

MOCK - 2 (PAPER - II)

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		- There are 20 questions. - All questions are compulsory - The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it. - Answer the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each. Contents of the answer is more important than its length. - Answers must be written within the space provided. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
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Name MIRANT PARIKH.

Roll No. _____

Mobile No. _____

Date 19/11/16.

Signature Mirant

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

REMARKS

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- Q1. "One is bound to tolerate criticism, dissent and discordance, but not expected to tolerate defamatory attack." Recent Supreme Court judgment upholding validity of section 499 and 500 of IPC is a classic case of one step forward, two steps back. Critically analyze if it is in the societal interest to grant an absolute right to reputation. (12.5 Marks)

The SC by upholding the validity of Section 499 & 500 of IPC has dealt a big blow to Right of Freedom & Expression.

While Section 499 & 500, being benign in nature to protect a person's reputation has become political tools to crush dissent & criticism.

Thus, it is not in societal interest to grant an absolute right to reputation but it was a necessary step to put a stop on the increasing cases of political malignment & musling during election season.

To protect the Right to freedom & expression the government should ensure & try

to differentiate between the cases of genuine critics & the cases of defamation.

A guidelines in the form of outlines differentiating the difference ~~between~~ ^{between} criticism & defamation can be brought out by the government in collaboration with the civil society & the citizens to end the confusion.

Suggestions can be evaluated in the Parliament, by posting the guidelines online.

Thus, there has to be a difference b/w right to reputation & Right to speech & expression and one cannot be ~~sacrificed~~ sacrificed at the altar of other.

Q2. "Governor is not an all-pervading super constitutional authority." Use of Gubernatorial positions for narrow political ends has led to the demand of abolition of constitutional post of governor. Discuss relevancy of governor as a constitutional functionary in view of recent happenings. (12.5 Marks)

According to the Constitution of India, the role of the Governor is defined as the authority which provides an administrative stability & continuity in the time of crisis as well as performs the function as a link between the state & the central government.

Despite such a benign role being assigned to the Governor, the post of the Governor can be considered as the most politicized post in country. The political interference can be understood from the fact that when there's a change in the government at the center there's a change in the governor's in almost all the state pointing towards

Remarks Their politicization.

The recent attempts by the Central Government to topple state governments in Uttarakhand & Arunachal Pradesh misusing article 356 has put question marks on the importance & relevance of the post of Governor. Even though it might be tempting to eradicate the post of governor, the governor still plays an important role —

- ① Provides continuity in a state of crisis prevailing with the state government.
- ② Ensures that the state government runs acc. to tenets laid by the Constitution.
- ③ Acts as the eyes & ears of the ^{Central} government & ensures that no secessionist movements are brewing especially in case of NE India.

However, the governor should act & as per the directives provided by the SC in SR Bommai case & Buta Singh case.

Remarks

- Q3. "Our Constitution is not just a mere set of fundamental laws that form the basis of governance of our country but it embodies and reflects certain basic values, philosophy and objectives that were held very dear to our founding fathers." Discuss the importance of the preamble in governance of India. (12.5 Marks)

K. M. Munshi said that "Preamble is the identity card of the Constitution".

Preamble of the Indian Constitution is based on the Objectives Resolution moved by Pandit Nehru in the Constituent assembly. It highlights the values, philosophy & objectives that were held very dear to our founding fathers.

The constitution without its preamble would be a dead letter without its spirit. Thus, the fundamental laws that are implemented ~~has~~ have to ensure that they are in consonance ~~is~~ with the ideas & value laid out in the preamble ^{e like} ~~the~~ secularism, socialism, integrity, etc.

Remarks

The preamble has helped the executive in power & the SC in ~~interpreting~~ interpreting the true meaning of the ~~fundamental~~ laws laid down in the Constitution. Thus, the preamble has played a salient role in the governance of India.

Be it the Kesavanand Bharati Case or the Golaknath Case or the Minerva Mills Case, the SC has looked upto the preamble to interpret the Constitution.

The ~~Govt~~ Legislature while passing the law has also looked upto the preamble whether the law is not in conflict ~~the~~ with the ideas enshrined in the preamble.

- Q4. "Instead of promoting, censorship is muzzling right to freedom of speech and expression. In reality artistic expression is best served by certification". Do you agree? Explain recent controversy centered on censorship of film content. Write a note on current structure of CBFC and changes proposed by Shyam Benegal committee. (12.5 Marks)

The banning of the movie "Vidha Punjab" by the CBFC due to the curse words used as well as the themes of drug being used in the ~~film~~ film has ~~caused~~ ^{caused} a big controversy.

This controversy points towards the fact that CBFC is muzzling the right to freedom & expression & is trying to muzzle the artistic expression. Thus, I agree with the statement.

The CBFC is ~~a~~ formed under ~~Censorship~~ ^{Censorship} act, 1952. It provides ~~a~~ certification to the films based on the contents of the ~~film~~ film. The structure of CBFC includes a

Chairman & a 5-member Committee
 who give certification to a
 movie. ~~It's~~ It's a statutory body.

⇒ Shyam Benegal Committee
recommendations:-

- ① The role of CBFC should be only
to provide ratings & not to
 decide whether to ban the
 movie or not.
- ② It should have no power to
 decide on the contents of the
 film.
- ③ The Committee should be free
 of political interference which should
 not be biased towards the content
 which is anti-government (for eg -
 Uda Punjab & Drugs → BJP
 Coalition government)

Remarks

Q5. "Recent clamor over demand of special status overlooks important recommendations of 14th finance commission regarding devolution of tax revenue." What is meant by special category status to a state? Is it still relevant in changed landscape of financial federalism? Discuss with suitable examples. (12.5 Marks)

The special category status to a state is given if it fulfills the following conditions —

- ① Borders a country (has an international border)
- ② Hilly terrain.
- ③ Underdeveloped

Thus, if a country has a special category status, it can receive special assistance from the Centre like only 10% contribution in scheme (GoI to state), exemptions per industries to setup manufacturing unit, more devolution from tax income, etc.

The recent refusal of Centre to provide special category state status

Remarks

to Bihar point towards the irrelevance of this status.

With the greater ^{tax} devolution of the Centre to the states from 32% to 42% as well as in consideration of forest coverage in the devolution formula by the 14th Finance Commission obviates the need of special category status.

The 14th FC has also taken into consideration the Fiscal gap of a state from the best performing state. Thus, ~~not~~ these spl category state will eventually give higher share under financial federalism thus obviating the need of spl category status.

Remarks

Q6. "By enacting the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 10 years ago, the Parliament of India had committed to correct a historical injustice done to the millions of Adivasis and forest dwelling communities. If the CAMPA Bill is now passed by Parliament in its current form, it will represent a reversal of the commitment for justice made in the FRA to the Adivasis and forest dwelling citizens of India". Discuss the objectives of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) bill and also focus on why it was opposed by political parties so long. (12.5 Marks)

The CAF has been formed to be a nodal agency to collect the funds received from various industries for the forest land that has been diverted for the industrial purpose. The CAF with the help of CAMPA will ensure that the fund is used to develop a new area or a piece of land as a forest through afforestation exercise.

Thus, CAF ensures that a balance is between economic growth & environmental imperatives. ~~However,~~ The other objectives of the CAF bill is —

- ① Ensure that the afforestation is done of the local breed of a ~~tree~~ tree rather than an exotic one.

Remarks

- ② Ensure that the plantations done should prevail for a longer time & grow into a full-fledged tree.

However, there has been a lot of objections w.r.t. the bill as it seems to be in conflict with the FRA act —

- ① It ~~does~~ follows a top-down approach without taking the concerns of the tribal people into consideration

- ② The planting of different species of tree will affect the collection of Minor forest produce (MFP) by the tribals.

- ③ Also, the bill ignores the Community based approach to plantation taking the forest people into confidence.

- ④ The Gram Sabha ~~is the~~ formed under PESA Act has ~~been~~ not been taken into confidence.

Remarks

- Q7. For the first time, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have been included by the government in the draft national health policy. However, efforts to battle this threat remains largely shapeless and lacks monitoring of clinical care. What is missing in the government of India's approach towards fighting NCDs? Can you elaborate on the concept of minimizing 'out-of-pocket expenditure' in healthcare? (12.5 Marks)

Non-Communicable diseases (NCDs) are the diseases which are ^{caused} ~~caused~~ by lifestyle patterns. It includes diseases like Obesity, Cardiovascular diseases, etc. These are generally caused due to sedentary lifestyle, consumption of junk food & no physical exertion.

The Govt's approach towards fighting NCDs' is lacking in its intent as well as in its approach —.

- ① Preventive healthcare should be the policy of the government for NCDs.
- ② The government is focussing in post-disease scenario rather it should nip the ^{causes} ~~causes~~ in the bud

Remarks

- ③ The government should focus on improving the lifestyle of people, imposing sin tax or fat tax on Junk food like Kerala.
- ④ Improving infrastructure of the cities that promote cycling, walking, etc.
- ⑤ Government should focus on organic farming.
- ⑥ ~~Sens~~ Sensitizing & spreading awareness among the people about the dangers of sedentary lifestyle.

→ Out-of-pocket expenditure pertains to the extra money that a patient has to pay over & above the free treatment provided to him in PHCs. The concept of ~~controlling~~ ^{minimizing} out-of-pocket expenditure is to ensure that a patient can get all his treatments done for free or can use medical insurance

Remarks Thus obviating the need to ~~pay~~ pay money out of his pocket.

- Q8. "We need to accept that we are a poor country, with limited access to electricity, water, sanitation; only then we can find sustainable solutions". Discuss in the context of what Swachh Bharat should have to address. (12.5 Marks)

Swachh Bharat is an initiative to ~~ens~~ ensure clean~~er~~, defecation free India by 2019 - the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji.

After ~~the~~ almost 2 years of its announcement there has been little to show in the name of success for Swachh Bharat Mission. The reason for this has been the focus on expensive & incompatible solutions brought about to be implemented. For eg - The concept of ^{public} latrines that need a lot of water, ^{to} be cleaned became a failure because of the lack of availability of water in that region. The public toilet stood in an dilapidated state as no one used it or cleaned it after a few days.

Remarks

Thus, the government should focus on finding sustainable & indigenous solutions as per the needs & the reality at the local level —

- ① The government with the help of DRDO can develop or deploy the toilets used by our soldiers at Siachen which does not need water or electricity to dispose off the waste.
- ② Local products can be utilized to ensure cleanliness, sanitation in the area rather than going for expensive equipments.
- ③ Local population has to be included in the initiative to get an idea regarding their needs & choices & opinions about the initiative.

Remarks

- Q9. Lodha committee report to clean BCCI's functioning is the beginning of a new era in the cricket administration. It can be said that right now the "BCCI is like a batsman who is not acting even after the finger has gone up". Discuss the above statement in the context of recent controversies. (12.5 Marks)

The Lodha Committee has proposed some very progressive suggestions to clean-up the administration of BCCI which had become too opaque especially after the IPL spot-fixing case in 2013. Some of the suggestions are —

- ① One state - one member - one vote.
- ② legalising betting subject to legislation
- ③ Ensuring that there is no conflict of interest w.r.t. the administrators of BCCI
- ④ cooling off period between holding 2 posts
- ⑤ Bringing BCCI under the ambit of RTI

However, in this cat & mouse fight between Lodha Committee & the BCCI, the BCCI is not ready to ~~the~~ ^{budge &}

Remarks

accept the suggestion as it claims that its an attack on its autonomy as well as some suggestions like retirement age of 70 yrs & one-state one-vote are impractical to implement. It has also put forward the case that BCCI is the best seen organisation in the country.

The SC has taken a steam step by asking the banks, not to provide funding to BCCI for the organisation of further tournaments until they accept ~~that~~ the recommendations of Lodha Committee.

Thus, even though SC has announced its decision (finger has gone up) but the BCCI is not ready to accept it (not acting).

Remarks

Q10. Social audit is made an integral part of MGNREGA programme. Do you think that this measure has brought any impact on implementation of the scheme? Can social audit be extended to other government policies and programmes? Critically analyze.

(12.5 Marks)

Social audit is an instrument that intends to analyse the progress as well as the effectiveness of a particular programme & its impact on the general populace.

The use of social audit ^(SA) for MGNREGA has brought about radical changes in the working as well as the effectiveness of MGNREGA —

- ① ^{SA} ~~It~~ has ensured timely payment of the wages of the workers directly into their bank accounts.
- ② ^{SA} ~~It~~ has stopped corruption & swindling of funds earmarked for MGNREGA.
- ③ ^{SA} ~~It~~ has ensured that productive assets are created under the work assigned in MGNREGA.

Remarks

④ Due to social audit, the women participation is 55% as compared to 33% under MMRGA rules.

⑤ ^{SA}~~It~~ has led to the empowerment of Gram Sabhas which has made it the central implementing agency of a village.

Yes, Social audit can be extended to other govt. policies & programmes provided—

- ① It ensures that all stakeholders are ~~are~~ involved in the process.
- ② It should not become an instrument to justify illegitimate works.
- ③ It should not remain a practice only in theory.

Remarks

Q11. It is the only the 2nd time in history of independent India that government decided not to attend NAM summit. In this context, analyze the relevance of NAM in 21st century & also comment on NAM 2.0. (12.5 Marks)

The NAM summit held in Venezuela - was attended by the Indian Vice President rather than its Prime Minister. It shows the reducing relevance of NAM in India's geopolitical calculations.

The NAM is losing relevance in 21st century -

- ① The world is turning multipolar & with that different alliances ^{are} being made on the basis of a country's national interest.
- ② NAM's aim of creating New International Economic Order (NIEO) ~~has~~ failed with BoP crisis in India & Latin American countries.
- ③ leader of the NAM, India, is moving towards an alliance with US, the very country against which NAM was formed.

Remarks

- ④ NAM is a alliance of the willing & has no binding treaties or conventions.
- ⑤ ~~the~~ NAM didn't support India during the 1962 & 1971 war & hence India is losing interest.
- ⑥ Economic crisis in many ~~last~~ NAM countries due to falling commodity prices.
 → However, despite such handicaps NAM is of immense ~~importance~~ importance to India! —
- ① Launch paid to acquire permanent seat in UNSC - NAM's support is of significant importance
 - ② Only platform for poor third world countries to express their opinion.
 - ③ Still has relevance in ensuring that WW-III doesn't erupt by resolving conflicts & mis understanding b/w warring parties.
- NAM 2.0 refers to the realignment & relevance of NAM to suit ~~the~~ & adapt to the changing contemporary situations

Remarks

Q12. Due to the instability in India's neighborhood applications for asylum is increasing. There is also large number of refugees in India. In this context analyze the problems that India has to face in absence of asylum policy or refugee law or not being a signatory to UN convention? (12.5 Marks)

India is a rising power. As its economy grows the attraction for India among the refugees grows due to the immense opportunities that India provides. However India is neither the signatory of the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees ^{nor does it} ~~has it~~ ~~either~~ have its own asylum policy.

In this context India has to face a lot of problems —

- ① It leads to the confusion on differentiating between a migrant & a refugee
- ② leads to the conflict on providing ^{leaders} asylum to secessionist [^] with our neighbouring countries. For instance -

Remarks

providing asylum to Dalai Lama & conflict with China as well as providing visa to Tsu the secessionist leader of Xinjiang.

- ③ Due to ~~no~~ uniform laws, there can be an infiltration of terrorists under the garb of a migrant.
- ④ This would lead to increased human trafficking especially along Bangladesh border.
- ⑤ May give boost to nefarious activities like drug trafficking as India sits at the centre of Golden Crescent & Golden Triangle.
- ⑥ Will lead to \$ smuggling of Fake currencies by migrants especially from Nepal as India has open borders with Nepal.

Remarks

Q13. The tension between India and Pakistan has reached a new height following the terror attacks in Pathankot and Uri. India has witnessed serious outrage among the people as well as in media over the attack. In this scenario is the policy of moving away from "strategic restraint" most suitable? (12.5 Marks)

No, the policy of moving away from "strategic restraint" is not the most suitable. The reason being —

- ① Pakistan is nuclear weapon state. Any escalation of the conflict to war might lead to great mutual destruction as Pakistan doesn't have No First Use CNFU.
- ② India is a responsible & a growing economy. India's aim is to maintain its growth rate & ensure the development of its economy. Any situation of war will take the economy back by 5 years.
- ③ India trying to achieve permanent seat in UNSC as well as membership of HSC. War with Pakistan might jeopardize it.

Remarks

- ④ Pakistan is a resilient & a hard state. ISI will indulge in more terrorist activities in India to follow its policy of death by thousand cuts.
- ⑤ Any conflict with ~~at~~ Pakistan with ^{China} India being into picture & ~~there~~ won't be able to manage both the fronts.
- ⑥ Any all out war will ^{lead} to fly back of FDI & FTIs ^{from} the Indian economy as well as hurt its sovereign ratings.

Thus, India should not go for all out offensive as Pakistan has nothing to lose while India has everything to lose.

Rather, India should go for "offensive defence" policies like conducting surgical strikes, diplomatic isolation of Pak., putting international pressure on Pak, etc.

Q14. Linking water to security might suit the interests of hawks in India and Pakistan, but India, aspiring for a seat in the UNSC, should safeguard rather than violate bilateral treaties. Critically analyze. (12.5 Marks)

After the recent Uri attacks there have been talks of reviewing the Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 b/w Ayub Khan & Neheru & backed by W.B.

However, such short-sighted ^{decisions} ~~actions~~ can have following impacts on India —

- ① It can hurt India's credibility as a global power aspiring for a permanent seat in UNSC.
- ② It will cause fear ~~fear~~ in Bangladesh about India's action w.r.t. Teesta in case of any conflict.
- ③ India will lose moral ground to object if China decides to do the same with India.

Thus, India should avoid violating

Remarks

bilateral treaties. These treaties ensure that the world does not fall in anarchy. Holding onto one's end of the bargain on a treaty irrespective of the circumstances lends credence to one's position as a responsible power.

Even the US abides by the decisions adjudicated by the ICC or ICTJ despite being the sole superpowers.

This goes on to show that for being a power that is being respected & revered, one must not violate bilateral treaties under any circumstances.

Q15. When various regional integration models have succeeded for instance EU, ASEAN, etc ? What do you think in the hindrance towards the same in South Asia. (12.5 Marks)

SAARC was created in 2001 on the lines of EU & ASEAN to achieve the objective of integration of the South Asia into one geographical entity. However, it has turned out to be a pipe dream due to the following reasons —

① The conflict between India & Pakistan:

Being the two largest countries in South Asia, the conflict between them has resulted into stalling of many major initiatives like Motor Vehicles agreement, SAARC satellite, etc

② The big brotherly attitude of India:

India is the only country which shares boundaries with all other countries of S-Asia. Smaller countries

Remarks

in SAARC are afraid of India's dominance & hence try to disrupt any initiative by India to show its importance.

③ China factor :-

Almost all S. Asian countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan & Sri Lanka have good relations with China. Thus, they ~~has~~ flash "China card" whenever they feel that India is dominating.

④ Instability in the region :-

Taliban in Afghanistan, Tamil issue in Sri Lanka, Maoist issue in Nepal.

⑤ Lack of political stability :-

No one government stays in power for a long time except in India.

Q16. "There is perceptible coldness in India - Russia relations post 1991. In spite of this the relationship between the two countries stands on sound footing." Comment.

(12.5 Marks)

Russia was the first country with which India had signed the ~~strategic~~ "Strategic Partners" treaty. Russia ~~is~~ was ~~the~~ India's only friend during the Cold War period.

However, post 1991 there has been a perceptible coldness in the relations —

- ① After the fall of USSR, USA was the sole-superpower & India has no option but to maintain good relationship with USA.
- ② Post-1991 BOP crisis, India made structural adjustments in its economy by introducing LPG reforms & ~~too~~ ^{converted} into market & a capitalist economy.
- ③ India diversified its defence purchases & started buying from US, France & Israel.

Remarks

- ④ The growing Russia-china axis
- ⑤ India's needs of developmental technology that only US can provide.
- ⑥ Russia's focus on Central Asia & Europe post-1991.
- ⑦ "Indias relation with USA seen from a Zero Sum perspective by Russia"

~~However~~ despite of this the relation stands on a sound footing -

- ① India's requirement of spares as 70% of India's defence equipment of Russian origin.
- ② Need ~~of~~ Russia's support on Kashmir issue.
- ③ "One old friend better than two new"
- ④ No conflict ever between Russia & India
- ⑤ Defence purchases as US not ready to transfer all technology.
- ⑥ Civil nuclear Cooperation as well as

Remarks

support for membership in NSG, & permanent seat in UNSC.

Q17. Myanmar has the potential to act as India's gateway to South East Asia. How India can leverage Myanmar to promote Act Asia policy? What are the challenges likely to occur? (12.5 Marks)

India can leverage Myanmar to promote Act Asia policy in following ways —

- ① Early completion of India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway.
- ② Kaladan Multimodal project connecting Kolkata to Sittoung point.
- ③ Maintaining good relations with Myanmar to get more access to ASEAN countries.
- ④ Providing line of credit for developmental works.
- ⑤ Establishing ~~to~~ naval base at Coco Island to control Malacca strait.
- ⑥ Reviving BIMSTEC as a regional bloc to create synergistic alliance.

Remarks

between BIMSTEC & ASEAN.

The challenges likely to occur are—

- ① Myanmar's close relations with China & China's presence in Myanmar.
- ② Various ^{NE} insurgent groups like NSCN (K), Tripura liberation army (TLA), operating out of Myanmar.
- ③ Military dictatorship in Myanmar & constant Human Rights Violations.
- ④ ~~Ref~~ Refugees from Rohingya Community in India due to violence in Rakhine province.
- ⑤ Lack of people-to-people & diplomat-to-diplomat contact. So, lack of Track-II diplomacy.

Remarks

Q18. "BIMSTEC offers a unique opportunity to strengthen regional co-operation and has the potential to replace the SAARC." Comment. (12.5 Marks)

BIMSTEC is a group of countries which surrounds the bay of Bengal. It includes India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal & Bhutan.

BIMSTEC is often seen as a replacement of SAARC which has been created by India. ~~BIMSTEC hardly~~

- ① Gridlock in SAARC due to the continuous conflict between India & Pakistan.
- ② Lack of Vitality in SAARC as only India is a big country economically & militarily.
- ③ Congruence of BIMSTEC with ASEAN which is considered as one of the most dynamic grouping in the world.

Remarks

- ④ India's ~~FTA~~ has signed an FTA with ASEAN. Thus, BIMSTEC can be a harbinger ^{for trade} with infrastructural projects like IMT highway & kaladan project.
- ⑤ India can counter China's influence in SE Asia & S. China Sea through BIMSTEC.
- ⑥ ASEAN countries are looking for alternate centres of power to counter China. BIMSTEC can become a connecting link with ASEAN.

Remarks

Q19. India has been constantly looking for NSG membership. What are the possible gains from membership of NSG and other export control regimes? How can India overcome the recent challenges to the membership attempt? (12.5 Marks)

The gains from membership can be —

- ① India can be a part of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime & can play a part in shaping global rules.
- ② ~~It~~ India would be in a position to receive civil nuclear technology to generate nuclear power to meet growing energy needs.
- ③ Will be able to receive uranium fuel from NSG countries like Australia & Kazakhstan.
- ④ With the development of nuclear energy, will be important in complying with INDCs promised during COP 21 in Paris.

Remarks

⑤ Symbolic importance. India being the only non-NPT nuclear power to join NSG. Rise in India's stature as a responsible nuclear power.

⇒ India can ~~come~~ overcome recent challenges by —

- ① Giving support to China's membership in MTCR in lieu of NSG membership.
- ② Try to convince all other NSG members for India's admission & isolating China.
- ③ Make full use of 2008 NSG waiver to build nuclear reactors & then comply members of NSG for India's entry.
- ④ & Project India's stellar record of nuclear non-proliferation regime

Remarks

Q20. BRICS has emerged as a major platform which has been focusing on strengthening multilateralism. What effect the grouping is expected to have on global institutions and their governance structures? How the internal divergence within the group limits its effectiveness? (12.5 Marks)

BRICS can have following effect -

- ① Establishment of New Development Bank (NDB) & Contingency Reserve Agreement (CRA) dilutes the importance of WIB & ADB.
- ② Talks of establishing BRICS credit rating agency, significantly lowers down the importance of the importance of credit rating firms like S&P, Moody's which are dominated by the west.
- ③ BRICS has emerged as an alternate centre of power to UN & NATO.

Remarks

④ Joint stand taken by BRICS countries at WTO has led to decision being taken in their favour.

⑤ All BRICS countries except for South Africa have top 10 voting rights in IMF after the recent reforms, thus influencing its outcome.

→ However, there are divergences which limits its effectiveness —

① Forming of India-US and Russia-China axis.

② Territorial conflict between India-China & China-Russia (over Siberia)

③ China's "all-weather friendship" with Pakistan.

④ Russia's recent military exercise with Pakistan.

⑤ Different stance regarding terrorism b/w India & China.

Remarks (1267 Committee - Masood Azhar)