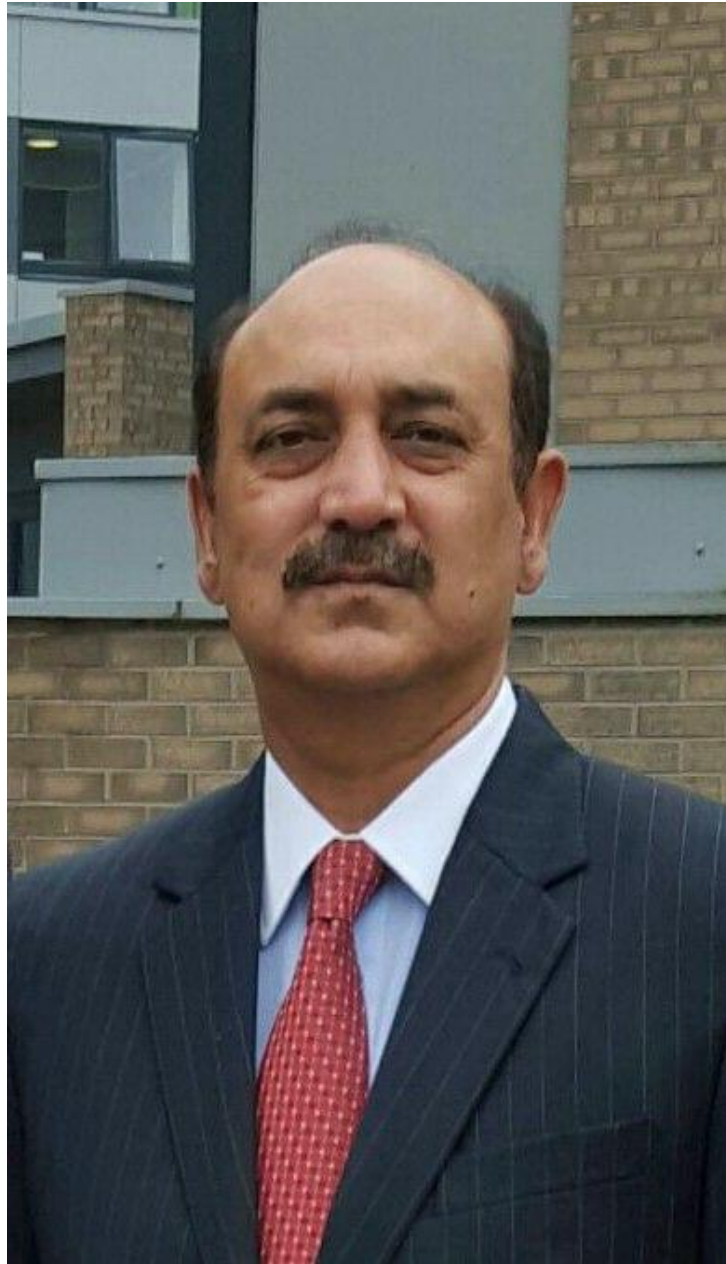


## Calming the Storm: Pakistan's Role in Conflict



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The ongoing conflict between Iran, the United States and Israel in 2026 marks one of the most dangerous escalations in the Middle East in recent years. The crisis began in late February when coordinated military strikes by the United States and Israel targeted key sites inside Iran, triggering a strong Iranian response through missile and drone attacks on Israeli territory and U.S. interests in the region. Since then, tensions have remained high, with all sides showing little willingness to back down, raising fears of a wider regional war.

The conflict is not only military but also geopolitical. The United States and Israel view Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional influence as a major threat, while Iran considers these attacks a violation of its sovereignty and has responded with a strategy of resilience and deterrence. The situation has also disrupted global energy markets, especially oil supplies, and increased instability across the Gulf region.

Amid this volatile environment, Pakistan has emerged as a potential mediator, attempting to play a constructive diplomatic role. Islamabad has consistently called for de-escalation, dialogue, and peaceful resolution of the conflict. Pakistani leadership, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and senior diplomats, has offered to host negotiations between the United States and Iran, positioning the country as a neutral bridge between opposing sides.

Pakistan's mediation efforts are rooted in its unique diplomatic position. It maintains working

relationship with both Iran and the United States, while also enjoying close ties with Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia. This allows Pakistan to engage in “shuttle diplomacy,” communicating with multiple stakeholders simultaneously. Analysts describe this approach as a careful balancing act—supporting peace without becoming militarily involved.

However, Pakistan’s role is not without challenges. Deep mistrust between Iran and the United States has limited the effectiveness of mediation efforts, and Tehran has shown reluctance to engage directly in talks. Moreover, regional powers have differing interests, with some favoring continued pressure on Iran rather than immediate negotiations.

In conclusion, while the Iran–US–Israel conflict remains highly volatile, Pakistan’s role as a mediator highlights its growing diplomatic significance. If successful, it could contribute to regional stability; if not, the risk of a broader conflict will continue to loom over the Middle East and beyond.

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