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The year 2025 - Turning point for Pakistan.

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2025 is being hailed as a turning point for Pakistan, marking a shift from economic instability to stability and growth.

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ESSAY

For Pakistan, 2025 emerged
as a definitive "year of
the Pivot" a high-stakes
period where the nation tee-
tered between systemic coll-
apse and a calculated,
state-enforced "new normal."
The year opened under
the heavy shadow of

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international polarization and a fragile economy, but it soon became the stage for profound structural shifts that redefined the country's trajectory. Economically, the narrative shifted from "default watch" to a gritty stabilization. The turning point of a country can be gauged on various parameters but the proximate turning points in the form of military power shown in May, 2025 against India. Also, Pakistan and United States relations lead country to the economic stability. Balance approach in relations among Asian and American Nations. Also, the war of Iran, Palestine and Israel shows a clear message of tilt in the favour and against the nuclear Nations. Pakistan

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and Saudi - Arabi Defence Deal also shows the importance of Pakistan at international level. International relations of Pakistan enhanced the foreign Direct investment in Pakistan and exploration of minerals in Recko Dick Balochistan lead Pakistan to the open of progress. Distressing turning points which lead to the economic destabilization and security threats. The very recent Pakistan and Afghanistan problems on the basis of terrorist groups and insurgency across the borders. Similar situation occurs in Balochistan, where BLA (Balochistan Liberation Army) affecting the peace of the country. In 2025, a turning point is climate change globally, Pakistan faced im-

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dictate steps to overcome it. Social issues and constitutional amendments created painful circumstances for survival. 2025 is being hailed as a turning point for Pakistan, marking a shift from economic instability to stability and growth.

The military stand off May 2025, sparked by the pahalgam incident, served as a critical turning point for Pakistan by shifting the national focus from internal political fracturing to external defense and institutional consolidation. It helps the restoration of the military's public standing. The 2025 conflict was a turning point in warfare doctrine. It was first time Pakistan employed Tech-Driven Victory. This war showed the strategic power and air force of

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of Pakistan's techniques at National and international level. The 2025 power show was less about territorial gain and more about territorial and strategic reset. It allowed the Pakistani state to trade a period of chaotic polarization for a disciplined, military-led 'new normal', anchored by modern technology and renewed institutional prestige. This shows the turning point for Pakistan at international level. An defense system and air strike system of Pakistan at global level lead to the progress and prosperity for country. In Dubai, the international air show is another name of jet marketing at global level. India Pakistan conflict provided a

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chance to China through Pakistan to sell their jets to other nations.

In 2025, the dramatic improvement in Pakistan-US relations was characterized by many as "strategic re-entry". After years of being sidelined or viewed through the narrow lens of Afghanistan, Pakistan leveraged the 2025 regional crisis and a change in regional and US administration to reposition itself as a "reliable regional partner". This shift was a turning point for Pakistan in four specific ways. First of all, the end of "De-Hyphenation". For over a decade, the US had pursued an "India-first" policy, largely decoupling its relationships with Pakistan from its

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engagement with New Delhi. The May 2025, India-Pakistan standoff, Washington intervened as a primary mediator. President Trump's role as peace keeper re-inserted Pakistan into the US strategic calculus. This forced a "re-hyphenation", where the US acknowledged that regional stability in South Asia is impossible without active and balanced engagement with Islamabad. Pakistan secured 19% tariff rate on exports, the lowest in South Asia. Pakistan successfully used high-value counterterrorism (CT) success to regain trust. The Abbey Gate breakthrough, the capture and extradition of a high-profile ISIS-K mastermind in August 2025 earned Pakistan a rare public commendation from US President before Congress.

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The most significant turning point was Pakistan's ability to "balance" its ties between Washington and Beijing without choosing sides. In 2025, Pakistan hosted major Chinese CPEC Phase-II projects while simultaneously welcoming US firms into its technology and mineral sectors. By engaging the US, Pakistan reduced its absolute dependence on China, gaining much needed leverage in negotiations with both superpowers. For the first time, Pakistan successfully integrated western capital and Chinese infrastructure in the same strategic sectors without triggering a diplomatic crisis. In July 2025, a historic trade deal was signed where US firms invested \$500 million.

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in Pakistan's critical minerals and rare earth elements. Simultaneously, Pakistan launched CPEC Phase-II, focusing on **B2B** cooperation and industrialization.

Pakistan's foreign policy is navigating one of its most complex periods, marked by a significant shift toward vocal solidarity with Iran while maintaining its foundational stance on Palestine. The "turning point" you are seeing is a move away from quiet neutrality toward a more assertive diplomatic role in the Middle East driven by the risk of regional spillover. Recently Israeli strikes on Iran and Qatar have pushed Islamabad into a corner. Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has described Israeli actions

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against Iran and Qatar as unjustified and illegitimate aggression. Pakistan has explicitly cited **Article 51 of the UN Charter** publicly endorsing Iran and Qatar's rights to self-defense. While many Gulf nations explored normalization with Israel via the **Abraham Accords**, Pakistan has doubled down on its refusal to recognize Israel. Pakistan has used its position as non permanent member of the **UN Security Council** (2025-2026) to lobby for a permanent ceasefire and has sent numerous humanitarian aid consignments to Gaza. Pakistan frequently calls out the international community's double standards, comparing the global response to the **Ukraine** war with the perceived "impunity" granted to Israel in Gaza and Iran.

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The signing of the Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) in late 2025 has indeed been hailed as a historic turning point. For the first time, the relationship has moved from a transactional "oil for soldiers" arrangement to a formalized, NATO-style mutual defense pact. The (SMDA) contains a groundbreaking "mutual defense" clause, which effectively states that an attack on one is an attack on both. This pact strengthens Pakistan's position in South Asia. In May 2025, India-Pakistan clashes signaled to regional rivals that Pakistan is backed by economic and political weight of the Gulf. Saudi Arabia is eyeing the JF-17 Thunder (Block III) and Pakistani

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dron technology to meet its vision 2030 goal of localizing 50% of its defense spending. The defense deal is the "security guarantee" that Saudi investors needed to move from temporary loans to long-term industrial investments. The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is the primary vehicle for this Saudi Arabia roadmap focusing on Energy: A multi billion dollar Aramco oil refinery in Gwadar to reduce Pakistan fuel import cost. mining: joint ventures in Reko Diq Copper and gold mines. Instead of simply asking for "soft loans" to pay off the IMF, Pakistan is now selling equity in national projects which creates jobs and builds infrastructure rather than just adding interest-bearing debt.

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Pakistan is witnessing a synchronized shift where "Economic Diplomacy" is being used as the primary tool to repair international relations, which in turn is fueling Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and creating a structured path for youth empowerment. Pakistan transition is anchored by the "Special Investment Facilitation Council" (SIFC) which acts as a single-window interface for global investors. For instance CPEC (Phase II), China remains leading investor, contributing over **33%** of FDI in yearly. The focus has moved from infrastructure to **B2B** (Business to Business) partnership in agriculture and tech. Pakistan has improved **EU** (European Union) and **UK** (United Kingdom) are driven

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by Pakistan's "Green initiative" attracting Swiss and British capital into renewable energy and sustainable mining. With over **60%** of the population under 30, the government is treating youth not as a "burden" but as an exportable asset and a domestic engine. Skills Impact Bond (PSIB): Launched in late 2025, this **\$ 3.57 million** initiative uses private capital to train youth. Investors are only repaid if the students actually land and retain high-paying jobs. Pakistan is now **3rd largest freelance community** globally. New policies allow 100% retentions of foreign exchange earning for IT exporters, directly empowering young tech entrepreneurs.

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In December 2025, The US Export-Import Bank approved a landmark financing package of \$1.25 Billion for the Reko Diq copper-gold project. This is the largest American economic commitment in Pakistan's history. The US is actively seeking to reduce its dependence on China for "critical minerals" like Antimony. Pakistan, which holds significant reserves in Balochistan Weshuk district, has become a primary target for U.S. supply chain. Estimates for 2026, suggest that once operational, Reko Diq alone could contribute over \$1 billion annually to Balochistan's provincial budget - nearly doubling its current financial capacity. The mining sector

is projected to attract an additional \$5-7 billion in foreign investment by 2028. Pakistan's High level officials visited White House and Washington is interested in mining in Balochistan which ultimately leads to the progress and prosperity of the country.

There are some distressing turning points for Pakistan in 2025 and are hurdle for Pakistan's prosperity.

Pakistan's relationship with Afghanistan has reached a definitive turning point, shifting from a policy of "fraternal patience" to one of Coercive Deterrence. Islamabad has signaled that it will no longer absorb the security costs of cross-border militancy.

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fundamentally altering the geopolitical landscape of Durand Line. Pakistani military leadership issued a clear ultimatum to the Afghan Taliban: choose between the TTP and Pakistan. To pressure the Taliban, Pakistan has implemented prolonged closure resulted in a sharp drop in terrorist infiltration but caused massive trade losses of \$2 million per day. Pakistan and Afghanistan share deep historical, cultural, and religious ties but have a complex relationship between the nations. The peace in Afghanistan is linked with global peace. International route affected if there exist any destabilization in Afghanistan. In 2025, Pakistan and

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and Afghanistan security issue is the turning point for Pakistan.

In 2025, Pakistan reached a critical security turning point as it faced a "two-front" insurgency surge that was more sophisticated than anything seen in the previous decade. The military responded by launching operation Azm-e-Istehkam, shifting from local intelligence operations to a broader, nationwide counter-insurgency doctrine. The TTP launched over 85 quadcopter/drone attacks on security posts in 2025, marking the first time the group has used commercial drone technology for surveillance and bombing. After a series of

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deadly suicide attacks, including a raid on a cadet college Wana, Pakistan carried out precision airstrikes inside Afghanistan targeting TTP leadership. In the Southwest (Balochistan), the insurgency became "audacious" and highly co-ordinated through **BRAS** (Baloch Raaji Aajoi Sange) alliance. The Jaffar Express Hijacking, BLA hijacked a train, kidnapping over 400 passengers. There was a massive intelligence failure and subsequent turning point for army training, focusing on rapid response units. Since 2021 more than **1700+** Terrorist incidents recorded. **1000+** militants killed in the last 10 months of 2025 alone. The turning point in

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2025 was the realization that 'Containment' had failed. The military is now pursuing a decisive elimination policy, treating the TTP and Baloch insurgents as a unified threat to the state's economic survival. Pakistan is currently ranked as the first most climate-vulnerable country in the 2025 in the Global Climate Risk Index. Despite contributing less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the country faces a disproportionate burden of climate-induced disasters. 2025 is the turning point for Pakistan to control global warming at international forums like United Nations. Also Conference of Parties (COP-30) main focus is to control

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climate change by adopting immediate steps the loss of natural and man made resources could be decreased.

In 2025 floods more than 5 million people have been affected. It was the biggest disaster in the previous 40 years. It is estimated that more than 23000 animals have been lost their lives, spread of diseases and food insecurity caused havoc which ultimately leads to the turning point. By managing these disasters rapid steps need to be taken otherwise, the results could be more harmful.

Pakistan is navigating a complex landscape where deep-seated social issues are

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colliding with a series of historic constitutional changes.

The 26th and 27th Amendments have fundamentally altered the balance of power in Pakistan. Critics and proponents alike view this as the most significant structural change since the 18th Amendment in 2010.

Pakistan still grapples with nearly 25 million out-of-school children, while the National Education Policy 2025 aims

to enroll 10 million by 2030, the 2026 outlook shows that poverty remains the biggest

barrier to literacy. Over 60% of the population is under 30. Lack of technical training and rapid GDP growth (projected 3-4%) have led to high unemployment. By fixing these problems wisely could be

turning point for prosperity of Pakistan.

In a nutshell, 2025 emerged as a definitive turning point for Pakistan, marking a transition from chronic instability toward structural resilience. The nation began bridging the gap between its immense potential and its complex challenges. By prioritizing climate adaptation and digital growth, Pakistan has started crafting a more sustainable narrative for its future. As the saying goes "After every storm, the Sun smiles" and for Pakistan, 2025 represents that long-awaited dawn of progress.