

PAKISTAN AS A POTENTIAL NEW NUCLEAR SUPERPOWER OF THE WORLD

By: Munir Dar



Publisher & Chief Editor, Layalpur Post, Canada

Toronto, Canada. June 6, 2026 (LPC). When people talk about nuclear superpowers, they usually think of massive arsenals and big threats. But the 2026 war between the United States and Iran showed everyone something different. After American and Israeli jets hit Iranian nuclear sites on February 28, 2026, the whole Middle East nearly exploded into a full-blown regional war. Iran fired missiles at US bases and threatened to shut down the Strait of Hormuz, where most of the world's oil passes through. Everyone expected more fighting. But then something strange happened.

Pakistan, a country that most Western media talks about as being broke and full of problems, quietly walked into the middle of the mess and started fixing things. And here is why that makes Pakistan a new kind of nuclear superpower not because of bombs, but because of trust. Pakistan shares a long, wild border with Iran.

If Iran collapsed, separatist fighters in Baluchistan would get stronger, and Pakistan's own economy already hanging by a thread would probably die. On top of that, Pakistan has around 40 million Shia Muslims living inside it. If Pakistan had taken America's side openly, the country would have torn itself apart from the inside. So, Pakistan had no choice but to stay neutral. That neutrality turned out to be its secret weapon.

When Iran threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, oil prices shot up to \$180 a barrel. But because Pakistan had not picked a side, Iran quietly let twenty Pakistani ships pass through safely. That single act kept Karachi's ports open and saved Pakistan's industry from total collapse. Then came the diplomacy. In April 2026, Pakistan hosted secret talks in Islamabad. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief General Asim Munir never put Americans and Iranians in the same room. Instead, they acted like human messengers walking back and forth between delegations. And it worked. On April 8, 2026, both sides agreed to a two-week ceasefire.

General Munir had his own private line to President Trump from a meeting back in June 2025. He also had a line to Iran's Quds Force commanders. He was not negotiating peace treaties. He was just stopping both sides from doing something stupid. Pakistan also brought Turkey and Egypt into the mix. Turkey talked to Iran. Egypt talked to the Arab states. Pakistan held the middle. When Washington wanted to bomb Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island a move that would have choked the entire world's oil supply Pakistan passed a quiet warning from Tehran: touch Kharg, and the ceasefire is dead forever.

The strikes were delayed and then quietly shelved. And here is the strangest part. Since the US cut ties with Iran back in 1979, Iran's Interests Section in Washington has been sitting inside Pakistan's embassy. During the war, Pakistani diplomats literally carried handwritten messages from Tehran, walked across the building, and handed them to US officials. No leaks. No social media drama. Just envelopes.

That boring, bureaucratic setup became the most reliable hotline between two enemies who otherwise would not speak at all. So why does this make Pakistan a potential nuclear superpower? Because the old definition of a superpower was about how many people you could kill. The new definition is about how many wars you can stop. Pakistan has no US bases on its soil, so Iran trusts it as neutral ground. Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan back in 1947, so there is nearly eighty years of awkward friendship to lean on. China, Pakistan's closest ally, quietly backed the whole mediation because Beijing did not want its Belt and Road investments going up in flames.

And despite all the sanctions, Pakistani and Iranian military intelligence had a secret border channel that became a wartime lifeline. By June 2026, the war was still not over. Airstrikes kept happening. But Pakistan had become the one country everyone called when talks got stuck. When a prisoner swap needed a safe place, Pakistan provided a room. When Washington and Tehran needed to talk about ships in the Gulf, a Pakistani diplomat sat in the middle.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi flew to Tehran to break a fight over war reparations. Nobody expected him to solve it in one trip, but he went anyway. And that is the point. Pakistan is not trying to win a Nobel Prize or get a photo op. It is just doing the boring, exhausting work of keeping the fire from spreading. In a world full of missiles and drones, the most powerful thing turned out to be a bridge. And for Pakistan, that bridge is not a luxury.

It is the only way to make sure that when the Middle East burns, the flames do not jump the border and burn down its own house. That is why, in the 2020s, a country with a shaky economy and endless internal problems quietly became something like a new nuclear superpower not because of the bombs it holds, but because of the wars it prevents.