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Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (r) holds talks with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (c) during a meeting also attended by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran on May 26, 2025.

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Iran, Oman set stage for stronger ties



By Emad Abshenas
Middle East affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian's trip to Oman, which begins today, is an official visit directly tied to bilateral relations between the two nations; a visit, which according to Oman's Foreign Ministry, reflects the longstanding friendly relations between the two countries. It comes as a follow-up to an earlier trip made by the Sultan of Oman to Iran. Given current regional and global developments, bolstering ties between Iran and Oman has been pushed to the top of the agenda. Pezeshkian's visit includes in-depth discussions aimed at fleshing out opportunities for strengthening relations, with a series of agreements and memoranda of understanding expected to be signed. Oman has long maintained an am-

icable relationship with Iran. The people of Oman share deep cultural and historical connections with the Iranian people, and a portion of Omani citizens are of Iranian descent. Historically, in times when no formal borders existed between the two nations, Omanis and Iranians moved back and forth freely. This longstanding bond could arguably be described as Iran's oldest historical relationship with any regional country. Over the past years, Iran and Oman have elevated their political relations to a high level. However, as officials from both countries have previously stated, there is a pressing need for economic and tourism ties to catch up with the depth of their political relationship as well. Iran currently maintains strong economic and tourism relations with countries like the UAE, and there is considerable potential for Iran and Oman to step up their cooperation in these areas as well.

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Pakistan reaffirms commitment to regional cooperation



By Almas Haider Naqvi
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OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Against the backdrop of rising tensions between Pakistan and India, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Tehran can be seen as part of a broader diplomatic push to carve out a new regional role for Islamabad amid ongoing developments. The trip is a key stop on Sharif's regional tour of friendly nations, which, according to Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, aims to hash out bilateral, regional, and international issues. Yet, beyond the official rhetoric, the diplomatic move carries strategic messages, with Tehran as one of its main audiences.

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