

"The Year 2025 - Turning Point for Pakistan"

A. Introduction

B. The Year 2025 has been a turning point for Pakistan:

- (1) Pakistan displayed exemplary military stability against non-convention neighbour at Eastern border.

Case in Point: operation

Bunyan ul Marsoos (9 May)

- (2) Pakistan restored its global relevance in political affairs.

Case in Point: President Trump

involved leadership of Pakistan

in Gaza Peace Deal Conference.

- (3) Pakistan regained its position in the US Foreign Policy and guarantee economic benefits.

Case in Point: USSM-FWQ direct

\$500 Million Agreement on

Rare Earth Minerals.

(4) Pakistan has signed military cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia, regaining relevance in MENA region.

Case in Point: Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) with KSA → "watershed" in ties (Stimson Centre)

(5) Stabilization of ties with all-weather friend China on North-Eastern border.

Case in Point: Operationalisation of CPEC Phase 2.0, SEZs in process.

(6) Pakistan is focusing on technological advancements. SG is launching soon.

Case in Point: Deal with STARLINK.

(IT Minister Shazfatima)

(7) The state attained successful bidding of long devastated SGC.

Case in Point: 75% of PIA

shares sold to Arif Habib Consortium.

(8) Global Recognition for Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts have been achieved.

Case in Point: ISI-CIA joint exercise to arrest ISI-K representative.
(Gulf News)

(9) Pakistan achieved domestic success against foreign sponsored militant groups.

Case in Point: Operation Green Bolan against BLA, 33 militants killed.
(NACTA)

(10) shift towards ~~non~~ renewable energy sources (solar wind) has been widespread.

Case in Point: 76% infrastructure in Punjab solarised.
(WAPDA)

C. Year 2025 was a turning point for Pakistan — a misperceived narrative:

(1) Pakistan remains vulnerable to the issue of terrorism.

Case in Point: 2nd most affected state by terrorism.
(Global Terrorism Index)

(2) Pakistan ~~was~~ unable to manage urban flooding proactively.

Case in Point: Over 3 Million people displaced.
(NDMA)

D. Conclusion

President Trump has named the civil-military leadership of Pakistan over 29 times in the second-half of year 2025, as reported by Al-Jazeera. Pakistan's foreign policy of flattery towards the US, exemplary display of military might in May 2025 and overall pivot from security to economy has made the country relevant in geo-politics of 2025. The year has brought victory for the state on both, international and domestic fronts. Its aerial and land stand-off with arch enemy in May provided it with a strategic upperhand. The involvement of Pakistani top leadership in White House Meetings proved fruitful for political standing. The reset in ties with US over rare earth minerals provide breathing space in the economic arena. Moreover, the country regained its strategic posture in the MENA region by signing a defense pact with KSA. Simultaneously, it has

managed to stabilize ties with China, both in military and economic domains.

The country has also made flagship deals with global technology service providers in order to accommodate youth at home. It is a pertinent fact that the year 2025 has been a turning point for Pakistan's foreign and domestic policies in arenas of defense, economy and geopolitics.

Pakistan is the 5th largest military in the world. It has often been criticized for generous military spending or obsession with its rival neighbour. The year 2025 proved the states' perception of adversary to be foresighted wisdom. It was globally appreciated for launching "Operation Bunyan ul Marsas" in an attempt to defend its borders and sovereignty. This act of self defense has proved pivotal in restoring strategic and diplomatic standing of Pakistan in global arena.

Pakistan has regained its

position in places of power in 2025. The state representatives have been actively involved in visiting foreign countries and extending diplomatic ties. Pakistan's role in the settling of Gaza issue, and US president Donald Trump's recurrent mentioning of state leadership has assisted the country to reframe its role in global policy framing. Pakistani representatives were a part of white House session on future of Gaza truce. This indicates global significance for the country.

The Year 2025 has been fruitful for economic cooperation with other states. Pakistan has managed to secure good deals with foreign investors. The most hyped of all is the deal with United States where rare earth metal mining and processing is at the top of agenda. The US Strategic Minerals corp and

Pakistan's Frontier Works Organisation (USSM-FWO) have signed a direct agreement of over \$500 Million.

There are other investments in this very sector to be executed soon.

The Year 2025 has enabled Pakistan to rebrand its strategic posture. It has successfully managed to acquire one of a kind defense pact with KSA. This not only guarantees strategic and economic benefits, but also allows diplomatic efforts in the MENA region. The Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement with Saudi-Arabia is a joint NATO-like collaboration, an alliance that strengthens the deterrence posture of Pakistan against foreign threats.

Pakistan has managed to sustain and strengthen its bilateral and multilateral relations with China in 2025. China has been

an exceptional friend throughout history. Pakistan has been able to manage ties with China, overcome threats to joint collaboration and materialize the China Pakistan Economic Corridor Phase 2.0 (CPEC 2.0) for good economic outcomes. The establishment of SEZs under this phase in Rashakai, Faisalabad, and Sialkot are in progress. The operationalization of Gwadar International Airport was a milestone achievement too.

Technological Advancement is need of the hour. Pakistan requires better internet services to protect the freelance industry that is growing at a good pace. In 2025, Pakistan has managed to crack a deal with Elon Musk's Starlink, the world's best internet service providers. The IT Minister Shazia Fatima has also hinted at the launch of 5G technology in the country.

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Day: Thursday

The materialization of both these projects shall reap extensive benefits for the nation.

The Year 2025 has been a success in terms of bidding of State Owned Enterprises. Such bidding institutions pose enormous burden on national economies for survival. One such devastated SOE, the National Carrier, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has successfully been privatized. The Arif Habib Consortium has managed to purchase 75% shares of the declining airline. This step shall generate positive outcomes for the states' economy in the future.

Pakistan's efforts for counter terrorism have been globally recognized in this year. Over decades, the country has been linked to terror sponsoring, it has also stayed in FATF's greylist due to this very reason. In 2025, Pakistan's

Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and USA's CIA conducted a joint operation and successfully arrested ISI-K's representative who was involved in Kabul Airport bombings in 2021. This operation has paved way for Pakistan's recognition as a victim and not sponsor of terrorism.

Pakistan has also countered militant groups operating domestically. Ever since, Taliban returned to power in neighbouring Afghanistan, Pakistan is facing the ~~use of~~ wrath of foreign militant groups and Non-State Actors. The nexus between Afghan Taliban and TTP is also Achilles Heel for Pakistan's security dynamic.

In 2025, after the two-day Hijack of Jaffar Express, Pakistan has managed to launch operation Green Bolan where 33 militants were killed as reported by NACTA.

This step is indeed an achievement for ICGs.

Renewable Energy is the current global buzz. Majority states are transitioning away from the dependence on fossil fuel. Pakistan has also embarked on this mission to shift to renewable energy, both for the benefit of national environment and in compliance with UN SDGs. As per WAPDA reports it has been successful to an extent that over 76% infrastructure (public + domestic) in Punjab (the largest populated province in Pakistan) has shifted towards Solar Panels as renewable sources of generating electricity.

As they say, every cloud has a silver lining. The past year was not just limited to extension of foreign policy and domestic milestones. It was also characterized by economic downfall and chaos at home.

Pakistan has been vulnerable to the nuisance of terrorism for

decades now. The country has been diligently planning against internal disorders and border skirmishes. 2025 has seen a rise in terror related incidents. As per Global Terrorism Index Report, Pakistan is the 2nd most vulnerable state to terror incidents. This highlights deep mismanagement and prolonged battle with fear.

Urban flooding is a recurrent phenomena in Pakistan. The country has witnessed floods of great concern in 2013, 2022 and 2025. The Urban flooding of 2025 was the worst-hit disaster to Punjab (Lahore, Sialkot) affected at largely. The NDMA has reported over 3 Million displacements. This issue is an indication of the persistent dam crisis, governance failure and infrastructural flaw. It leads public in a state of panic and hopelessness.

In a nutshell, Pakistan has extended its foreign policy, displayed military excellence and projected itself as a significant player in global decision-making in year 2025. The country has managed to privatize declining SOEs. It has altered its role as a victim of terrorism instead of being a sponsor. At its domestic front, Pakistan has challenged foreign-funded militant groups. The state has also transitioned to renewable sources of energy generation at large. There is high probability that the leadership of Pakistan utilizes the opportunities attained in 2025 to draw out economic, strategic and social benefits in the best interest of the public. There is hope that the resilience of the people of Pakistan shall equip them to raise the status of their flag and passport across the globe in upcoming years.