

# The Year 2025 - Turning Point for Pakistan

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## ① Introduction

**Thesis Statement:** The year 2025 has been a turning point for Pakistan, as it witnessed improved diplomatic relations across the globe. However, the year also witnessed anxieties, power shifts, and unresolved security issues. Pakistan should maintain good relations and address its internal issues more.

## ② Improved Diplomatic Relations of Pakistan:

### 2.1 Trump's Tariffs and Pakistan

2.2 USAs tilt towards Pakistan and hostilities towards India — Post-May Conflict

Case in point: Pak-US Oil Deal

Pasni Deal

Mutual

2.3 Pak - Saudi Defence Agreement

2.4 Pakistan's inclusion in Gaza-Israel Peace Plan by the US

2.5 Balanced Relations with Great Powers

2.6 UNSC observer state status

## ③ Issues faced by Pakistan in the Year 2025:

3.1 Pak-Afghan Skirmishes — fragile internal security

3.2 IMF Loans — high dependence

3.3 Civil-Military power balance shift

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## Constitutional

3.4 27<sup>th</sup> Amendment — Curtailing the independence of Judiciary

3.5 Climate Change disasters and decline of agricultural sector

3.6 Pak-India's relations and failure of diplomacy

3.7 Freedom of speech under pressure

4. Way Forward for 2026:

4.1 Maintained relations with the US

4.2 Balancing strategy between the US and China

4.3 Better relations with neighbors — A much needed change

4.4 Democracy and Equality over Suppression



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The year 2025 started with President Trump resuming the office in January 2025. The first thing he did was the imposition of taxes or tariffs that shook the whole globe. Mr. Trump also targeted Pakistan. The year 2025 has been a turning point for Pakistan — be that diplomatically, economically, or politically. It experienced improved diplomatic relations throughout the world by signing deals with the super-power, keeping the US and other powers engaged diplomatically with Pakistan. ~~However~~ Moreover, the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement signed between Pakistan — a nuclear state — and Saudi Arabia — one of the largest economies — also <sup>shows</sup> ~~could~~ Pakistan's diplomatic engagement. Along with this, the Pahalgam attack in April 2025 and the aftermath of Pahalgam attack: May 2025 conflict between Pakistan and India proved to be a turning point for Pakistan, as the US saw Pakistan a potential player in the region. After that, the US also allowed Pakistan to be included in the Gaza-Israel Peace Plan, along with the Arab states. Pakistan has been ~~was~~ successful in maintaining balancing strategy between



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the US and China and this is an important step because Pakistan needs both powers on its side. However, Pakistan has failed to deal with internal conflicts or chaos which includes ~~the~~ hostile relations with Taliban and Eastern neighbor, India. Consequently, the hike in terrorist attacks <sup>back with security</sup> has <sup>is</sup> interesting. Dependence on foreign aid for stabilizing economy is another issue that needs to be resolved soon. Pakistan has experienced a shift in power from civil to military ~~to~~ which was further proven by the 27<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment. Agricultural sector — the backbone of Pakistan's economy — has declined due to climate change disaster in 2025. Therefore, Pakistan should use the opportunity of good relations with global players and search for solutions that could in turn improve neighborly relations. Lastly, Pakistan should not ignore the fact that it is a democratic state which should be based on freedom of speech and media, equality, and free independence of judiciary. President Trump's imposition of tariffs is of vital consideration, because he did not impose tariffs equally among all nations. Pakistan has been on safer side, as it is the only state in Asia that faces only



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19% of tariffs on exports to the US. All other states lie above 19%. The fact that the US levied ~~to~~ reciprocal tariffs, cannot be ignored; however Pakistan's diplomacy also played vital role. This is evident from the fact that Mr. Trump imposed only 2.5% tariffs on India after negotiations, he later increased this to 25 50% when India started importing oil from Russia. Apparently, Mr. Trump was not happy with this act; therefore, he increased the number. ~~There~~ In this way, President Trump's tariffs are of vital importance in case of Pakistan's diplomacy throughout the year 2025.

Moreover, the USA's tilt towards Pakistan and hostilities towards India — Post-May 2025 conflict — has also been proven to be a turning point for Pakistan in 2025. The four-day war, between the hostile neighbors, was stopped by Mr. Donald Trump by brokering peace. Pakistan welcomed the ceasefire and thanked Mr. Trump; however India did exactly the opposite of what Mr. Trump wanted. ~~President~~



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This saddened Mr. Trump. The acts of India has "remained hostile throughout the year, especially with the US. For instance, President Trump wants to portray his image as a 'peace-maker'; however, India did the contrary. Indian government rejected Mr. Trump's ~~any~~ claims of "peace and ceasefire and instead called herself as brokering ceasefire ~~betas~~ with Pakistan. This led to the escalation between the US and India, and good relations with Pakistan. The **US-Pakistan Oil Deal** clearly was a signal to India that the US would <sup>like</sup> to invest in Pakistan rather than India. Trump said,

**"Who knows? The US and Pakistan could be selling oil to India, someday."**

**(President Trump)**

This shows that the hostile relations between India and the US and good relations with Pakistan ~~was~~ proved to be a turning point for Pakistan.

In addition to this, the defence pact between two Muslim states:



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## Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement

between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has been ~~prove~~ a productive step for Pakistan in 2025. The relationship of both, one being a nuclear armed state and the other strong economic state, dates back to 1960s. The 2025 agreement of defence, however, shows much stronger relations and it is a development.

This would help Pakistan in many aspects. **For instance**, Saudi-Arabia could help Pakistan economically: providing military aid (weapons), help Pakistan modernize its technology, to name a few.

Similarly, Pakistan, being a nuclear state, could help Saudi-Arabia create deterrence in the region, especially in case of Israel.

It is true that this could be a welcome to security issues in Pakistan, like Post 9/11; However it is the need of time because Pakistan is weak economically. Therefore, the mutual defence agreement between the two is a productive step in 2025.

Most importantly, Pakistan's



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inclusion in the 20 points peace plan by Mr. Trump also shows Pakistan's diplomatic achievements in 2025. The plan included main Arab states: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, among others, and Pakistan. This would have not happened if Pakistan had not been a diplomatic ally post-May conflict, 2025. Moreover, Pakistan would also send troops to Palestine; the International Stabilisation Force, along with other major states. This marks Pakistan's historical inclusion in decision-making in the Middle East, alongside strong Arab countries and superpowers, the USA. Therefore, it can be said that Pakistan's presence in the 'Trumpian Peace Plan' was a turning point for Pakistan.

Along with all this, Pakistan did not forget its iron brother partner, China. It successfully managed to balance strategic and economic relations with both the Great Powers. **For instance**, post-May conflict, Pakistan thanked China for its unwavering support throughout four



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days war. Even after its deals with the US Pakistan did not acted hostile towards China. Pakistan knows that China is its strong neighbouring partner and most importantly it's reliable. Unlike the US, China has been an all-weather friend of Pakistan. Therefore, without a shred of doubt, Pakistan has successfully balanced its relations and proved to be a reliable partner.

However, Pakistan's failure to solve domestic issues remain a major hurdle in the way of development and improved global image. Among these few are: foreign aid, that makes Pakistan dependent on others; unresolved disputes between Pakistan and Taliban; civil-military power balance shift and many other.

The hostility of Taliban towards Pakistan has proven to be a turning point for Pakistan in 2025. This has led to terrorist attacks especially in Balochistan and



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KPK. The attacks have now worsened to the extent that the police personnels and army officers are openly attacked and killed. Targets are made on the basis of race and ethnicity. For instance, the

Jaffer Express Attack in March, 2015. The train was hijacked

and innocents were killed and kidnapped. This led to fear and mistrust in the hearts of locals, on the side of government. Pakistan has failed to improve relations with any of the neighbors. Therefore, attacks on the behalf of Taliban-supported TTP has been a turning point for Pakistan in 2015.

Additionally, foreign aid has been a lifeline of Pakistan, in the shape of IMF. Pakistan's dependence on IMF for economic stability is not a wise act.

Just recently, IMF gave a loan of \$1.2 billion to Pakistan.

Worst is that it goes to the elite of country rather than



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the overall development. If this continues, Pakistan would remain dependent, on the US, economically, politically and militarily. Pakistan, now even take loans from the Gulf States. The factor of China's investment in CPEC is not to be ignored, because Pakistan would pay back that ~~out~~ debt to China. In this way, foreign aid has been a turning point for Pakistan.

The shift in the power balance between military and civilian government <sup>one</sup> must not be ignored, as ~~this~~ <sup>it</sup> is the important events that proved to be the turning point for Pakistan in 2025. President Trump's call for Field Marshal Asim Munir straight to the White House — and that too two times — is not a random act. It is deep-rooted in the political history of Pakistan, which has experienced military dictatorship several times. The

### 27th Constitutional Amendment

in 2025 further proves this point, as the Field Marshal (and President)



was given a life-time immunity and the title of Defence ~~armed~~ forces. ~~the~~ A sharp shift from civilian government to military power is further highlighted by FM Asim Munir's visit to the Middle East — a political visit. This, of course, is a turning point for Pakistan's government and especially its citizens.

Moreover, the freedom of speech being under pressure, along with media is also a turning point in 2025. Pakistan — a democratic state — pledged to provide rights to its people, giving them freedom of ~~the~~ winds; however it ~~is~~ is failing to do that. Banning media outlets and Twitter for political reasons shows that Pakistan is not fulfilling its promise of being a democratic state. That is why it is a turning point to Pakistan.

~~Be~~ The year 2025 as



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mentioned above, has been the year of ups and downs for Pakistan. There has been positive steps and negative steps too taken by the Pakistani authorities. However, Pakistan we can easily tackle with these problems if it maintains good relations with the US and China — the two great powers. In this way, the US especially can provide help, Pakistan in terrorism related issues and climate change disasters too, by providing funds. Most importantly, it should use its improved global image of 2025 to sit on negotiating table with India and Afghanistan, because it is not too late. Last but not the least, Pakistan should treat its people with equality and equity; rather than suppressing them, the government should address the issues of marginalized, to gain their trust.

In a nutshell, it can be concluded that the year 2025 has been proven to be an



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important year. Pakistan has been successful in keeping its image positive and proving the 'false narrative' of India.

~~India~~ Moreover, it secured a defence agreement with one of the strong economies of the world, the Saudi-Arabia. The year 2025 has been a turning point for Pakistan, by securing trade deals with the global power, the USA, and including itself in the Gaza-Israel peace plan. It was successful in balancing relations between the US and China and making Majed-Brigade an international terrorist organization. However, it failed at domestic level, that is, it failed to eradicate terrorists attacks that operated from Afghanistan. Its fragile relations with neighbouring states has led to security issues. The climate change disaster is another challenge. Pakistan should maintain relations it gained during 2025 especially post-May 2025 conflict with India, and use it to solve domestic issues - especially



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Climate change disasters and  
Taliban's support for TTP.