

Pravin Sawhney: Iran Just Played Its FINAL CARD – Israel's Northern Border Is Finished

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Saturday, June 20th, 2026, and our dear friend Pravin Sawhney is here with us. Welcome, Agra.

#Pravin

Thank you very much, Nima, for inviting me. Thanks a lot.

#Nima

Yeah, we finally have the document of the MOU coming out, and the two sides are talking about it. You see the repercussions in Israel and how the reaction is coming from the Israelis. They don't want it. They see it as a huge defeat for Israel. And it seems that the Trump administration is somehow happy. They're happy with the MOU; that's why they signed it. Donald Trump signed it in France, in Versailles. The location is somehow historic. And the Iranian side is somewhat skeptical about what's going on. We had the Iranian leadership coming out yesterday and putting out a statement that he gave permission to the Iranian government to negotiate. And he said, I think differently, but I gave permission to the government to negotiate. By the way, it was the same position from the former Supreme Leader in the case of the JCPOA; he said the same thing.

And later on, we learned that he was right about the JCPOA because Donald Trump simply destroyed everything when he withdrew from the JCPOA. But right now, it's what's going on. Considering those points in the JCPOA, one of the most important points, in my opinion, is related to the situation between Israel and Lebanon, the ongoing fight that is going on. Donald Trump is trying to put pressure on Benjamin Netanyahu. It's something new. It's something new for Washington. It's not something that Washington is accustomed to. It's something new. That's why you see many people arguing and criticizing Donald Trump in Israel and outside of Israel, in the United States. But how do you see the whole situation—the way that Iran is coming in, the United States is trying to manage some sort of thought and the complexity in Lebanon?

#Pravin

See, you've asked a couple of questions. Let's do that one by one. Now, as far as the MOU is concerned, in my opinion, both Iran and America are keen on this MOU, that this works towards the deal. That means after 60 days and beyond 60 days, they can extend by mutual consent. Now, as far as President Trump is concerned, he wants the war to end, and there are many reasons why I say that. So for the Americans, the war is over. One reason is that President Trump actually has no military option at all today, whereas the Iranians have a lot of military options, and they have economic options. They can bring global pain, economic pain to the world. They can block the Strait of the Red Sea whenever they want. So they have far too many options. That's one. Second, in my opinion, President Trump wants to be remembered as the president for peace.

Because please recall the National Security Strategy of the Trump administration that came out in November 2025. It very clearly said that President Trump wants his legacy to be that of the president of peace. So he's got into a wrong war. Now he wants to get out of this war and retain his legacy. Then there's another point, and that is that in 2025, President Trump renamed the Department of Defense as the Department of War. And recently we heard Pete Hickson, the Secretary of War, has sought a budget for 2027 for the Department of War—a whopping 1.5 trillion dollars from the U.S. Congress. Now, what they want to do is basically get out of this war in West Asia and pivot to the Arctic Ocean, because that is where the problems are for the Trump administration.

There are military problems and there are economic security issues also, because if you see the Western Hemisphere, something like 22 countries are on board the Belt and Road Initiative of China. And this is the reason, in my opinion, that President Trump himself has signed the MOU. That means he's taken ownership of the MOU. And after that, now he wants to see this implemented. And this is the reason, as you mentioned, the unusual things are happening—that both President Trump and J. D. Vance have come out openly against Israel and Netanyahu. And J.D. Vance has very clearly said in the open that Israel can only sustain itself with American power. And that is the reality. So that is where we are. So as far as the big war is concerned, in my opinion, the big war is over.

The war that America was fighting with Iran, but we are left with the belligerent Israel. Now, as far as Israelis are concerned, everybody knows that they have their different war objectives. So they will continue with what they are doing in Lebanon. Now, there are two things involved here. If you see the MOU, it calls for two things. One, it says that there must be peace on all the fronts. That means all the allies of the Iranians—that means the entire resistance front—should calm down. That includes Lebanon, and that includes the ceasefire in Lebanon that the Israelis should do with Hezbollah. That's one part. The second part is that the territorial integrity of Lebanon has to be maintained.

What that means is that the Israelis already are in occupation of southern Lebanon. Something like 20% of the territory of Lebanon is under the occupation of Israel. They are now reportedly building

up their settlements there. They have changed their maps there. So I think the Iranians are being extremely wise. They want the ceasefire to hold. I mean, for the time being, it has stopped. That means as far as West Asia is concerned, they have to live with this no-war, no-peace situation. So long as the ceasefire holds, the territorial integrity issue can be tackled later, which is why the Iranian team led by Abbas Araqchi, they are already now in Switzerland, or they are on their way, they are going there—unless again Netanyahu breaks the ceasefire in Lebanon.

So that is what is happening in West Asia. So we are looking at what I call a no-war, no-peace situation. The mischief of Netanyahu will not go away, not only there, but in Gaza also. If you see, since the ceasefire came about in Gaza in October, Netanyahu—something like 1,000 civilians—they have been killed. A genocide has been going on there. They are not getting the humanitarian aid at all, all because of Netanyahu. So the Zionists will continue with their activities. That's one part. Second part, very interesting that you have just come out, you have asked me, is about the Supreme Leader of Iran, which is Ayatollah Khamenei. Now see, what has happened is that the Iranians, when you see the MOU, they have got a lot and they should get a lot because they have won the war.

It's as simple as that. This is not an MOU which has been done in peacetime, where both sides have to win. So all these tantrums that are going on in America—from the policymakers, from the media, from the establishment—that Trump has given more to Iran in the MOU than he has got in return, are baseless, because this MOU is a consequence of war, a war that Iran has won decisively. So once we understand that part, the problem now is there are a lot of Iranian voices which are saying that Iran should have nuclear weapons. So what the Supreme Leader, in my opinion, has done is he has taken those voices also into consideration and issued a statement saying that his views are different from the views of the President.

And what he's saying is, I will go with the opinion of the President because he's the Supreme Leader of the National Security Council of Iran, and he is the man who has signed the MOU. Now you see, the point that the Iranians need to understand is something that their leadership has understood. That is very simple—that what the Iranians are trying to do in West Asia is to take everybody along. This is what the new world order is all about. That means you create all your problems, and the problems of the region should be solved by the regional players. That means everybody has to be taken along. Now, if Iran gets a nuclear weapon, what happens is that the trust will be lost. The Iranians will not be trusted by the regional players.

Now, if the trust is not there, then you cannot build up a regional framework—something that the Iranians are trying to do. Because then what will happen is that Iran will be seen as a hegemon and not as a partner country if Iran gets the weapon. So I think what is happening is that the Iranians are wise people, and they have decided to go for the negotiations. But of course, their red line is that Trump and J.D. Vance have to leash Netanyahu, and Netanyahu has his own agenda. So that is

where things stand. But in my opinion, Trump is determined to see this through, you know, the 60 days till the deal is signed, and maybe beyond also by mutual consent. He has no intentions of going back to war. Yeah.

#Nima

I think the problem for Donald Trump right now is Lebanon and how he can manage the Israeli government there. Because sooner or later, if they continue with these attacks on Lebanon, Iran is going to respond. The last two or three days they were talking about how Iran may attack, Iran may not. But there are communications behind the scenes between the United States and Iran on how to manage that. So far, it seems that the United States is every time telling Iran they're putting pressure on Netanyahu and the Israelis to back down. And looking at the way that Israel is going against the Trump administration, they're attacking basically the same people who supported Donald Trump. You know, Alison, those Zionists who supported Donald Trump, who helped him to be elected. And right now they're going against Donald Trump. And you see J.D. Vance coming out and responding to those attacks. So, how do you see that going on in Lebanon?

#Pravin

So you see, this will go on. But as far as the Iranians are concerned, I see no sense. And they are very wise people. They will not attack Israel. All they have to do is shut down the Strait of Hormuz for commercial traffic. Once they do that, then the pressure is on Trump and J.D. Vance to get after Netanyahu, and that is what they are trying to do. Because you see, as far as the Iranians are concerned, I see the wise people that they are. They are looking ahead. They are looking beyond, in my opinion, even the final deal. They are looking at Gaza. They are looking at Hamas in Gaza.

They are even looking at the Palestinian issue. And this is something that at this stage they did not want to put in the MOU, because please remember that they have the backing of China and Russia. And the Chinese, in 2024 in Beijing, got 14 Palestinian factions, including Fatah and Hamas, together, because what the Chinese are looking at is some sort of Palestinian self-governance body. And they have repeatedly said that they favor the two-state solution, the borders being 1967 according to that, and they want East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state.

You see, the Iranians understand that if they can take all the regional powers along with them, which is why one of the key things in the MOU is that the Americans have to vacate their bases and the American forces should not be in the proximity of Iran, because Arakchi and the Iranian leadership are looking for all the regional players to come together in a collective security mode. Once that happens, and then after that, once the final deal happens—maybe it gets extended by a little more time—then they will tackle this issue. So the point I'm making is that I see the possibility in the next one or two years, finally, under the new arrangement of a regional framework, I see the possibility of the Palestinian issue being tackled extremely seriously.

And once that happens, then as far as these Zionists are concerned, they will be cut to size. Finally, they will end their dream of getting that greater Israel. It'll be over. So in my opinion, the Iranians are looking way ahead, and they will try their best to see. They will give all the leverage, they will give a long rope to the Americans, but certainly they are adamant. It's a red line for them that the attack on Hezbollah has to stop. Israel's terrorism in Lebanon has to stop. Otherwise, they shut down the Strait of Hormuz, and that is where we are.

#Nima

You mentioned that Iran is not going to be—the people in Iran don't want to be—the hegemon in the region. I totally agree with that because I have seen nothing, no sign that they're willing to do that. Basically, what they're asking for in the whole region, you know, when it comes to all the neighbors—going from Afghanistan, Pakistan, all the other GCC countries—it's all about having a prosperous region to benefit each and everybody. It's not about dominating because, you know, for example, in the case of Iran, I would say, and Pakistan, one of the best cases to be considered, for such a long time these two countries are so close to each other. And Iran understands the reality of Pakistan and how close Pakistan is to the United States, for example.

This is the reality. And how good is the relationship between Iran and Pakistan? Putting those together, you see, there is no problem for Iran. Even the Omani government is in the same place. The Omani government has a very good relationship with the United States. They have an American base on their soil. But they were not attacked during this war because Iran respects those countries that respect Iranian sovereignty. Now that's the whole problem with the GCC countries in the region, with American bases being used against Iran. So this is not a hegemon in the region. This is a country that wants to define itself as a country to cooperate with other powers in the region.

#Pravin

So, you see, you are absolutely right. I agree with you. In fact, as you mentioned the relations between Iran and Pakistan, we also have to remember that in the Iranian version of the MOU, they have called it the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding. In other words, as far as the Iranians are concerned, in the new regional framework that they are trying to make with the help of two great powers, China and Russia, Pakistan will have a very important and central role to play in West Asia in this regional framework. So that is why they have specifically mentioned Pakistan, because, you see, when you look ahead, what we see is that one of the key things in the MOU is that US forces need to go away from the proximity of Iran.

So the first proximity will be the GCC countries. Because if you see today, the Americans have something like 40 to 50,000 troops in 10 countries and 19 bases in West Asia. And when you look at those 10 bases, five countries are the GCC countries. So in my opinion, what is happening is that, first of all, Qatar. Qatar is in a very delicate situation because the Qataris do not have a land border with Iran. Then their export is LNG. They have a gas field that they share with Iran. Then the

forward headquarters of Central Command is there in Qatar. Then in Qatar, you have the major American air operations hub. The major hub is there, something like 10,000 American forces. They are there in Qatar.

So the Qataris, already like the Saudis, have clinched the deal for security with the Pakistan Army. The same thing, the Qataris also are in talks, and in my opinion, as time goes by, although today we see that the UAE is looking at different routes because they don't want to use the Persian Gulf, they basically are looking at the east-west route. Then the Kuwaitis also want to join in the east-west route of the UAE. So the point is, once over, I see a possibility that this regional framework will come up. Iran has won the war against the biggest military power in the world, America, and it is a decisive win, as I said, because they still have the options, but it will not play a hegemonic role at all.

It will look at a regional framework, and that is where they are moving slowly. And this is the reason also that Abbas Araghchi, anything that the Iranians do, he is immediately on the phone talking with all the regional players, his counterparts, talking with Sergei Lavrov, talking with Wang Yi. So he is in touch with everybody, and he is in touch with the leadership in Pakistan. So the point I'm making is that Iran is moving in an extremely sensible way, and what they have asked for, despite whatever the American establishment says, whatever they have asked for is very reasonable. And in this MOU, the significance of this MOU is that what they have asked for is the minimum. They will not deviate from that.

Otherwise, as far as they are concerned, they have the option of closing the Strait of Hormuz. And as far as the Americans are concerned, when you see the American establishment, you see their political leadership, their commentators, their senior analysts, their media, think tanks, all these people live in a bubble of their own. They still believe that America is the sole superpower in the world. The world is unipolar. The world has changed. The world is no longer unipolar. They need to understand that today it's a multipolar world with three great powers, and America is one of those three great powers.

But this is something they don't understand because they don't want to understand. This is the level of hubris that exists among the Americans. They don't want to understand that the world is between orders, that a new world order is being shaped. And here is the most interesting thing that I would like to say about what this new world order is, if I may just take a minute to put this across. The present world order that we talk about, which is a hegemonic order, is based on two exceptional strengths of America — its military power and the dollar as the reserve currency of the world. This order is a hegemonic order. This order is one where America makes and breaks the rules at will.

We are talking now of a new world order where the focus is on development through peace. And that means the peace cannot be absolute peace because absolute peace leads to conflicts and war. So this is about collective security, which is what the Iranians are trying to do. And this is about the rules having to be UN-based, which is why the last point, if you see the 14th point in the MOU, clearly says that the final deal will be endorsed by the United Nations. That means China and Russia

will back this final deal whenever it comes out under the aegis of the United Nations. And it clearly says that there will be no interference in any other country's affairs. And that is precisely what the Iranians are trying to do.

Please also recall that in the month of May, Abbas Araghchi, he had gone to Moscow, where he spent an hour and a half with President Putin. And after that, he went to China. He met up with his counterpart, Wang Yi, there. And once he was back in Tehran, he spoke for the first time about the new post-war regional framework. And that is this regional framework which is unfolding now, where they are taking everybody along, which is about partnership, which is not about a hegemonic order. So the point I'm making is that this new world order, we will see this unfold for the first time in the world in West Asia, after this final deal happens. So this is the most interesting development, in my opinion, at the global level.

#Nima

I think what you just mentioned is so important for the American calculation in the region. Because as you mentioned, you said the way that Iran should respond to Israel in Lebanon is going to be through the Strait of Hormuz, not an attack on Israel. Because that would put pressure on the United States. Then the United States has to bring the situation to some sort of sanity. And if that's the case, how is that going to be the whole case of the Strait of Hormuz? How is that going to reshape American policy in West Asia, which we know is so important for the future of BRICS, for the future of China, and the whole concept?

You mentioned some sort of security architecture, I would say, for BRICS, which is in West Asia, which has 20% of the global energy — not only global energy, but other things related to that part. It's so important because when you talk about the UAE building new pipelines and maybe... but somehow we can say we can ignore that because that's not a huge change to this trade. This trade is much, you know, the concept of this trade. Before this war started, we didn't know this trade was that important when it comes to oil energy, when it comes to the oil market, when it comes to fertilizer, helium, you name it — the global market. How do you see the way that the United States would manage itself, reshape itself, and its policies in the region?

#Pravin

See, the reality is that if not now, once the deal is signed, the reality will hit America. And the reality is that West Asia is where the beginning of the American empire starts — sorry, the end. This is the beginning of the end of the American empire. It is in West Asia. And why I say that is because, please remember, once the American forces are pulled out from the proximity of Iran — which has still not been defined, whether it is pulled out from the entire region or only from the GCC countries — whether it will be out of those 10 countries that I mentioned in West Asia where the American forces are, whether they go out from five or all the 10 countries eventually, even if they go out from five, that means eventually it will be the end of the petrodollar.

And petrodollars are what the American empire is about. So as far as the Americans are concerned today, they are in an extremely difficult position despite the fact that they have a nominal GDP of \$32 trillion. But the reality is that their home base is not secure. So all this dream of MAGA — make America great again, make America once again the number one country, you know, get it back from multipolarity to the unipolar world — this is all fantasy. This will not happen. And as I said, what the new world order will be exactly, the world will see in West Asia for the first time. And as far as the Americans are concerned, they have far too many things to do, which is why when you see their national security strategy, their top priority there is the Western Hemisphere.

And then they talk about revisiting the Monroe Doctrine. Now, even that is not possible because plenty has happened. I mean, you know very well Brazil is not part of the Belt and Road Initiative, but Brazil has very strong economic ties with China. Brazil is a full member and an extremely important member of BRICS, you see. So similarly with Mexico, it is not a member of the Belt and Road Initiative. It has not joined that, but it has economic relations. See, the long and short of it is, as far as China is concerned, very soon, I think in another two or three years, they'll be doing 41% of the global manufacturing. All the supply chains end in China.

And China and Russia, these are the two great powers which are behind the new world order. And Iran is that country which is showing it on the ground as evidence that yes, it is no longer a vision. It can become a reality in West Asia, the most turbulent region of the world. So amazing things are happening, and the Iranians are those people — hugely educated, very smart people. These are the people who have crafted, in my opinion, a brilliant military strategy. Absolutely brilliant. They ran a great campaign, that 40-day campaign, and they did what was unthinkable to most people in the world — the results that they have produced. So Iranians obviously are thinking ahead, and Iran will be a very important member of this new world order that I'm talking about.

#Nima

We had the G7 summit, and they invited three members of BRICS: Brazil, the UAE, and Egypt. I would assume Egypt and the UAE are somehow related to what's going on in West Asia, the ongoing war, but Brazil being there is somehow—what is that? And you remember, before the war in Ukraine started, many people for such a long time were arguing, what is BRICS? Who's BRICS?

#Pravin

BRICS is nothing.

#Nima

And just, you remember, I don't know if you saw that clip of Joe Biden talking about what Russia wants to do. Are they going to get closer to China and Iran? So everybody was somehow laughing. Who are these people? Do they really think that they have an alternative together with Iran and

China? Literally, what they were laughing at in those days is happening before our eyes today. And the world is reshaping itself. That's why they invited Brazil, the UAE, and Egypt to the G7 summit. And what is the understanding of that?

#Pravin

Yeah, see Nima, what's happened is that as far as the G7 is concerned, the G7 basically has been left behind. When you look at the GDP, it's around 29 percent of the global — you know, global GDP is G7 today — whereas BRICS today stands at something close to 30-something, 32 or something. So BRICS is already way ahead of them. And BRICS today has a population — some 40 percent of the world population is represented in BRICS. So what the G7 is trying to do — I want to make two points here. One point is that President Trump, if you recall, had spoken about getting Russia back in the G7, making it a G8 once again, so that some strength comes into the G7. Now, of course, that will not happen. The Europeans will never agree to that.

So now they have brought in these three countries out of BRICS because now, in a way, they are saying that they are expanding the G7. Although these three countries are not partner countries of the G7, they are basically in the outreach program. But what I think is that even these — I mean, Brazil has gone there, which is good because Brazil is in the Western Hemisphere. But I see no sense in India going there, honestly, considering that India has the presidency of BRICS this year. 2024 is the presidency. India holds the presidency, and there are a lot of things to be done here. But nevertheless, this is the opinion or the decision that the government of India has taken.

So the point I'm making is that if you look at the G7, and if you look at the fissures within the G7, you see today the EU is all broken. Because the world has shifted from the transatlantic. Even the Americans are moving away from there. They're telling the Europeans, "You do the heavy lifting in NATO. Otherwise, we have nothing to do with NATO." Because as far as President Trump is concerned, as I said, his main concern is the Western Hemisphere. And after that, his concern is China — that is in the West Pacific. And that is where now they are focusing to build up their military capabilities, not through military competition, but through deterrence. They want to build up their military strength there with the help of their partners.

So everywhere, whether it is in Europe or in East Asia against China, they are asking their partners to do the heavy lifting — the Americans. So at a time like this, when they get bogged down in West Asia, it's a problematic area for Trump. Obviously, no war appreciation was done. There was no understanding about the resilience of the Iranian people, that this is a civilizational state. There was no sense of the history of the Iranian people. All that was not taken into consideration, and he was lulled into this operation. He was misled into this operation by Netanyahu. And now he wants to get out, and I think he will get out despite all the flak and despite all the problems that he may be facing in Washington.

I see a great possibility. And even the Iranians are keen to have this MOU through because they have things beyond the MOU to do. And it may not be over in 60 days — let's say in 90 days or perhaps a little more. But if this is accomplished, it will be a very big gain for Iran and the new world order. And as far as America is concerned, it can attend to its own issues, and it has a lot of issues and a lot of problems. So what is coming in the way is really Israel and the Zionists. These are the people who are creating the problems. And these are the people who now have to be controlled by President Trump and his vice president. They have to look after this.

#Nima

I think basically, Pravin, looking at the situation, they have no option. You know, they have sacrificed a lot during this war against Iran — not only depleting more than 50% of their stockpile, you know, the radars being destroyed, the tremendous damage to American, sort of, military might or the image of the United States as a military power. You know, something like 17 bases in the region were hit and destroyed by Iranian forces. Putting all of that together with the economic repercussions of the war — how they put pressure on their allies in the Middle East, in Japan, in South Korea — Europeans were suffering because of the war. They cut the oil and gas from Russia, the Nord Stream pipeline, and they lost access to the Persian Gulf. So that had huge repercussions on the United States' foreign policy, not only militarily but also economically. So what basically these Zionists are asking for is a recipe for disaster for the United States if they stay in this fight, in this war.

#Pravin

I agree entirely with you because America already is in trouble. If you see their national security and the national defense—sorry, the national security strategy and defense strategy of the Trump administration—it is very clear that the top priority is the Western Hemisphere. And after that, the second priority is to build up the defense industrial base, because they have a big problem there. And if I may add another point, what has come out very clearly in the war in West Asia in those 40 days is that the Americans are fighting with 20th-century capabilities. You don't fight this asymmetrical war that the Iranians have fought and crafted. What was against them are these huge aircraft carriers, destroyers.

See, these are those big, big platforms which are absolutely vulnerable. They are easy targets. They are targets for the Iranian missiles, for the Iranian drones. And the Iranians have shown that in those 40 days — what all they can do and their reach. And then, of course, they were also helped by the Chinese space capabilities, which are huge, for the accuracy of their missiles and their drones and their swarms. So the point I'm making is that America has to get out of its own bubble, realize the world has changed dramatically, and realize it got into an extremely wrong war. It has to realize that being here any longer is no longer in America's interest.

Those days are gone. See, it was during the Cold War and the unipolar world that America could back Israel. Now, in a multipolar world and the war that we have seen, it is in the interest of America to actually tell the Zionists, both here as well as in Washington, that they cannot do the bidding of the Israelis. Now, whether Trump is able to do that, I do not know. But as I said, he loses a lot—of course, the inflation is going up and the midterm is coming. All those issues are there. But alongside, he is very keen on his legacy. If you recall, even at the G7, he said when he was talking with Prime Minister Modi that he ended eight wars.

So he takes a lot of pride in saying that he's ended the wars because he wants to be seen as the president of peace. I don't think for any other president the national security strategy that comes out from the White House has ever specifically mentioned that the president wants his legacy to be this president of peace. What Trump has done. So he's very keen, he's fixated on that. So he wants to go back there. At least he wants to see something of his presidency, a legacy that he leaves behind. And he repeatedly says that I have ended the war. Now he started a war, he got into a wrong war, so he has to come out of this war.

#Nima

And we know that, looking at the big picture, many people would argue the whole agenda behind the war in Ukraine and the war in the Middle East is getting to China. And where is China? How do you see China today, just watching how the United States struggles with its own problems vis-à-vis foreign policy, vis-à-vis Ukraine and Iran? And basically, Donald Trump came to power talking about bringing jobs back to the United States, production back to the United States. Nothing of that sort is happening right now. It's all about war. It's all about something new—the Strait of Hormuz—which wasn't the case before this war started. You know, just considering that, nothing in Ukraine has happened so far. The war is going on.

#Pravin

So you see, as far as China is concerned, now China is in a very happy state to continue with its 15th Five-Year Plan, which started in 2026 and will end in 2030. And it's absolutely amazing. It is about bringing in new technology, especially artificial intelligence into applications, into industry. It's an amazing thing, what they have crafted for their 15th Five-Year Plan. So it gets a lot of time to work on that. And as far as the Americans are concerned, it's very clear that the Americans are no longer looking at a military competition against China. They want to build their own strength. So the Chinese are very happy about it. But to say who wins—see, this is where I want to put a little different perspective.

As I said, who wins is the new world order—a world order which is supported by Russia and China, and where Iran has emerged as a very important member. And this is the world order where the Global South is gravitating. So countries like Brazil—BRICS is one of the important institutions of this new world order. SCO is a very important institution of this new world order. So this is what is

coming. This is what Xi Jinping repeatedly has been saying—that we are seeing a once-in-a-century change. So because of the war in West Asia, that once-in-a-century change, which was theoretical, suddenly now people can see it is on the ground. It is happening. So it's not about, when you talk about a single country winning—China winning, Russia winning—once again, we are talking about balance of power politics.

We are talking about hegemonies. But this is not what the new world order is talking about. As I said, their vision is entirely different. As far as the Chinese are concerned, they are very clear that if China wins, if China prospers, then the Global South also prospers. Why does it prosper? Because what is the Global South today? It is primarily the BRI countries. The majority of the BRI countries are the Global South, where the BRI has gone. So China is happy about that part. Of course, it is also prosperity. It is important for China, and so it is important for Russia also, for President Putin. So the point I'm making is the old order is declining sharply, and the new world order we can see happening on the ground. Big, big changes in the world, Nima. That is the way I see them.

#Nima

Just getting back to the war in Lebanon, we know that Iran has some sort of leverage militarily on Israel. And they did that: you attack Beirut, you attack Dahiya in the southern part, we're going to attack the northern part of Israel. And I... Do you see the Trump administration just staying aside and letting Iran do that to put pressure on Israel?

#Pravin

See, as I said, this was happening before the MOU was signed. Iranians are wise people. Now what they'll do is shut down the Strait. They have no reason really now, or they could get the Houthis to do this. See, their resistance front, what they call it, so they could do it. But Iranians, as far as they are concerned, in my opinion, they will stick to this MOU and see the MOU translating into a final deal. That is what is in their interest because they have a lot of things to do beyond that. And as they do this, they need to take all the regional countries along, have Pakistan on their side.

Pakistan will be very important in West Asia, and to keep China and Russia completely in the picture, which is what Abbas Araghchi has been doing regularly. So this is what the Iranians—so I don't think Iranians—look, the reality is very simple. What J.D. Vance said himself publicly, he said two-thirds of the defensive equipment that Israel has today has come from American money. Americans have given the arms. What he was trying to say is that if America is not backing Israel, there's no way Israel can fight Iran. I mean, this should be clear to everybody after the 40-day war. It is not possible. But the Zionists, as their thinking is—see, I call them a terrorist state.

I'm sorry to say that they are committing genocide, killing innocent people in Gaza. What are they doing? A ceasefire was there. I mean, 2 million people in Gaza—they are in an open prison there—who have been denied humanitarian aid. The medicines are being denied to them by these Zionists.

So how can you even side with these Zionists? I have a problem with that. So the solution has to be that in this new dispensation that we are talking about, the post-war regional framework, the Chinese, the Russians, the Iranians, and the regional players seriously now look at the Palestine issue. That is critical.

#Nima

I think the role of Pakistan, as time goes by, is getting bolder, in my opinion. The reason Iran mentioned Islamabad—that's important, that's the key—is because they want to emphasize the importance of Pakistan in the whole sort of negotiations between Iran and the United States. And that's a sign for the region as well, to see Pakistan as a new player to be involved. We have the new sort of military agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, which is important in the long run, in my opinion. Because if Pakistan is going to provide military support to Saudi Arabia, then they have some sort of nuclear umbrella when it comes to Israel.

Because the only country that has nuclear weapons is Israel. So who are they afraid of? It's Israel. It's not Iran. And they were behind the scenes. What was somehow interesting to me was that behind the scenes, since the war started, after four days, it seems, you know, the war started on February 28th. On March 5th, it seems that Saudi Arabia contacted Iran. They were behind the scenes talking with the Iranians—not only Saudi Arabia, but Qatar. We are not part of this. We don't want to be part of this.

#Pravin

Yeah. You know, Nima, a bit about Pakistan, if I may add. See, Pakistan has been there with Saudi Arabia since the 70s. Pakistan has been an active player in West Asia. What has happened is that last year, in 2025—yeah, that's last year—they signed a formal defense agreement, the Saudis and the Pakistanis. And plenty has to do with Operation Sindoor, you know, this four-day clash that happened in May 2025 between India and Pakistan, where all these regional countries, including America, concluded that the Pakistanis had done better, and the Israelis are aware of that. So Pakistan today, in conventional capabilities also, has become a very important player against Israel. It's not about nuclear weapons or a nuclear umbrella.

It's about conventional capabilities, in my opinion. And as far as the nuclear issue is concerned, I don't think anybody is using nuclear weapons because, you know, the North Korean leader has already said very openly that he will support—if the Israelis use nuclear weapons, he will come on the side of Iran. So the point I'm making is that yes, I agree entirely with you that Pakistan, as I said, will play an extremely important role in this new world order. And I agree entirely with you. This is the reason that the Iranians are calling the MOU the Islamabad MOU. And they are constantly in touch. In fact, the interior minister, as we talk, I understand he's in Tehran right now for talks with Pakistan. So Pakistan can be seen while it is there in South Asia.

It has become a very important player in West Asia. And this is why I say repeatedly that in this new world order that we are talking about—and we are talking about the Eurasian landmass minus the Western European countries here—these three regions, Central Asia, West Asia, and South Asia, need to be seen as one whole. And Pakistan is playing an important role in this entire region for the simple reason that Pakistan today is the only country in the world which has good ties with all three great powers—America, China, and Russia—in the multipolar world. This is exceptional. So Pakistan, as far as they have done something very, I mean, great they have done. And, you know, a lot of credit goes to the government.

But I would say personally, a lot of credit goes to the Field Marshal. Asim Munir has been tireless. And Asim Munir is, which is why Trump keeps talking about “my favorite Field Marshal.” Because he represents the army, and the way their government or their structure is, we all are aware in Pakistan, the army chief usually has a lot of say. But today, Field Marshal Asim Munir has emerged as an extremely important player. And of course, this is not to undermine the office of the Prime Minister of Pakistan or the Foreign Minister. They've also been doing a lot of work and shown tireless energy—I mean, a lot of energy and tireless work has been going on. So yeah, I agree entirely with you. Pakistan will play a big role.

#Nima

I think many people may not know that the ties between Iran and Pakistan go beyond being neighbors. They're cultural; when it comes to the Persian language, those roots are so deep between Iran and Pakistan. And that is the reality. It doesn't matter, you know, the policies or the new president of Iran—the ties between Iran and Pakistan continue the same way as they have for such a long time.

#Pravin

I may add here, Nima, sorry for interrupting you, if you allow me to add. So it is not about Pakistan alone that the Iranians have ties with, because before 1947, Pakistan and India were one. So it is basically the deep ties with Hindustan of, you know, 1947. And even today, as far as India is concerned, with the people of India, the Iranians have cultural ties—very deep ties. So it is not about Pakistan alone; it is about India as well, that there are very deep ties with Iran. There's no doubt about it. Yeah.

#Nima

It goes all to the Persian language. It's all connected. Everything is so connected. Exactly.

#Pravin

Which is why I keep saying that in the new world order, it is important that India and Pakistan work together. Exactly, work together. Look at the concept of collective security, the concept that the Iranians are trying to put in West Asia so that the focus goes on development. The region prospers. We, all these countries—India, Pakistan—we have very poor people. They need development. You know, prosperity needs to come here, which is why I keep saying that we should make use of the opportunity of the new world order. If Iran can do that, surely India and Pakistan can also do that.

#Nima

Yeah, yeah, exactly. Exactly. Thank you so much, Pravin, for being with us today. Great pleasure, as always. And we're going to continue these sorts of talks. They're so important for the whole region—Pakistan, India, Iran, and GCC countries, West Asia. It's all important, in my opinion.

#Pravin

Absolutely. I agree with you. And thank you for inviting me, Nima. I enjoyed being on your show. Thank you very much. Bye-bye. Take care. Bye-bye.