

GOVERNANCE – UPSC MAINS PYQS (BRAINSTORMING SHEETS - 45 YEARS PYQS COVERED)

MACRO TOPIC - GOVERNMENT POLICIES - ISSUES IN DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES				
#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
1	Decentralized Decision-making	2025	15	“In contemporary development models, decision-making and problem-solving responsibilities are not located close to the source of information and execution, defeating the objectives of development.” Critically evaluate.
2	Charitable Trusts	2024	10	Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India’s development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment.
3	Inflation & Unemployment	2022	15	Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of society. Discuss.
4	Direct Benefit Transfer	2022	10	Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has limitations too. Comment.
5	Gati Shakti Yojana	2022	10	The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss.
6	Women Empowerment	2021	15	“Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and the feminist movement has been patriarchal.” Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu?
7	Welfare Scheme	2019	15	Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process. Discuss
8	ICT Issues	2019	10	Implementation of Information and Communication technology (ICT) based projects/programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors and suggest measures for their effective implementation.
9	National Child Policy	2016	12.5	Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.
10	Consumer Protection Bill	2012	15	What are the salient features of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2011 introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2011?
11	Knowledge Society	2003	15	"What is the Prime Minister’s Five-Point agenda for India’s development as a Knowledge Society?"
12	Ganga Action Plan	1994	40	Describe the various measures taken under the Ganga Action Plan and their impact on the water quality of the river.
13	Eighth Five Year Plan	1993	40	One of the priority objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan is the generation of adequate employment to achieve near full employment level by the turn of the century.
14	National Literacy Mission	1993	10	When and why was the National Literacy Mission founded?
15	Safe Drinking Water	1987	40	Scarcity of safe drinking water is an acute problem in a large number of villages in India. Point out the factors which make even the available water unfit for drinking by the rural population. What steps would you recommend to make such water potable?
16	Sports Development	1983	40	Asian and Commonwealth games have revealed that standard of sports and games are far below the international standard... What steps have been taken or are being taken to encourage sports and improve the standard in the country?
17	Sports Professionalism	1981	15	In many non-communist countries... professionalism... improvement in the national standard of sports in India?
18	Press Freedom	1980	25	In many democratic countries radio and televisions are not under the control of the State. Do you think that the same policy should be adopted in India?

MACRO TOPIC - CONSTITUTION – IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF GOVERNANCE - TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, CORRUPTION, NGO, CIVIL SOCIETY ETC.

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
19	Civil Society Organizations	2025	10	Civil Society Organizations are often perceived as being anti-State actors than non-State actors. Do you agree? Justify.
20	Competition Commission of India	2023	15	Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions.
21	RTI Amendments	2020	10	“Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission”. Discuss.
22	Non-State Actors	2016	12.5	““In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal.” Critically examine this statement.”
23	"People’s Participation in governance"	2016	12.5	“Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people’s participation in the governance system are inter- dependent.” Discuss their relationship with each other in context of India.
24	Public Morality	2016	12.5	In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.
25	Corporate Governance	2015	15	In the light of the Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in corporate governance to ensure transparency, accountability.
26	Lokpal	2013	10	‘A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs.’ Discuss.
27	Corruption	2003	15	Suggest measures for the eradication of wide spread corruption in Public Life in India.
28	Press Freedom	1981	25	The Press in India is free to publish any news and views except those which are objectionable... steps taken by Government to prevent monopoly...

MACRO TOPIC - IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF GOVERNANCE - CITIZENS CHARTERS

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
29	Citizens Charter	2024	15	The Citizens’ charter has been a landmark initiative in ensuring citizen-centric administration. But it is yet to reach its full potential. Identify the factors hindering the realisation of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them.
30	Citizens Charter	2018	15	"The Citizen’s Charter is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen’s Charters."
31	Citizens Charter	2013	10	Though Citizens’ charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens’ satisfaction and quality of services being provided. Analyse.

MACRO TOPIC - IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF GOVERNANCE - E-GOVERNANCE

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
32	e-Governance Bias	2025	10	e-governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration than user-centric designs. Examine.
33	e-Governance	2024	15	e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the ‘Interactive Service Model’ of e-governance.
34	e-Governance & 4IR	2020	10	The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of the government”. Discuss
35	e-Governance	2018	10	E-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about critical importance of the ‘use value’ of information. Explain.

36	Electronic Cash Transfer	2013	10	Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms. Comment.
37	e-Governance Potential	2008	15	“e-governance has the potentiality to emerge as the most effective instrument of efficiency, transparency and accountability.” Comment.
38	e-Governance Utility	2004	10	Discuss the utility of e-governance in the Indian context.

MACRO TOPIC - ROLE OF CIVIL SERVICES IN A DEMOCRACY

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
39	Civil Servant Integrity	2024	10	The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss.
40	Civil Service Reforms	2020	10	Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance”. In this context, suggest reforms in Civil Service for Strengthening Democracy.
41	Civil Service Reforms	2017	15	Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services? Comment.
42	Bureaucratic Structure	2016	12.5	“Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India.” Comment."
43	Cadre-based Civil Services	2014	10	Has the Cadre based Civil Services organization been the cause of slow change in India? Critically examine.
44	Civil Services Neutrality	1990	15	Describe the Constitutional position of the Civil Services in India. How is their neutrality and independence sought to be achieved?
45	Article 311	1985	15	The supreme court has held that a Government servant could not be dismissed or removed from service without an enquiry under article 311 (2) (B)... what is your view on this issue?
46	Political vs Civil Services	1980	25	What are the respective view of the political leadership and the permanent civil services in the governance of India?... steps to secure better appreciation...

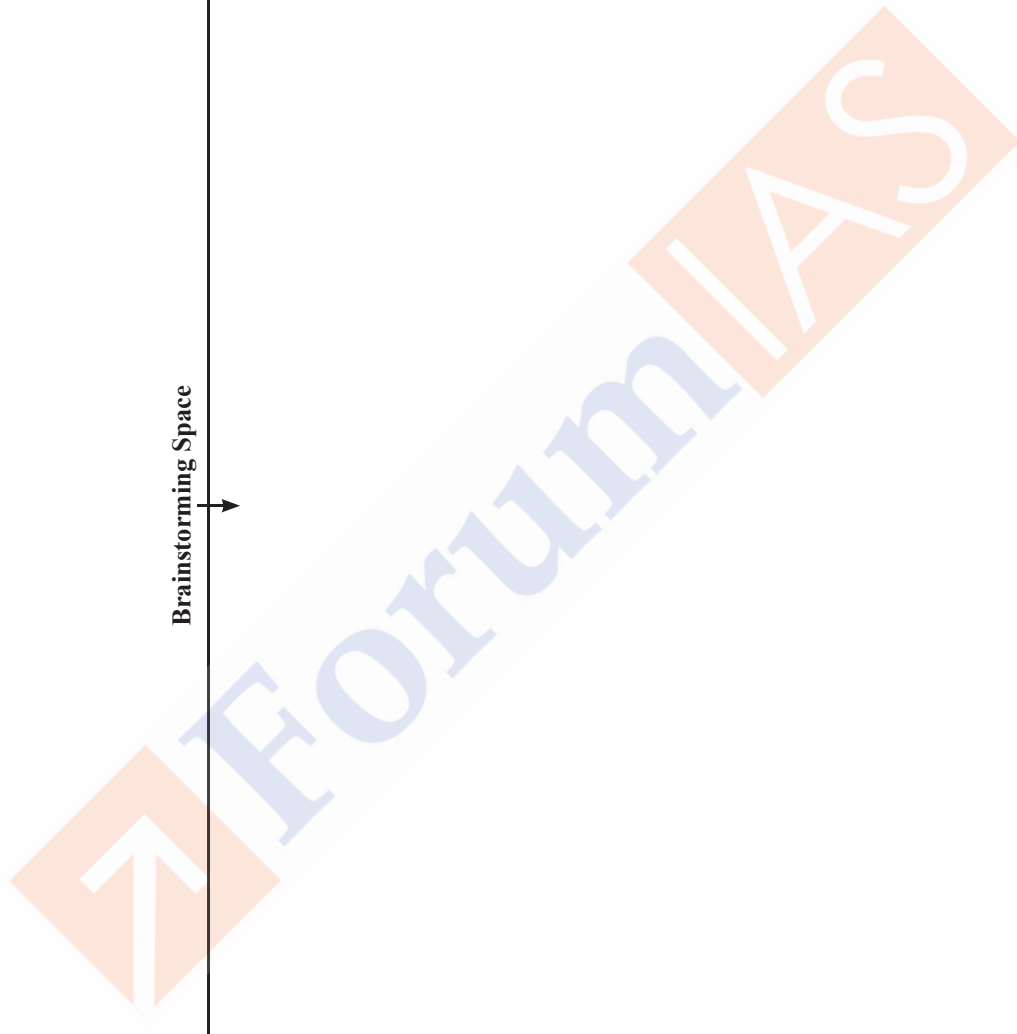
Q.1) “In contemporary development models, decision-making and problem-solving responsibilities are not located close to the source of information and execution, defeating the objectives of development.” Critically evaluate. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2025]

Brainstorming Space

Q.2) Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India's development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment.

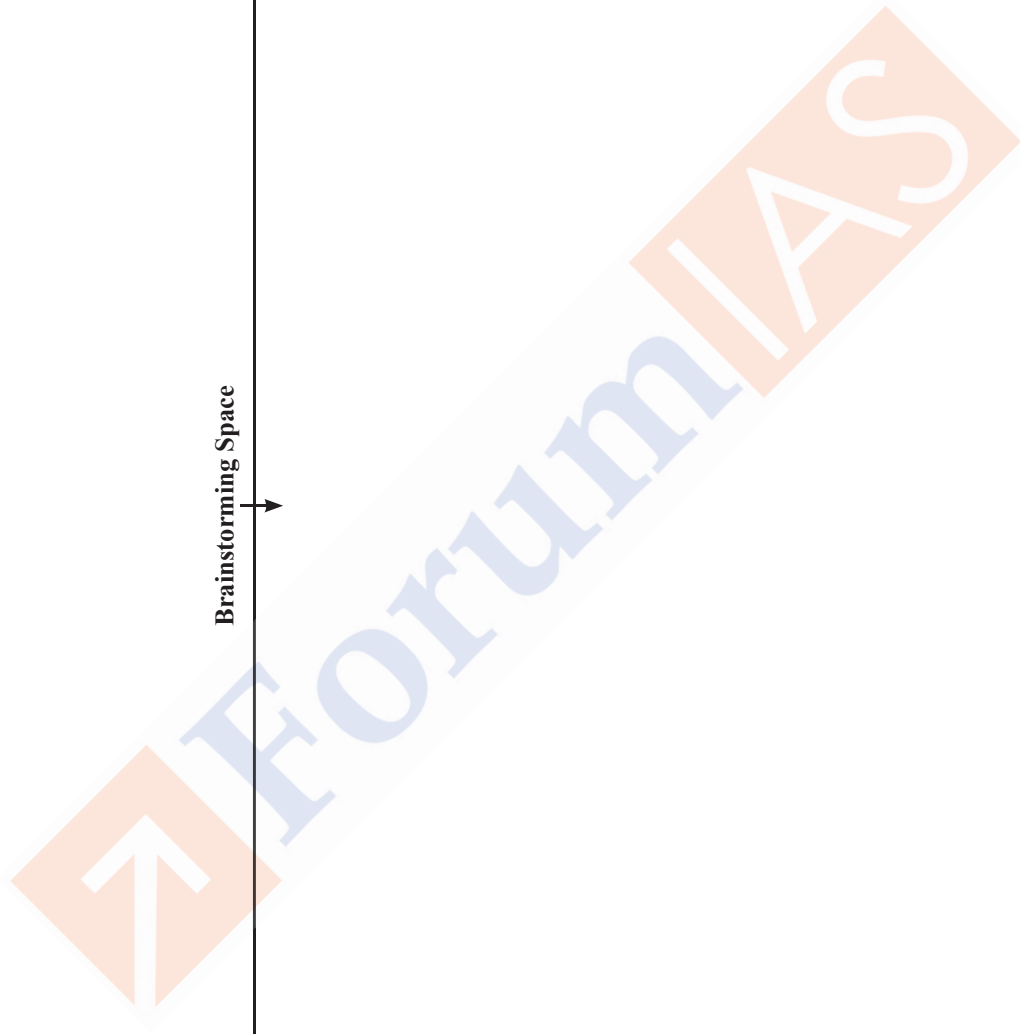
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2024]

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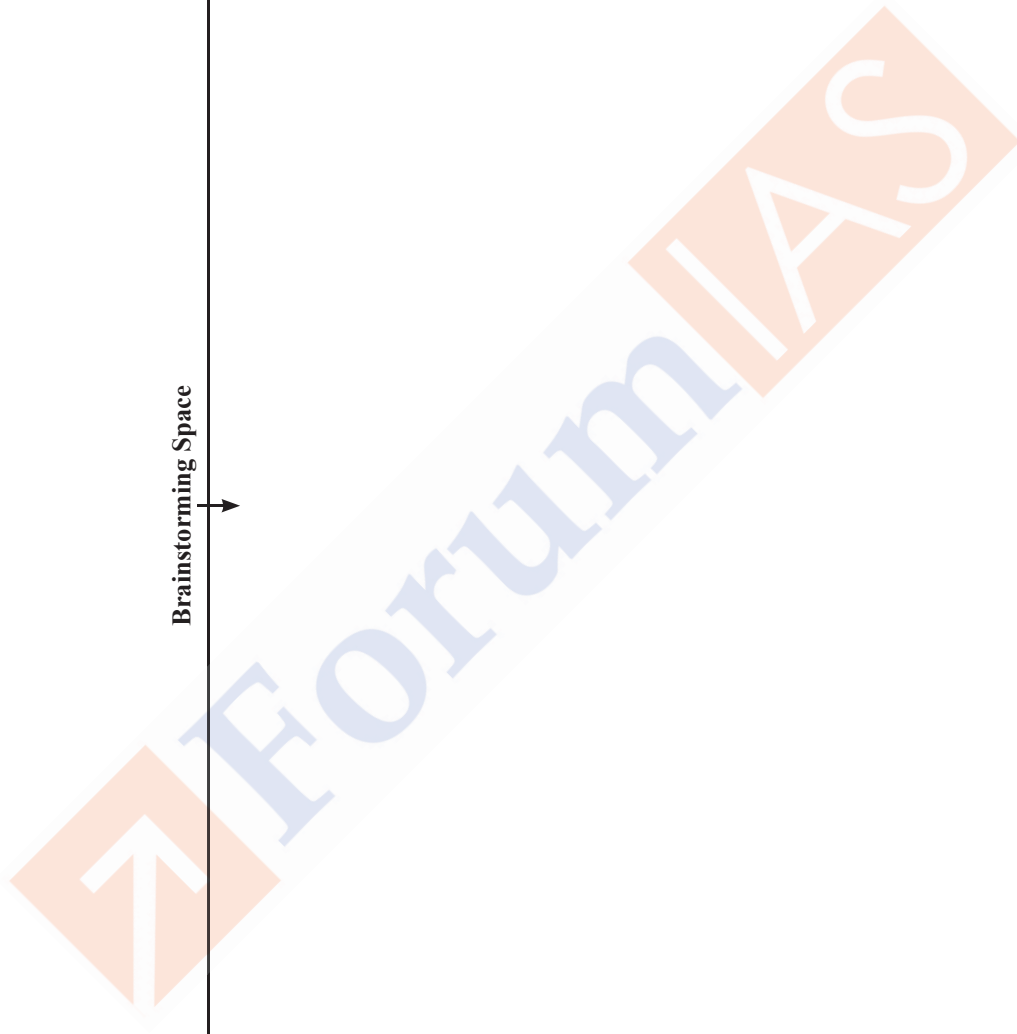
Q.3) Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of society. Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2022]

Brainstorming Space



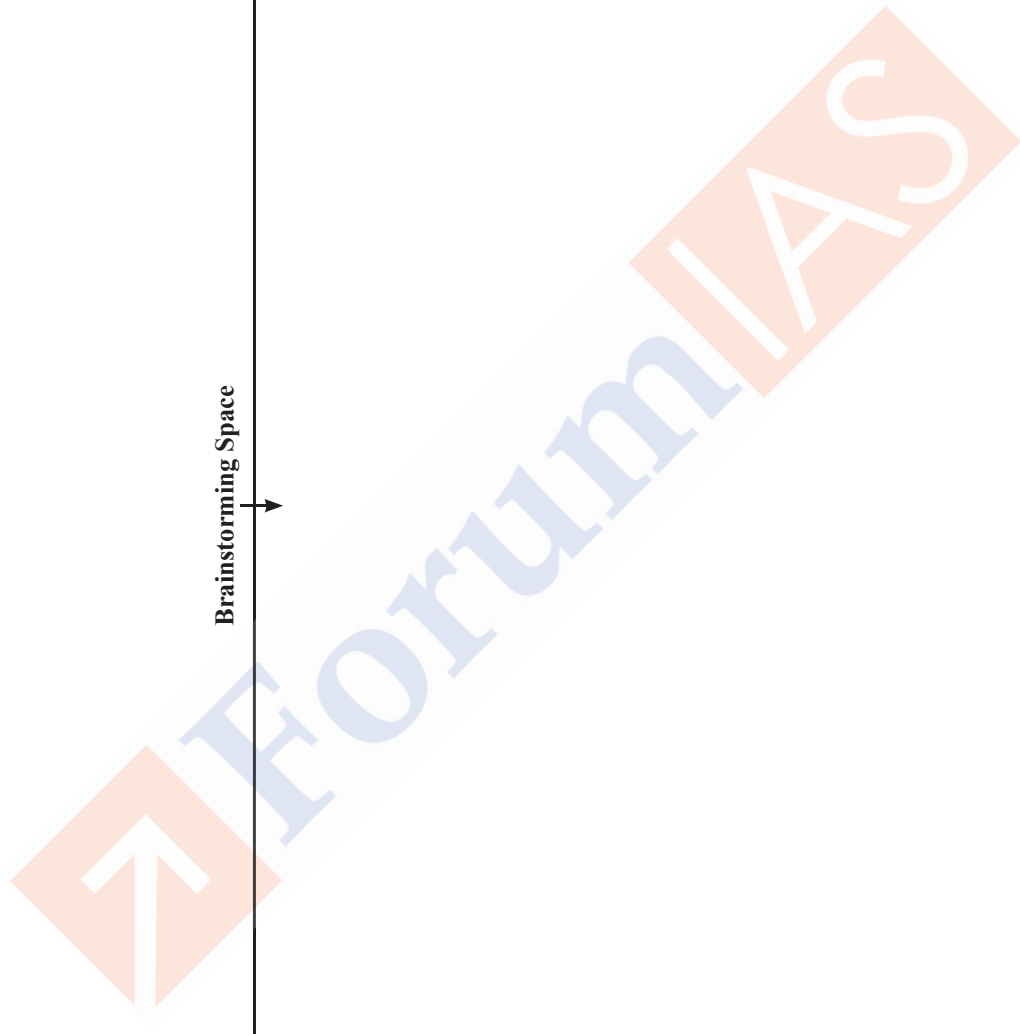
Q.4) Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has limitations too. Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2022]

Brainstorming Space



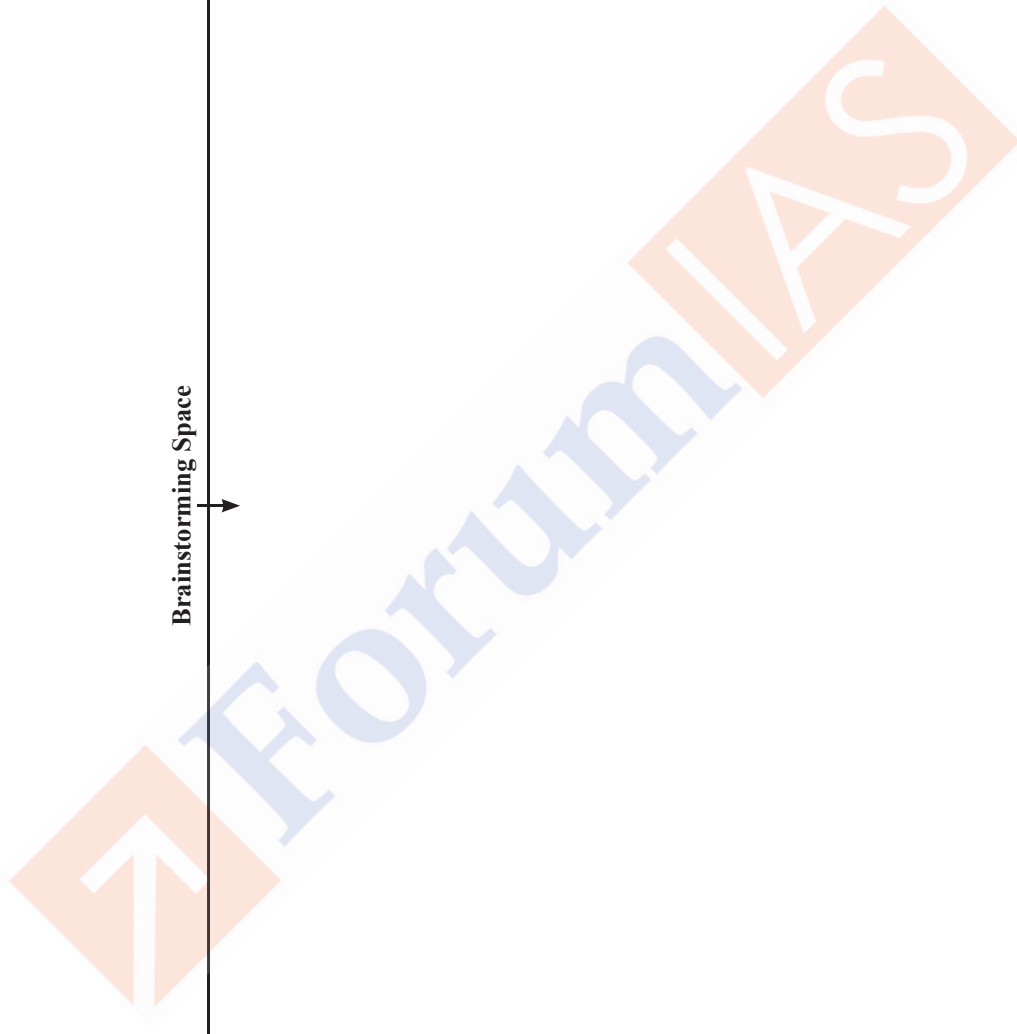
Q.5) The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2022]

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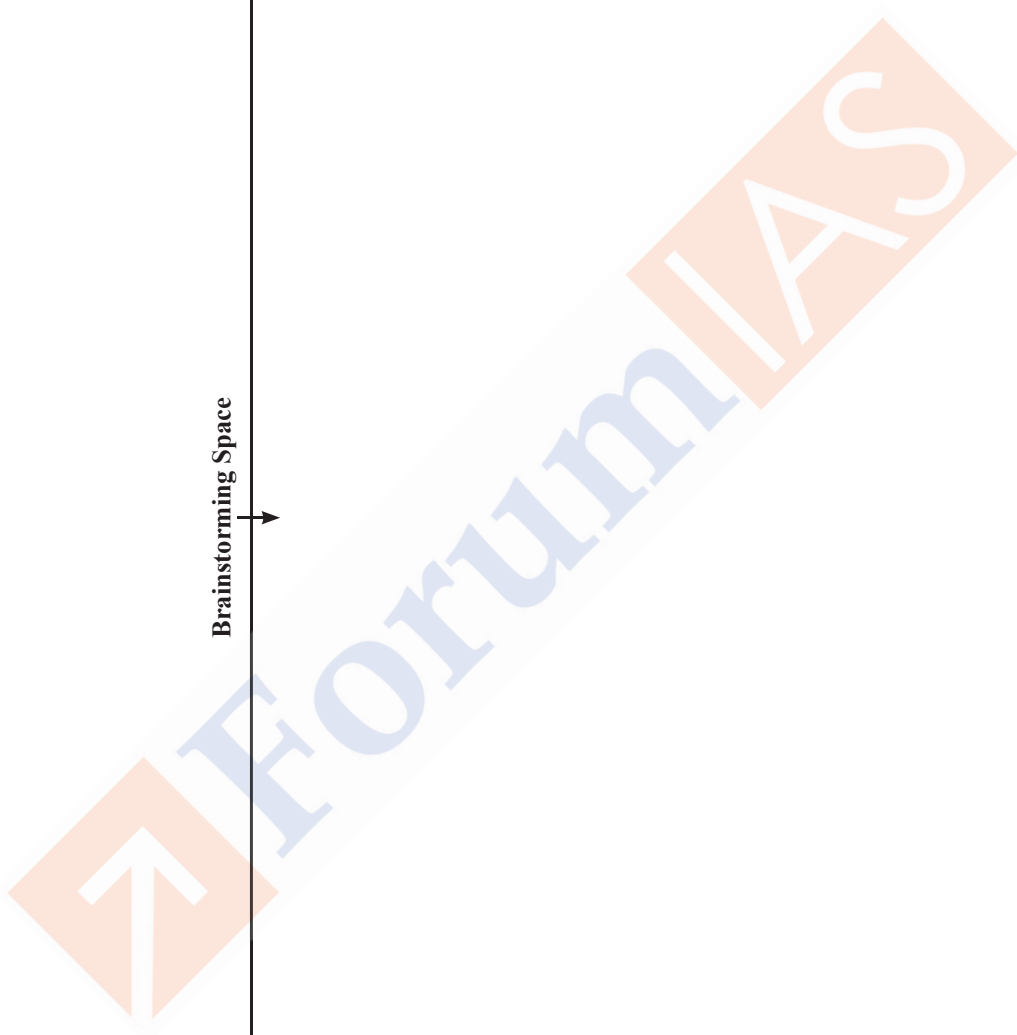
Q.6) “Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and the feminist movement has been patriarchal.” Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu?
(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2021]

Brainstorming Space



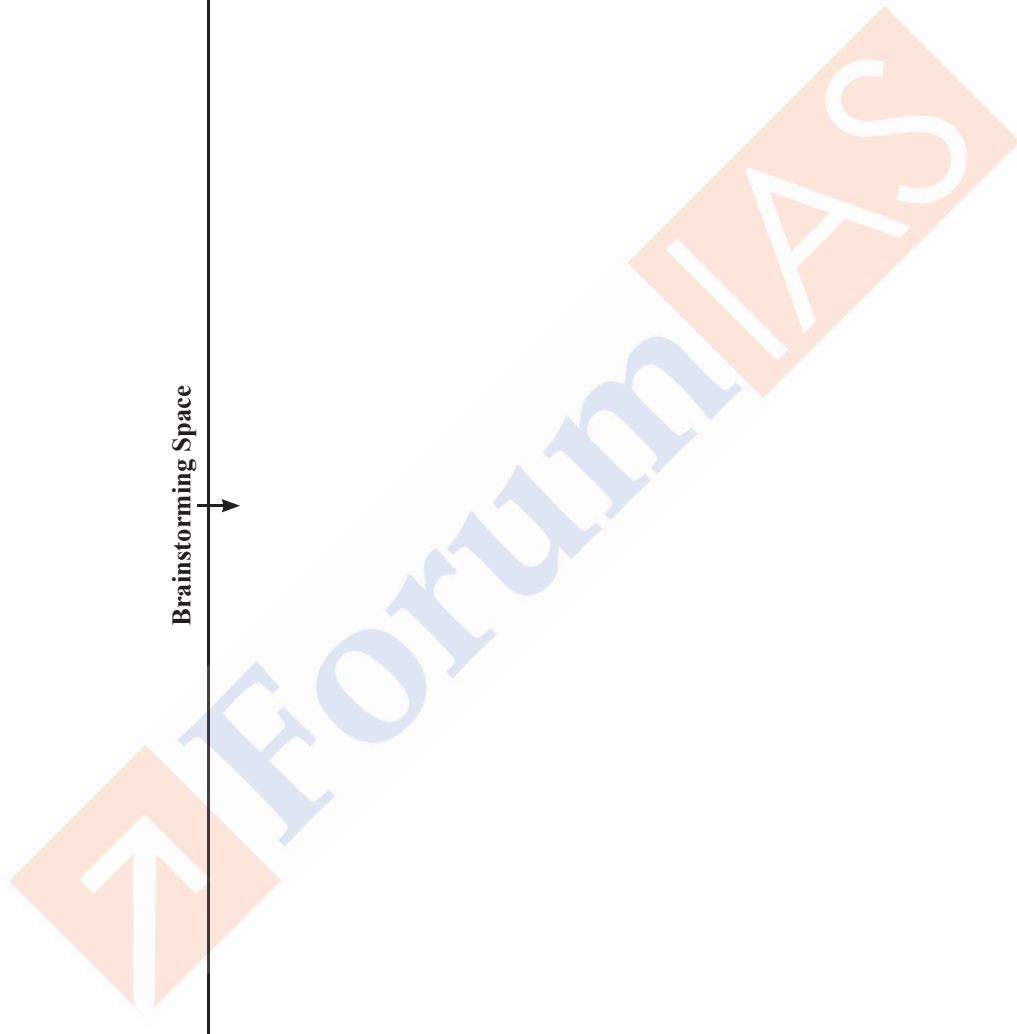
Q.7) Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process. Discuss
(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2019]

Brainstorming Space



Q.8) Implementation of Information and Communication technology (ICT) based projects/programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors and suggest measures for their effective implementation. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2019]

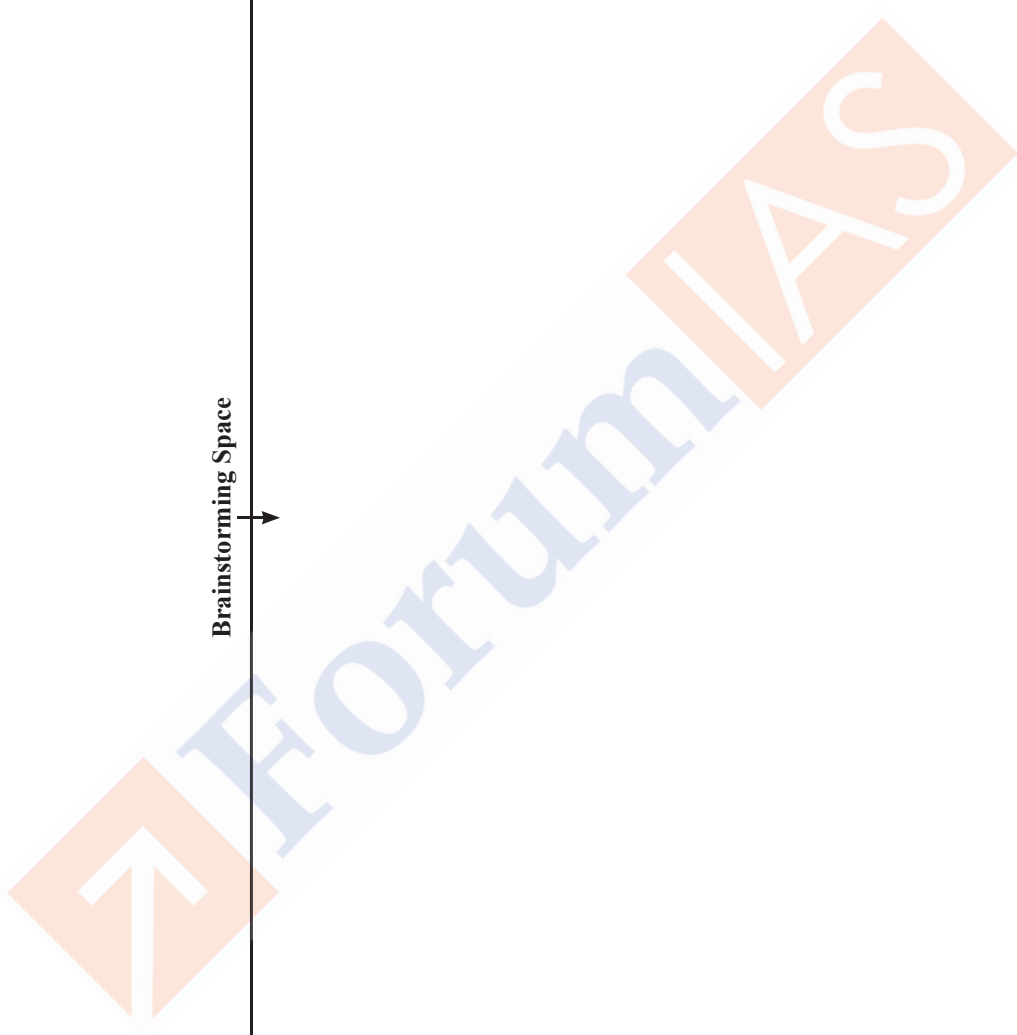
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Q.9) Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.

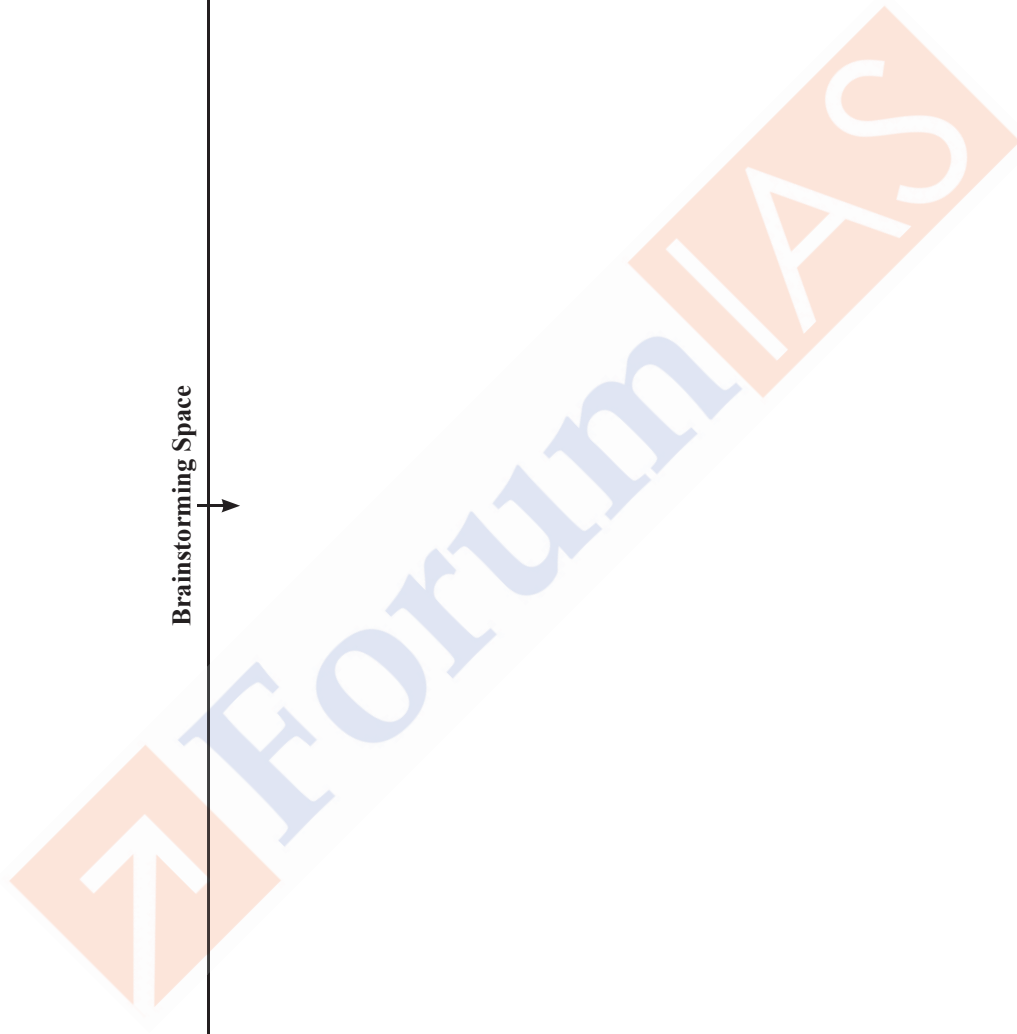
(12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2016]

Brainstorming Space



Q.10) What are the salient features of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2011 introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2011? (15 Marks, 150 Words) [2012]

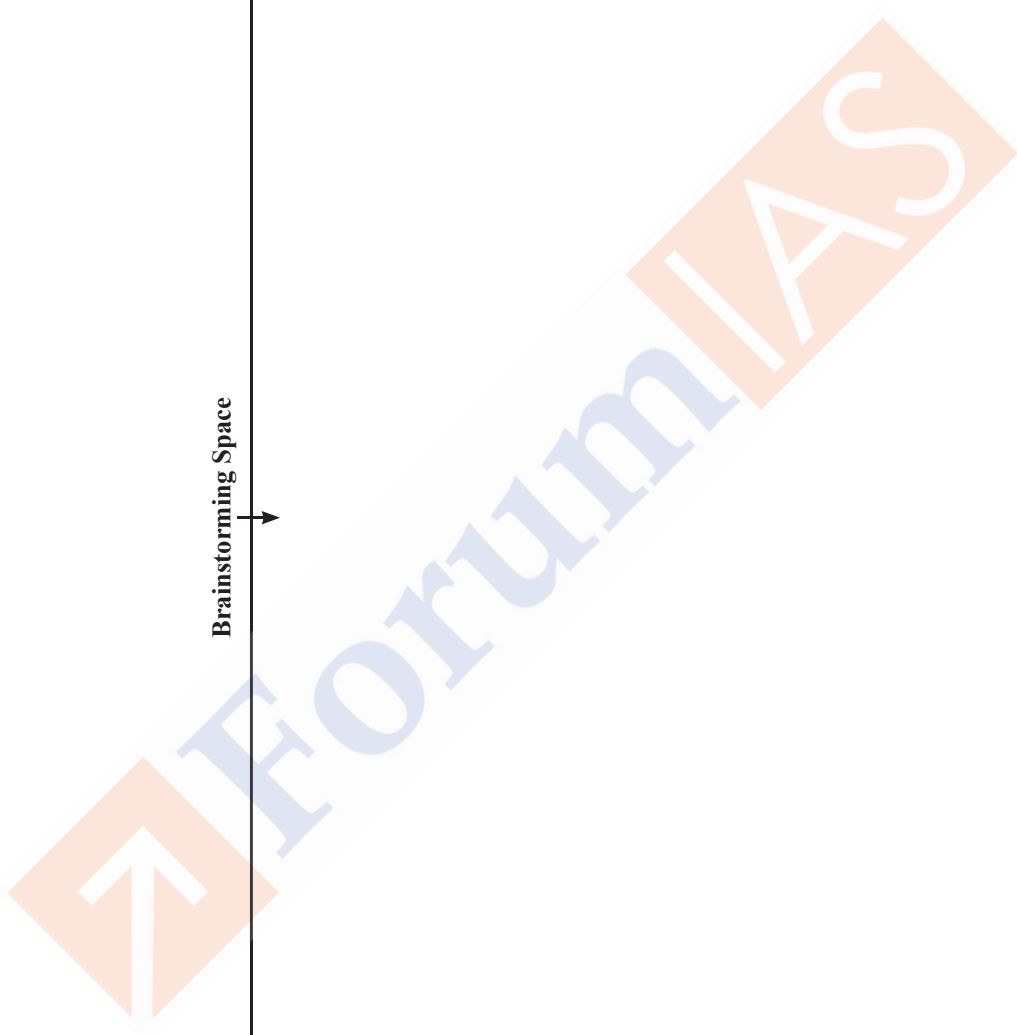
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Q.11) "What is the Prime Minister's Five-Point agenda for India's development as a Knowledge Society?"

(15 Marks, 125 Words) [2003]"

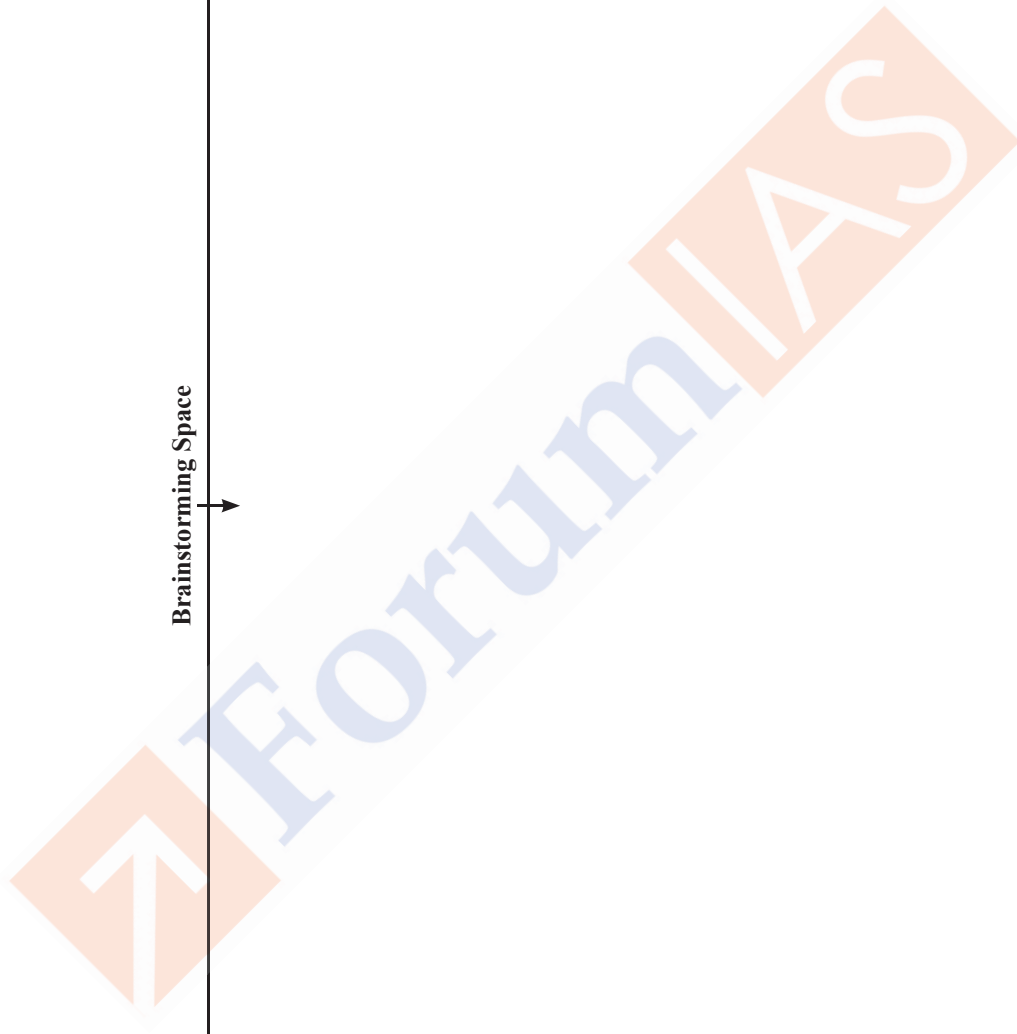
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Q.12) Describe the various measures taken under the Ganga Action Plan and their impact on the water quality of the river.

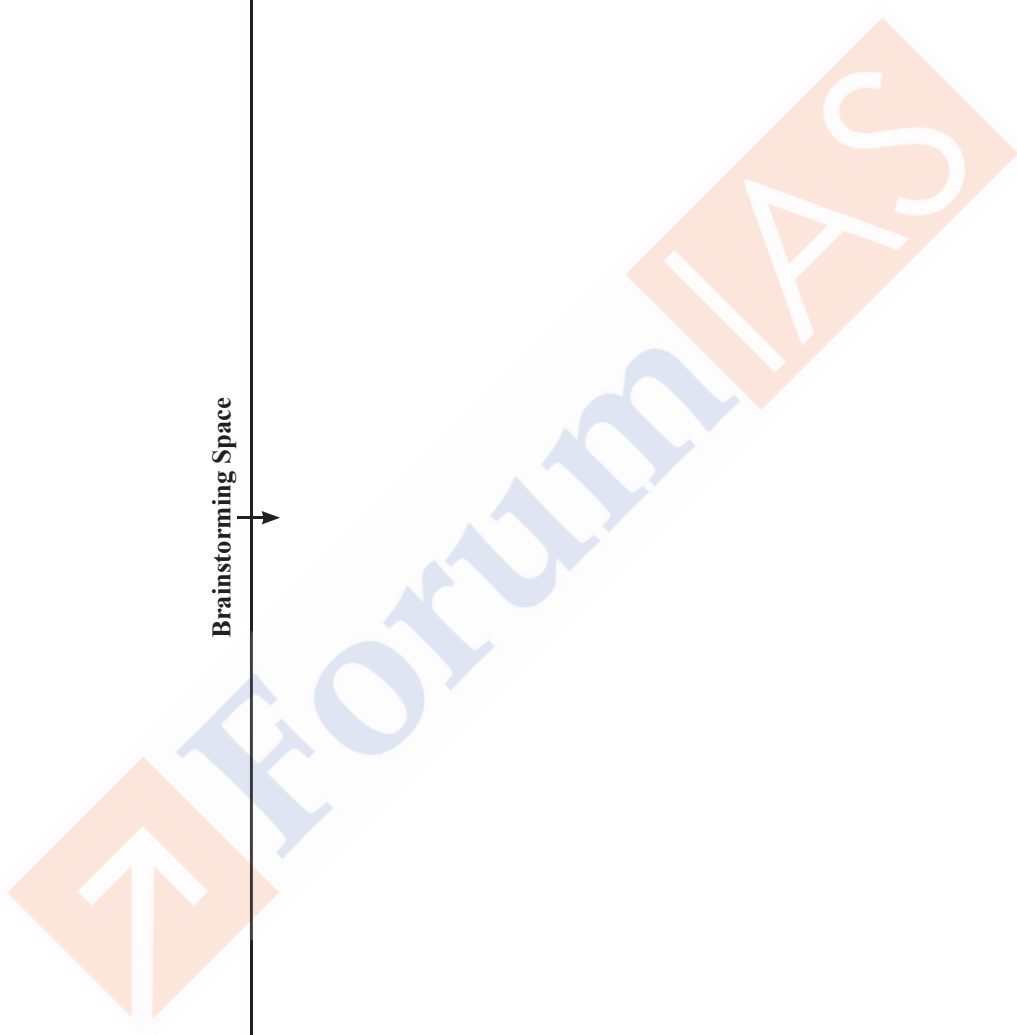
(40 Marks, 250 Words) [1994]

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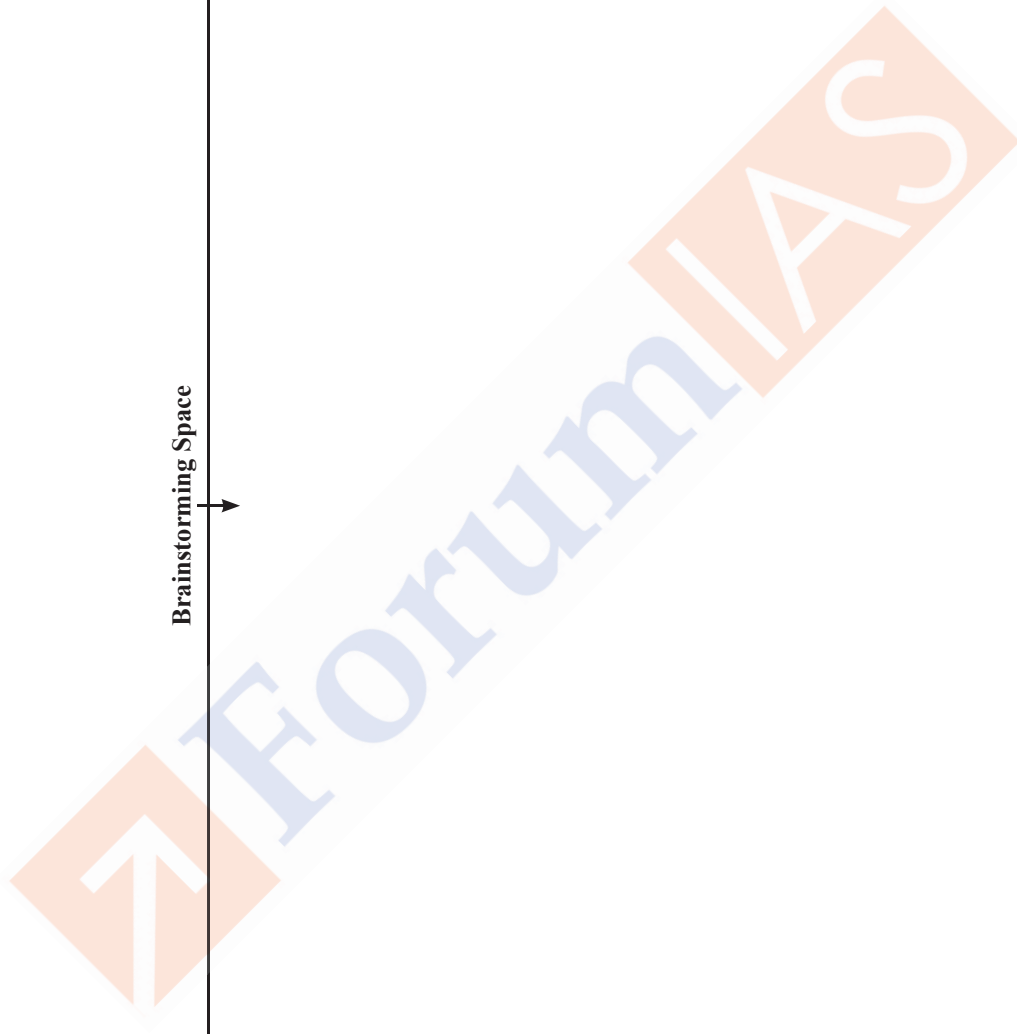
Q.13) One of the priority objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan is the generation of adequate employment to achieve near full employment level by the turn of the century. (40 Marks, 250 Words) [1993]

Brainstorming Space



Q.14) When and why was the National Literacy Mission founded?
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [1993]

Brainstorming Space



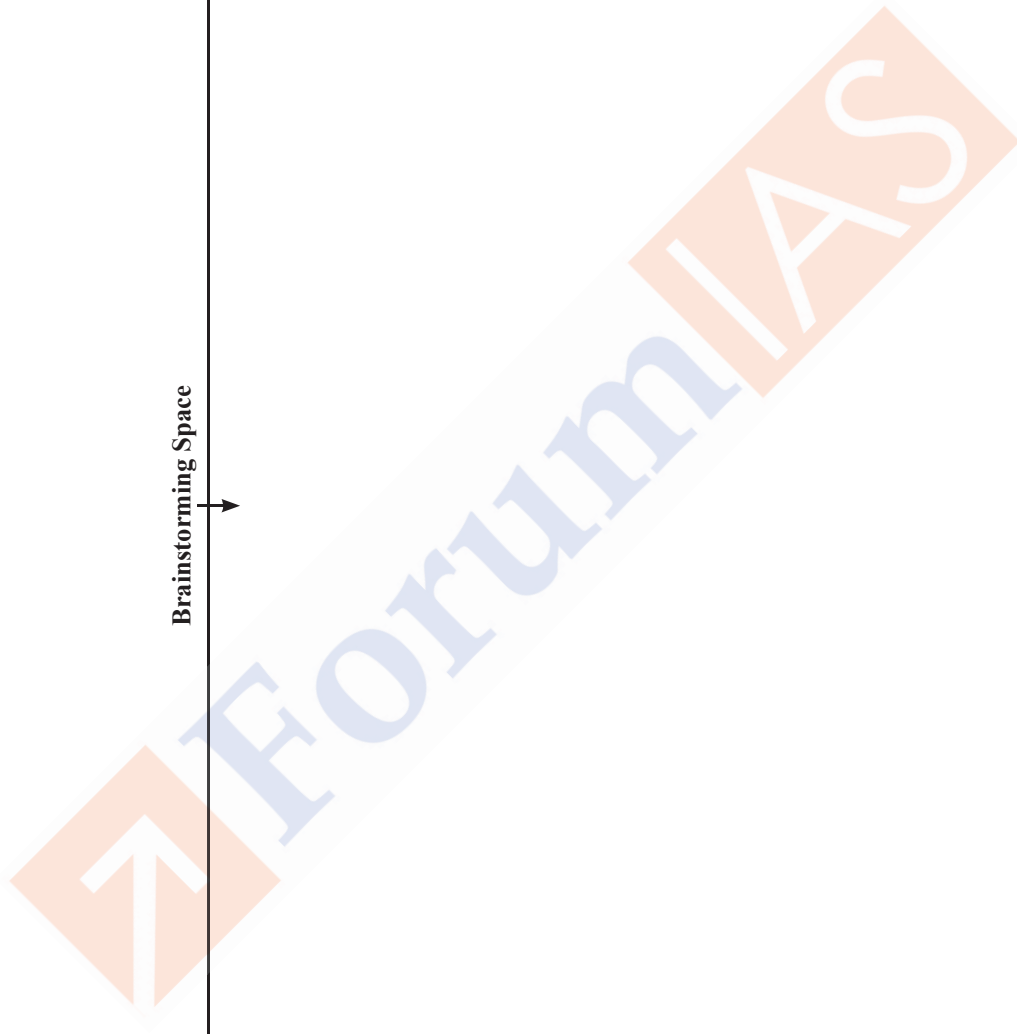
Q.15) Scarcity of safe drinking water is an acute problem in a large number of villages in India. Point out the factors which make even the available water unfit for drinking by the rural population. What steps would you recommend to make such water potable?

(40 Marks, 250 Words) [1987]

Brainstorming Space

Q.16) Asian and Commonwealth games have revealed that standard of sports and games are far below the international standard... What steps have been taken or are being taken to encourage sports and improve the standard in the country? (40 Marks, 250 Words) [1983]

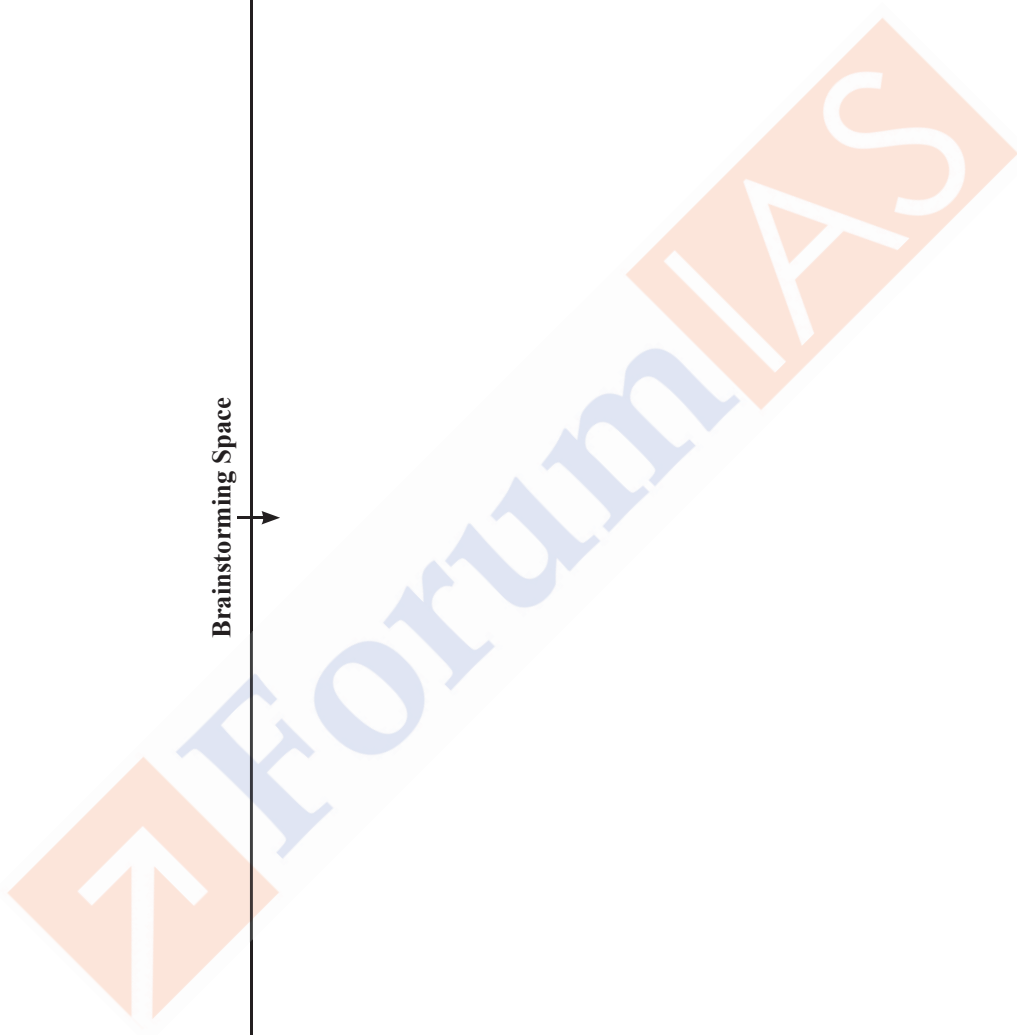
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Q.17) In many non-communist countries... professionalism... improvement in the national standard of sports in India?

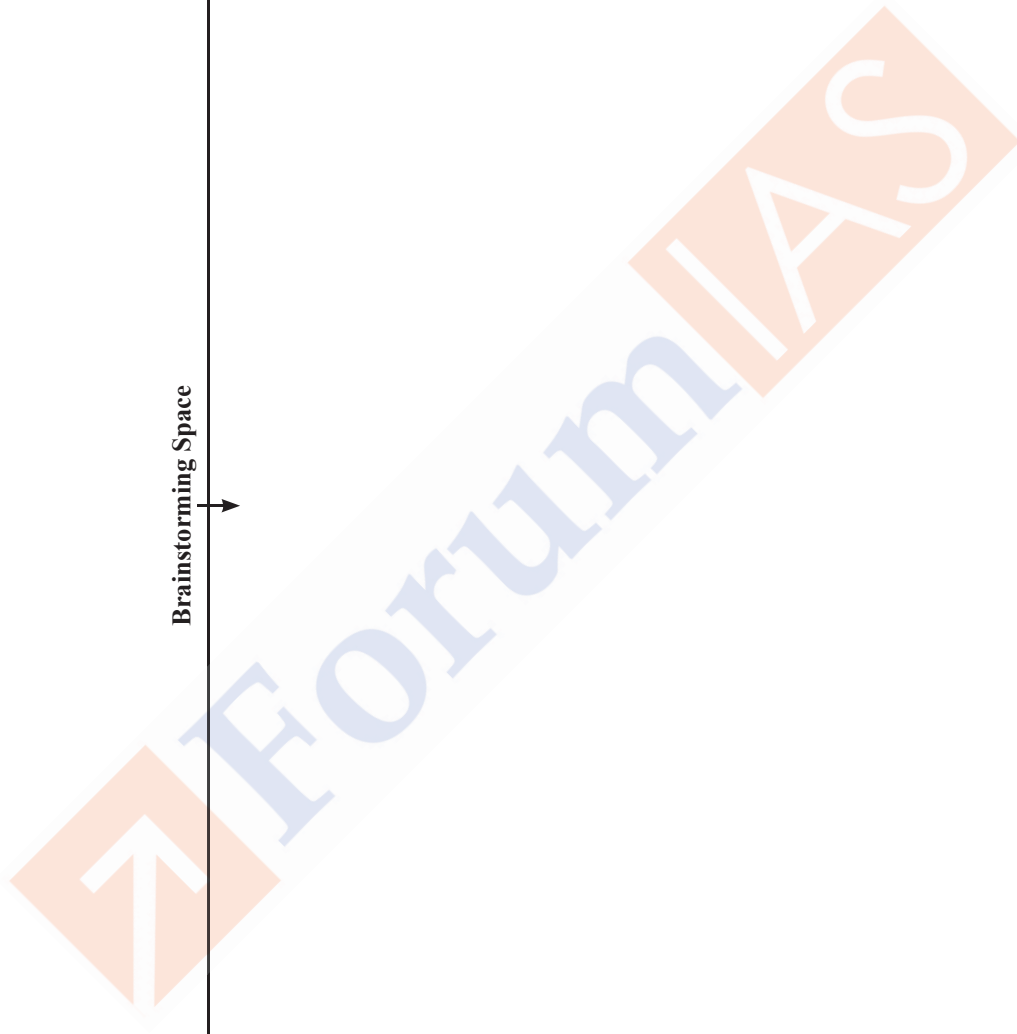
(15 Marks, 125 Words) [1981]

Brainstorming Space



Q.18) In many democratic countries radio and televisions are not under the control of the State. Do you think that the same policy should be adopted in India? (25 Marks, 200 Words) [1980]

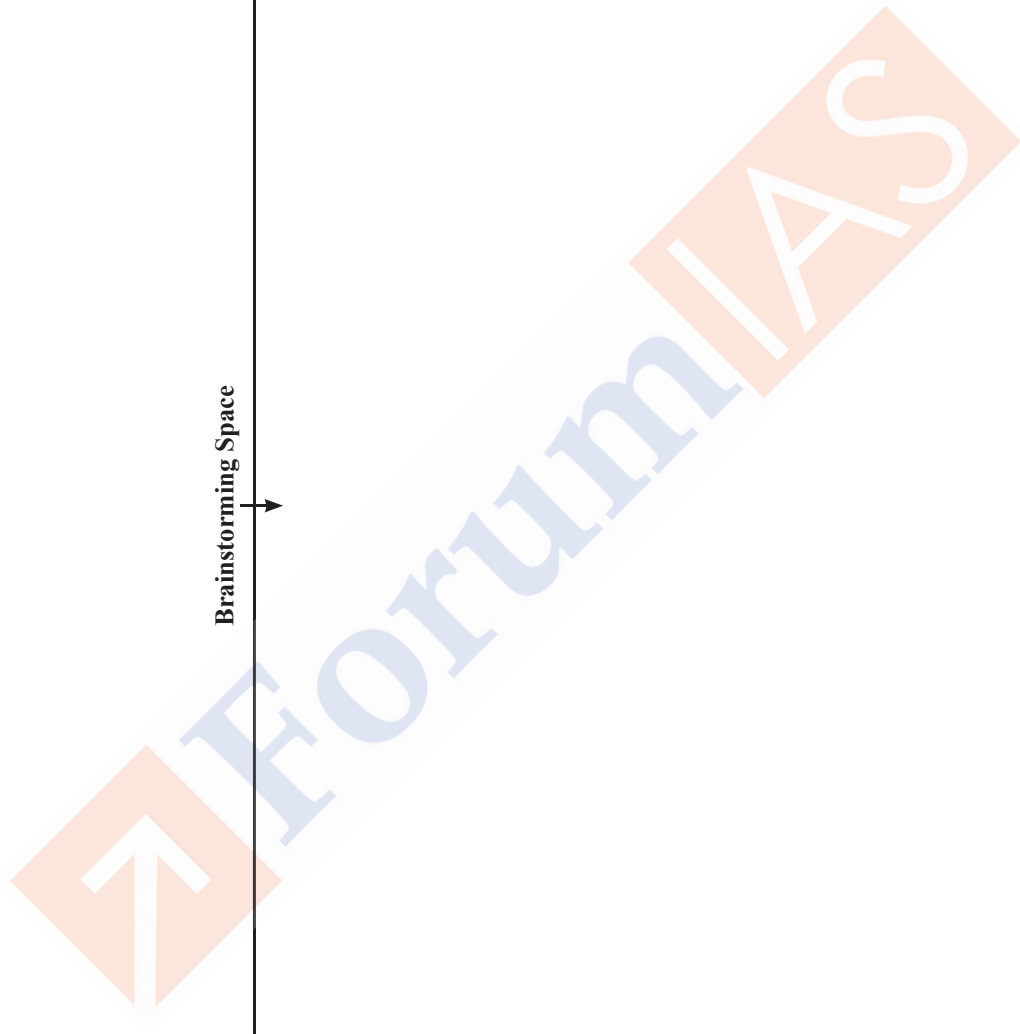
Brainstorming Space



Q.19) Civil Society Organizations are often perceived as being anti-State actors than non-State actors. Do you agree? Justify.

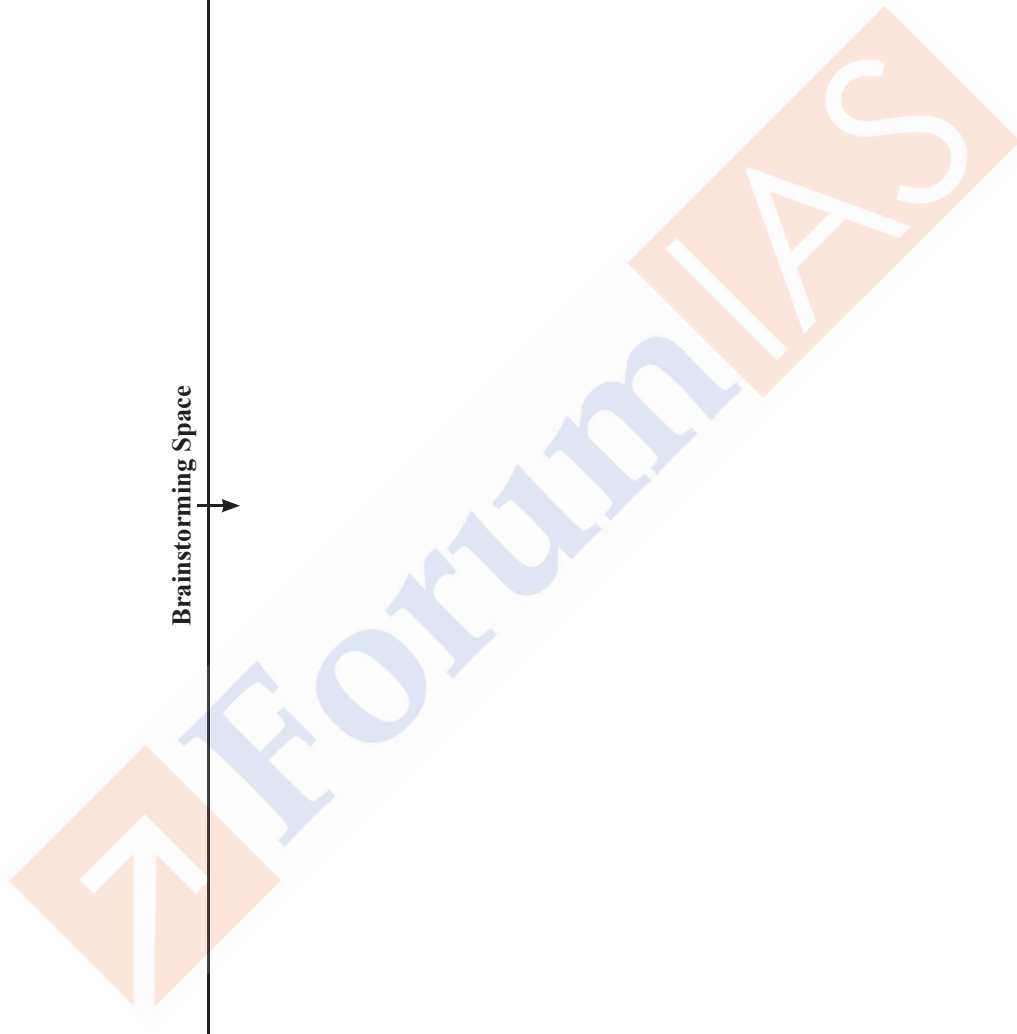
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2025]

Brainstorming Space



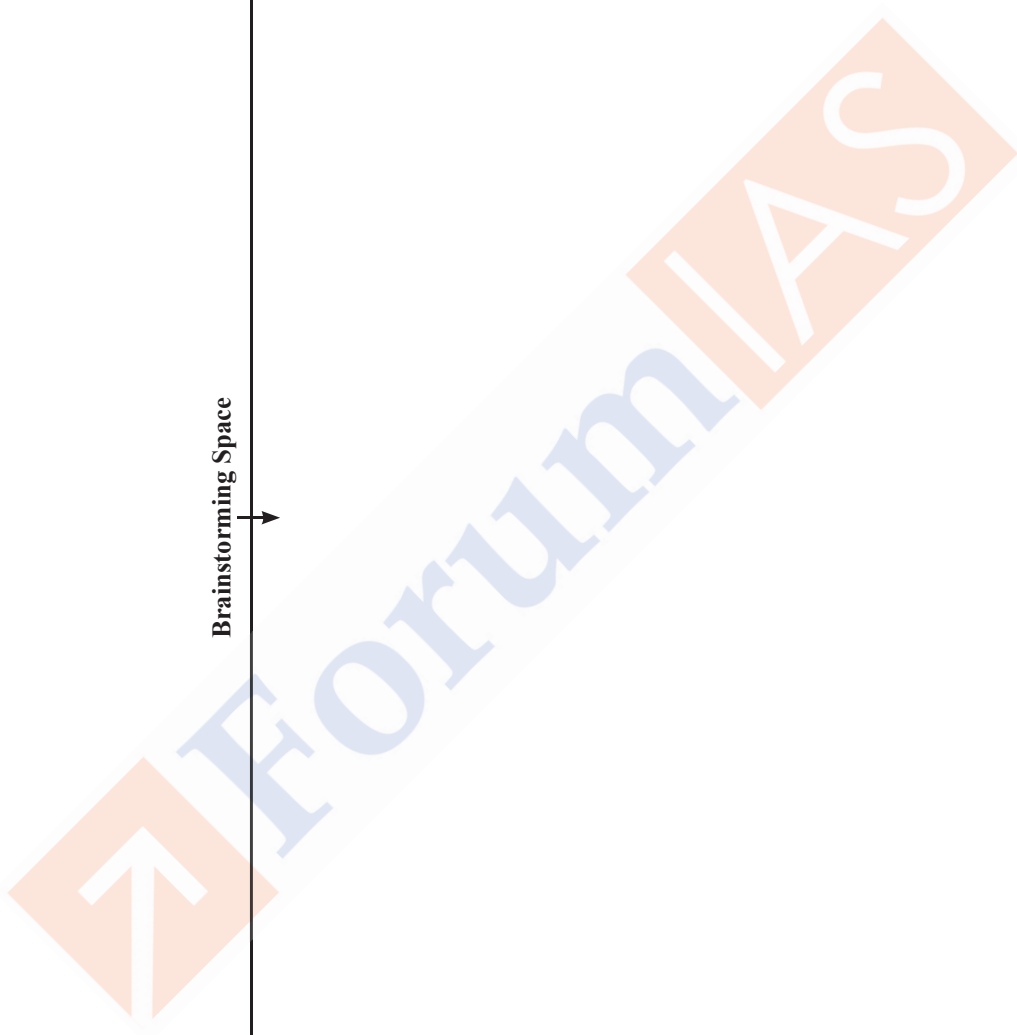
Q.20) Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2023]

Brainstorming Space



Q.21) "Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission". Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2020]

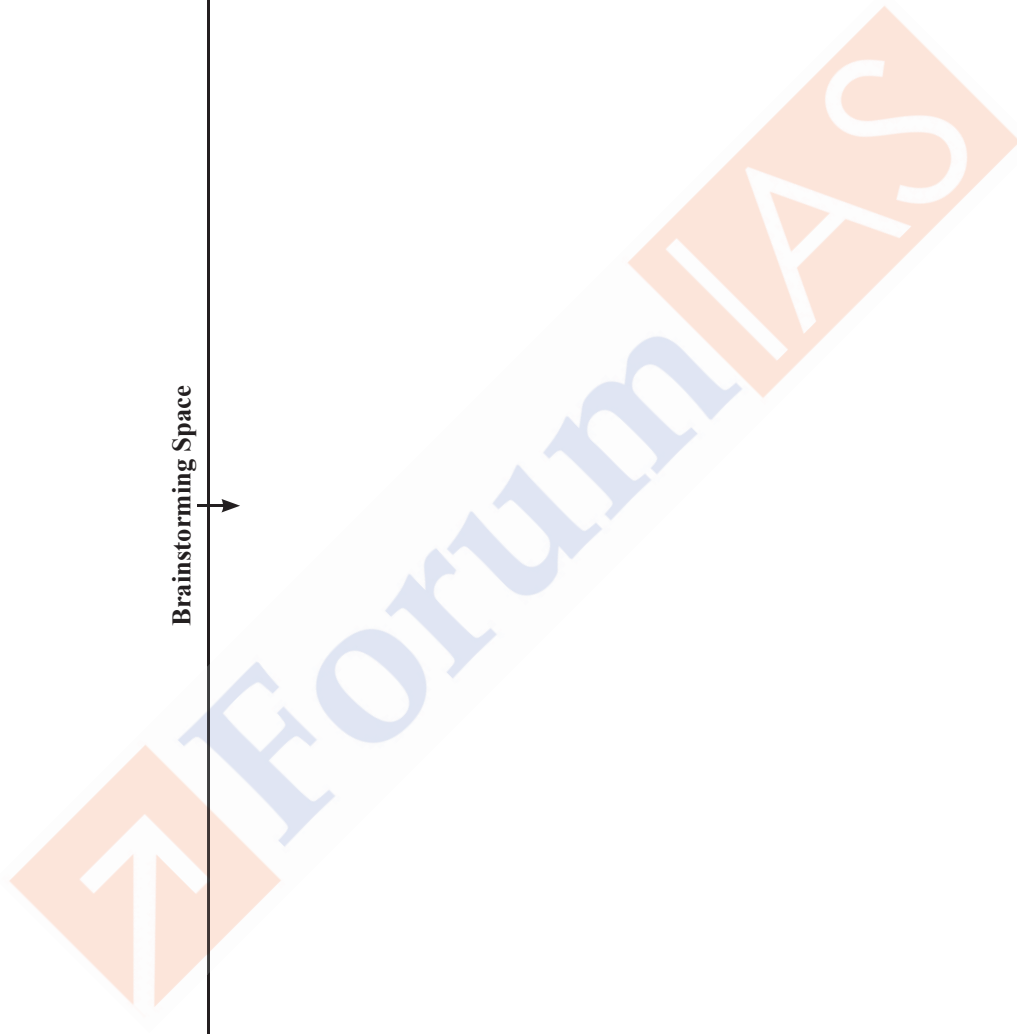
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Q.22) "“In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal.” Critically examine this statement.

(12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2016]"

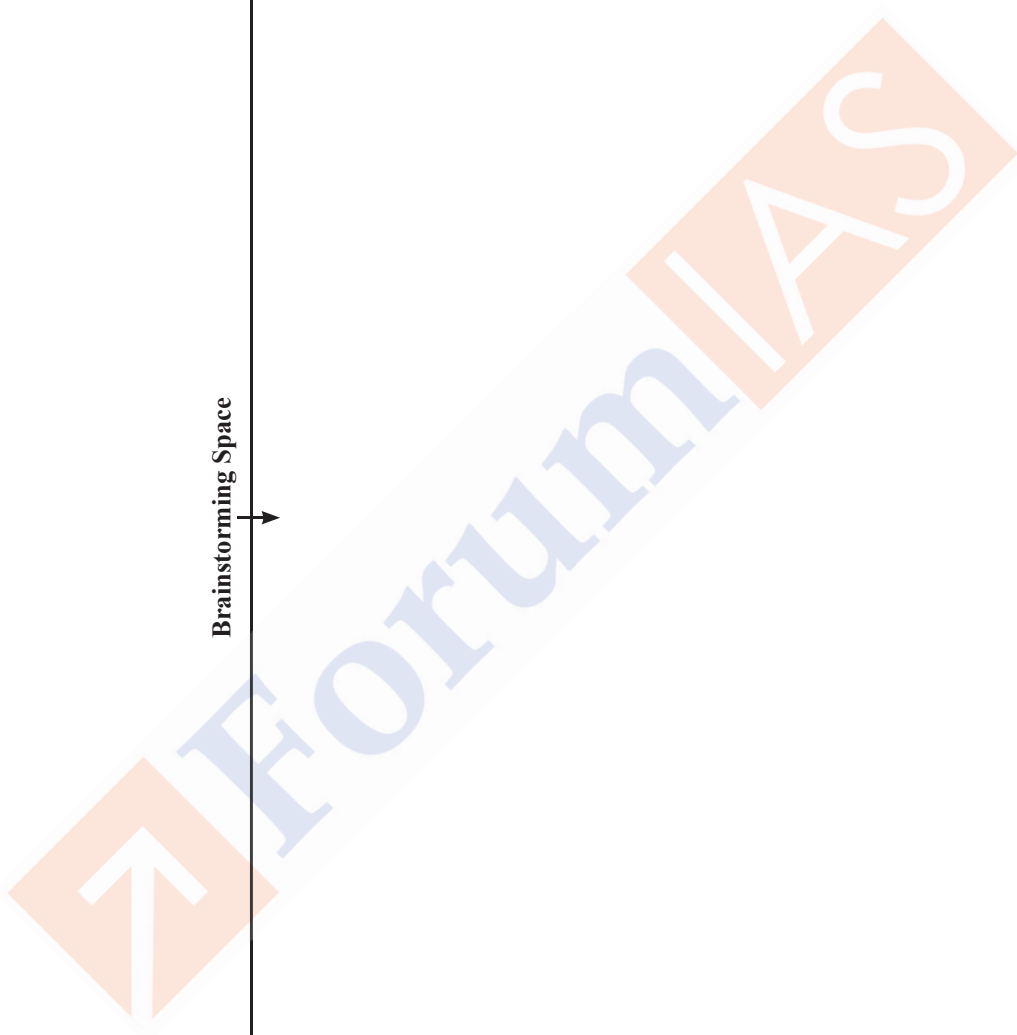
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Q.23) “Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people’s participation in the governance system are inter- dependent.” Discuss their relationship with each other in context of India.

(12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2016]

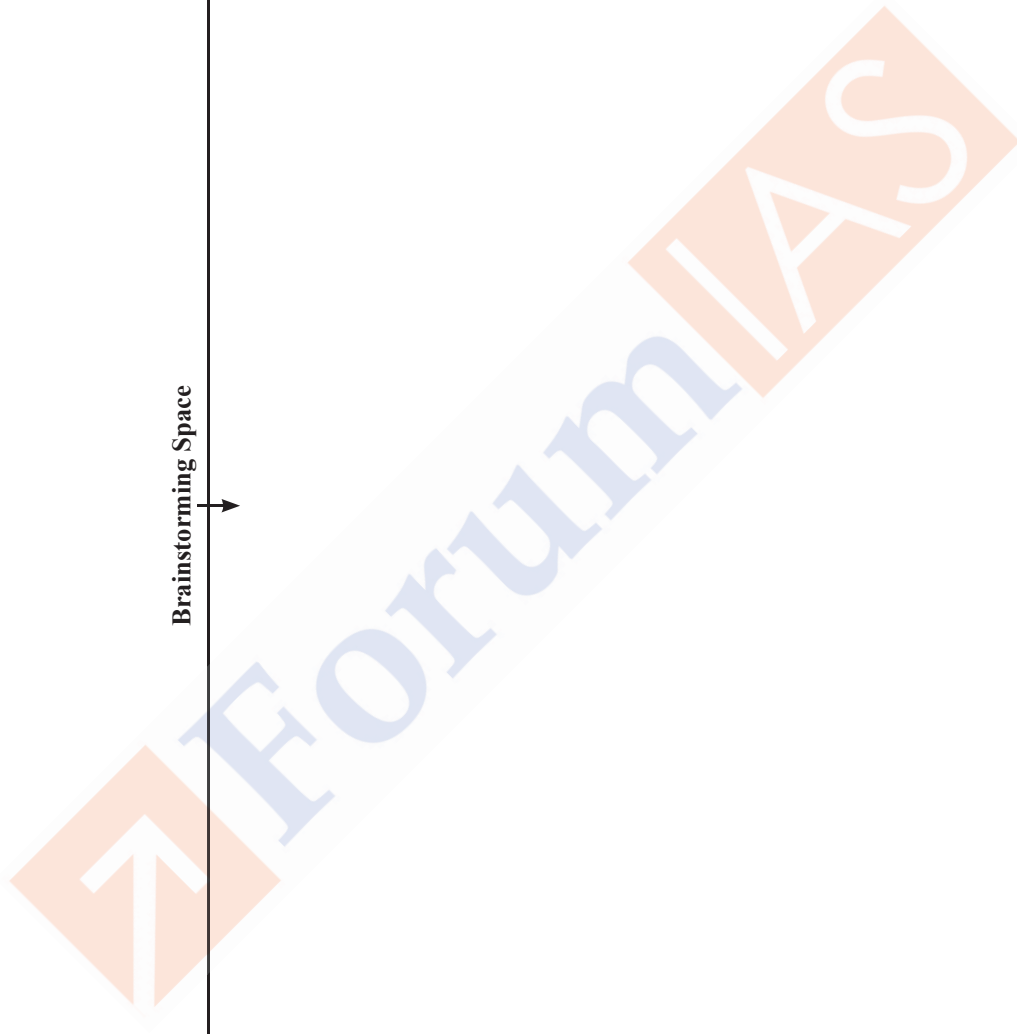
Brainstorming Space



Q.24) In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.

(12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2016]

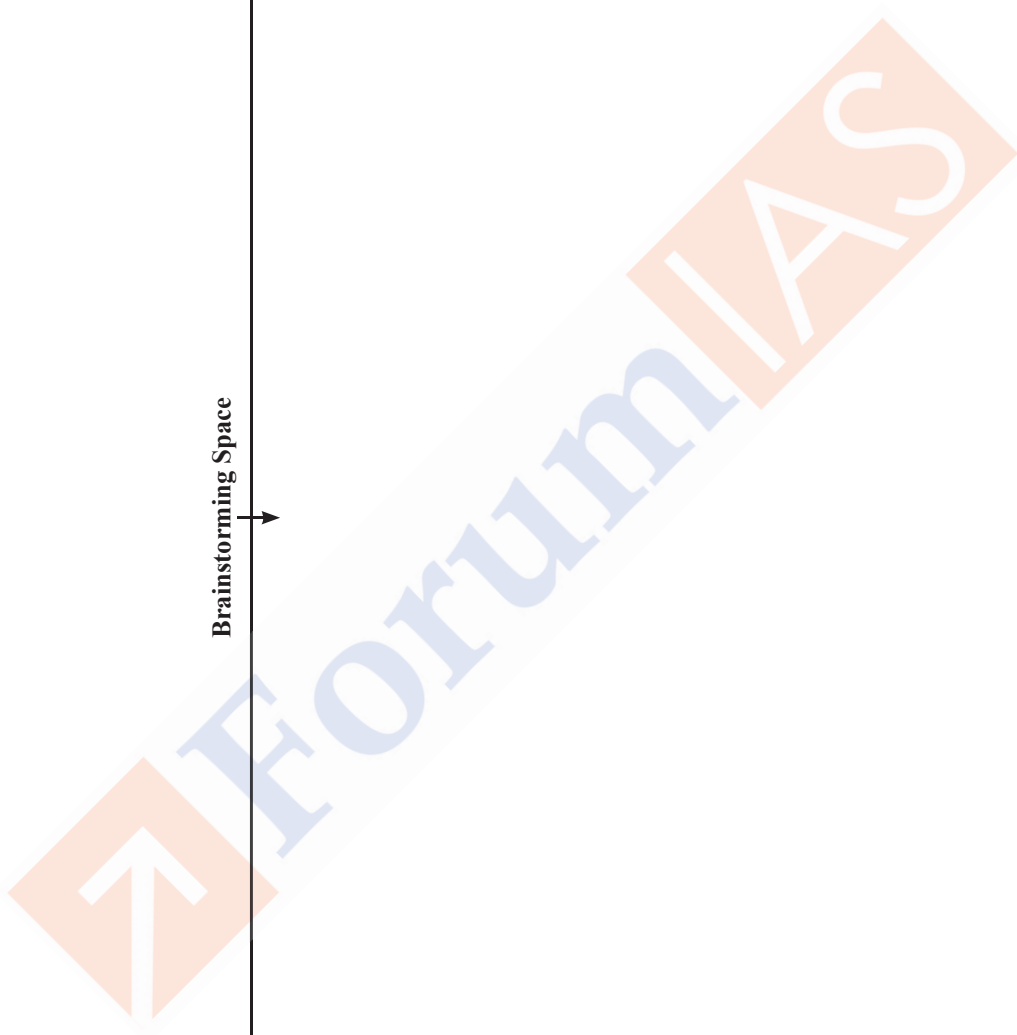
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Q.25) In the light of the Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in corporate governance to ensure transparency, accountability.

(15 Marks, 200 Words) [2015]

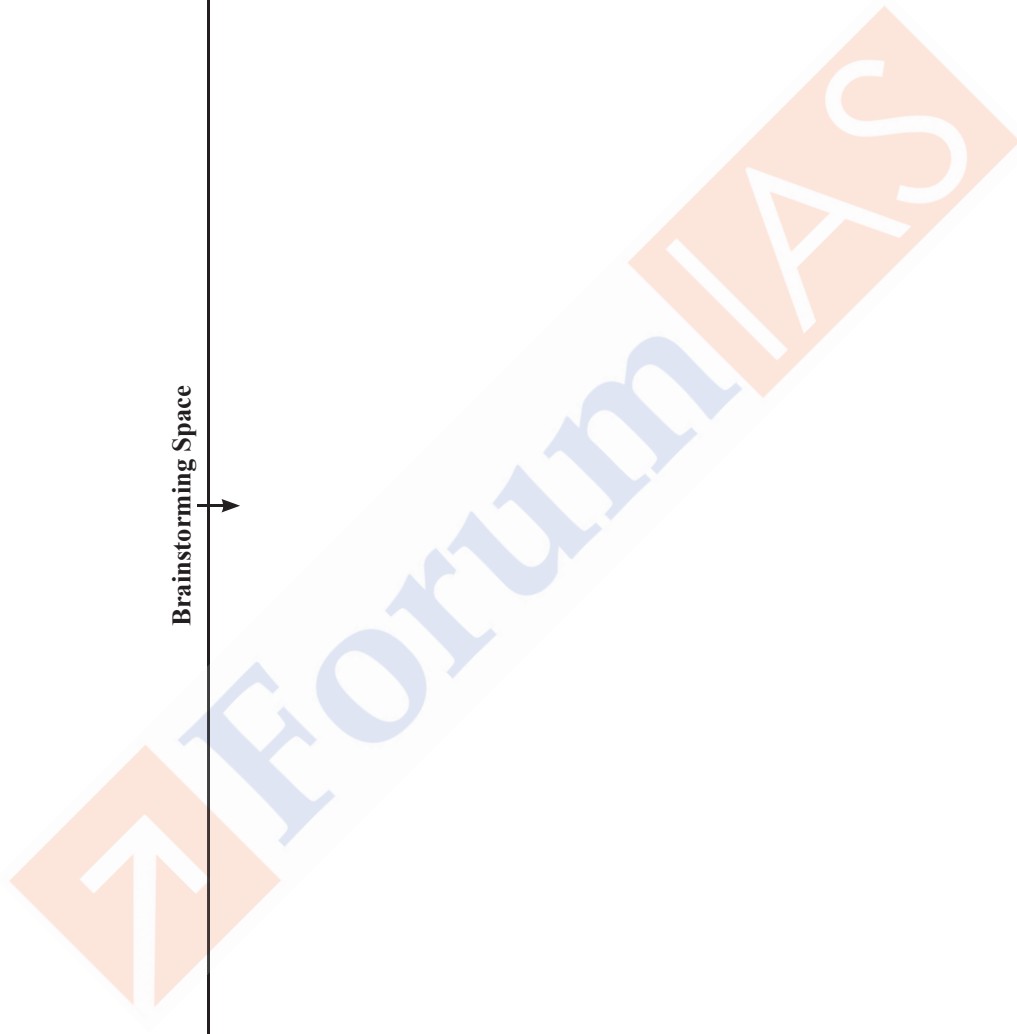
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Q.26) 'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs.' Discuss.

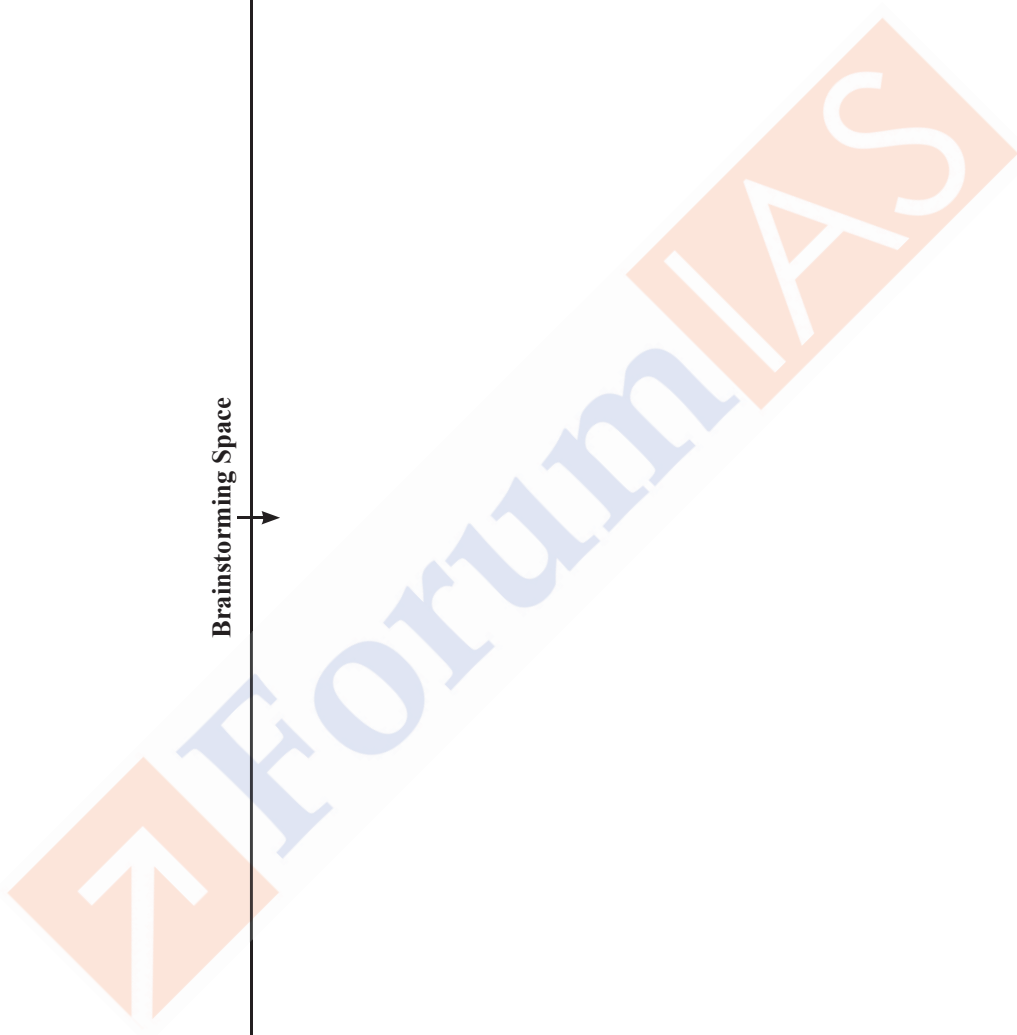
(10 Marks, 200 Words) [2013]

Brainstorming Space



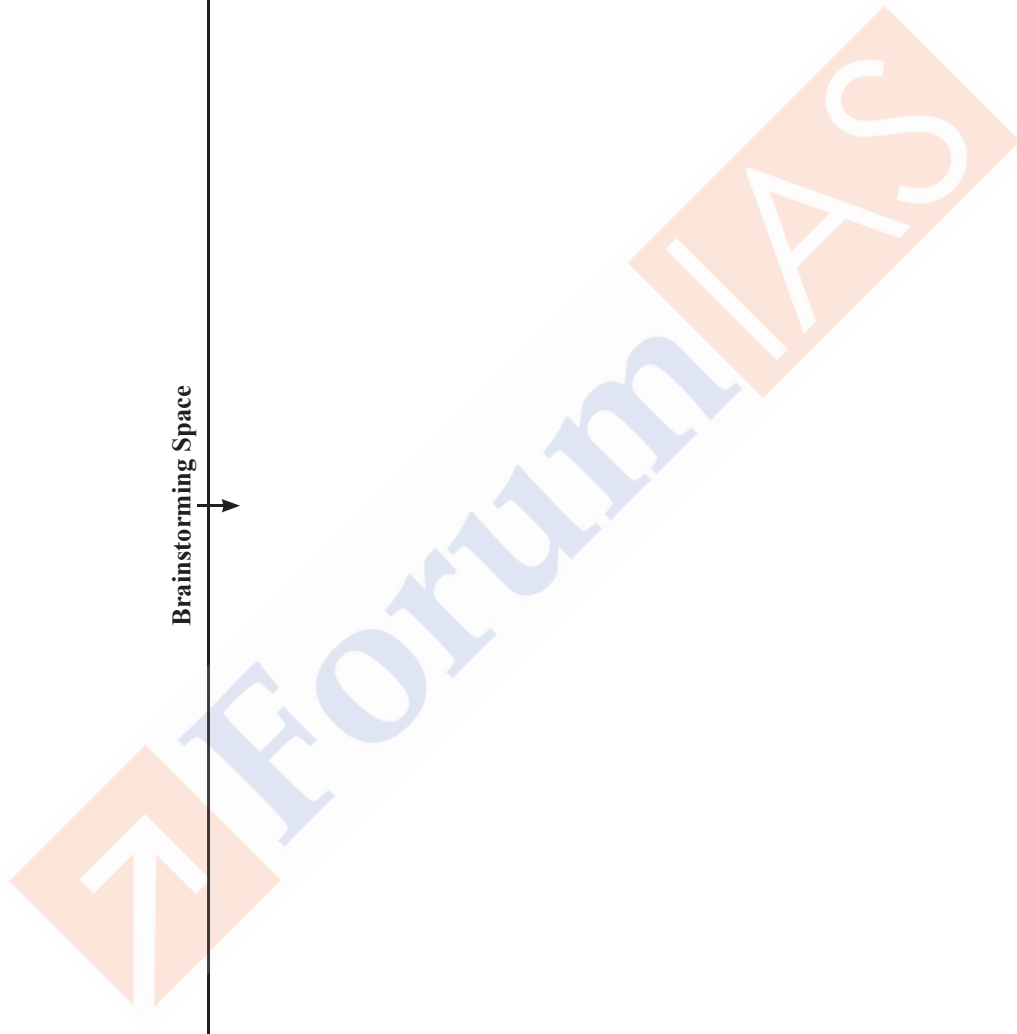
Q.27) Suggest measures for the eradication of wide spread corruption in Public Life in India. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2003]

Brainstorming Space



Q.28) The Press in India is free to publish any news and views except those which are objectionable... steps taken by Government to prevent monopoly... (25 Marks, 150 Words) [1981]

Brainstorming Space

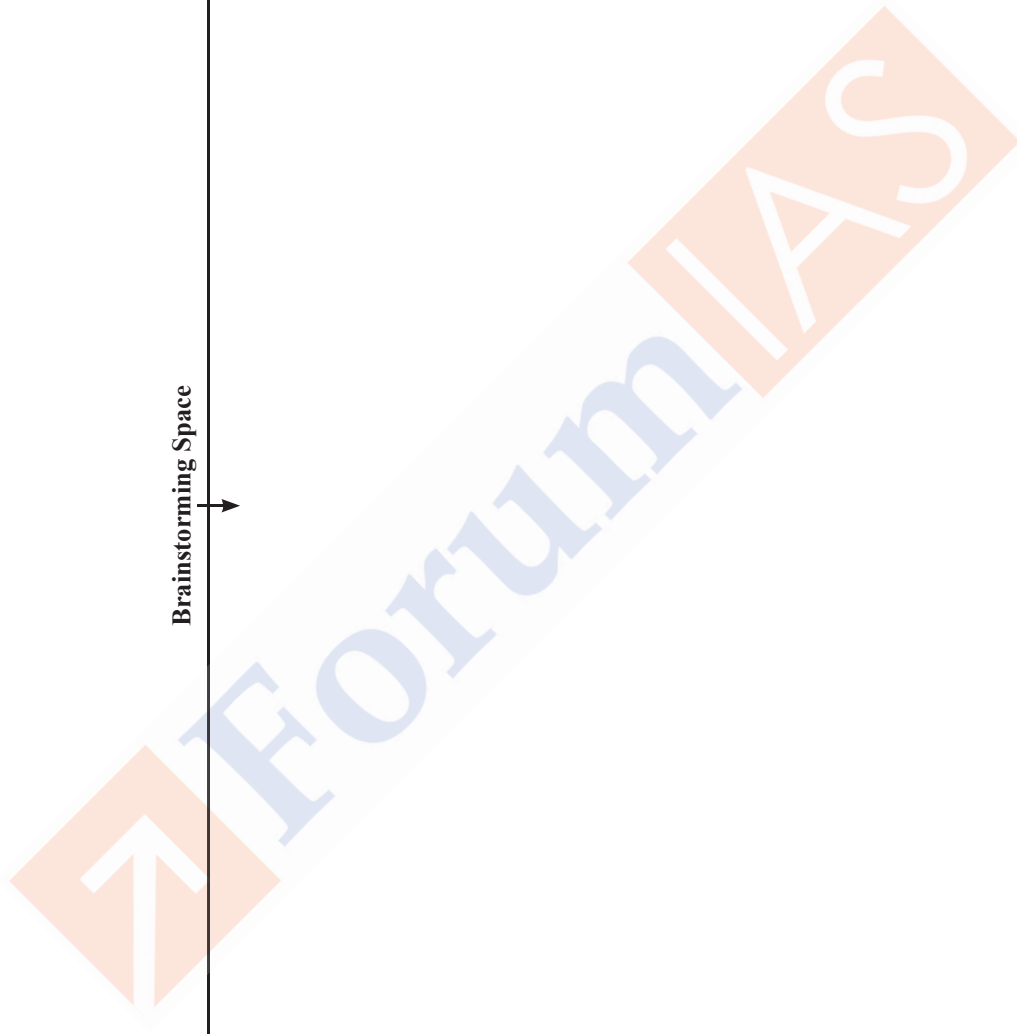


Q.29) The Citizens' charter has been a landmark initiative in ensuring citizen-centric administration. But it is yet to reach its full potential. Identify the factors hindering the realisation of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2024]

Brainstorming Space

Q.30) The Citizen's Charter is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2018]

Brainstorming Space



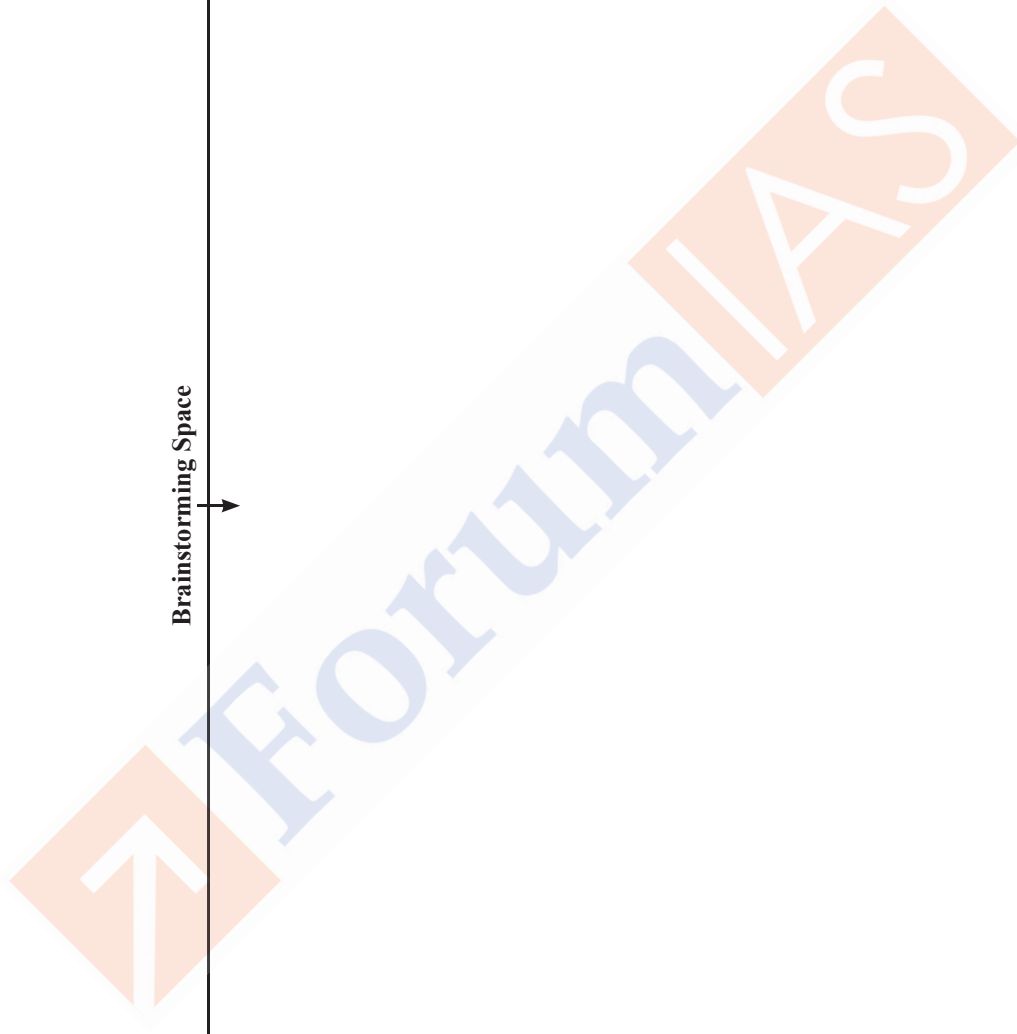
Q.31) Though Citizens' charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens' satisfaction and quality of services being provided. Analyse. (10 Marks, 200 Words) [2013]

Brainstorming Space

Q.32) e-governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration than user-centric designs. Examine.

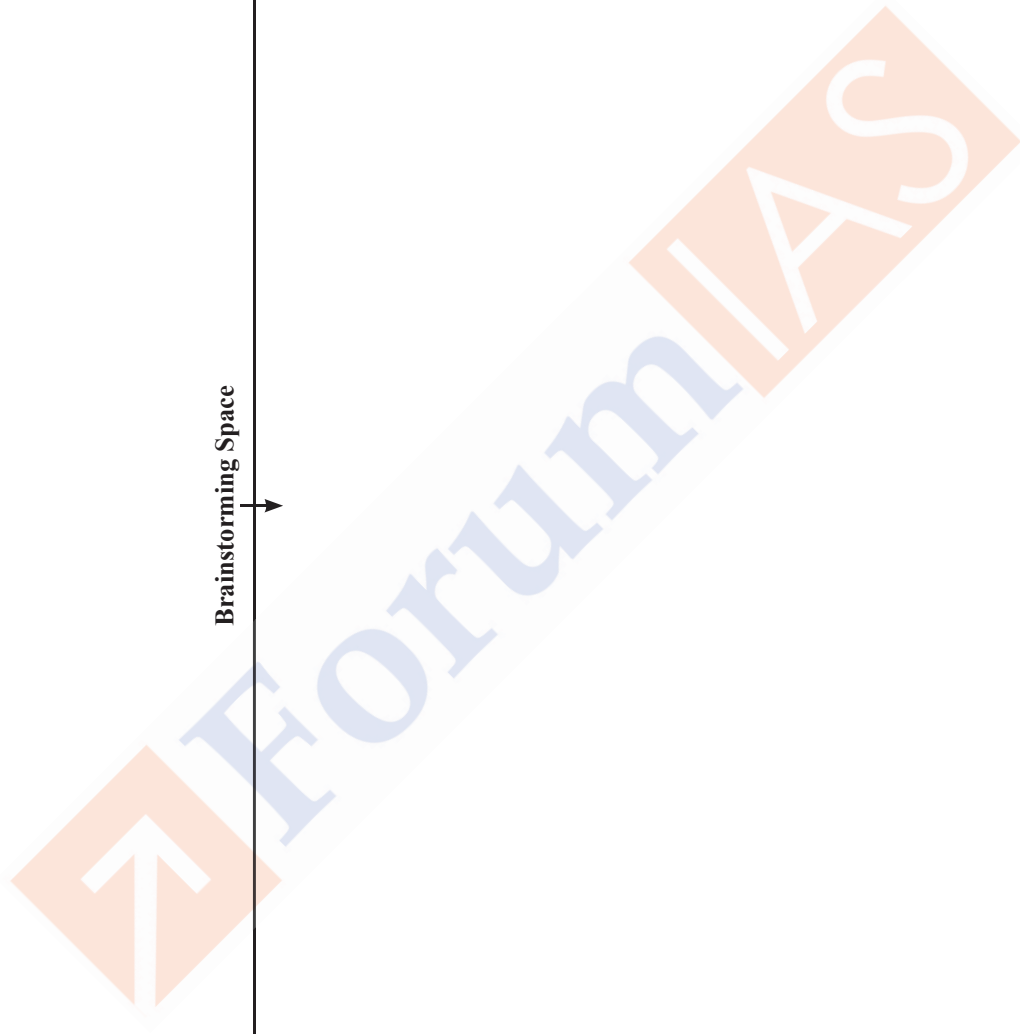
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2025]

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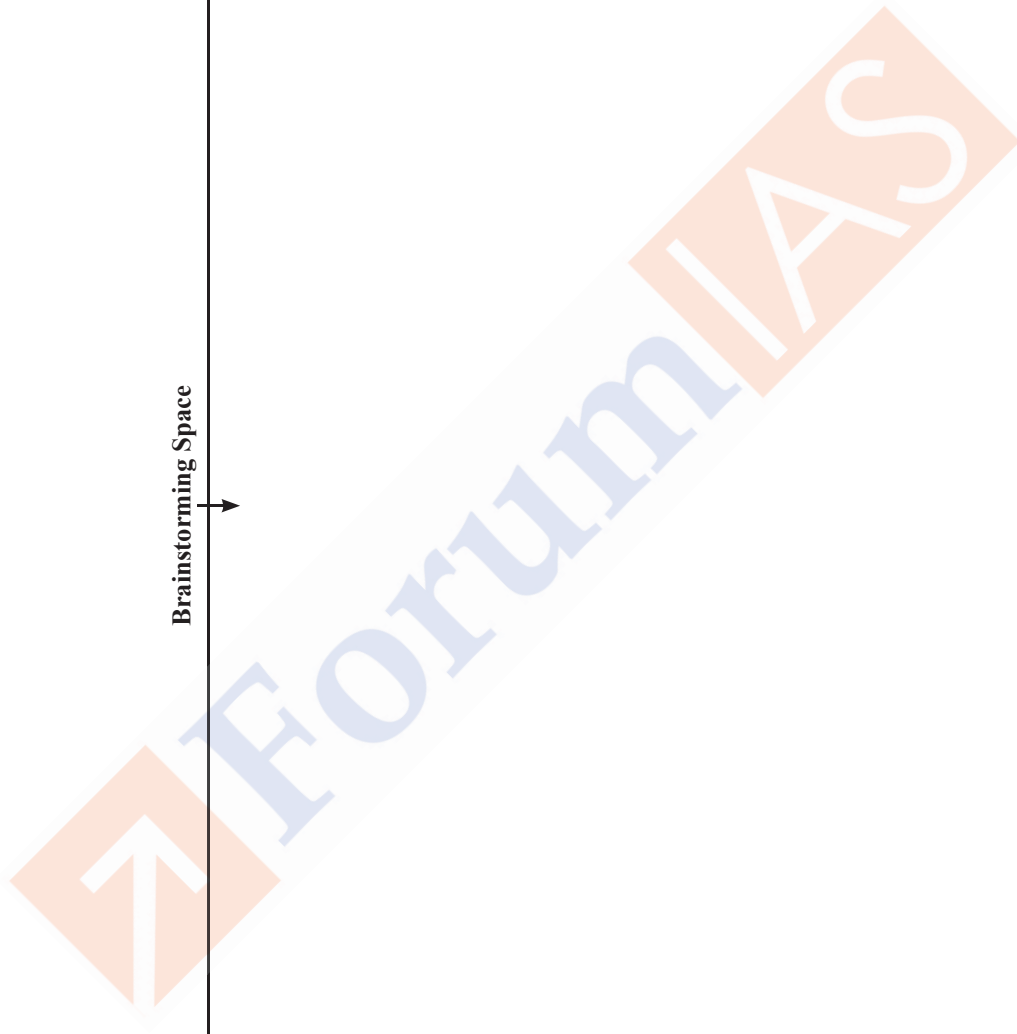
Q.33) e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2024]

Brainstorming Space



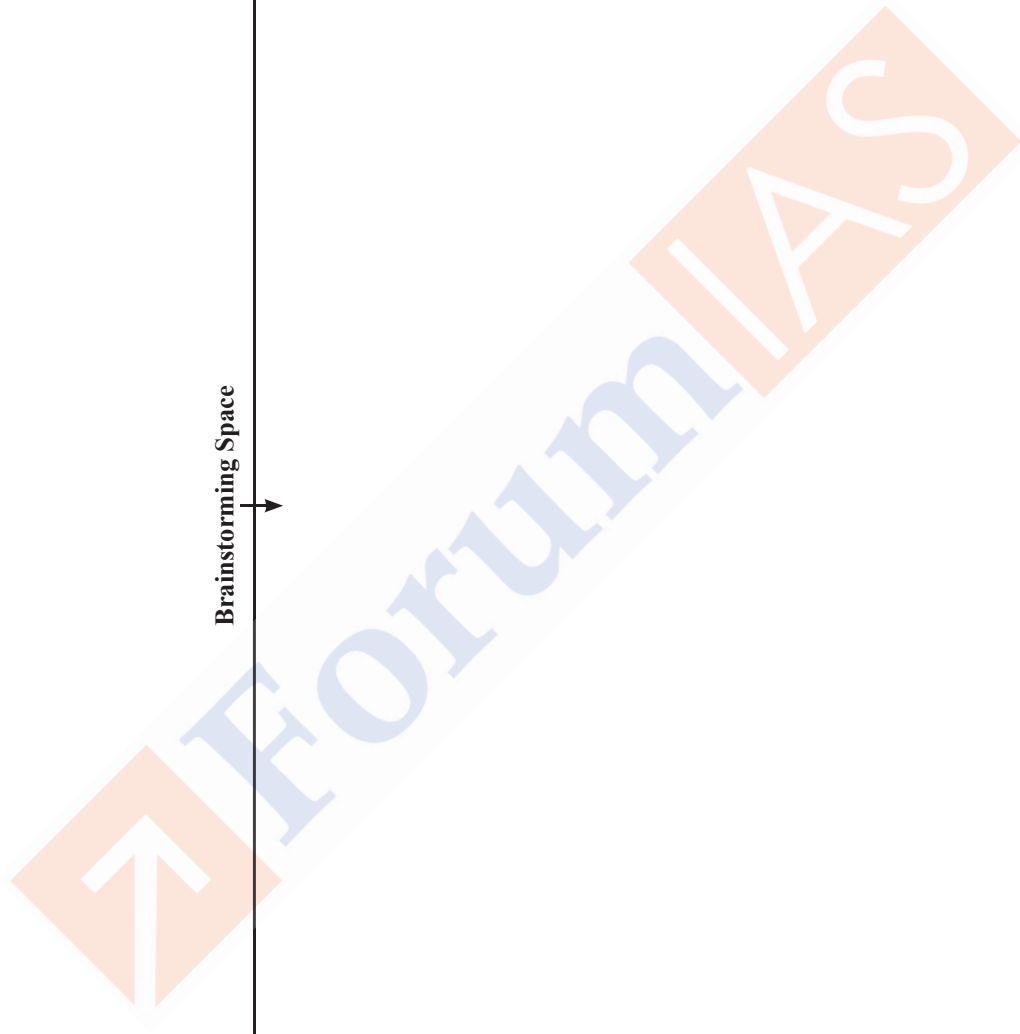
Q.34) The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of the government”. Discuss (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2020]

Brainstorming Space



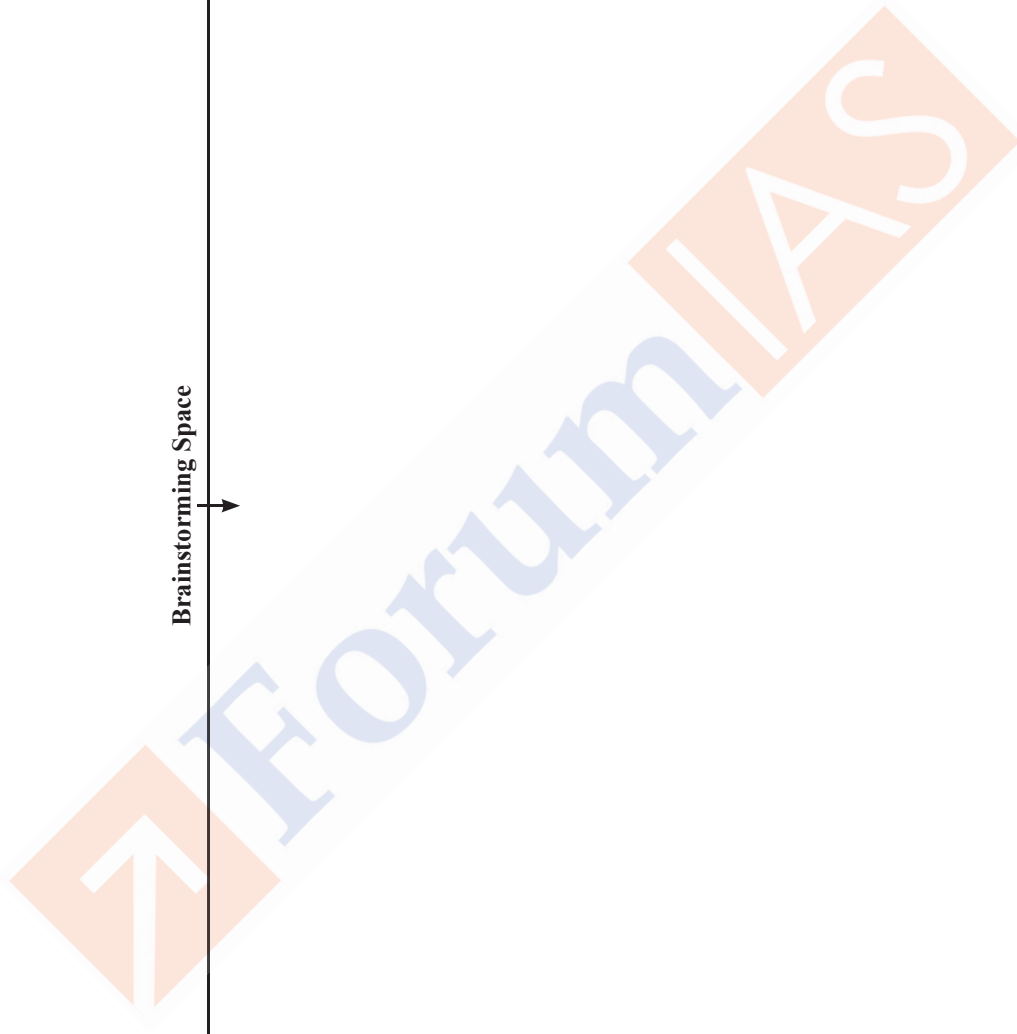
Q.35) E-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about critical importance of the 'use value' of information. Explain. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2018]

Brainstorming Space



Q.36) Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms. Comment. (10 Marks, 200 Words) [2013]

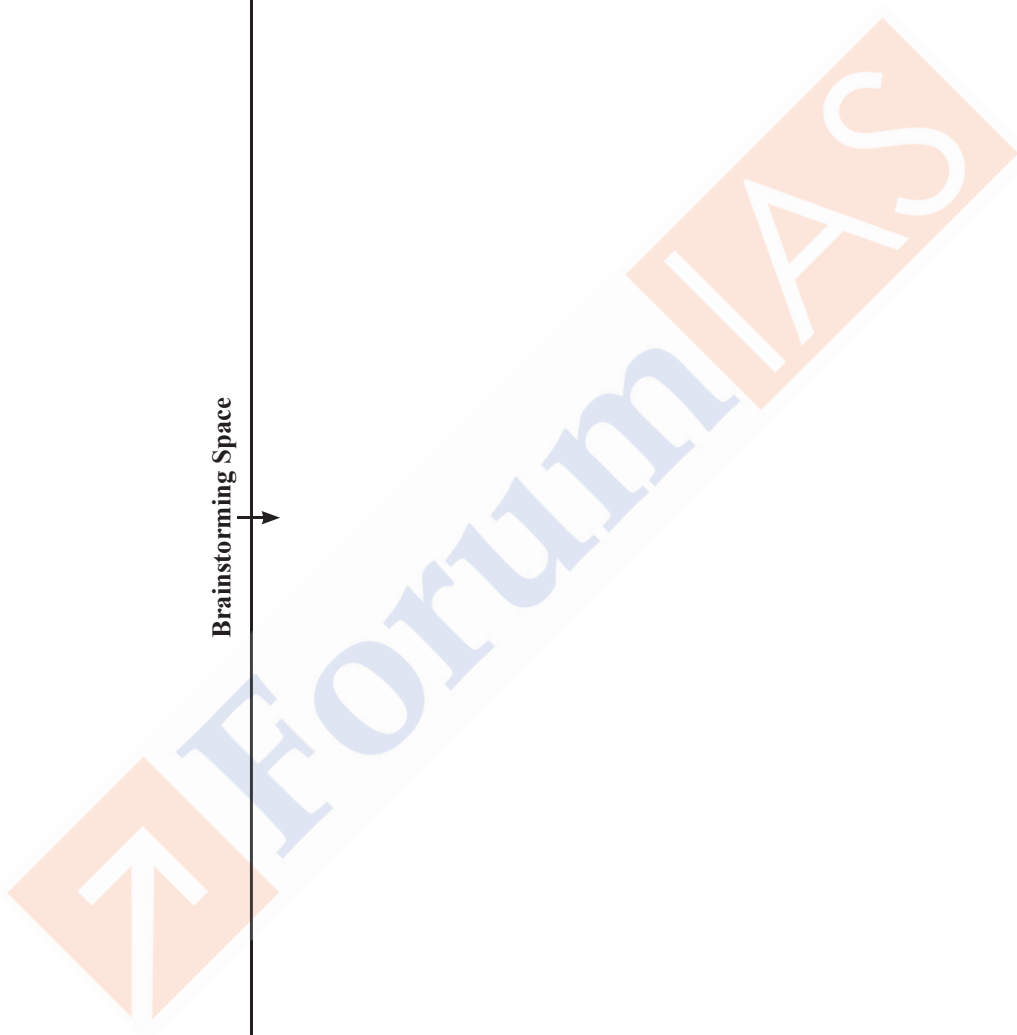
Brainstorming Space



Q.37) "e-governance has the potentiality to emerge as the most effective instrument of efficiency, transparency and accountability." Comment.

(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2008]

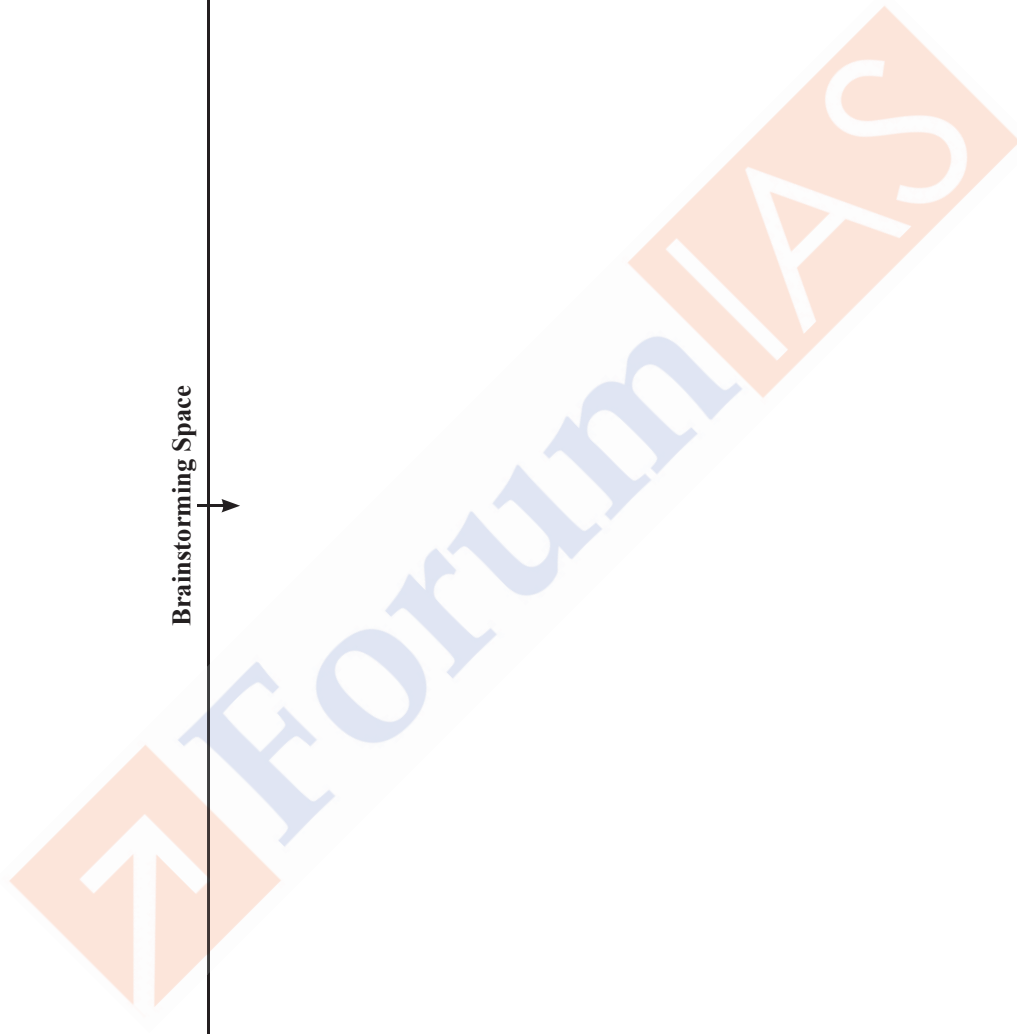
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Q.38) Discuss the utility of e-governance in the Indian context.

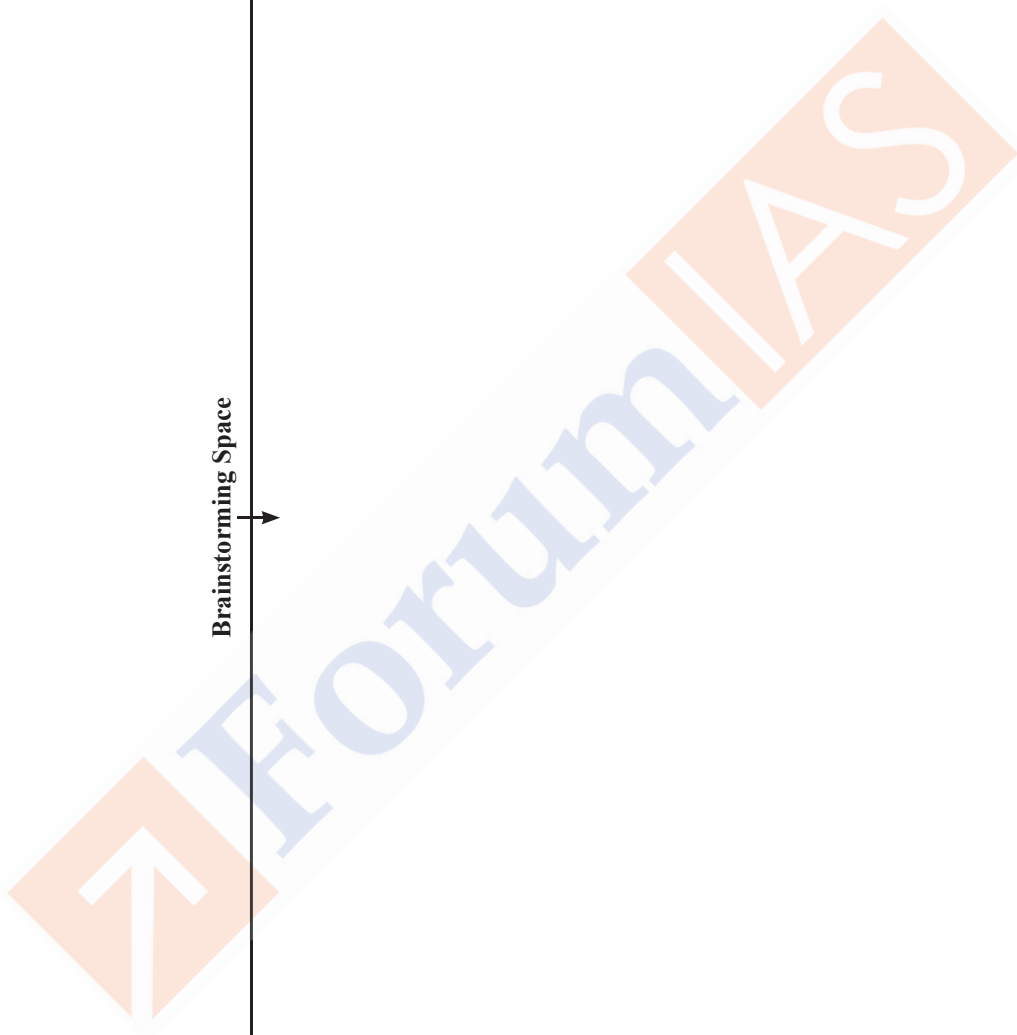
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2004]

Brainstorming Space



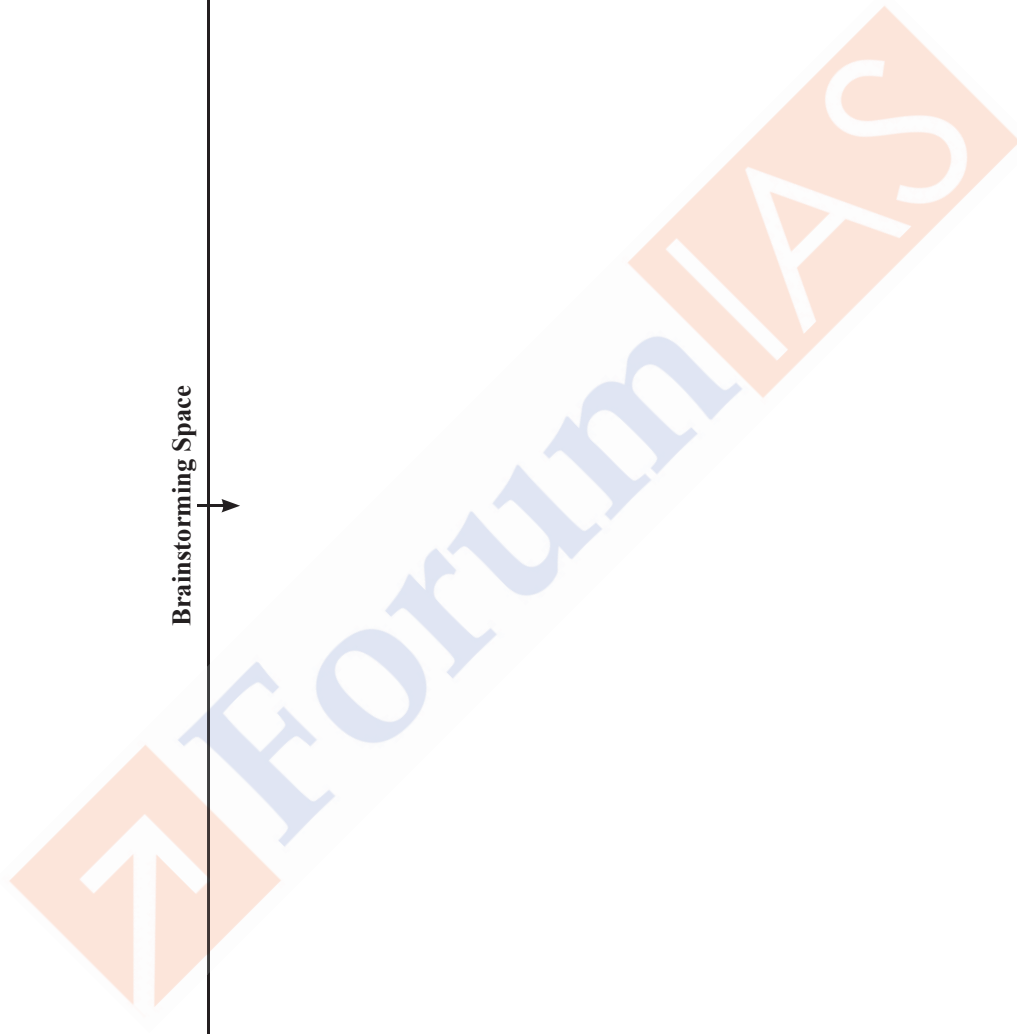
Q.39) The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2024]

Brainstorming Space



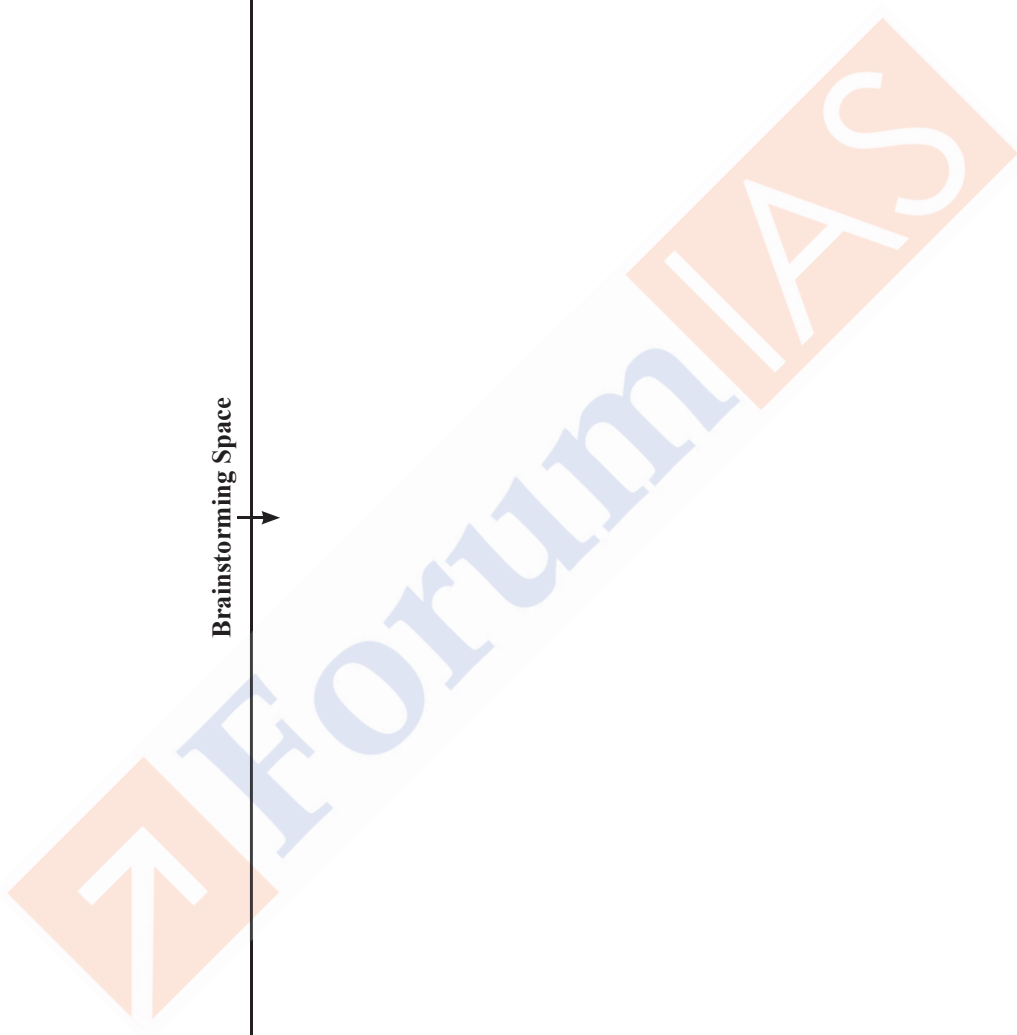
Q.40) Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance”. In this context, suggest reforms in Civil Service for Strengthening Democracy. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2020]

Brainstorming Space



Q.41) Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services? Comment. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2017]

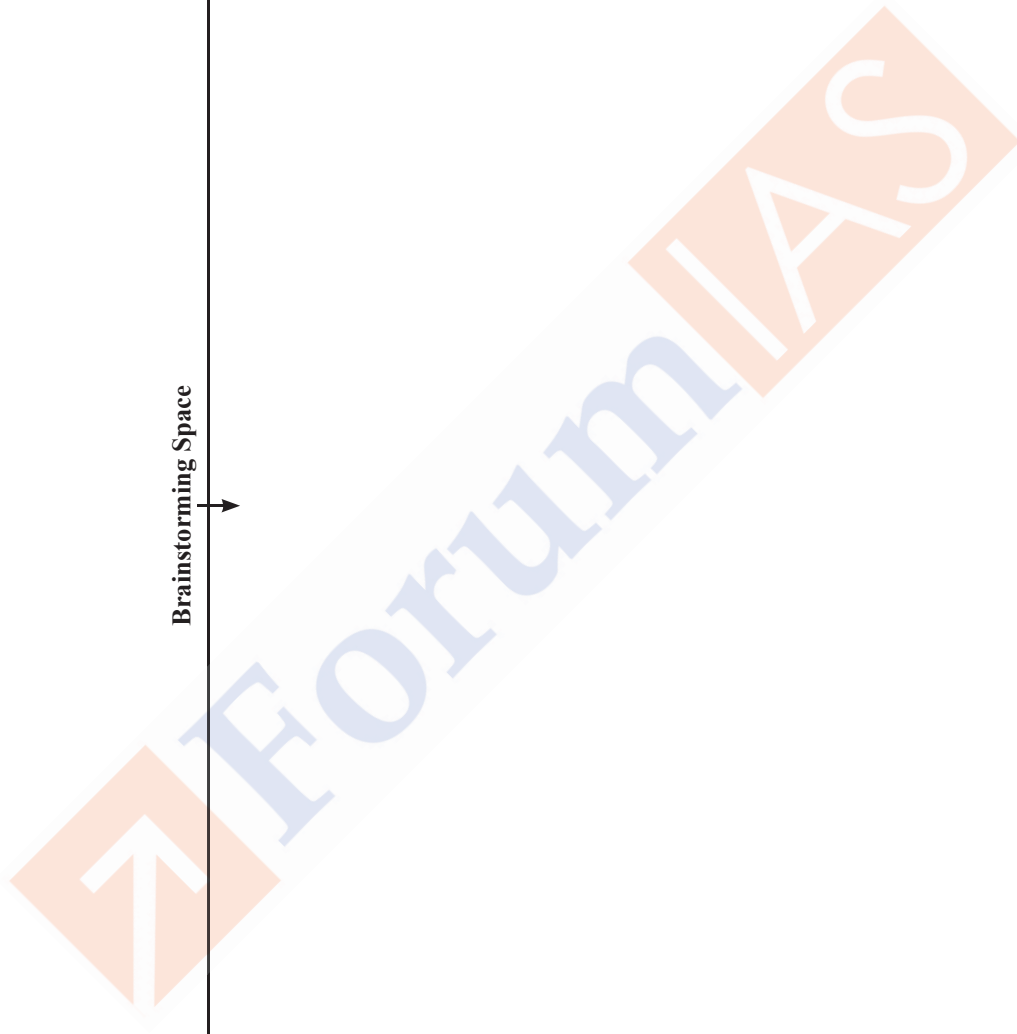
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Q.42) "“Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India.” Comment.

(12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2016]"

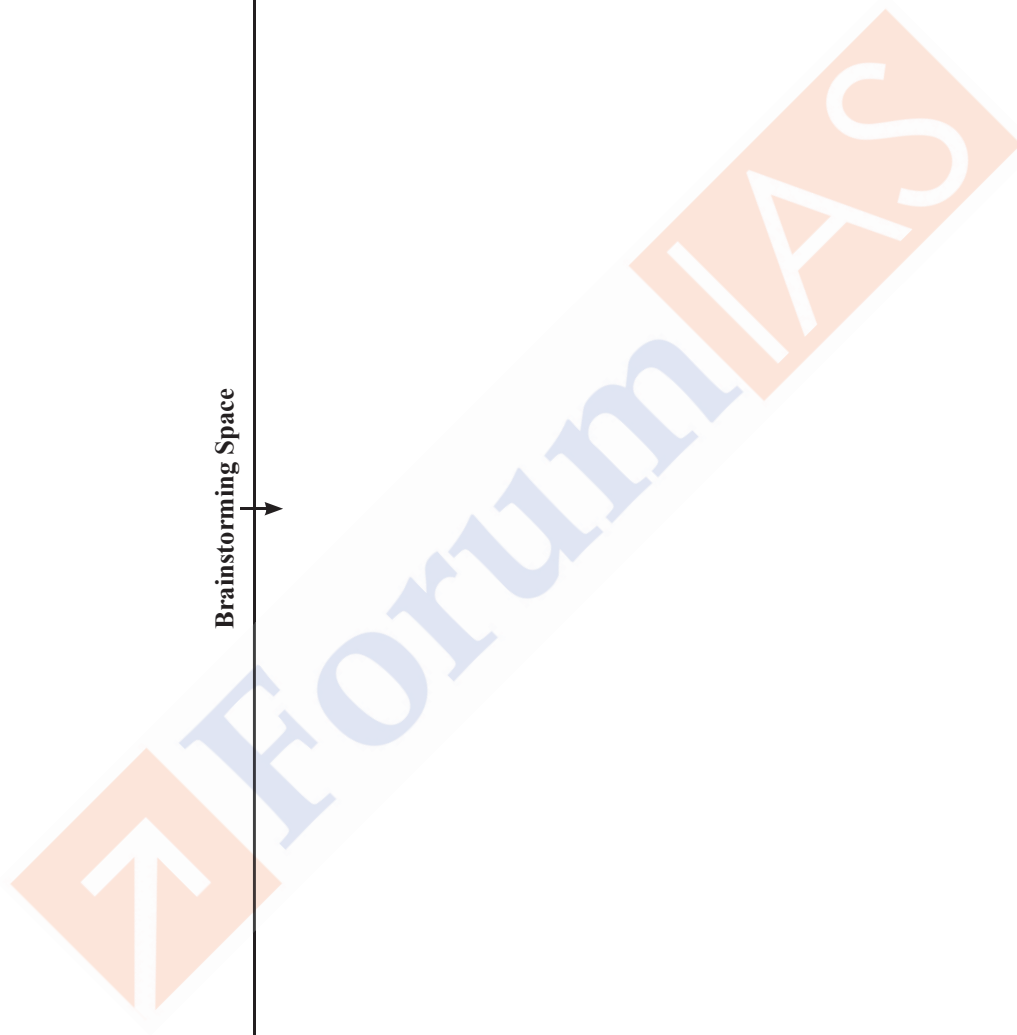
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Q.43) Has the Cadre based Civil Services organization been the cause of slow change in India? Critically examine.

(10 Marks, 200 Words) [2014]

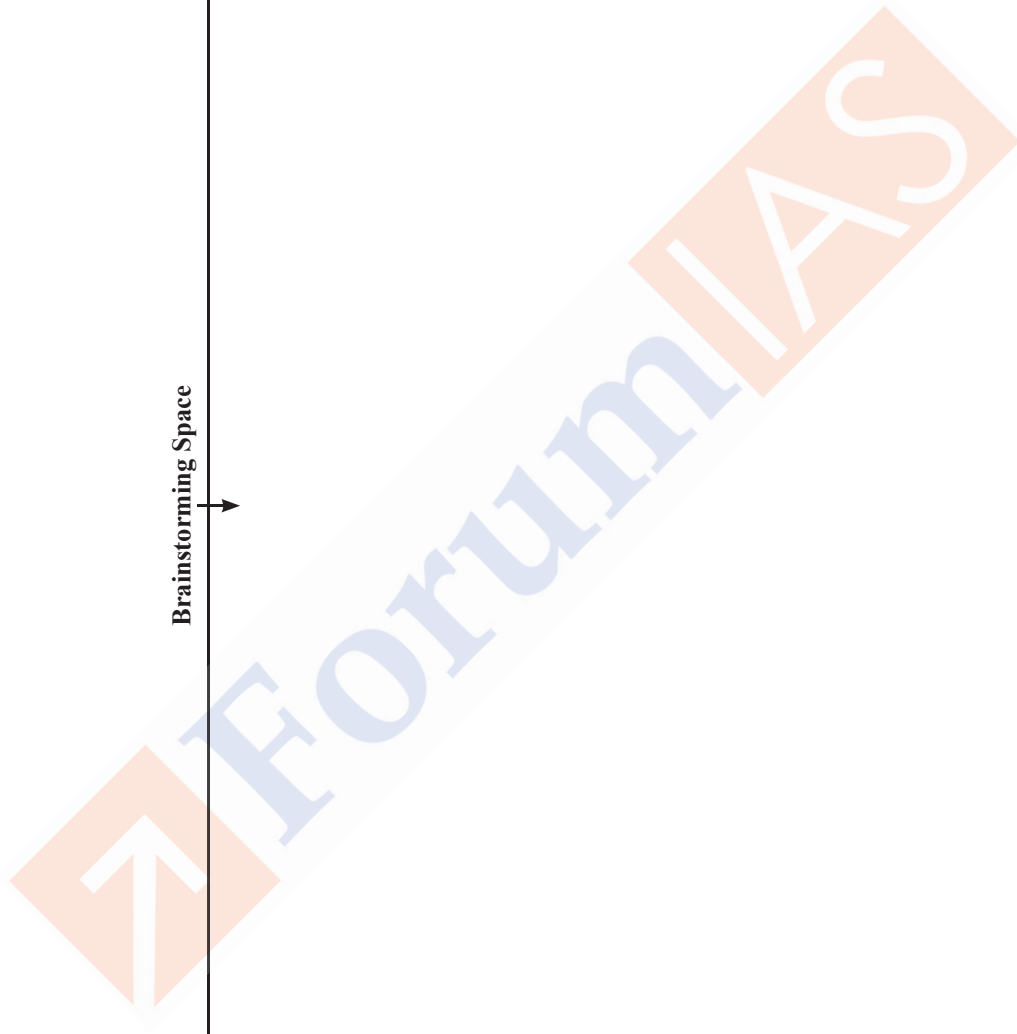
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Q.44) Describe the Constitutional position of the Civil Services in India.
How is their neutrality and independence sought to be achieved?

(15 Marks, 250 Words) [1990]

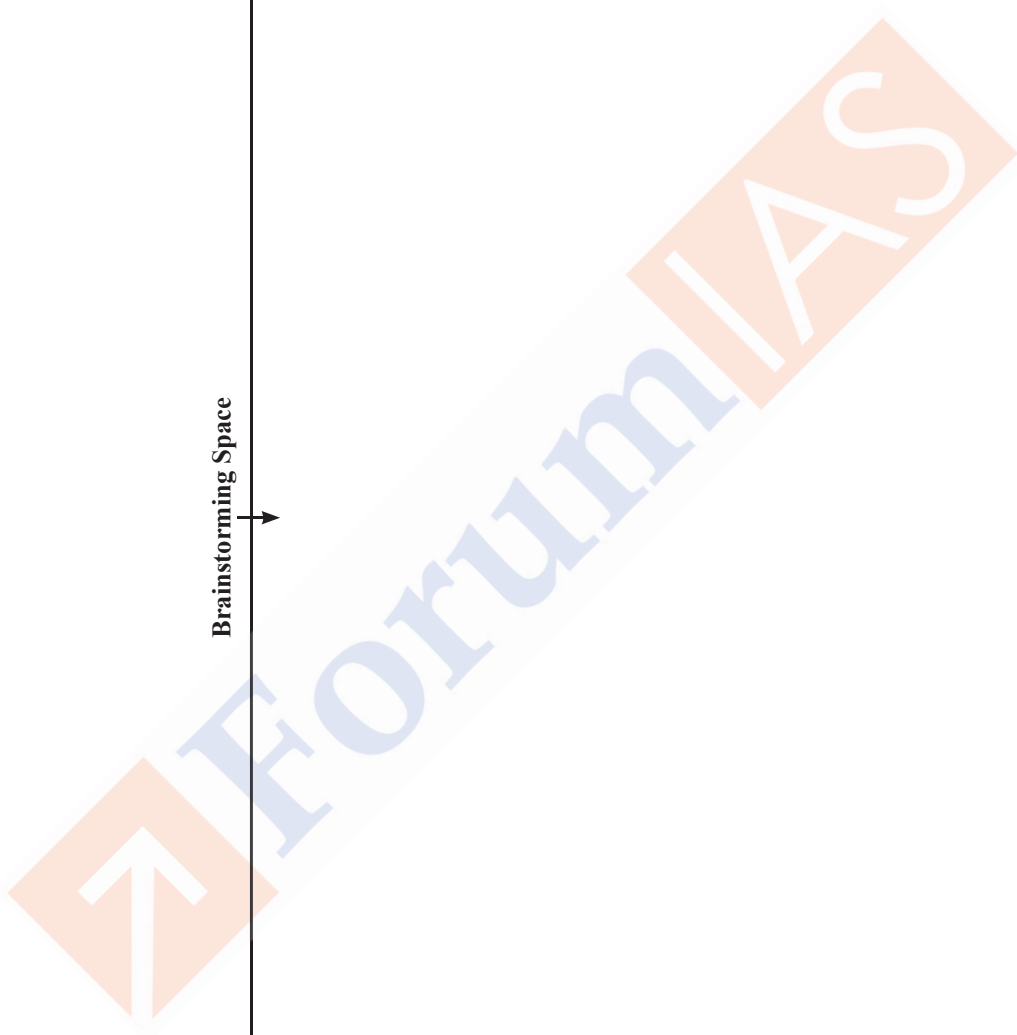
Brainstorming Space



Q.45) The supreme court has held that a Government servant could not be dismissed or removed from service without an enquiry under article 311 (2) (B)... what is your view on this issue?

(15 Marks, 250 Words) [1985]

Brainstorming Space



Q.46) What are the respective view of the political leadership and the permanent civil services in the governance of India?... steps to secure better appreciation... (25 Marks, 150 Words) [1980]

Brainstorming Space

