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Institute for a Community
with Shared Future
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Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's Strategic Diplomatic Tour of Four Friendly Countries



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After the landmark ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan in May 2025, “**Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif**” undertook a crucial diplomatic mission to Turkiye, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan.

The key goals of this visit were to:

- 1. Acknowledge international backing for Pakistan's efforts*
- 2. Reaffirm commitment to regional peace and stability*
- 3. Enhance bilateral relations in trade, security, and other areas*

This diplomatic tour aimed to foster stronger ties with neighboring and regional countries, promoting cooperation and stability in the region.

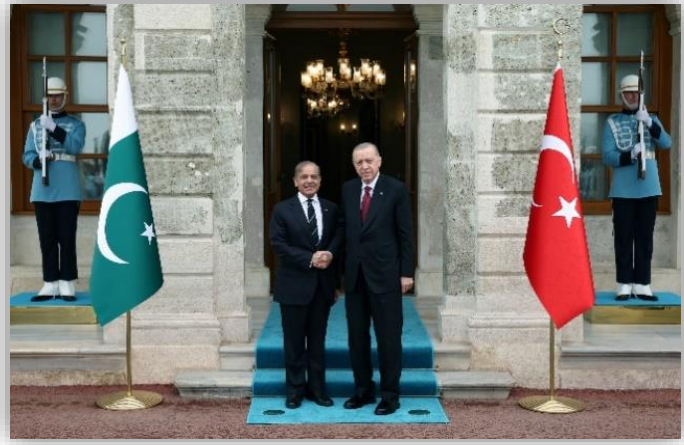


1. TURKIYE VISIT

In the aftermath of the historic ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan in May 2025, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif undertook a diplomatic visit to Turkiye, solidifying bilateral ties and expressing appreciation for Turkiye's backing during the recent crisis. This visit further underscored the enduring strategic partnership between the two nations.

Diplomatic Engagement in Istanbul:

On May 25, 2025, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's visit to Istanbul marked a significant moment in Turkiye-Pakistan relations. Upon arrival, he was accorded a warm reception by Turkish officials, including Defence Minister Yasar Guler, setting the tone for a productive visit. The ceremonial welcome underscored the importance of the occasion.



At the Dolmabahce Palace, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif engaged in a bilateral meeting with **“President Recep Tayyip Erdogan”**, where they deliberated on key areas of cooperation. The leaders prioritized:

- 1. Defense collaboration:** *Enhancing joint efforts to address regional security challenges.*
- 2. Energy partnerships:** *Exploring opportunities for mutual benefit in the energy sector.*
- 3. Transportation infrastructure:** *Developing initiatives to improve connectivity and trade.*

They also talked about strengthening intelligence-sharing systems to counter shared threats and enhance their strategic alliance. This visit reaffirmed the commitment of both nations to deepen their relations and work together on issues of mutual interest.



Expressing Gratitude for Support:

In a heartfelt gesture, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif conveyed his deepest appreciation to President Erdogan for Türkiye's unshakeable support during the recent surge in tensions with India. By addressing to President Erdogan as 'brother,' PM Shahbaz Sharif reaffirmed the close-knit familial bonds that characterize the relationship between Türkiye and Pakistan. This expression of appreciation emphasized Türkiye's important role as a loyal ally, offering Pakistan vital political support on the international scene during diplomatically challenging times.

Strengthening Bilateral Relations:

Beyond discussions on peace, the visit served as a platform to explore and enhance various aspects of Pakistan-Türkiye relations:

- **Trade and Economic Cooperation:** The leaders discussed strategies to bolster bilateral trade and investment, aiming to achieve a trade volume of \$5 billion. They emphasized the importance of economic collaboration in fostering mutual growth.
- **Defense and Security:** Both nations explored avenues to enhance defense cooperation, including joint military exercises and technology sharing, to strengthen their strategic partnership.
- **Cultural and Educational Bonding:** The leaders recognized the importance of cultural and educational exchanges in deepening people-to-people connections and fostering mutual understanding.



Regional Implications:

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's visit to Turkiye in the aftermath of the India-Pakistan ceasefire was a calculated diplomatic maneuver aimed at reaffirming Pakistan's dedication to regional peace and stability. By engaging with Turkiye, a pivotal player in the region, Pakistan sought to:

- 1. Consolidate diplomatic gains:** Leverage Turkiye's support to strengthen its international stance.
- 2. Foster regional cooperation:** Enhance collaboration with a key partner to address shared challenges.
- 3. Promote multilateral dialogue:** Emphasize the importance of collective efforts in resolving regional issues.

This visit established a positive precedent for future interactions with neighboring nations by demonstrating Pakistan's dedication to cooperative efforts and peaceful resolution. Pakistan sought to increase its regional influence and promote a safer and more stable environment by fortifying its relations with Turkiye.

2. IRAN VISIT

After the landmark ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan in May 2025, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif undertook a 2nd diplomatic visit to Tehran, underscoring Pakistan's dedication to peace and stability in the region. The visit aimed to:

- 1. Acknowledge Iran's support: Express gratitude for Iran's backing during recent tensions.*
- 2. Strengthen bilateral ties: Explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation and collaboration.*
- 3. Foster regional stability: Reinforce Pakistan's commitment to peace and security in the region.*

This diplomatic mission highlighted Pakistan's efforts to nurture its relationship with Iran and promote regional cooperation.

Diplomatic Engagement in Tehran:

On May 26, 2025, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's visit to Tehran marked a significant step in his regional diplomatic efforts, aimed at solidifying peace and strengthening ties with neighboring countries. The visit highlighted Iran's crucial role in mediating the recent conflict and its importance in Pakistan's foreign policy agenda.



During his visit, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif held key meetings with:

- 1. President Masoud Pezeshkian:** Discussing bilateral cooperation in trade, energy, and regional connectivity.
- 2. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei:** Focusing on promoting peace in South Asia and enhancing regional cooperation.

The leaders agreed to bolster collaboration in areas such as:

- 1. Trade and energy:** Enhancing economic ties and exploring new opportunities.
- 2. Border security:** Strengthening cooperation to ensure regional stability.
- 3. Regional connectivity:** Promoting initiatives to improve connectivity and trade.



The visit reinforced Pakistan's commitment to fostering stronger relations with Iran and promoting regional peace and cooperation.

Peace Offer to India:

In a major diplomatic gesture, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif made a peace offer to India while in Tehran, saying that Pakistan was willing to hold talks on important topics like water sharing, counterterrorism, and the long-running Kashmir dispute as long as India showed sincerity in the process. This was interpreted as a reaffirmation of Pakistan's commitment to settling bilateral issues amicably and through dialogue, in line with the larger regional goal of stability and cooperation.

Strengthening Bilateral Relations:

Beyond discussions on peace, the visit served as a platform to explore and enhance various aspects of Pakistan-Iran relations:

- **Trade and Energy Cooperation:** Both nations explored avenues to bolster trade relations and collaborate on energy projects, aiming to achieve mutual economic growth.
- **Border Security:** Given the shared border, discussions included measures to enhance security and prevent cross-border terrorism, ensuring stability in the region.
- **Regional Connectivity:** The leaders deliberated on initiatives to improve connectivity, facilitating smoother movement of goods and people, thereby fostering closer ties.

Regional Implications:

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's visit to Iran following the ceasefire with India was a strategic move to solidify Pakistan's position as a proponent of peace and regional stability. Pakistan sought to

strengthen its diplomatic efforts and win support for its peace initiatives by interacting with Iran, a significant regional power.

The visit also highlighted the importance of multilateral dialogue and cooperation in addressing regional challenges, setting a positive precedent for future engagements with neighboring countries.

3. AZERBAIJAN VISIT

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif went on a diplomatic trip to Turkiye, Iran, and Azerbaijan to strengthen regional ties and advance peace following a ceasefire between India and Pakistan in May 2025. His 3rd official visit to Azerbaijan, which took place from May 27 to 30, 2025, was especially noteworthy because it focused on economic relations and strategic alliances.



Azerbaijan Visit Highlights:

Arrival and Reception:

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif arrived in Baku on May 27, 2025, and was warmly received by Azerbaijani officials, including First Deputy Prime Minister ***“Yaqub Abdulla Oglu Eyyubov”*** and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs ***“Yalchin Rafiyev”***. The visit underscored the strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.



Trilateral Summit in Lachin:

On May 28, 2025, a significant trilateral summit took place in Lachin, bringing *together Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif*, Turkish *President Recep Tayyip Erdogan*, and Azerbaijani *President Ilham Aliyev*. The summit's key objectives included:

- 1. Strengthening trilateral cooperation:** Enhancing collaboration in trade, defense, and regional stability.
- 2. Mutual support and strategic partnership:** Reaffirming commitment to a strong alliance among the three nations.

The meeting underscored the growing strategic ties between Pakistan, Turkiye, and Azerbaijan, with a shared vision for regional peace and prosperity.

Bilateral Meetings with President Ilham Aliyev:

During his visit, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif held extensive discussions with President Ilham Aliyev. They explored avenues to deepen bilateral relations, focusing on trade, energy, defense, and cultural exchanges. The two leaders conveyed a mutual dedication to strengthening their nations strategic alliance.

Business Forum and Economic Cooperation:

A Business Forum hosted in association with the Export and Investment Promotion Agency of Azerbaijan (**AZPROMO**) was attended by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. The forum's objectives were to investigate investment prospects and promote business-to-business (B2B) relationships.

Discussions centered on enhancing economic ties and identifying joint ventures in various sectors.



Signing of Agreements and MOUs:

The visit culminated in the signing of several key Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements, paving the way for enhanced cooperation in:

- 1. **Energy:** Collaborative projects and initiatives.*
- 2. **Infrastructure:** Joint development and investment.*
- 3. **Cultural exchanges:** Promoting people-to-people connections.*

These agreements underscored the mutual commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and fostering a robust partnership between the two nations.

Tribute to Karabakh Martyrs:

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif paid homage to the victims of the Second Karabakh War by laying a wreath at the Alley of Honors and Victory Park in Baku. This gesture reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for Azerbaijan's efforts to promote peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

Regional Diplomacy Post-Ceasefire:

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif stated his desire to hold peace negotiations with India during the truce between India and Pakistan, which was mediated by the United States on May 10, 2025. Along with trips to Iran and Türkiye, his diplomatic tour to Azerbaijan sought to advance peace and stability in South Asia and build regional ties. An important step in strengthening Pakistan's diplomatic ties and fostering regional cooperation was Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's visit to Azerbaijan. It is anticipated that the visit's conclusions will have a long-term effect on both the larger regional dynamics and the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

4. TAJIKISTAN VISIT

Following the May 2025 ceasefire between India and Pakistan, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif concluded his regional diplomatic tour with a two-day official visit to Tajikistan from May 29 to 30, 2025. This visit aimed to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance cooperation in various sectors.



Diplomatic Engagements

Arrival in Dushanbe:

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif was warmly welcomed by Tajik Prime Minister ***“Kokhir Rasulzoda”*** upon his arrival in Dushanbe. The visit underscored the commitment of both nations to deepen their strategic partnership.

Meetings with President Emomali Rahmon:

During his visit, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif held discussions with President ***“Emomali Rahmon”***. The talks focused on enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, energy, security, and regional connectivity. Both leaders emphasized the importance of mutual support and alliance.

Participation in Glacier Preservation Conference:

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif attended the International High-Level Conference on Glacier Preservation held in Dushanbe. Pakistan emphasized the importance of glacier conservation for regional water security and reaffirmed its commitment to international environmental initiatives.



Agreements and Initiatives

Strategic Partnership Agreement:

The visit culminated in the signing of a Strategic Partnership Agreement between Pakistan and Tajikistan. This agreement aims to enhance bilateral cooperation and pave the way for further collaboration in various sectors.

Support for UN Security Council Candidatures:

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif stated Pakistan's support for Tajikistan's nomination as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term 2028–2029. In return, President Rahmon appreciated Pakistan's support for Tajikistan's candidature for the term 2025–26.

Cooperation in Water Diplomacy:

Both leaders commended Tajikistan's leadership in water diplomacy, particularly its role in organizing international events such as the UN 2023 Water Conference and the 3rd Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference. Pakistan expressed support for Tajikistan's initiatives in this regard.

Regional and Global Cooperation:

Multilateral Engagement:

The two leaders agreed to further enhance multilateral cooperation at forums including the UN, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures



in Asia (CICA). They underlined the significance of teamwork for regional and worldwide peace, stability, and sustainable growth.

Support for Afghanistan's Stability:

Tajikistan and Pakistan also emphasized how important a stable, wealthy, and peaceful Afghanistan is to the economy of the region. They pledged to keep collaborating to address shared issues arising from Afghanistan and acknowledged the significance of an inclusive administration in Kabul.

Conclusion:

Following the cease-fire, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif made a calculated four countries diplomatic trips to reaffirm Pakistan's dedication to regional peace and stability. The visit's objectives were to strengthen economic relations, improve regional cooperation, and show unity in the fight for enduring peace by interacting with allies and neighboring nations. The trips also demonstrated Pakistan's proactive use of diplomatic channels to negotiate intricate regional issues.