

TOPIC: Challenges to National Interest

Challenges to National Interest of Pakistan?

"Nations are not destroyed by enemies, but by ignoring their core interest."

In a world driven by shifting alliances and rising uncertainties, Pakistan's ability to protect its national interest defines its survival and growth. But what exactly is national interest? And what threatens it?

Defination (National Interest)

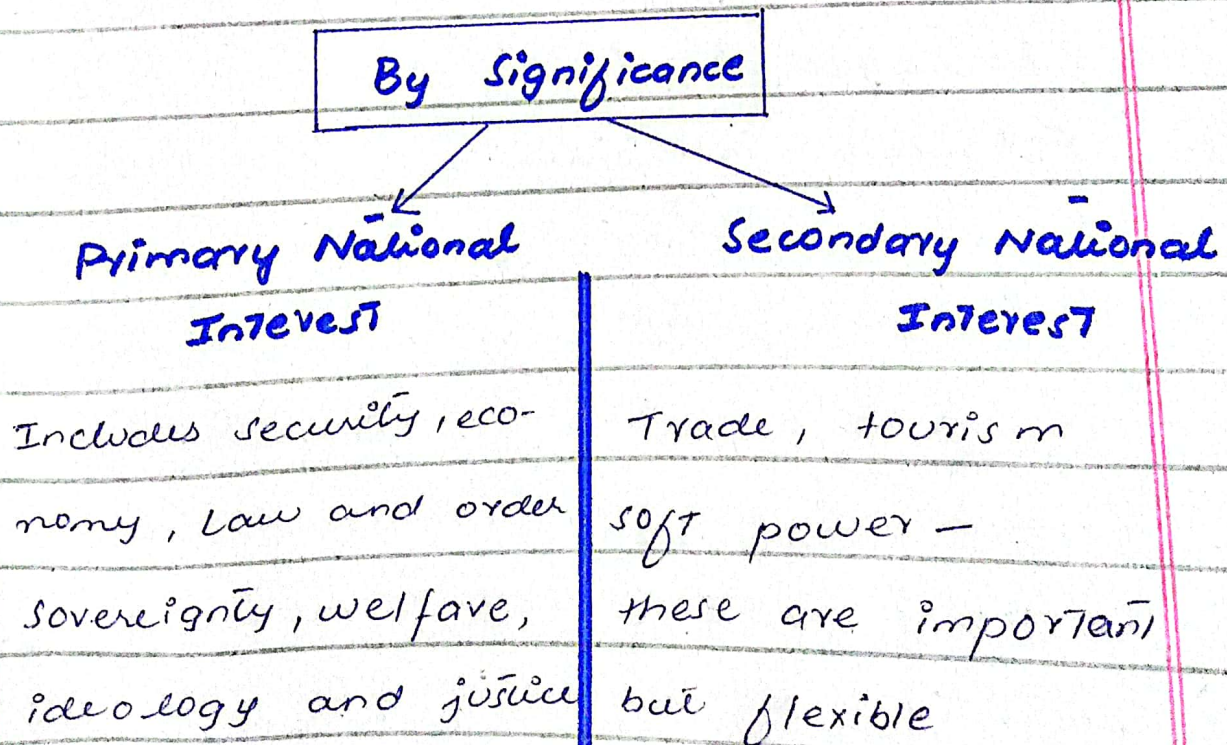
National Interest is the sum total of goals a country pursues to ensure its survival, stability and sustainability, both internally and externally. It's like a compass that guides every decision made in foreign or domestic policy.

1. Raison d'Etat: The soul of national interest

PP "The reason of the state is to exist, to survive and to prevail."

Raison d'Etat is the logic or justification for state action. For Pakistan, it includes protecting its borders, economy, ideology, and society. Every action, from diplomacy to defense, must serve this.

2. Categorization of National Interest



By Permanence

Permanent Interests

Include ideological security and territorial integrity

Temporary Interests

Such as short-term alliances and loan agreements

By Relevance

General Interests

Shared with many countries : regional peace

Specific Interests

Kashmir Issue or Nuclear deterrence

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Security challenges to National Interest

a. Immediate Existential Challenges

Ongoing Regional Wars: Border tensions with India (e.g. Pulwama, Pahalgam (2019), ceasefire violations along LOC, and water-related tensions under the Indus Waters Treaty raise existential alarms.

Instability in Afghanistan: The porous Durand line enables cross-border terrorism. TTP sanctuaries in Afghanistan directly threaten national security.

“The sword of war is not the solution; the shield of strategy must prevail”

b. Mid-term Challenges

Hybrid warfare via cyberattacks and disinformation for example EU DisinfoLab report on India's propaganda network.

Proxy Influence of external powers like the U.S., China and Gulf States in Pakistan's strategic affairs.

Long-term Challenges

Strategic over-reliance on China and Gulf countries limits Pakistan's autonomy.

Nuclear deterrence is under strain due to changing regional alliances and Western pressure.

Economic Vitality and National Interest

Immediate Existential Challenges

Pakistan's external debt crossed \$130 Billion in 2024. IMF-led austerity compromises policy independence.

Inflation and currency devaluation directly impact socio-political cohesion.

b. mid term Challenges

Over-dependence on remittances (especially from Gulf countries) makes Pakistan vulnerable to global economic shifts.

Lack of industrial diversification includes 62% exports still depend on textile sector.

c. Long-Term Challenges

CPEC's no debt model raises fears of debt-trap diplomacy. Climate change threatens agriculture, the backbone of Pakistan's economy, 45% workforce depends on it.

“Economic slavery is the most dangerous kind, the body may be free but the mind is chained.”

3 Law & Order Challenges

a. Immediate existential Challenges

Rise of street crimes in Urban hubs like Karachi and Lahore affects public confidence.

Political instability for example violent protests and vandalism is challenging writ of state.

b. Mid-Term Challenges

Inconsistent enforcement of law due to political Interferences.

Weak prosecution and outdated criminal justice system (e.g. (Zahi)

Shahrokh Tajai, Noor Mukadam case) foster crime impunity.

c. Long-Term Challenges

Poor policing reforms; insufficient integration of technology (like e-FIRs)

Inability to curb sectarian violence
land mafias, and tribal disputes

4. Justice System challenges

a. Immediate Existential Challenges

Selective accountability undermines
democracy and polarised society.

Backlog of over 2 million cases
in court causes delays in justice.

b. Mid - Term Challenges

Lack of witness protection and
forensic facilities. Also distrust in
judiciary encourages mob justice
and extremism.

c. Long - Term challenges

Delay in legal reforms; non-
implementation of supreme court
verdicts. Weak institutional capacity
leads to legal loopholes in

fighting terrorism.

NOTE for instructor:

Dear Respected Sir/Madam, most respectfully, I have few concerns. This is my first attempt. Just out of university. No matter how much I search or try to approach constructive approach, find updated news I feel like I'm not doing justice to the topic. Please leave your remarks, on which areas I need to work, or do I have to change my approach overall. As I wrote this topic I feel like it's boring and just a narration that will make the checker sleepy. I'm very concerned as time is slipping by. I'll be very grateful if you help me out.

Regards,

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