2.2.3. Relations with Iran

Relations between Pakistan and Iran have long been characterised as complicated, particularly with regards to their shared border between Pakistan's Balochistan province and Iran's Sistan–Balochistan province.[162] Amid the heightened tensions in the Middle East during the reporting period, Iran and Pakistan were said to have sought to consolidate mutual relations.[163] In August 2025 Iran and Pakistan concluded and endorsed twelve agreements designed to enhance cooperation across diverse sectors, including commercial and economic relations, transit and transport, scientific and technological collaboration, agricultural activities and tourism,[164] setting a target of USD 10 billion in annual bilateral trade.[165] In light of the US-Israeli attack on Iran in 2026, Pakistan adopted a cautious yet broadly supportive position of Iran, urging restraint and diplomatic engagement while refraining from direct military participation.[166] By end of March 2026, it had increasingly positioned itself as a potential peace broker, leveraging its maintained communication channels with both Washington and Tehran.[167]

Border security remained a sensitive issue.[168] Both states faced threats from cross-border militant and insurgent groups, including Baloch separatist organisations operating on both sides of the border.[169] High-level defence talks in 2025 signalled efforts to strengthen military ties between the two countries, although sustained counterterrorism cooperation between Iran and Pakistan remained limited.[170] Pakistan maintained heightened security deployments and surveillance in border districts to prevent spillover violence, particularly during the internal unrest in Iran in early 2026.[171]

For more information, see section 4.1.2. Border security, including incidents along the Durand Line (Afghanistan), the Line of Control (India), and the Pakistan–Iran border.

- 162

  Calabrese, J., Between Fragility and Reset: The Future of Iran–Pakistan Relations, Modern Diplomacy, 28 August 2025, url

- 163

  Keynoush, B., From Caution to Cooperation: Iran-Pakistan Relations in the Shadow of Regional Conflict, Gulf International Forum, 6 October 2025, url

- 164

IRNA, Iran, Pakistan sign 12 cooperation documents across various sectors, 3 August 2025, url

- 165

  Al Jazeera, Pakistan’s Sharif hosts Iran’s Pezeshkian, agrees to security, trade boost, 3 August 2025, url

- 166

  Express Tribune (The), Iran thanks Pakistan for 'strong solidarity' amid US-Israel aggression, 16 March 2026, url

- 167

  Reuters, Pakistan leans on US and Iran ties to emerge as potential peacebroker, 24 March 2026, url; DW, Pakistan under pressure to host successful US-Iran talks, 30 March 2026, url

- 168

  Arab News, Pakistan, Iran to form joint committee to resolve border trade, logistics issues, 26 October 2025, url; Keynoush, B., From Caution to Cooperation: Iran-Pakistan Relations in the Shadow of Regional Conflict, Gulf International Forum, 6 October 2025, url

- 169

  Kaleji, V., Complications of the ‘Cooperative Rivalry’ Between Iran and Pakistan, Valdai Club, 2 September 2025, url

- 170

  Kaleji, V., Complications of the ‘Cooperative Rivalry’ Between Iran and Pakistan, Valdai Club, 2 September 2025, url

- 171

  ASPI, Iran war puts Pakistan in a strategic squeeze, 13 March 2026, url; Arab News, Pakistan puts border districts on high alert amid Iran protests — official, 16 January 2026, url; Times of Islamabad, Iran unrest sparks heightened security fears along Pakistan border, 16 January 2026, url

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu