

- National Interests are divided into two categories: vital or core interests and less than vital or secondary interests. Vital interests are most important from the point of view of a country's foreign policy. The state is most unwilling to make any compromise with vital interests and is sure to wage war in its defence.
- India says Kashmir is an issue of vital interest for it. China proclaims Taiwan and Tibet are of vital interests to it. The United States considered toppling the Taliban regime in Afghanistan as an issue of vital interest to it.
- Vital interests of a state are so basic that they acquire near-permanent place on its foreign policy agenda and often create emotional appeal among the masses.
- On the other hand, less than vital or secondary interests are those aims of a state that they make efforts to fulfil but refrain from going to war or creating animosity with other states.

*Students can use the above point to show the examiner their understanding on how national interest and domestic issues influence foreign policy and they should write the distinction of core and non-core interest in order to justify India's action on issues where it has refrained and why and where it has acted promptly.*

**Probable Question:**

- *National Interest is a slippery concept used to describe as well as prescribe foreign policy. Discuss with special emphasis on core and non-core interest of India.*
- *India has outrightly rejected China's OBOR despite several economic benefits that the project promises. Justify India's stand in the context of National Interest.*

## **SCHOLARLY ANALYSIS ON INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY**

### **Shyam Saran: How India sees the world**

- **Shyam Saran** shows how “**search for strategic autonomy**” marks the running thread that binds India's diplomatic initiatives. While he commends India's foreign policy for being firmly grounded in the Kautilyan paradigm, he feels its diplomacy needs greater finesse and skill.

### **Vijay Gokhale: Raisina Dialogue**

- India has moved on from its non-aligned past. **India is today an aligned state—but based on issues.** Underscoring that it was time for India to become part of the global rule-making process, Gokhale argued that “**in the rules-based order, India would have a stronger position in multilateral institutions.**”

### **Harsh V Pant**

- **Indian foreign policy vision is evolving – only natural for a nation that is rising in the global power hierarchy.**
- **Harsh V Pant** (on How economic reforms influenced India's foreign policy)-**Indian foreign policy has come a long way from the early 1990s, but it is clear that it is shaped to a significant degree by the legacy of economic reforms that happened thirty years ago.**

### **Shivashankar Menon: "Choices: Inside the Making of India's Foreign Policy"**

- I have no doubt that China wishes to be number one in the world. As patriotic Chinese convinced that China was number one in the world order until the aberration of the last two centuries, it is natural that