



CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

Implications of the Israel-Iran War for Regional and Global Stability

Analysis Report

©CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

June 2025

All rights reserved.

No part of this Report may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission. Opinions expressed are those of the speaker(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Centre.

PRESIDENT

Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd)

EVENT COORDINATOR

Air Marshal Zahid Mehmood (Retd)

EDITED BY

Sarah Siddiq Aneel

REPORT COMPILATION

Sajal Shahid

LAYOUT

Hira Mumtaz

All correspondence pertaining to this document should be addressed to CASS, Islamabad through post or email on the following address:

Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies

☎ +92 51 5405011

📷 cassthinkers

f cass.thinkers

✂ @CassThinkers

✉ cass.thinkers@casstt.com

in Centre for Aerospace
& Security Studies

Old Airport Road, Islamabad, Pakistan
www.casstt.com



CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

Implications of the Israel-Iran War for Regional and Global Stability

Catalyst Conversation

Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
KEY TAKEAWAYS	3
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS	4
ANNEXURE	7
Profile of Speaker	7



Introduction

The recent outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Iran in the summer of June 2025 marked a significant escalation in an already volatile region. With Iran's regional influence and Israel's strategic alliances with Western powers, the war had the potential to spiral into a broader conflict. For countries like Pakistan, situated at the crossroads of the Middle East and South Asia, the implications were both strategic and geopolitical.

In an effort to critically examine the strategic, regional, and diplomatic consequences of the Israel-Iran war, the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) hosted an online Catalyst Conversation titled '***Implications of the Israel-Iran War for Regional and Global Stability***' on 20 June 2025. The discussion built on previous internal deliberations by offering forward-looking insights on the following issues:

- Israel's strategic objectives and possible endgame in its confrontation with Iran
- Iran's capacity to sustain a direct military conflict with Israel
- The war's impact on effectiveness of international diplomatic frameworks and multilateral institutions
- Key lessons for South Asia in terms of escalation management and conflict deterrence
- Options for how Pakistan can position itself diplomatically amid rising regional tensions.

The session offered nuanced insights into the evolving conflict and its wider implications for global stability, regional power dynamics, and international norms. The Keynote Speaker was Ambassador Asif Ali Durrani, Senior Research Fellow at the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). The discussion was moderated by Saba Abbasi, Research Assistant at CASS, Islamabad, with Opening and Concluding Remarks by President CASS Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd).



Executive Summary

In his brief *Welcome Remarks*, **Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd), President CASS**, expressed his appreciation for Ambassador Durrani's attendance and of his unique insights into the Israel-Iran conflict. He emphasised the importance of in-depth discussions regarding this subject considering the proximity of the theatre of war to Pakistan.

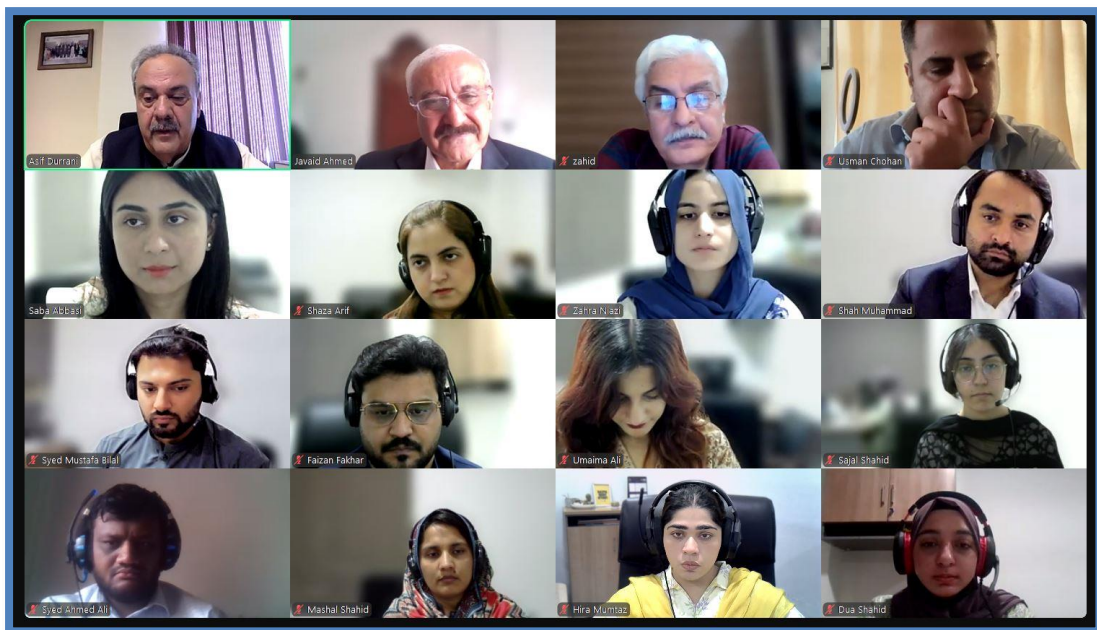
During his **Keynote Address**, **Ambassador Asif Ali Durrani** described the escalating Israel-Iran conflict as a calculated declaration of war with the likely coordination of the United States (US). He traced the historical, geopolitical, and military buildup leading to the current hostilities. Ambassador Durrani argued that the conflict was not just a military strike but part of a broader effort to destabilise and ultimately change Iran's political regime. In his view, the situation posed a risk of regional destabilisation, potential nuclear fallout, and harm to the global economy. Pakistan had condemned Israel's actions and, he stressed, needed to uphold its principled diplomatic stance.

In his *Concluding Remarks*, **President CASS Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd)** once again thanked Ambassador Durrani for his presence and for his insightful remarks. He commented on the unfortunate nature of the escalations, noting the possible impact it may have on the region. Addressing the role of airpower during the conflict, he highlighted Iran's ability to inflict damage on Israel without ceding control of the air underscoring the critical importance of air superiority in mitigating substantial losses.



Key Takeaways

- Israel's strike on Iran is a calculated effort to degrade Iran's nuclear capability and its technical knowledge of the fuel cycle.
- Regime change appears to be a strategic objective with the assumption being that a new government may align with Western interests.
- While Washington's role remained unclear at the time, subsequent events suggested tacit consent.¹
- Attacks on nuclear facilities are highly dangerous and could lead to broader consequences for the region and globe as a whole.
- Economic consequences of the conflict are great and any further expansion, especially if the Strait of Hormuz is blocked, could disrupt global energy supplies.
- The international community must prioritise dialogue, as past regime change efforts have led to greater instability.



¹ Although the United States did not officially declare its involvement at the time of this webinar, media reports and defence sources later confirmed that US missile defence assets in the region, particularly in Doha, played a role in intercepting projectiles during the conflict. This implies strategic coordination, if not overt participation.

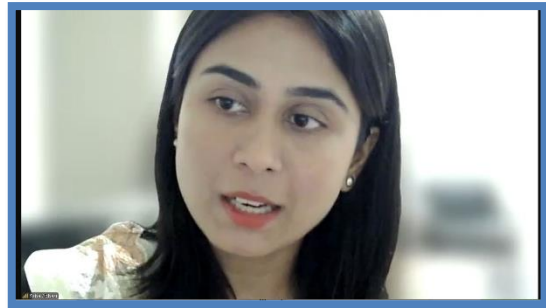


Summary Of Proceedings

Saba Abbasi,

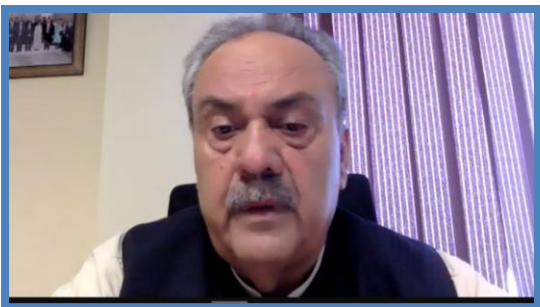
Research Assistant, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad

The moderator, Ms Saba Abbasi introduced the eminent speaker and set the tone by briefly providing context regarding the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Iran on 13 June 2025. She highlighted the conflict's potential to destabilise regional security, erode deterrence norms and trigger economic volatility. Emphasising Pakistan's position at the crossroads of South Asia and the Middle East, she noted the risks of regional spillover, border security, and diplomatic dilemmas.



Ambassador Asif Ali Durrani,

Senior Research Fellow, Islamabad Policy Research Institute



Ambassador Asif Ali Durrani characterised Israel's strikes on Iran's military and nuclear sites as a clear declaration of war. He stated that while the United States (US) may not have formally endorsed the operation (till then), its awareness was evident as American missile defence systems in Doha intercepted Iran's retaliatory missiles and drones. He stated that Israel's long-term objectives included dismantling Iran's nuclear programme, eroding its fuel cycle knowledge base, and initiating conditions conducive to regime change based on the assumption that a future Iranian government would align more closely with the West.

According to Ambassador Durrani, Israel's actions were part of a larger phased strategy: first targeting Hamas, then Hezbollah, followed by the fall of Syria. All of which laid the groundwork for the present situation to take place. He noted that any expectations of an internal revolt emerging in Iran were unrealistic, as the clerical regime remains centralised and highly resilient despite a largely secular and liberal population.

Ambassador Durrani rejected the notion that Iran would pursue nuclear weapons development at sites regulated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), describing the rationale for targeting such facilities as extremely dangerous. He highlighted the serious risks of attacking nuclear facilities, including radiation fallout which could potentially spread to neighbouring countries.



He also warned of increasing economic fallout including rising oil prices, regional instability, and the potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz if the situation continues to escalate. While Ambassador Durrani acknowledged Iran's limited airpower and reliance on missiles and drones, many of which were intercepted, he stressed that Tehran still has the resilience to resist.

In his conclusion, Ambassador Durrani emphasised that the conflict had undermined multilateral institutions and emboldened unilateralism. According to him, the lessons for South Asia were clear: wars rarely yield solutions, and the risk of nuclear escalation remains ever present in the case of military engagements in this region. He noted that Pakistan must continue its principled diplomatic approach, work with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to build consensus, and advocate for dialogue over confrontation.

Critical Reflections from the Interactive Q/A Session



The question-and-answer session following Ambassador Durrani's address yielded critical insights into several dimensions of the conflict. When asked about Iran's continued resilience despite high-profile leadership assassinations, he underscored that the durability of Iranian decision-making structures stems not from individual figures but from the strength of its institutions. Addressing concerns over apparent intelligence failures, he cited the risk of internal unrest and the possibility of Mossad infiltration, noting pointedly that Iran's nuclear programme was initially exposed by the dissident group Mujahideen-e-Khalq highlighting vulnerabilities rooted in domestic opposition as much as external espionage.

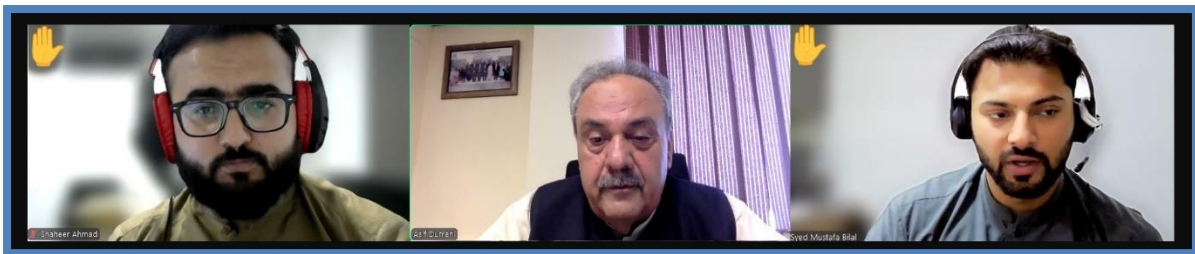
When asked how Pakistan might balance its relations in light of the conflict, the Ambassador reiterated Pakistan's policy of principled neutrality, arguing that strength



enables a state to remain neutral without compromising its stance. On the question of potential escalation, he warned that war can easily spiral and affect neighbouring states. Regarding the Strait of Hormuz, he acknowledged Iran's capacity to disrupt traffic but noted the severe global economic fallout such a move would entail.

On the topic of nuclear weapons development, Ambassador Durrani cautioned that targeting Iran's nuclear infrastructure could backfire, as the country already possessed the technical know-how and might be further incentivised to weaponise.

On India-Iran relations, he observed that despite recent setbacks and India's muted stance at multilateral forums such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the bilateral economic relationship, anchored in trade exceeding USD 10 billion, was likely to endure. He cited the resilience of state-to-state ties, drawing a parallel with the sustained economic engagement between the US and China despite strategic rivalry.



Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd),
President, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad

Opening and Closing Remarks



President CASS warmly thanked Ambassador Durrani for his presence, noting his unique expertise on the subject, rooted in his prior service as Pakistan's ambassador to Iran. He stressed the critical importance of holding discussions on the evolving conflict, particularly given Pakistan's geographic proximity as a border

state to Iran. Reflecting on the Ambassador's observations, he remarked on the conflict's escalating trajectory and its potential implications for Pakistan. He further acknowledged the multifaceted nature of modern warfare. Addressing the role of airpower during the conflict, he highlighted Iran's ability to inflict damage on Israel without ceding control of the air underscoring the critical importance of air superiority in mitigating substantial losses.



ANNEXURE

Profile of Speaker



Ambassador Asif Ali Durrani

Ambassador Asif Ali Durrani is a Senior Research Fellow at the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). A former career diplomat and journalist, he has served as Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the country's Permanent Representative to Afghanistan.

He joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1986 and held a range of diplomatic assignments, including postings in New Delhi (1990-94), Tehran (1998-2001), New York (2001-04), Kabul (2005-09), and London (2009-11). He later served as Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (2014-16) and concurrently as the Permanent Representative to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi. From 2016 to 2018, he was appointed as Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran and served as the Permanent Representative to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Tehran.

He has delivered lectures at leading academic and policy institutions, including Columbia University, Hofstra College (New York), the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) London, the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) London, Chatham House London, the National Defence College Kabul, the National Defence University Tehran, the National Defence University (NDU) Islamabad, and the National Management College (NMC) Lahore. He holds an M.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Balochistan and an MA in International Studies and Diplomacy from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

ABOUT CASS

Established in 2018, the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) in Islamabad is a non-partisan think tank offering future-centric analysis on aerospace and security issues. CASS engages with thought leaders and informs the public through evidence-based research, aiming to influence discussions and policies at the national, regional, and global level, especially concerning airpower, emerging technologies, traditional and non-traditional security.

VISION

To serve as a thought leader in the aerospace and security domains globally, providing thinkers and policymakers with independent, comprehensive and multifaceted insight on aerospace and security issues.

MISSION

To provide independent insight and analysis on aerospace and international security issues, of both an immediate and long-term concern; and to inform the discourse of policymakers, academics, and practitioners through a diverse range of detailed research outputs disseminated through both direct and indirect engagement on a regular basis.

CORE AREAS OF RESEARCH

Aerospace
Emerging Technologies
Security
Strategic Foresight



CASS

www.casstt.com

**CENTRE FOR AEROSPACE
& SECURITY STUDIES, ISLAMABAD**

Independence | Analytical Rigour | Foresight

✉ cass.thinkers@casstt.com

in Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies

☎ +92 51 5405011

@ cassthinkers

✕ @CassThinkers

f cass.thinkers



Old Airport Road, Islamabad, Pakistan