

THE YEAR 2025... TURNING POINT FOR PAKISTAN

OUTLINE

A) INTRODUCTION:-

B) HOW THE YEAR 2025 PROVED TO BE A TURNING POINT FOR PAKISTAN:-

- a) Swift transformation from passive to active diplomacy marking 2025 as turning point at diplomatic front for Pakistan

Deputy Prime Minister and foreign minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has stated that Pakistan is currently at the active diplomatic front, describing it as one of the most active phases in the country's recent diplomatic history.

- b) The year of revitalization of Pakistan's relations with the global hegemon

An expert on South Asian region, Michael Kugelman says that Pakistan has been able to successfully pitch itself to Washington as a

a useful partner on the issues that interest the administration, leading to revitalization of relations.

c) Attainment of defence leverage over the regional rival proving to be turning point for Pakistan's defence capabilities

Indian Chief minister as well as President of US acknowledged the Pakistan's leverage over India in May 7 conflict.

d) Conclusion of bilateral defence pacts, reflecting Pakistan as a net ^{regional} security provider in the year 2025

Strategic mutual defence pact with Saudi-Arabia, a defence deal with Malaysia and Libya are some of the defence deals signed in the year 2025.

e) Achievement of balance in relations between emerging powers and global leader after decades represent 2025 as a turning point for Pakistan

f) Stabilization of country's economic outlook after the four years of constant strain
Pakistan's inflation fell to nearly 4.5% while the GDP growth hiked to around 9.5%.

g) Joint launching of CPIC Phase II in the year 2025 despite the skepticism due to security issues

According to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, it would focus on agriculture, special economic zones, investment in mines and minerals and the upgradation of the Karakoram Highway.

h) Participation in G20's Peace Plan ^{gaining} the influential position across globe: A turning point for Pakistan in global arena

i) Normalization of relations with Bangladesh: A turning point for Pakistan in regional politics

Independent foreign policy analysts and regional experts articulate that Pakistan-Bangladesh normalization is a noteworthy turning point for Pakistan's influence and

positioning in South Asian geopolitics.

j) Recognition and appreciation of officials from of the current regime from global and regional powers, marking 2025 a ^{strategic and} political turning point for Pakistan

Chief of defence forces was hosted by President Donald Trump at White House.

He was also awarded by a high with the King Abdul Aziz Medal of Excellence class by King of KSA.

k) Exploration of Pakistan's export-based economic potential, reflecting 2025 as the start of seeking export oriented economy

Investments of foreign companies in projects like Rekodex, rare earth minerals etc of Balochistan reflects the Pakistan's inclination toward export based economy.

l) Constant decline in the country's debt reflecting the gradual shift toward gaining financial autonomy, marking 2025 as a turning point for Pakistan

Pakistan's debt to GDP ratio fell from around 74% in FY2022 to 70% in FY2025 as per the report by Ministry of Finance.

c) CONCLUSION:

THE ESSAY

According to the theory of Rimland, the coastal regions surrounding the Eurasia, particularly the South Asian, region are crucial for global power dynamics. This fact is reaffirmed by the current geostrategic importance of the region, redefining and reshaping the global power politics. Pakistan is also one of the countries of this region and has gained significant leverage, over the making 2025 as a turning point for its trajectory. It is evident from the significant gains at the diplomatic front, marking a swift transformation from a passive to active diplomacy in 2025. The year also enabled the revitalization of Pakistan's relations with the global hegemon. In addition, the most prominent achievement was the attainment of defence leverage over the regional rival, leading to global acknowledgement of defence capabilities of Pakistan. It, subsequently, resulted in the sign of many bilateral defence pacts and agreements. In the similar vein, Pakistan managed to buttress the

relations between emerging powers and global leaders simultaneously after several decades. The stabilization of country's ^{economic} outlook is another factor that makes 2025 a turning point for Pakistan. Moreover, the joint announcement of CPEC phase II despite the skepticism owing to security concerns, represents a new era of development and growth for the country. Pakistan's participation in Brics Peace Plan in year 2025 ~~reshowed~~ showed the country's influential position across the globe. Furthermore, the normalization of relations with the separated East Pakistan - Bangladesh following the fall of Indian backed regime ~~opened~~ paved a way for Pakistan's role in regional politics. Recognition of and appreciation of officials from current regime by global and regional leaders, also made the year 2025 a strategic turning point of Pakistan. Alongside this, the accelerating exploration of country's export-based economic potential and constant decline in country's debt also displayed the year as the turning point. Pakistan marked the year 2025 as a turning point due to various improvements

and achievements including diplomatic reset, defence leverage and economic stability.

To begin with, the year 2025 marked a swift transformation from passive to active diplomacy. Since the end of war on terror in Afghanistan, Pakistan kept struggling to maintain the diplomatic relations both at the global and regional front. The consecutive three years from 2021-2024 showed the passive diplomacy and partial isolation globally. However, the outset of the year 2025 marked the significant shift at diplomatic front which is described by the deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar as one of the most active phases in the country's recent diplomatic history. From almost zero diplomacy in previous to extensive diplomacy in 2025, the year saw multiple formal visits and hosted various diplomatic delegations including the most recent visit by the President of UAE. Hence, the year 2025 marked a turning point for Pakistan at diplomatic front.

The second major factor that made the year 2025 a turning point for Pakistan is the revitalization of its relations with the

global hegemon. The Biden administration, after the announcement of ending the war in Afghanistan, didn't show any interest in maintaining relations with Pakistan. Despite various efforts by Pakistan to engage with US, the global leader showed significant inclination towards the regional rival of the country — India. However, with the start of Trump second term in the white house, Pakistan-US relations rapidly gained momentum. The expert on South Asian region, Michael Kugelman says on this revitalization of relations that Pakistan has been able to successfully present itself as a useful partner on the issues that interest the administration. Therefore, the year 2025 marked a turning point in revitalization of Pakistan-US relations.

In addition, the successful attainment of defence leverage over the regional rival in the year 2025, also marked a turning point for Pakistan's defense capabilities. Since the most recent standoff between Pakistan and India, Pakistan received the prominent leverage owing to its successful defence of the country's borders. The success of Pakistan was acknowledged

by the President of US and the chief defence minister of India. Later the defence capability was also recognized by the Rafael making french firm. This global acknowledge of a country's defense against its rival state which is sometimes larger in area, led to the defence leverage of Pakistan. (Thus, the attainment of) Owing to this achievement, Pakistan signed deals and memorandum of understandings with various countries. Thus, the attainment of defence leverage in the year 2025 proved as a turning point for Pakistan.

In a subsequent manner, successful conclusion of defence pacts and agreements reflects Pakistan as a net regional security provider in the year 2025. Following the prominent success in May 7 conflict and gaining defence leverage, Pakistan signed various deals in defence sector. For Instance, the Strategic Mutual Defence Pact between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, a defence deal with Malaysia and Libya. These historic bilateral defence agreements present Pakistan as an alternative to regional security guarantor and display it as a net security provider. Hence, the

successful defence agreements represent a turning point for Pakistan by elevating its status to a net security provider.

Alongside this, the achievement of balance in relations between emerging powers and global leaders after several decades mark 2025 as a turning point for Pakistan. Since the independence, Pakistan was able to maintain such balance only once during the late 1960s and early 1970s which could not last long. The current balance is an historic achievement as Pakistan has concluded trade deal as well as cooperation in cryptocurrency with the US, accepted and finalized the investment of Russia to revive the Pakistan's Steel Mill and continued cooperation with China in defense as well as investment sector. Therefore, the historic achievement of balance in relations between emerging powers and global leaders also made 2025 as a turning point for Pakistan.

Moreover, the stabilization of country's economic outlook is another breakthrough that marked 2025 a turning point for Pakistan. Since the past few years, Pakistan

Pakistan's economy has remained under strain despite the various bailouts from International Monetary Fund, with the inflation increasing to around 23% in FY 2024 and GDP growth around 2.68%. However, the year 2025 marked a soothing change for country's fragile economy. The economic indicators with the end of 2025 shows the stabilized growth patterns. For instance, the GDP growth increased to 3.5% in the ongoing FY 2025. The inflation rate fell to 4.5%, marking it the lowest in the decade. Thus, the economic stabilization in the year 2025 also proved as a turning point for Pakistan economy.

Besides, the joint launching of CPEC Phase II in the year 2025 despite the initial skepticism due to security issues made the year a turning point for Pakistan. Since the completion of CPEC Phase I, the country's security issues initially delayed the instant continuation of the project. Many experts asserted that it may be just another lost opportunity for Pakistan. However, the launch of CPEC Phase II at the 14th Joint Cooperation

Committee meeting revived the hope of gaining from the \$62 billion value of the project. The PM of Pakistan says that it would focus on agriculture, special economic zones, investment in mines and minerals and upgradation of the Karakoram highway. Therefore, the revival of CPEC in the year 2025 also proved as a turning point for Pakistan.

Furthermore, the participation of Pakistan in the G20's Peace Plan in year 2025 marked the gain of influence in the global arena. Owing to the country's ideological basis, Pakistan has always advocated the cause of Palestine at global level. However, the formal participation of Pakistan in the formation of G20's Peace Plan to end the atrocities in Palestine not only elevated its level among the Muslim nations but also gained significant influence in the global arena. It shows its capability to help resolve disputes and reflects it as a peace maker, thereby aligning itself with the globally set norms. Hence, Pakistan's role in G20's peace resolution made the year 2025 a turning point for Pakistan.

Another factor that made the year 2025 a turning point for Pakistan is the normalization of relations with Bangladesh. In the past^{few years}, Pakistan found itself at the lowest point in regional political influence as it faced isolation and resistance from most of the regional players. However, 2025 marked the year of elevation Pakistan's position in the regional political discourse with fall of Indian backed regime in Bangladesh. With the addition of Bangladesh as a cooperator in the regional politics, the role of Pakistan significantly increased over the regional power game, reflecting its capability to redefine the regional political discourse. Therefore, the normalization of relations with Bangladesh is another milestone that made 2025 a turning point for Pakistan regional political status quo.

Beside this, the recognition and appreciation of officials of the current regime from the global and regional powers also proved as a turning point for Pakistan. In this context, the Chief of Defence forces was hosted by the President of US.

at the White House. Similarly, he was also awarded with King Abdul Aziz Medal of Excellence by the King of KSA. These events led to the consolidation of public trust in the current regime and also redefined the civil-military relations undermining the previous relations of mistrust. Therefore, the year 2025 proved to be a turning point forming a strategic political stability owing to consolidating public trust.

Beyond this, exploration of Pakistan's export-based potential also marked 2025 as a turning point for Pakistan. The year marked the outset of Pakistan's long withstanding shift towards economic reforms, easing the burden on treasury through privatization and seeking investments in potential sectors to transform into export based economy. In this context, Pakistan sought investment in gold and copper rich projects like Rekodok. It also finalized a deal for boosting the rare earth minerals based economic sectors. Thus, these events marked the year 2025 a turning point for Pakistan in its transformation towards export oriented economy.

The constant decline in the country's debt burden throughout the year 2025 was another milestone which made it a turning point for Pakistan's economy. Since the past few years, the country kept drowning in the debt burden leaving it at the verge of bankruptcy in 2022. However, the fragile economy ~~ma~~ persisted till 2024 despite the aid from foreign institutions. The initiation of FY 2025 marked the stability of country's economy which is reflected by the constant decline in country's debt to GDP ratio which declined from 74.1% in FY 2022 to 70.1% in FY 2025. This significant improvement shows the building capacity of country to pay debt and gain financial autonomy. Hence, the constant decline in debt of country in the year 2025 proved a turning point for Pakistan.

In conclusion, the year 2025 proved to be a milestone for Pakistan in various aspects including diplomatic resurgence, defence leverage and economic stability. The country focused to ~~expore~~ explore ways to expand its export base and attain financial auton-

only. Moreover, the year 2025 also provided the country with opportunities to normalize the relations across the region and gain geostrategic and geopolitical leverage. Moreover, Furthermore, the stabilized economic outlook and increase in development projects in the time period proved to be a turning point for Pakistan's economy. The historic achievements of balancing major powers, acquiring defence leverage and extensive diplomacy made 2025 a turning point. In short, the year 2025 become a milestone for Pakistan by paving the ways for development, growth and prosperity.