

Core constituents of Pakistan's

National Interest:

Pakistan's national interest is not confined to one dimension, it is a complex matrix of security, economic, diplomatic, internal cohesion and strategic autonomy imperatives.

Security & Defence:

Territorial integrity & sovereignty are fundamental priorities, especially amid long-lasting disputes like Kashmir & the ongoing unrest in Balochistan. Maintaining credible defence position, including conventional & nuclear capabilities — is non-negotiable.

Pakistan's defence budget in FY 2025-26 has rose to ^{PKR} 2.55 trillion, a 20% increase from FY 2024 defence budget of PKR 2.13 trillion in FY 2024-25. Especially due to the latest Indo-Pak conflict in May 2025, has proved the importance of Nuclear deterrence and stable defence posture for Pakistan. Moreover, these defence capabilities are not only important for Pakistan's sovereignty but also the balance

power as ~~significance~~ ^{with} ~~maximization~~

2. Economic Prosperity

^{effective integration of}
Economic development, ^{innovative}

Effective integration of innovative technology,

FDI attraction all together for a

strategic economic axis. Project like

CPEC involving infrastructure, rails,

ports, energy, industrial zones ^{now} are

pivotal. Economic security ^{now} often

seen as intrinsic to National security,

with Pakistan's National Security Policy

(2022-26) positioning at core. It emphasized

on 'economic security & addresses issues

like violent extremism and climate change

as part of policy to foster national

security.

Addressing regional disparities like -

agricultural infrastructure, water disputes

and investing in mineral processing (Reko Dik)

are key to economic development &

internal cohesion.

3. Diplomatic Relations & Regional Stability:

Stabilizing ties with neighbours - Afghanistan, Iran & within South Asia - is important to for reduce threats and foster trade & security cooperation. Managing great power relations ~~with~~ including China, USA, Saudi Arabia - is also vital for strategic autonomy.

4. Internal cohesion & Human Security:

Ensuring equitable development and empowering citizen through education, health-care & social welfare (programs like Ehsaas program, Sehat card, etc) and managing internal divides effectively is crucial. Ensuring good governance to counter issues like poverty, inequality, natural disasters, and terrorism to foster social cohesion in the country.

5. Maritime & Resource Stability:

Pakistan has Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) spanning to 240,000 km², rich in fisheries, hydrocarbons, seabed resources, etc. Securing and exploiting these resources supports development. Given maritime security challenges, particularly regarding

: CPEC, Pakistan has developed specialized naval and paramilitary forces.

6. Strategic Self-Reliance :

Building indigenous capabilities - defence production, AI infrastructure, agriculture modernization - are central to reducing dependency, and enhancing resilience and producing equipment tailor-made to our needs.

Aligning National Interest with changing Regional Dynamics:

Leveraging Pakistan-China Alignment:

Pakistan remains deeply tied to China through and CPEC, infrastructure, energy zones & roads, which advance economic development & strategic goals.

But recent agreements reaffirm enhanced

cooperation in other sectors like technology, agriculture and mining not just roads and energy zones. However, ^{there were for a decade} stalls in Chinese

funding for the development of 1800-km rail network, a project part of CPEC, due to Pakistan unable to payback Chinese debts.

Day: _____

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But now Asian Development bank is ready to invest \$ 2 billion in for Karachi to Rohri rail upgrade (part of 1800 km rail upgrade) to serve Reko Dig in transporting its output, and ADB is also eager to invest \$450 million in the Reko Dig itself, committed to mining development.

militarily China has also shown interest to sell ^{stealth} 40 J-35 fighter jets to Pakistan. Pakistan is also exploring other Chinese & military equipment like radar systems. Pakistan should leverage the Pak-China relationships to fullest, and the ongoing ties and agreement ~~are~~ undermine that multi-dimensional cooperations like CPEC for economic development & prosperity and military interests to ensure defence cooperation.

3. Combating Climate Change:

Climate change is not an upcoming threat, its a reality we are living in. The glaciers melting, heavy torrential rains, increasing numbers of monsoon spells and India using water as weapon against Pakistan,

Day: _____

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all these together contribute to river overflows & urban floodings, not just causing infrastructure damage, mass displacement and ^{damage to} ~~loss of~~ agriculture land but also wreaking havoc for people's livelihood. Not just Pakistan but ~~Pakistan needs to~~ but the whole region is effected by climate change badly and reports suggest next year it is going to be ^{more} 22% worse. Adminstor ^{of Pakistan} especially Disaster Management authorities ~~need to~~ should gather the regional players on a table and look for solution to combat these catastrophies. Collaborative efforts to reduce pollutions, signing agreements and setting standand policies to counter ~~such~~ this is vital.

Pakistan itself should introduce policies and rules & regulations ^{regarding} ~~regarding~~ deforestation and rein timber mafia. Also, there should be immediate rehabilitation plans for current victims of floods.

2 Consolidating US-Pak Relationship:

Pakistan's COAS Field Marshal's recent visit to US and meeting with US President Trumps also open opportunities for Pakistan.

US's interest in Pakistan's resources ~~and~~ should be used at best by Pakistan for its national interest not only to empower our economy but also to combat terrorism and other violent unrests in the region with collaboration.

Secondly, US double-tariffs on India open ways for Pakistan to make place in US market. Pakistan should encourage businessmen and producers to explore US market to discover new avenues.

4. Investment in AI sector.

The recent boom in AI ~~in the~~ after COVID-19, has made AI products a profitable business not just in the region but also globally. Pakistan should employ its National AI policy to the fullest ~~by~~ effectively as mentioned in the documents by ~~the~~ ^{not just} producing our own AI-models and products ~~made~~.

custom build for our needs? but also exporting ^{fields of} AI & IT products to the world. AI and cybersecurity are the future of the world & Pakistan must use their applications to maximum potential to ensure economic growth, self reliance and national interests.

Conclusion :

Pakistan's national interest is a blend of war defence, deterrence, internal cohesion, diplomatic ties and economic strategy. Pakistan to combat regional threat should consolidate the diplomatic ties leading to economic cooperation and deploy good governance and other economic prosperity development to ensure sustained economic growth & internal cohesion.