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Mock-6 07-01-2026
Political Science

SECTION-I

Q.No.1

Introduction

The US president is the most powerful elected executive in the world because the US president is a single nationally elected executive, performs combined roles, control over the executive bureaucracy, legislative influence, military powers and foreign policy powers. However, the president is constitutionally constrained due to separation of powers checks and balances, ~~dis~~ federalism, judicial review and electoral accountability. The US presidency is powerful in scope and visibility but constrained in legality and structure.

Why US President is Considered Extremely Powerful

a. Unity of Executive Authority

Unlike parliamentary systems where executive power is shared between a prime minister and a cabinet dependent on the legislature, the US president is a single nationally elected executive. This gives the office a direct mendate from the electorate. Clear authority over the executive branch, including federal agencies and departments.

B. Roles Combined in one office

The President simultaneously performs roles that are often separated in other ~~offices~~ democracies.

Head of State
Head of Government
Commander in Chief
Chief Diplomate
Chief Executive

This concentration of roles significantly amplifies presidential influence.

C. Control over Executive Bureaucracy

The President appoints senior officials, directs federal agencies through executive orders and influences policy implementation even when Congress is gridlocked.

d. Legislative Influence

The president proposes legislation and sets national agenda.

Uses the Veto power, shaping

Congressional behaviour.

Influences public opinion through speeches, and media.

e. Foreign Policy and Military Power ~~Influence~~

US President can deploy military forces without a formal declaration of war.

Negotiates international agreements.

Responds rapidly to global crises.

Why the President is Constitutionally Constrained

Despite these powers, the constitution deliberately restricts the presidency to prevent tyranny.

a. Separation of Powers

The constitution divides power among ~~to~~ three branches:

Congress: makes laws, controls taxation and spending, declare war.

Judiciary: interprets laws and can invalidate presidential actions

President: executes laws, not create them unilaterally.

This means presidential authority is never absolute.

b. Checks and Balances

Veto overrides by two-third congressional majority

Senate confirmation of appointments and treaties.

Impeachment and removal for abuse of power.

c. Federalism

Power is divided between the federal government and state:

States control major areas like education, policing and elections.

Presidents cannot directly command state governments.

This limits domestic executive branch.

d. Judicial Review and Rule of Law

Courts can strike down executive orders and actions.

President must act within constitutional and statutory authority.

Even the president is subject to the law.

e. Fixed Term and Electoral Accountability

The President serves a fixed four-year term. Limited to two terms. Can be voted out of office regardless of political power. This ensures political control over the executive.

The Core Paradox

The US presidency is powerful in scope and visibility, but contrained in legality and structure.
President is powerful because it is unified, nationally elected and dominant in foreign affairs. Constrained because of authority is fragmented, contested, and continuously checked.

Conclusion

The US President is arguably the most powerful elected executive due to the responsibilities and global influence. However, constitutional design ensures that this power operates within a framework of legal limits and democratic accountability making presidency both formidable and restrained.

SECTION- II

Q. No. 6

Introduction

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) has emerged as one of the most significant Global South-led groupings, increasingly projecting itself as an alternative to Western-dominated global Governance institutions such as the United Nations (UN) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). While BRICS does not seek to dismantle these institutions outright, its initiatives clearly challenge their legitimacy, dominance, and structural biases.

Why BRICS is seen as a challenge

Institutions like the UN and IMF were created in the post-World-War II era and largely reflect Western power hierarchies:

IMF voting power heavily favours the US and Europe.

UN Security Council (UNSC) reform has stalled, marginalizing emerging powers.

Conditional lending and policy prescriptions often constrain developing countries' sovereignty.

BRICS positions itself as a counterweight, advocating a more multipolar, equitable global order.

Key BRICS Initiatives Challenging UN and IMF Dominance

1. New Development Bank (NDB) - Alternative to IMF and World Bank

NDB stablished in 2014, it provides infrastructure and sustainable development financing without harsh political conditionalities. It focuses on global south priorities such as renewable energy, transport, and urban development.

Challenge to IMF / WB

Reduces dependence on IMF's austerity-driven loans.

Promotes South-South cooperation rather than donor-recipient hierarchy.

Lending in local currencies limit dollar dominance.

2. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) - Financial Safety Net

A $100 billion reserve pool to help members during balance-of-payments crisis.

Acts as an alternative emergency liquidity mechanism.

Challenge to IMF

Offers financial support without intrusive surveillance.

Weakens IMF's monopoly over crisis management in developing economies.

3. Push for De-dollarization

Promotion of trade settlements in local currencies.

Discussions on a common BRICS payment system and potential reserve currency.

Impact on Global Financial Order

Challenges to US Dollar hegemony, which underpins IMF influence

Reduces vulnerability to sanctions and external shocks.

Encourage financial sovereignty for Global South Nations.

4. BRICS Expansion (BRICS Plus)

Inclusion of countries such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Ethopia, and Egypt.
Expands BRICS geographic and economic footprints.

Challenge to UN System

Represents regions underrepresented in UNSC dicision-making.
Builds alternative diplomatic coalitions outside Western-led multilateral forums.

5. South-South Cooperation and development Discourse

Emphasis on non-interference, repect for sovereignty, and development tailored to national contents.

Contrast with IMF/UN Approaches

Reject universal policy prescriptions.
Counters the liberal interventionalist norms often embedded in UN and IMF practices.

Limitation of BRICS as a challenger

Despite its initiatives, BRICS is not yet a full substitute for UN or IMF.
Internal diversity and geopolitical

tensions. and NDB lending scale remains modest relative to IMF / WB.

Thus, BRICS is better understood as a reformist challenger, not a revolutionary replacement.

Conclusion

BRICS represents a systemic challenge to UN and IMF by creating parallel financial institutions, promoting multi-polarity and de-dollarization. Rather than dismantling existing institutions, BRICS seeks to reshape global order from within and outside. In essence, BRICS reflects the transition from a Western-dominated order to a multipolar world, where the Global South is no longer a passive rule taker but an active rule-shaper.