

THE YEAR 2025 - A TURNING

POINT FOR PAKISTAN

I INTRODUCTION

II 2025 AS A TURNING YEAR FOR PAKISTAN

A- Marka-e-Haq (May 10, 2025):

- a- False flag operation by India
- b- Attack on Pakistan
- c- Operation Bonyan-um-Marsoos
- d- India as "Aggressor" (UN Reporter)

B- Warming of Pak-US relations:

- a- Pakistan's victory in Marka-e-Haq
- b- US's need to diversify supply chain of Rare Earth Minerals
- c- 500 million dollar trade deal

C- Saudi Mutual Defense Agreement:

- a- Aggression of Israel on Qatar
- b- Security Dilemma of KSA
- c- Collective Defence agreement on Sep 7, 2025

D- China Pakistan Economic Corridor 2.0.

- a- CPEC 2.0 was launched
- b- Visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi
- c- Strengthening of all weather friendship.

E - Visits of regional leaders:

- a - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan
- b - Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian
- c - President of Kazakhstan
- d - Ruler of Abu Dhabi

F - Diplomatic efforts of Pakistani leaders:

- a - 71 collective diplomatic trips
- b - Diplomatic envoys sent to Moscow and west during May Standoff

G - Active role in regional diplomacy -

- a - Kashmir Issue
- b - Gaza Issue

III Conclusion.

2025 proved to be a turning point for Pakistan in more than one ways. After decades of marginalization in global affairs, Pakistan once again became relevant on international stage. This turning point was marked by diplomatic success regionally and globally - Military success during May stand off with India can be termed as highlight of the year. Pakistan engaged strategically with China, Iran, Turkey, OAE and other countries to order to strengthen the country. US and Pakistan also reverted to their historic normal after decades. Moreover, signing of Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, gave Pakistan, a prominent position in the security apparatus of Middle East. In 2025, Pakistan was superactive globally to raise voice for Gaza and Palestine. All these diplomatic and strategic achievements are a proof that Pakistan's position is improving internationally. Thus, 2025 was a turning point for Pakistan.

Starting off with the highlight of the year, Pakistan emerged victorious from four day standoff with India. In April, India staged a false flag

operation in the Pahalgam valley of Indian Occupied Kashmir. Without any evidence, India accused Pakistan of cross-border terrorism. In order to avenge, India launched attacks on Pakistan on the night of 6-7 May, killing innocent civilians. Pakistan practiced strategic restraint and then on 10 May, it launched Operation Bonyanum Marsoos. This operation targeted military installations including Radio station at Poonch and Bahmool facility at Beas. S-400 batteries at Adampur were neutralized. Pakistan also shot down 5 Indian military jets including 3 Rafale. In short Pakistan's military superiority was established on battlefield and Pakistan emerged victorious. India's hegemonic designs and war mongering media was exposed internationally. International media praised Pakistan for its de-escalatory efforts and a UN reporter termed India as the "Agressor" during in Pahalgam Incident. Thus 2025, was a turning year for Pakistan.

Pakistan's victory in May Standoff attracted enormous international attention. US President Donald Trump started engaging with Pakistan - strategically and economically in the after-math

of Marka-e-Haq. The warming of US-Pakistan relations after decades is another evidence that proves that 2025 is a turning year for Pakistan. In order to strengthen bilateral trade a \$500 billion trade deal was signed between US Strategic metals and Pakistan Frontier Works Organization. Under this trade deal Pakistan will export worth billions of dollars of Rare Earth Minerals to USA. Due to increasing tensions between US and China on mineral extraction equipment, US needed to diversify its supply chain of Rare Earth Minerals. In this scenario strengthening bilateral ties between US and Pakistan sounds perfect. It will reduce the dependence of US on China and will also increase cash inflow in Pakistan. Thus, 2025 was a turning point for Pakistan in terms of trade as well.

On September 7, 2025, Saudi Mutual Defence Agreement was signed between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Prince Sheikh Mohammad Bin Salman. This deal was formalized in the backdrop of Israel's aggression of Qatar. Qatar hosts the largest US military airbase in the region but when Israel attacked Qatar to target Hamas leaders,

US failed to respond - This rose concerns in the Middle East about US being an unreliable security guarantor - On the other hand Saudi Arabia and Pakistan's defence relation date back to 1970's - Pakistan has been training Saudi military officials in Pakistan's military academies - Thousands of Pakistani troops have been stationed in Saudi Arabia at times - Thus, Pakistan being the only nuclear power in Muslim world was the perfect option for Saudi Arabia to guarantee its security - The Saudi Mutual Defence Pact states that:

"An aggression against one state is an aggression against both -"

In this way SMDA replicates the collective security clause of NATO which will strengthen Saudi Arabia against foreign aggression - This defence pact gives Pakistan a vital position in the security apparatus of Middle East - It makes 2025 an important year for Pakistan in terms of diplomatic and strategic achievements -

Pakistan and China launched CPEC 2.0 in a B2B meeting which is a significant step in enhancing regional connectivity - CPEC is the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative and Pakistan is a key stakeholder

init - After the completion of basic infrastructure under CPEC, CPEC 2.0 aims to work on broader projects such as trade, education, industrialization, economy and information - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi also visited Islamabad for 6th Strategic Mutual Foreign Ministers Dialogue - It was meant to strengthen bilateral relations and All-weather strategic Friendship according to Foreign Ministry of Pakistan - Thus, the deepening and strengthening of ever-strong relations between Pakistan and China marked 2025 as a significant year for Pakistan.

Various regional leaders visited Pakistan in 2025 including Turkish President, Iranian President, President of Kazakhstan and Ruler of Abu Dhabi - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Pakistan on ~~12-13~~ 12-13 February, 2025 - 25 Memoranda of Agreement were signed in the fields of trade, economy, agriculture and education - It was motivated by the commitment of both countries to hit the targeted volume of bilateral trade - Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian also visited Islamabad - This visit was significant because it was his first visit.

to Pakistan after taking office in 2024. During his visit multiple MOUs and Agreements were signed between Iran and Pakistan to increase the volume of bilateral trade and strengthen ties. President of Kazakhstan also paid visit to Pakistan and it was extremely significant because no head of state of Kazakhstan had paid visit to Pakistan in 20 years. Thus, after a diplomatic gap of 20 years, in 2025 relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan improved. President of United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Muhammad Bin Zayed paid visit to Pakistan on 26 December, 2025. Several MOUs were signed to strengthen bilateral trade. He also committed to buy shares worth of \$100 billion in Pakistan Fauji Foundation. All these diplomatic visits of heads of states signal towards improving status of Pakistan, thus 2025 was important year for Pakistan.

There was significant diplomatic activity on the part of Pakistan as well - Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari, Foreign Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and

Field Marshall Asim Muneer made 71 diplomatic trips collectively - These trips were made purely to leverage national interests of Pakistan - Shrewd Diplomacy and efforts of state leaders helped Pakistan to emerge strong victorious - Diplomatic convoys sent to Moscow and West during May standoff to lobby for Pakistan recieved significant attention from International leaders - Thus, 2025 was a great diplomatic year for Pakistan -

Pakistan played an active part in regional diplomacy whether it be Kashmir issue or Palestine issue - Pakistan presented its stance on international platforms against India and Israel - Pakistan has always lobbied against the opression of innocent civilians in Kashmir and Gaza - After May Standoff, the Kashmir issue got internationalized due to the efforts of Pakistan - Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif spoke to the UN General Assembly about the aggression of India on Kashmiris - Moreover, Pakistan also held its stance on the right of Palestinians statehood - In order to stop the aggression of Israel in Gaza,

Pakistan endorsed US backed Gaza Peace Plan to stop humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Thus, Pakistan made its best use of diplomacy ^{in 2025} to stop oppression in Kashmir and Gaza.

In order to conclude, 2025 was a turning point for Pakistan on multiple fronts. Military victory against India in Marka-e-Haq is one of many achievements of Pakistan in 2025. Warming of relations between United States of America and Pakistan is another one. Defence Pact with Saudi Arabia placed Pakistan at the centre of Middle East security apparatus. Various regional leaders ~~had~~ visited Pakistan in 2025 to strengthen bilateral relations. Pakistan lobbied extensively around the world to bring attention to the atrocities of India in Kashmir. Pakistan also played an ~~active~~ active role in regional diplomacy. Thus, 2025 for sure was a turning point for Pakistan.