arms spread and work for the maintenance of peace. Russia releases Pakistan from arms embargo in the same year. In 2014, the United States bypasses Russia in purchasing arms to India and become a great strategic partner of India.

In two consecutive years, 2015 and 2016, the Russian army chief and the spy chief respectively visited Pakistan to talk about join military exercises against terrorism. Another agreement was signed for the development of weapons and cooperation in arms supply. Furthermore, Russian Special Forces visit Pak for military training and exercises. Pakistan and Russia also arranged joined naval exercises in 2017 (Taimour Fahad Khan, 2016).

The \$153 million Mi-35 attack helicopter deal was concluded between both countries, during the visit of the Pakistani army chief General Raheel Sharif in 2015. These helicopters were significant in mountainous areas and worse weather conditions.

During the visit of the chief of army staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, unlike the Indian and US point of view about Pakistan, the Russian Colonel General Salyukou recognize the role of

Pakistan in the war against terrorism and further praised the contribution of Pakistan in bringing peace and stability in the region.

Prospects for Better Bilateral Relations

With the rise of China and the revival of Russia International relations are entered into a new period and taking a new shape. In the contemporary world, every nation-state is trying to search for new ways and opportunities for the betterment of the whole international community. Russia is considered the most important player in the political structure of South Asia due to its close historical relations with India and a role played in the past in the form of the Tashkent Declaration, between two rival states, Pakistan and Russia. Although the relations between Pakistan and Russia remained more unpredictable, there is clear progress in their relationship particularly in the last decade due increase in diplomatic dealings. Russia is considering its role as its area of influence and further expanding its area of interest. On the other hand, Pakistan is in need and Search of new opportunities for an economic and strategic relationship.

A memorial Declaration signed between both Pakistan and India in 1966 were due to the sincere efforts and arrangements of the then Soviet Union Prime Minister Alexi Kosygin. Pakistan steel mills project is another pleasant memory of Pakistan Russia friendship. After the disintegration of Russia, when the United States decided to withdraw its forces from Pakistan. Pakistan also opposed Taliban government in Afghanistan. With these important changes Pakistan and Russia becomes more interested to come closer to each other and maintain better relations based on the recent strategic environment. In June 2014, history witnesses another example of cooperation in the defence sector between Pakistan and Russia when Russia remove the ban on arms supply to Pakistan. Despite the Indian opposition, the Russian federation makes Pakistan free from the embargo in order to supply weapons to Pakistan in the context of defence collaboration (Rafi, 2020).

The above-mentioned events in the history of Pak-Russia relations show clear intentions of both states of establishing good bilateral relations between them. As to some extent Russia ignored India while lifting the embargo on Pakistan for the arms supply to Pakistan. Historically Russia advanced their assistance to Pakistan not only in the economic sector but also in the defence sector and in the solution of the Pak-Indian conflict in 1966 in the shape of providing an opportunity to both states to set together and resolve their issues.

In the 65th year of Pak-Russia relations, the Russian consul general Andrey Demidov strongly insisted on bilateral cooperation and said that our two countries always understood that they have common intereststo put an end to the threats of terror, to eliminate the drug menace and the threat to religious extremism and other evils. Pakistan and Russia have many common interests, the common objectives between Pakistan and Russia are Very much related to insure peace in Afghanistan and to bring stability over there, economic

cooperation in the whole region, enhancing political relations, diplomatic engagement, economic and military relations, the unacceptability of arms race in the space, Pakistan efforts for counter-terrorism all operations, and Russian role and experience for combating terrorism and religious extremism, and encourage the private sector to improve bilaterally trade and economic development with the existing capacity of both states (Rafi, 2020).

From the words of the Russian consul general Andrey Demidov one can conclude the whole scenario, as he clears in his words that the Russian intentions are to resolve all issues between both states. The cooperation between both states is now more urgent as it is in the best interest of Moscow and Islamabad. In his speech, he talked about all aspects of bilateral relations e.g. in combating terrorism both have common interest, drugs elimination in the other aspect, the religious extremism and by other evils he means all the issues as a whole. So, there is a bright chance for friendly relations between Pakistan and Russia.

Now Russia changed its policy, while strategically reshaping its relationship with the regional states including Central Asian Republics, all states in South Asia including Pakistan. Russia is interested in cooperation with Pakistan in several development projects. The main sectors in which Russia shows Its willingness to cooperate with Pakistan trade, defence, energy and power sector, railways, telecommunications, and information technology. The current status of trade between both states is that its volume is rising day by day, in 2020 the trade volume was standing at 580 billion USD. The figure shows that the volume of trade is less than the potential of both countries. In the energy sector, Russia invested 14 billion USD in Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan India pipeline (TAPI), the project particularly to assist Pakistan in the field of energy. Through China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Pakistan permitted Russia to use Gwadar port. Beside this Pakistan planned to join Eurasia's economic union with CPEC (Rafi, 2020).

Now Moscow and Islamabad are allowing each other to reach their sphere of influence in the form of economic assistance. In this regard, Russia sponsored a project which will benefit Pakistan. Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan India pipeline (TAPI) is a project of Russia to provide gas to those states. While Pakistan also took some steps to further advance their mutual cooperation and granted Russia access to Gwadar port through CPEC. In the economic sector, both states are assisting each other which insure further developments in this field. This is an opportunity for Pakistan to cash these projects and to strengthen its relationship with Russia in order to boost the economy of Pakistan. Ultimately it will lead towards economic stability in the region (Rafi, 2020).

Both are trying to build trust upon each other and developing their strategic relations at a very fast rate. As a result of the cordial relationship between Pakistan and Russia, the whole region will take benefits from cooperation between both states. Ultimately it will bring prosperity and stability to South Asia. In the case of Russia, the positive results of these

relations are quite obvious. As Pakistan could play a vital part to counter worldwide terrorism, Pakistan is also an arms buyer from Russia, further Russia will increase economic involvement with Pakistan. Pakistan could be the best way to expand trade in east-west and North-south regions, and belt and road initiative is part of this expanding trade in those regions. Pakistan is providing a way to China in the form of the North-East corridor and similarly, it will provide Russia with a way as a west corridor. Gawadar port could be fruitful for Russia. In the prosperity and stability of all these regions, Gawadar port can play a key role.

By developing the strategic relations with Pakistan, on one side Russia could not suffer due to US-India growing partnership on the other side Russia Will provide arms to Pakistan in order to maintain the balance of power between Pakistan and India. From an economic point of view Russian economy is very strong, and if Pakistan further improves bilateral relations with Russia would be a great contribution to the prosperity and stability of the South Asian region. Due to terrorism, Afghanistan issues and the Kashmir issue in this region are always under several threats. To eliminate terrorism from Afghanistan completely and to provide economic assistance to the South Asian states particularly Pakistan, it is necessary for both countries to emphasize on cordial relationship between Pakistan and Russia.

In agriculture and textile, Pakistan could be the best option for Russia to export vegetables, fruits, and textile goods from Pakistan. Pakistan's military is under a strong financial burden and the Russian weapons are less expensive as compare to that of the United States. So, cooperation between both countries in the defence sector could release the economic burden of Pakistani military. Another aspect of cooperation between both countries could be the development of mass contacts between both states. People to People interaction, educational assistance, and student exchange program by providing scholarships in the different subject in all universities of both states. The promotion of language classes in the national languages of Pakistan and Russia could further bring closer them. Following the past practice of the 1960s and 1970s students of should be provided scholarships to get admission to the prestigious laminose Moscow state university. In this respect, Pakistani universities have to practice the same in the favour of Russian students. Pakistan should encourage Russian students to get an education from the high-ranked universities of Pakistan. Pakistan needs Russian cooperation in high technology sectors e.g. biotechnology aviation industry space industry in which Russia has great potential. Both countries have many opportunities to encourage partnership in the telecommunications and space industry. The developments in economic relations are praiseworthy, further to overcome the energy crisis in Pakistan, it is inevitable to increase dealing in the energy sector and the expansion of Pakistan steel mills.

There are many opportunities in the agriculture and textile sector in which both states can assist each other. Pakistan's military is under economic pressure which can be decreased through cooperation between both countries in the defence sector. Russia is a

good place for Pakistan to get arms at less price than the United States of America. There is a need for cooperation in the educational sector. In this regard both the countries have to encourage students and to provide them opportunities to get education from top universities of Russia and Pakistan. To increase warmth in bilateral relations, people to people interaction is inevitable and for this purpose, both states should promote their respective languages in order to bring ease in mass contacts. Besides these opportunities, both states have options in the space industry, telecommunications, biotechnology, and energy sector for the development of mutual relations.

The two rival states Pakistan and India have a lack of trust and cooperation as both states are once a part of the same state. From the very beginning of their independence Kashmir issue is a bone of contention between Pakistan and India. Many times, negotiation takes place between both states but these negotiations never meet any successful solution to the problem. In this scenario, if Pakistan and Russia have cordial relations with each other, as Russia is a strategic partner and a strong ally of India, then this would be a better source to build trust upon each other and to maintain peaceful relations with his ultimate neighbor Pakistan. Russian Federation wants to encourage Pakistan and India to remove their differences and normalize their bilateral relations. The reason is to save the region from any dangerous conflict. Another concern for Russia is to contain the US in South Asia and assist Pakistan to find new opportunities for trade, energy, and industrial cooperation with all South Asian States. Russia is already in interaction with China to bring peace in this region and to promote the means and ways that promote peace and eliminate war. Besides Russia-china cooperation, Russia is providing economic assistance to Pakistan in form of foreign direct investment (FDI) along with technological help to overcome the energy crisis in Pakistan (Rafi, 2020).

With the development of the Pak-Russia relations there is a possibility of the solution of the Kashmir issue and a chance for India and Pakistan to set together and resolve their differences and normalize their bilateral relations. The reason is that Russia is an old strategic partner of India and both states maintained cordial relations over history. The Russian interest to restore peace in Afghanistan could be another option for Pakistan, as Pakistan desires the same to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan. In this regard Russia in collaboration with China doing the job but if Pakistan also supports Russia, then no force should restrict them to bring peace in South Asia. Although Russian cooperation in the security of the region is mind-blowing the economic assistance that they provide to Pakistan is also praise-worthy.

Shabir Ahmad Khan writes in his article about the recent Geo-strategic environment of South Asia. He stated that Pakistan and Russia have identical interests. Russia advanced its assistance and cooperation openly to enhance its relationship with Pakistan, on the other hand, Pakistan has to avail the opportunity to strengthen its strategic, political, and economic

relations with Pakistan. The factor of external force should be eliminated from the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia. For this purpose, both have to formulate a foreign policy free and independent any pressure from outside of the territorial boundaries of both the countries. He described that it is the primary right of every state to have an independent foreign policy based on their respective national interest (Shabir Ahmad Khan, 2017).

Pakistan and have to utilize their primary right of formulating free and independent foreign policy towards each other. As both states have identical interests, so, both should peruse the same agenda to meet their foreign policy objectives. Russia wants to come closer to all regional states to boost its economy. For this particular purpose, Russia changed its policy towards South Asia and maintains better relations with all South Asian countries including Pakistan. Although Russia has already a cordial friend India in South Asia with the realization of the fact that India is not confined itself to Russia only and become the largest strategic partner of the United States of America, Russia also trying to expand its area of influence in order to overcome the deficiency cause by India.

There are three different manners in which Russia can help Pakistan. Firstly, Institution like facing restriction imposed by US to participate in military training, Russia has the opportunity to make an agreement with Pakistan. This agreement will help Pakistan to get militaries education in Russian institution. Secondly, As Russian General Valery Gerasimov is known as a master of Hybrid warfare. So Pakistan can learn from the Russian understanding of Hybrid warfare. Thirdly, Pakistan can get help from Russia to enhance energy output.

Besides these opportunities that both states should avail, Pakistan on one side has to promote relations with the permanent member of United Nations Security Council Russia, on the other side due to Pakistans important Geographical location could balance their relationship with other powers in particular reference to South Asian region. Pakistan have serious security threats from because of the realignment of regional as well as international powers and a bundle of internal issues. The writer stressed the reshaping of Pakistan's foreign policy and to develop its relationship with Russian federation, as Russia already cleared his intentions to have cordial relations with Pakistan by changing its policy towards South Asia (Khan, 2017).

For Pakistan, it is not the only solution to all problems of this region to have cordial relations with Pakistan. It is a matter of fact that by the contribution of many a problem can be solved easily. So, Pakistan needs to bring other powers to the region as well in order to insure peace and stability in the region.

Challenges to Pak-Russia Relations

In the contemporary Geo-strategic environment, it appears quite favorable for both states to boost their bilateral relations. Along with the above mentioned opportunity for betterment of Pak-Russia relations there are some limitations which restrict both states to some extent to have cordial relations with each other.

Mohammad Hanif in his article stated that although there are many options for the development of Pak-Russia relations the hurdles in Pak-Russia relations too exist. Russia has a strong strategic partner in South Asia, which is India. But unfortunately, India is a rival state of Pakistan. Russia wants to have cordial relations with Pakistan but not at the cost of India-Russia relations. Therefore, India could be a factor that may restrict both states to come closer to each other. It is clear from the history of India-Russia relations both states have friendly relations since 1947. Their cooperation towards each other was not confined to defence sector only, they both have maintained better relations in trade, economic, scientific, industrial and commercial sectors as well. Due to strong bilateral relations, India is in position to influence the growing cordiality in Pak-Russia relations.

Russia and United States are the cold war rivals. Due to many differences with Russia, United States obviously want to get Pakistani support and will never allow Pakistan to be on the other side. In this context, United States could become a hurdle in Pak-Russia relations because the US is to maintain its influence in South Asia. The US wants Pakistan to be in the grip of the west. The then Russian leader Vladimir Putin supported Pakistan's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Those developments in the bilateral relations between Pakistan Russia were not acceptable for United States because the US wasn't willing to lose its influence over Pakistan. That is the reason that the superpower United States should not want to see the growing cordiality between Pakistan and Russia.

Pakistan always maintained cordial relations with the Arab states, all of them are worried about the Syrian crisis. European Union, United States wanted to support the Syrian opposition, Russia, China and Iran supported negotiation based settlement of the Syrian conflict both China and Russia three times opposed resolutions presented in the United Nations security council against Syria, as the resolutions was presented to take action against Syria. On the other side, Saudi Arabia supports the United States and the European Union who was against the nuclear program of Iran while the two world powers Russia and China their stance on the Iran issue. Due to differences in the views of Saudi Arab and Russia on the Iran nuclear program could become a hurdle in their bilateral relations. Although Saudi Arabia is not against the spirit of cordial relations between Pakistan and Russia but being a strategic partner of Pakistan, it is inevitable for Pakistan to consider Arab states while taking steps for the improvement of bilateral relations with Russia (Hanif, 2013).

The regional, as well as other states of the international community are very much concerned about Pak-Russia growing partnership in all walks of life. The reason is that the

South Asian region is very important due to some international disputes, US involvement in the region, Afghanistan crisis, natural resources, India and Pakistan rivalry and also due to the existence of two atomic powers in one neighbor. In this, the growing cordiality between Pakistan and Russia has to face hurdles in their bilateral relations. There are some limitations which to some extent restricted both states from time to time to meet their common objectives. It is necessary for Pakistan to see all the friend states making good progress in relations with the Russian federation.

In the diplomatic history of Pak-Russia relations both states had passed through hard times, however some important events are in the history of their bilateral relations which we can say that was towards better relations but the bundle of constraints is not let both the states to have cordial relations with each other over history. In last decade the rate of improvement in Pak-Russia relations is very fast but sided by some limitations. Both states while taking steps for the advancement of their strategic relations cannot avoid those limitations.

Russia-India relations are very good since 1945, although Russia is recently more interested in cooperation with Pakistan to expand its market, further to ensure peace and stability in the region, and combat terrorism and narcotics in their bilateral relations with Pakistan and the whole South Asian region. Despite all these Russia never wants to lose India because of the growing strategic relations between India and the United States of America. The increasing warmth in US-India relations is a matter of great concern for both states, on one side Russia wants to decrease the influence of the United States in the South Asian region, on the other side United States is an old ally of Pakistan. But the relationship between Pakistan and the US was not satisfactory due lack of trust in the war against terrorism. Pakistan suffered a lot in the War on Terror but the US instead praising Pakistan's efforts, demand more from Pakistan. So, it is also dangerous for Pakistan that the US is supporting the rival state of India which may be against Pakistan.

From the above discussion, one can easily understand the situation between both states. Despite all the hurdles in the way to cordiality between Pakistan and Russia, both have to overcome the situation through diplomacy and cooperation. Both states should avail themselves of the opportunities and utilize all their resources to make it possible for the whole region. In the contemporary international environment, states are fed up with war and conflicts. All the states trying to promote economic, scientific, industrial, cultural, educational, and technical cooperation among all the nations of the world. So that the international community particularly the South Asian region would be in progress because Pak-Russia growing partnership.

Conclusion

The goal of present research work was to analyses Pak-Russia relations in the light of the literature reviewed. The prospects and challenges to the bilateral relations of both states and

finally to find reasons that how could these relations contribute to regional peace and stability. This research is done keeping in view ethics and morality. Hopefully, this research will positively contribute to the field of international relations.

Despite the history of worsening relations between Pakistan and Russia, both are now eagerly interested to have a cordial relationship with each other. Improvement in their bilateral relations in the last two decades is occurring at a very fast rate. Both states are assisting each other in their particular sphere of influence. If one state is to provide technical assistance the other is rich in manpower. Russia supported Pakistan in military exercises and arranged joined exercises for that purpose. Cooperation between both states is not confined to the field of defence. It can be seen in agriculture, energy, education, culture, science, and, technology.

Pak-Russia relations had to face many challenges which left the two states aloof from each other. But despite these challenges, there is a bundle of opportunities to improve the relationship with Pakistan. Many of those opportunities were lost by both states. However, some of them are availed by both countries. The growing relations between Pakistan and Russia are not acceptable for many states due to their own interest. Both Pakistan and Russia should avoid the hurdles and move forward to increase warmth in their bilateral relations. It's not only beneficial for both countries but also for the whole South Asian region.

In the light of the objectives of this research, I found that both Russia and Pakistan are eagerly interested to promote their bilateral relations. The hurdles in growing ties between both states are existed but there are a lot of prospects for the promotion of good bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia.

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