

# INTERNAL SECURITY – UPSC MAINS PYQS

## (BRAINSTORMING SHEETS – 46 YEARS PYQS COVERED)

MACRO TOPIC – CHALLENGES TO INTERNAL SECURITY (GENERAL)				
#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
1.	Terrorism in India	2025	10	Terrorism is a global scourge. How has it manifested in India? Elaborate with contemporary examples. What are the counter measures adopted by the State? Explain.
2.	Internal Security Challenges	2023	15	What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats.
3.	External & Non-State Actors	2021	15	Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors to the internal security of India. Also, discuss measures required to be taken to combat these threats.
4.	Over-Ground Workers	2019	10	The banning of 'Jamaat-e-Islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency-affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWs.
5.	Mob Violence	2016	12.5	Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyse the causes and consequences of such violence.
6.	Radicalization via Digital Media	2015	12.5	Religious indoctrination via digital media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What are ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous for the internal security of our country?
7.	Airspace Sovereignty	2014	12.5	International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above their territory. What do you understand by 'airspace'? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggest ways to contain the threat.
8.	Border Management	2013	12.5	How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar?

MACRO TOPIC – TERRORISM, EXTERNAL STATE & NON-STATE ACTORS (LWE, J&K, ETC.)				
#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
9	LWE	2025	10	The Government of India recently stated that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be eliminated by 2026. What do you understand by LWE and how are the people affected by it? What measures have been taken by the government to eliminate LWE?
10	J&K	2023	10	Winning of 'Hearts and Minds' in terrorism-affected areas is an essential step in restoring the trust of the population. Discuss

				the measures adopted by the Government in this respect as part of the conflict resolution in Jammu and Kashmir.
11	Naxalism	2022	15	Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism.
12	Terrorism	2021	15	Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus. Also, suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism.
13	LWE	2020	15	What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in the Eastern part of India? What strategy should the Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas?
14	UAPA & NIA Amendments	2019	15	Indian Government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of the prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations.
15	India-Myanmar Border Challenges	2019	15	Cross-border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.
16	Government Approach to LWE	2018	10	Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE.
17	Terrorism Solutions & Funding	2016	12.5	The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding?
18	Causes of Terrorism	2008	15	What, in your opinion, are the causes of terrorism? Suggest suitable measures to deal with the threat of terrorism in India.

### MACRO TOPIC – CYBER SECURITY

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
19	Social Media	2024	15	Social media and encrypting messaging services pose a serious security challenge. What measures have been adopted at various levels to address the security implications of social media? Also suggest any other remedies to address the problem.
20	Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023	2024	10	Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.
21	National Cyber Security Strategy	2022	15	What are the different elements of cyber security? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to

				which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy.
22	Cross-Border Cyber Attacks	2021	10	Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber attacks. Also, discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks.
23	Types of Cybercrimes	2020	10	Discuss different types of cybercrimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace.
24	Cyber Dome Project	2019	10	What is the Cyber Dome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.
25	Srikrishna Data Security Report	2018	15	Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber-crimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space?
26	Cyber Attack Threats	2016	12.5	Discuss the potential threats of Cyber-attack and the security framework to prevent it.
27	National Cyber Security Policy 2013	2015	12.5	Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a "Digital Armed Force" to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation.
28	Cyber Warfare	2013	12.5	Cyber warfare is considered by some defence analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same.
29	Social Media	2013	12.5	What are social networking sites and what security implications do these sites present?

### MACRO TOPIC – MONEY LAUNDERING, TERROR FUNDING & NARCO-TERRORISM

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
30	Narco-Terrorism	2024	10	Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism.
31	Terror Funding	2023	15	Give out the major sources of terror funding in India and the efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the No Money for Terror (NMFT) Conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022.
32	Money Laundering	2021	10	Discuss how emerging technologies and globalisation contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels.

33	Drug Trafficking Linkages	2018	15	India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What countermeasures should be taken to prevent the same?
34	Organised Crime & Terror	2013	10	Discuss the types of organised crime. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels.
35	Money Laundering Threat	2013	12.5	Money laundering poses a serious security threat to a country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace?

### MACRO TOPIC – BORDER SECURITY - CHALLENGES & MANAGEMENT

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
36	India-China-Pakistan Border	2024	15	India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme.
37	UAVs / Drone Threat on Borders	2023	10	The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat.
38	Transborder Crimes	2020	15	Analyse internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also, discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard.
39	Border Management	2020	10	For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals.
40	NE Insurgency	2016	12.5	The north-eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyse the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region.
41	AFSPA	2015	12.5	Human rights activists constantly highlight the view that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is a draconian act leading to cases of human rights abuses by the security forces. What sections of AFSPA are opposed by the activists? Critically evaluate the requirement with reference to the view held by the Apex Court.
42	Illegal Trans-Border Migration	2014	12.5	How does illegal trans-border migration pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bringing out the factors which give impetus to such migration.
43	Radicalism in Neighbourhood	2014	12.5	"The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism

which is seen in her neighbourhood.” Discuss along with strategies to be adopted to counter this environment.

### MACRO TOPIC – NORTH-EASTERN STATES - PEACE PROCESS

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
44	NE Security Challenges	2025	15	What are the major challenges to internal security and peace process in the North-Eastern States? Map the various peace accords and agreements initiated by the government in the past decade.
45	India-Myanmar Border in NE	2019	15	Cross-border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.

### MACRO TOPIC – COASTAL & MARITIME SECURITY

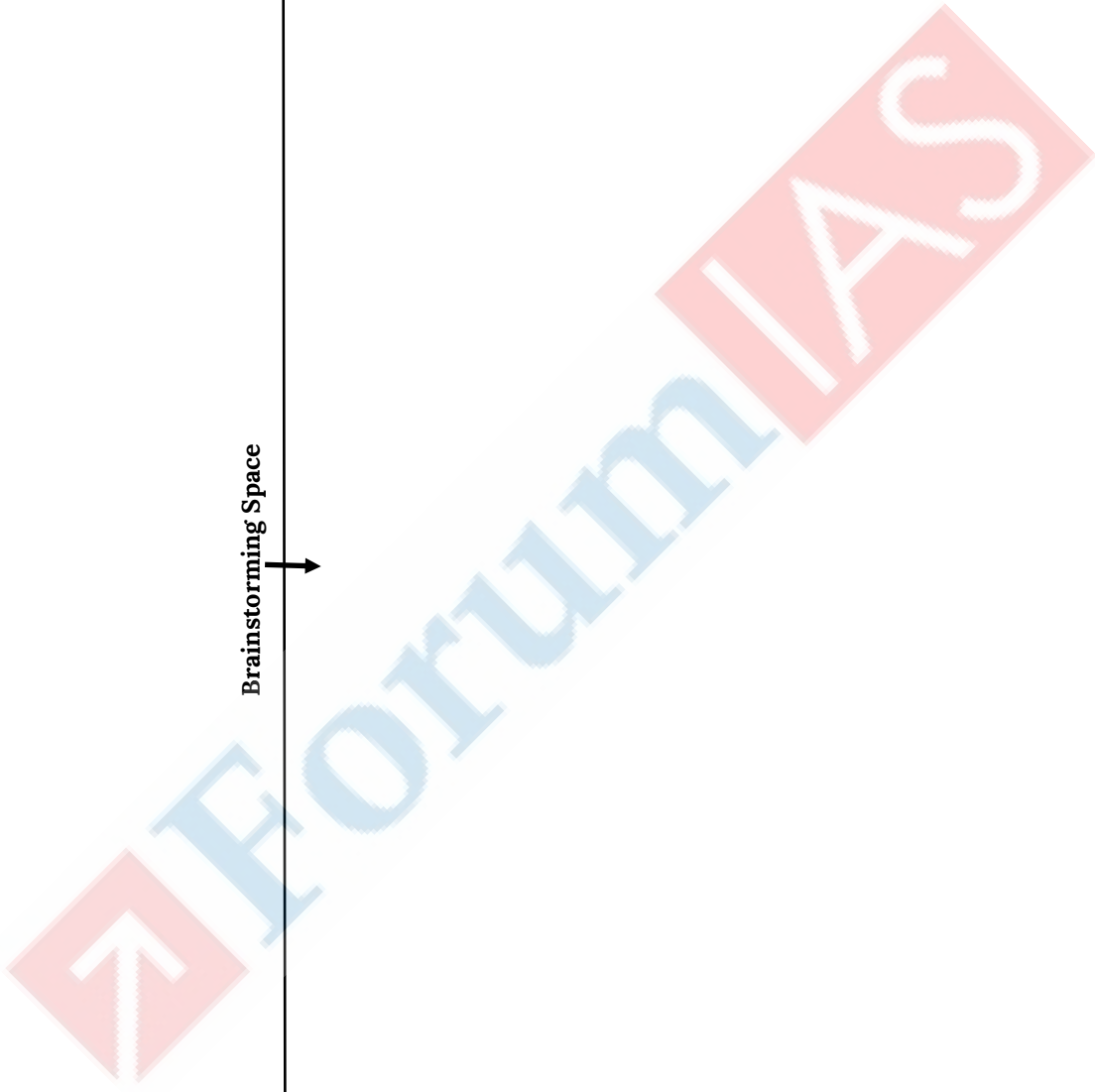
#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
46	Maritime Security for Sea Trade	2025	15	Why is maritime security vital to protect India's sea trade? Discuss maritime and coastal security challenges and the way forward.
47	Maritime Security Challenges	2014	10	What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security.
48	Piracy High-Risk Area Impact	2014	12.5	In 2012, the longitudinal marking for high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65 degrees east to 78 degrees east in the Arabian Sea by the International Maritime Organisation. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns?

### MACRO TOPIC – EXTREMISM AND DEVELOPMENT

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
49	Development & LWE	2015	12.5	The persisting drives of the government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements with Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci. Discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth.
50	Fifth Schedule & LWE	2013	12.5	Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyse the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth Schedule on the growth of Left Wing Extremism.

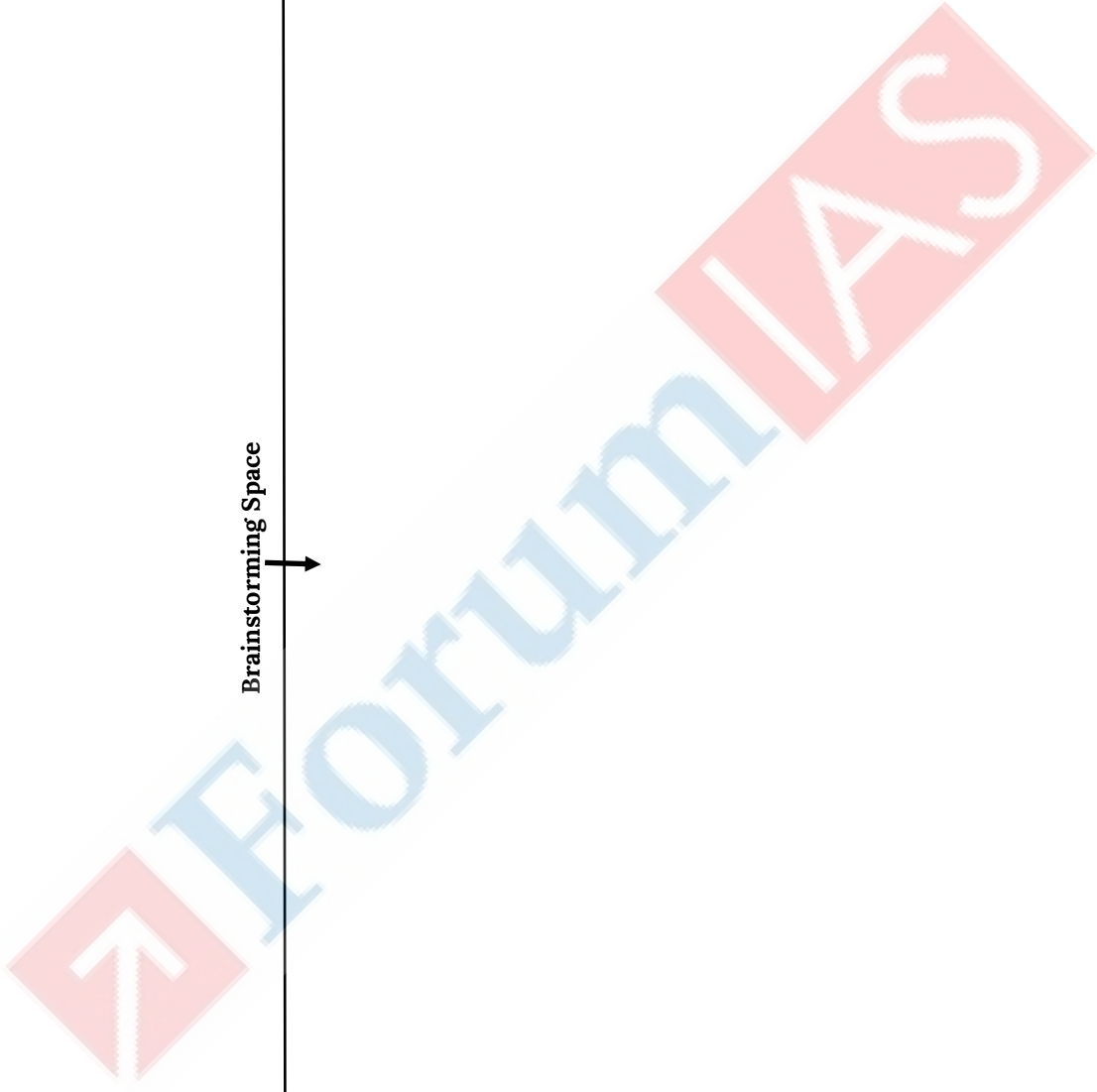
Q.1) Terrorism is a global scourge. How has it manifested in India? Elaborate with contemporary examples. What are the counter measures adopted by the State? Explain. (10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



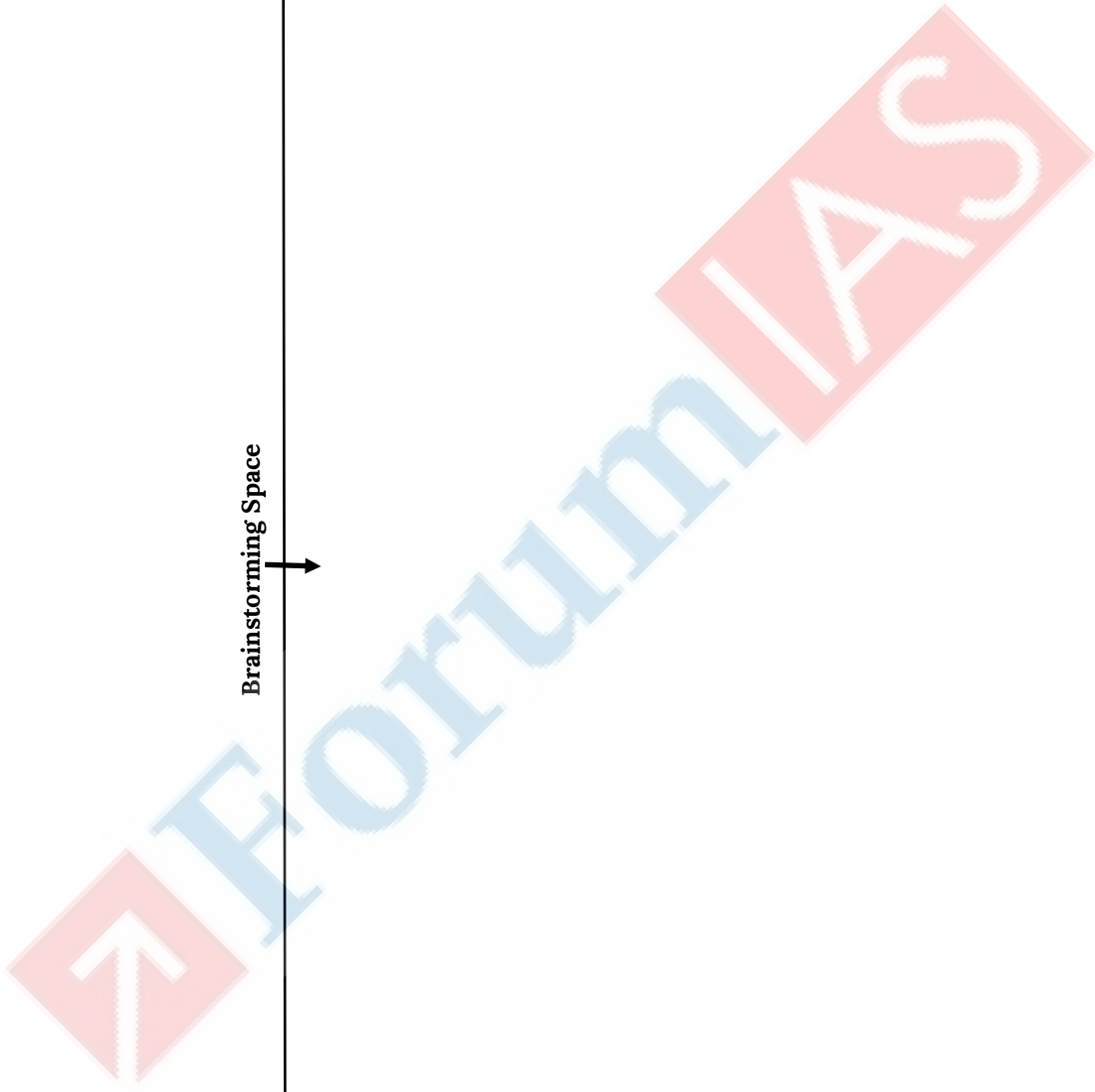
Q.2) What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats. (15 marks, 250 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space



Q.3) Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors to the internal security of India. Also, discuss measures required to be taken to combat these threats. (15 marks, 250 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space

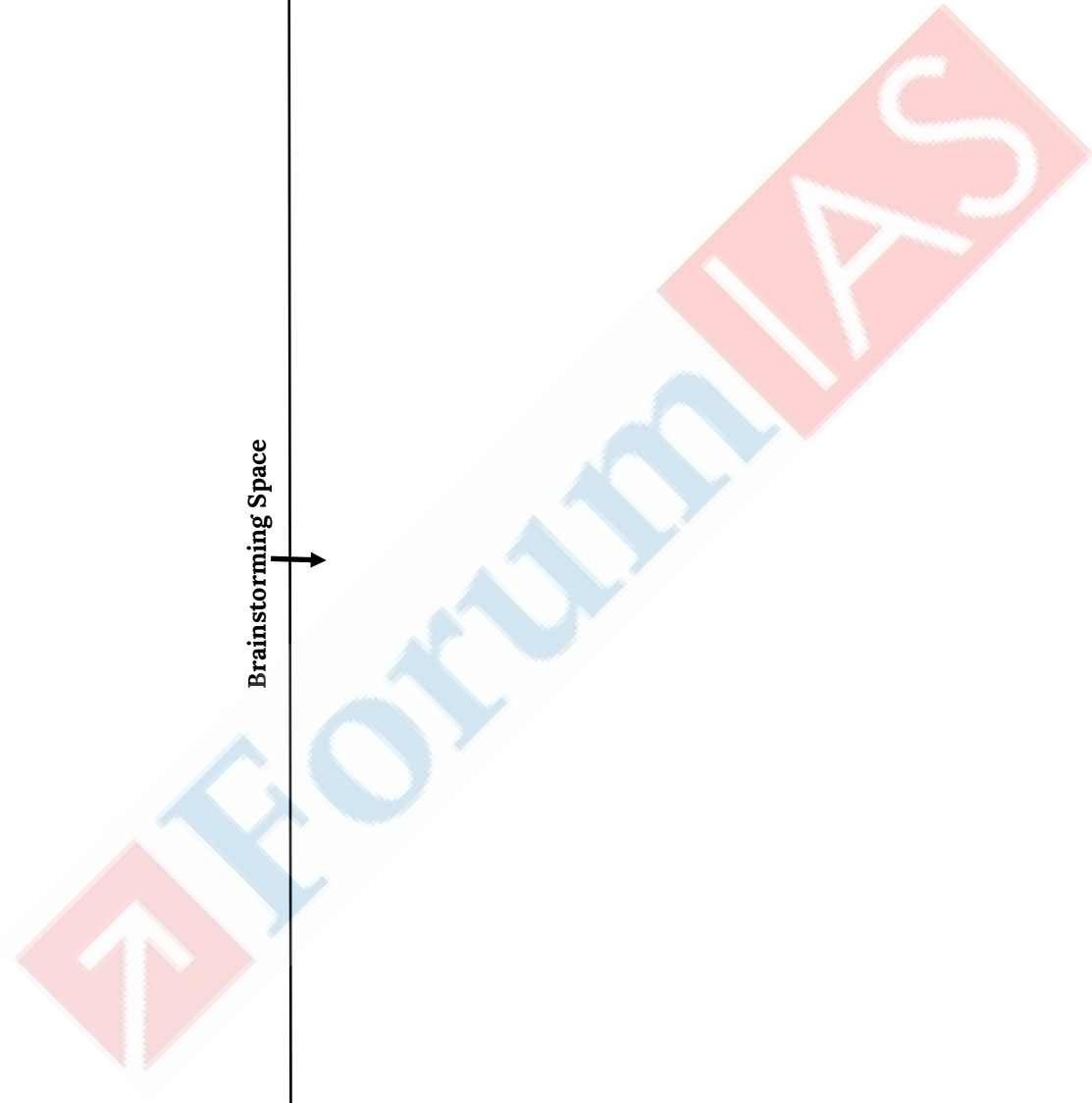


Q.4) The banning of 'Jamaat-e-Islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency-affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWs. (10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space

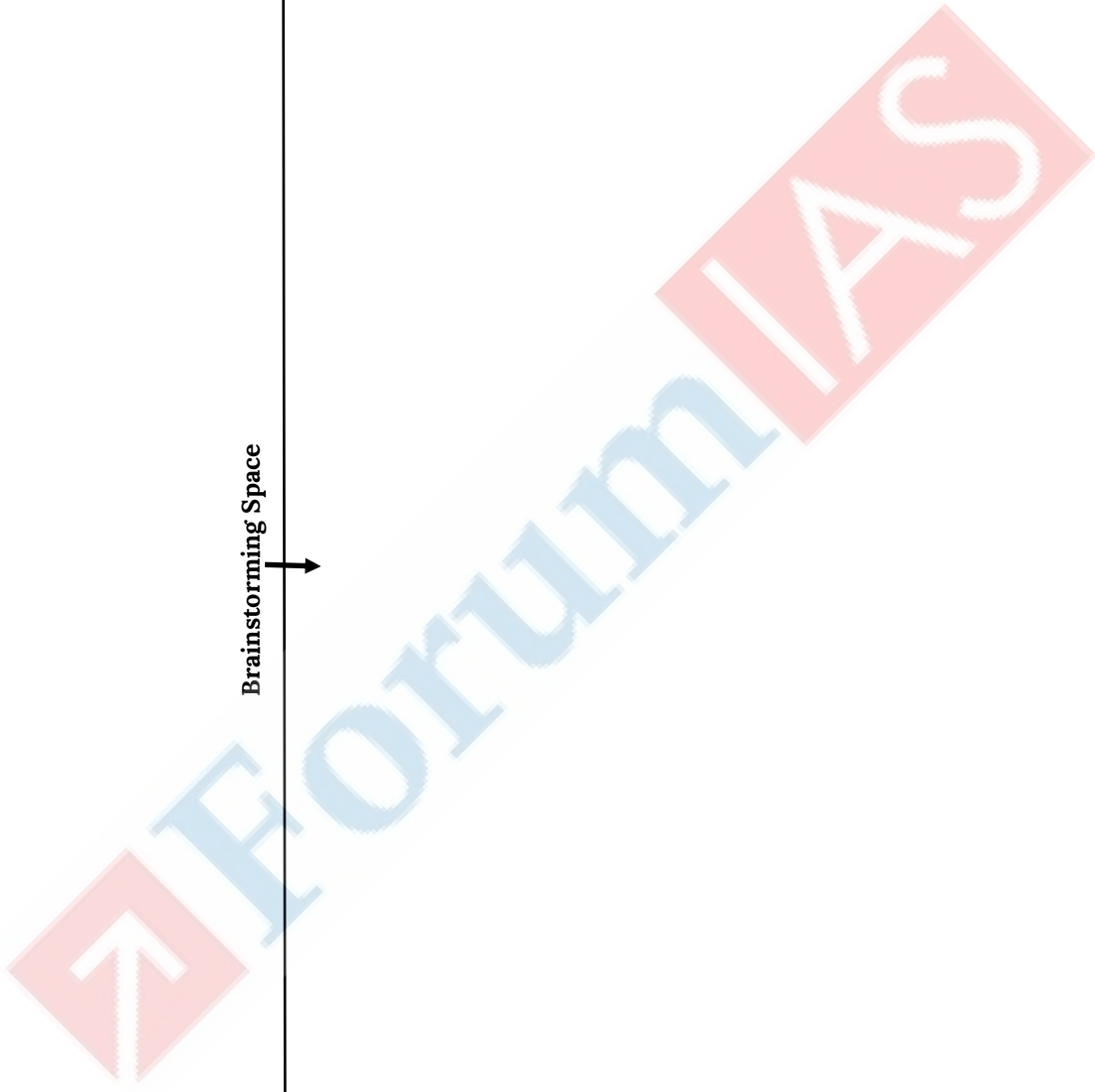
Q.5) Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyse the causes and consequences of such violence. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



Q.6) Religious indoctrination via digital media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What are ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous for the internal security of our country? (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2015)

Brainstorming Space

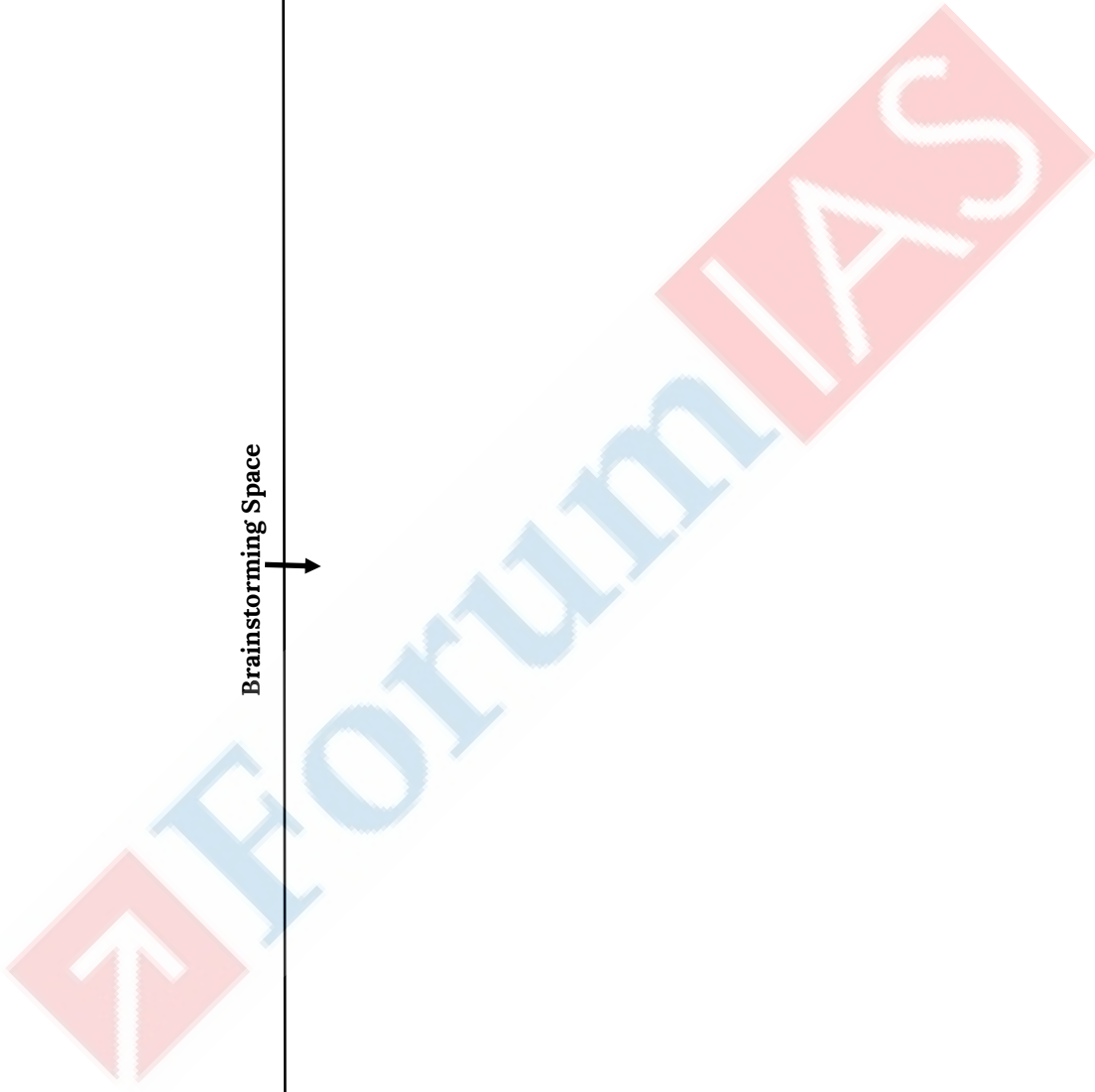


Q.7) International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above their territory. What do you understand by 'airspace'? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggest ways to contain the threat. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space

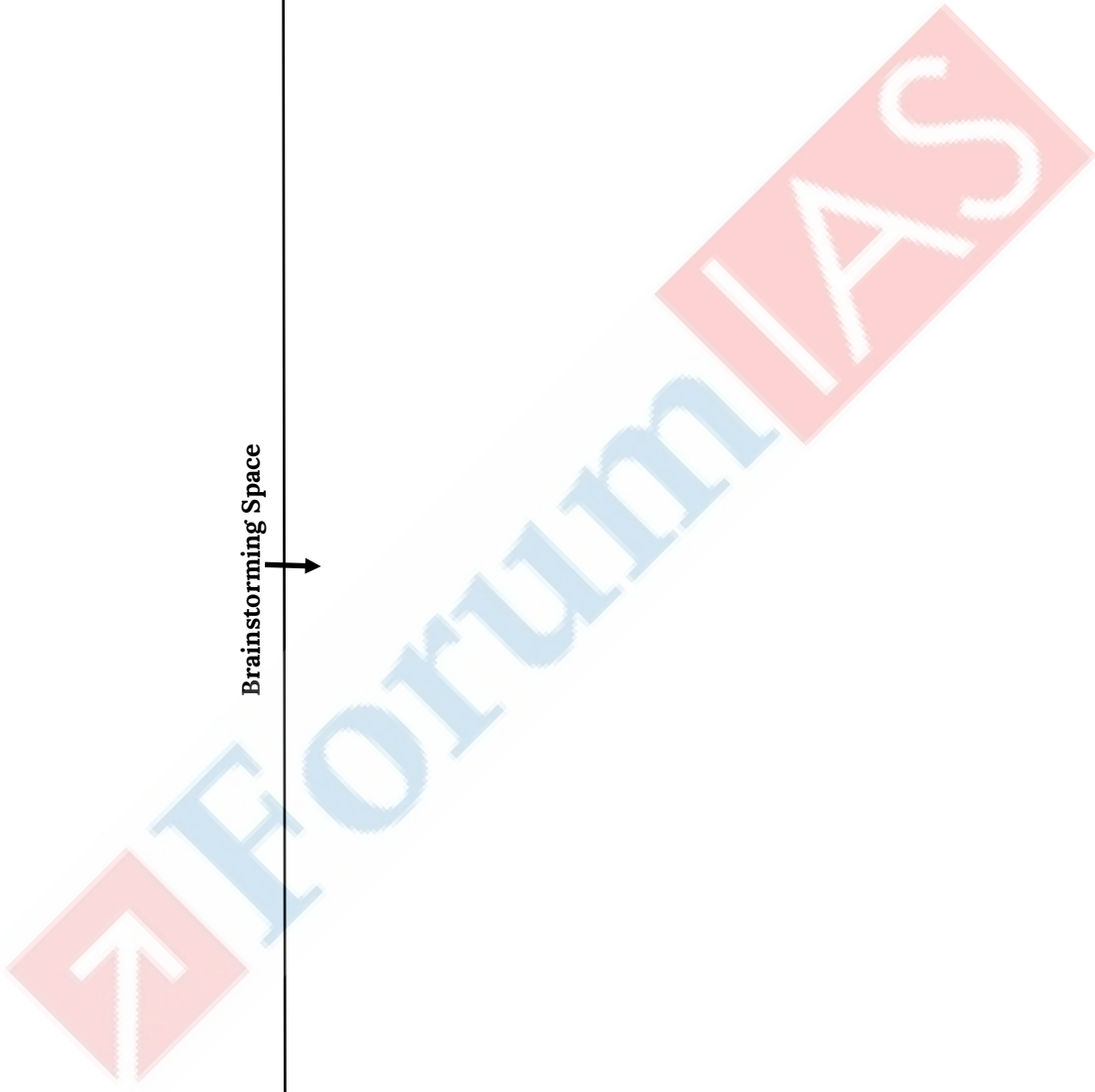
Q.8) How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar? (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



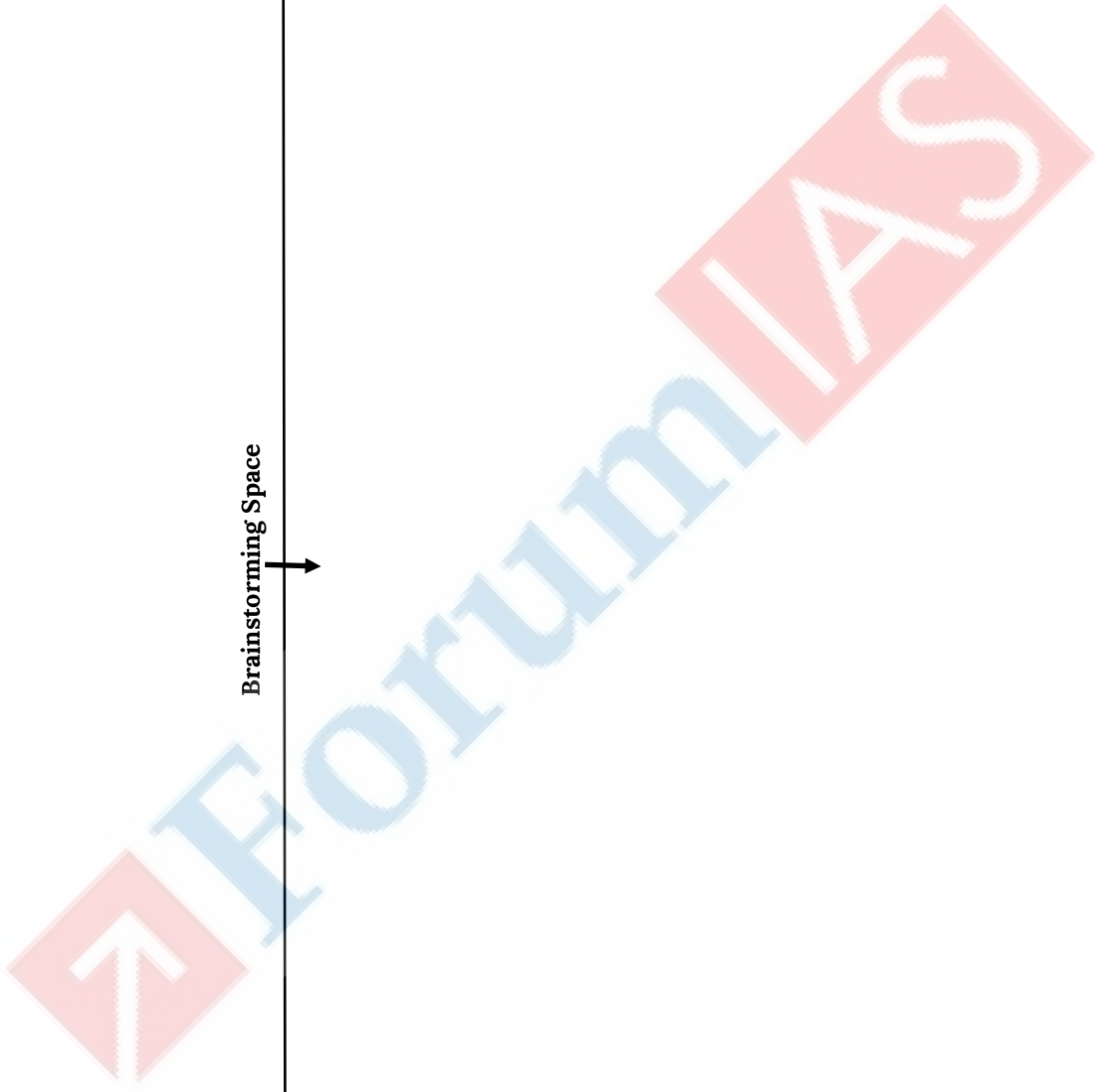
Q.9) The Government of India recently stated that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be eliminated by 2026. What do you understand by LWE and how are the people affected by it? What measures have been taken by the government to eliminate LWE? (10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



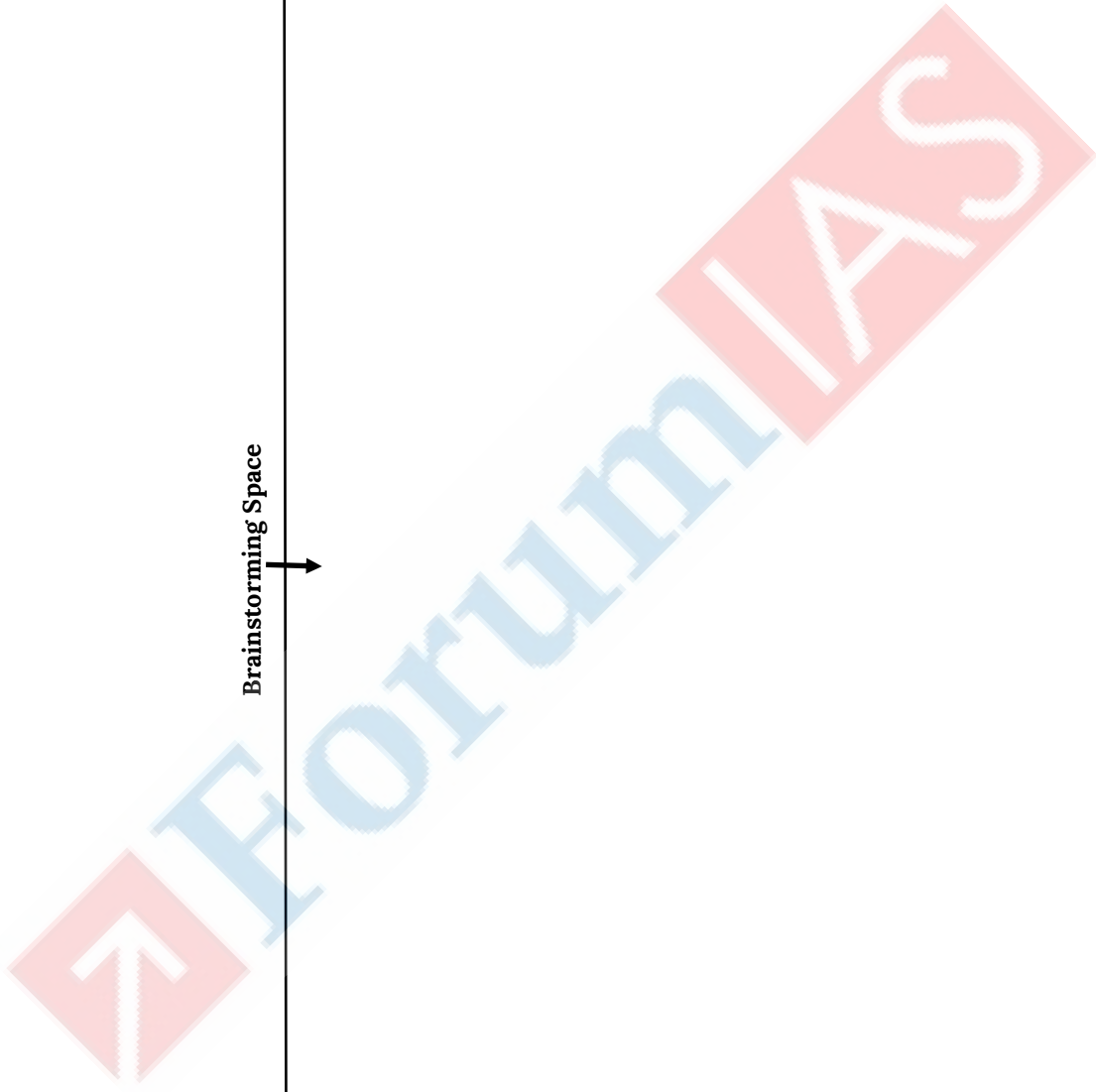
Q.10) Winning of 'Hearts and Minds' in terrorism-affected areas is an essential step in restoring the trust of the population. Discuss the measures adopted by the Government in this respect as part of the conflict resolution in Jammu and Kashmir. (10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space



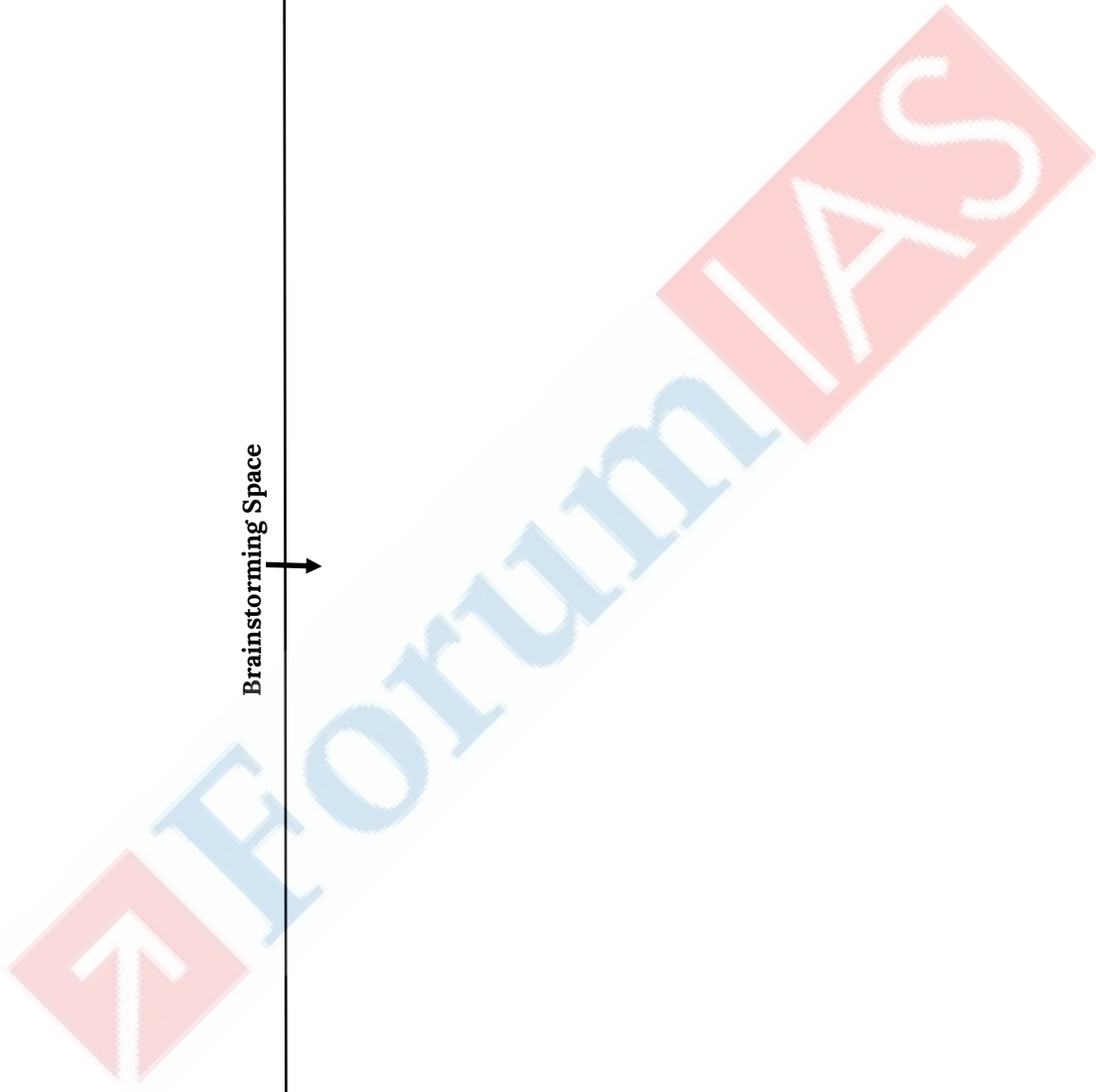
Q.11) Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism. (15 marks, 250 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



Q.12) Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus. Also, suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism. (15 marks, 250 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space



Q.13) What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in the Eastern part of India? What strategy should the Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas?  
(15 marks, 250 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space

Q.14) Indian Government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of the prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations. (15 marks, 250 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space

Q.15) Cross-border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.

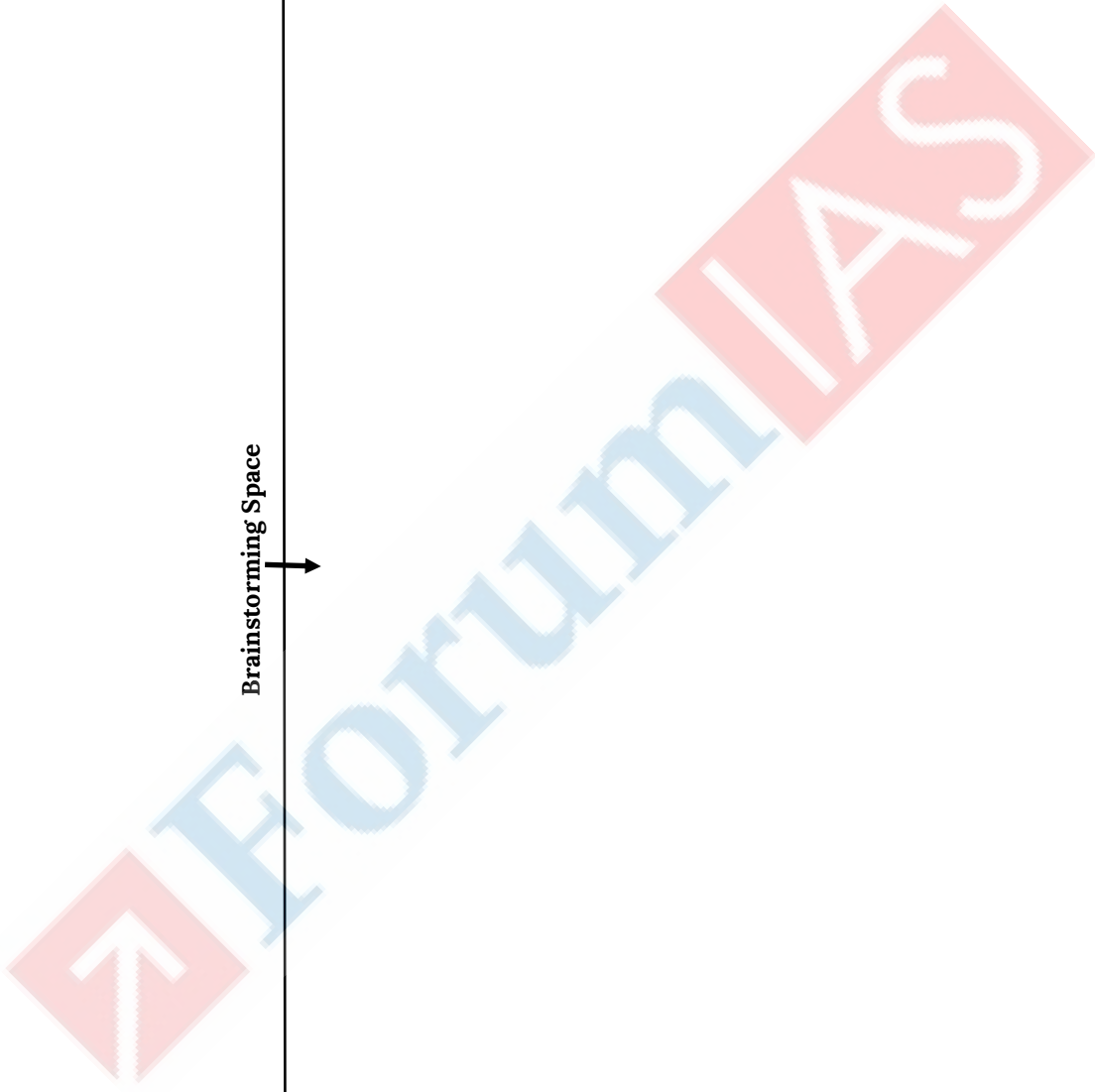
(15 marks, 250 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space

Q.16) Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

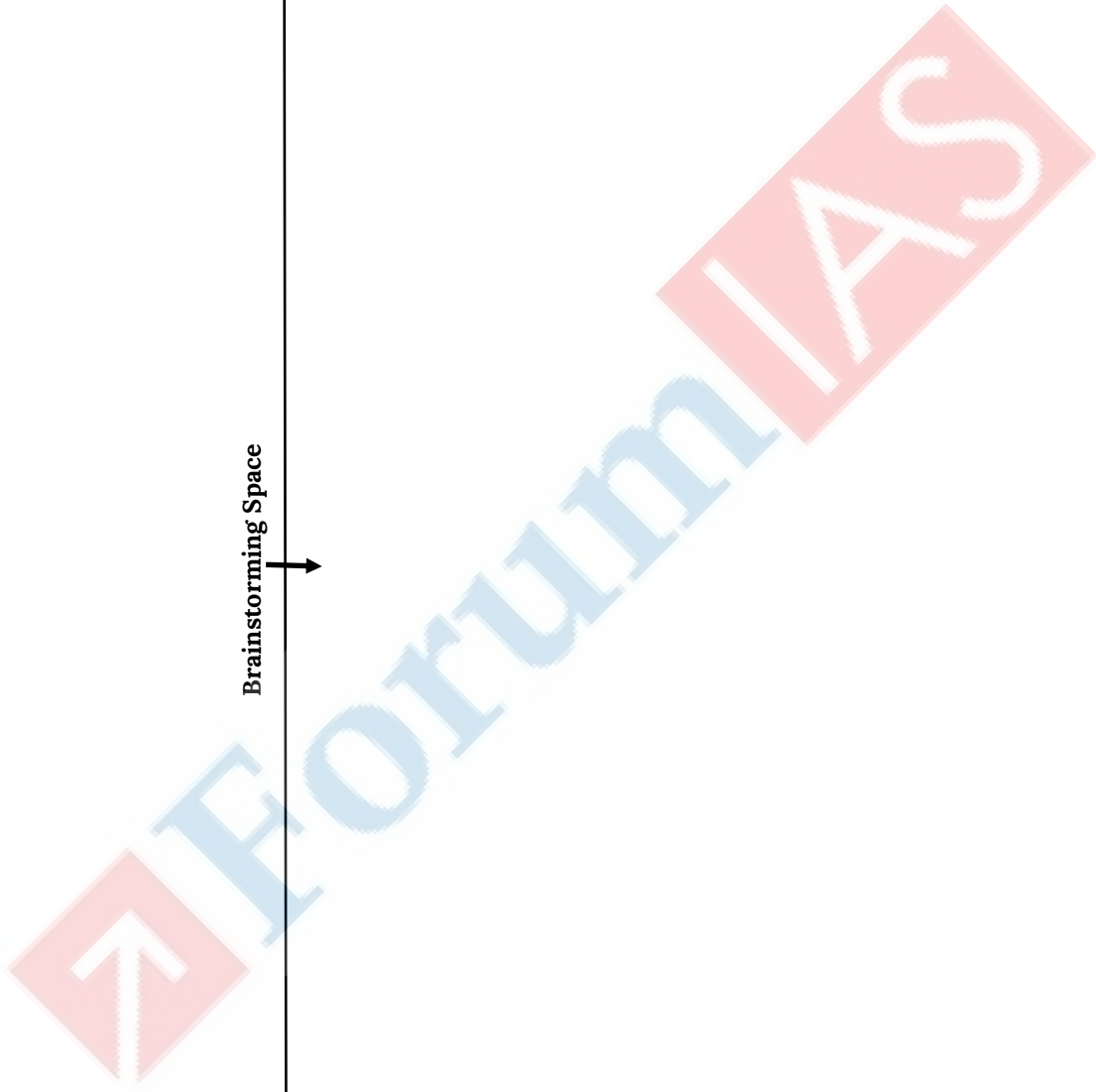
Brainstorming Space





Q.17) The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding? (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space

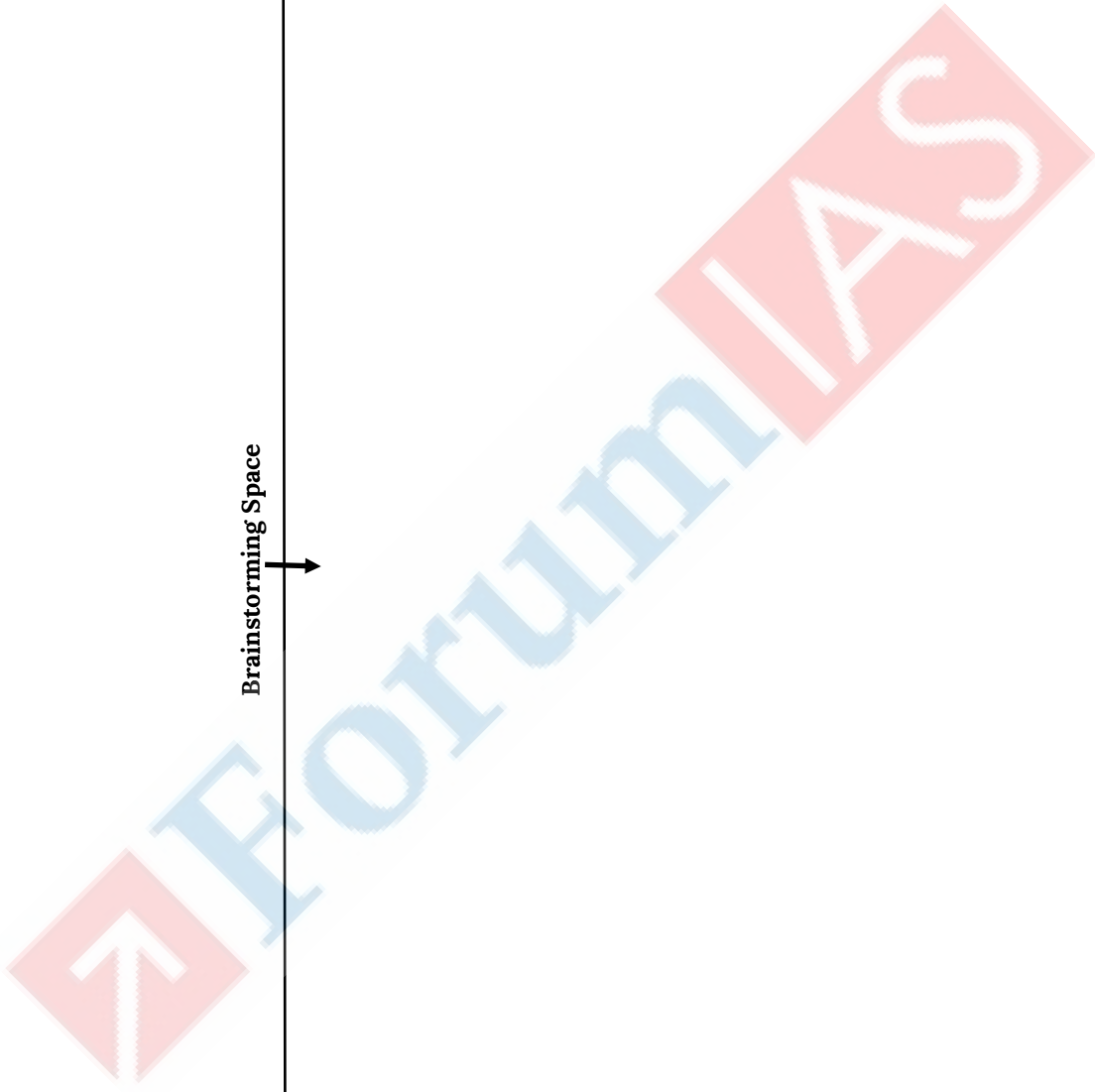




Q.18) What, in your opinion, are the causes of terrorism? Suggest suitable measures to deal with the threat of terrorism in India.

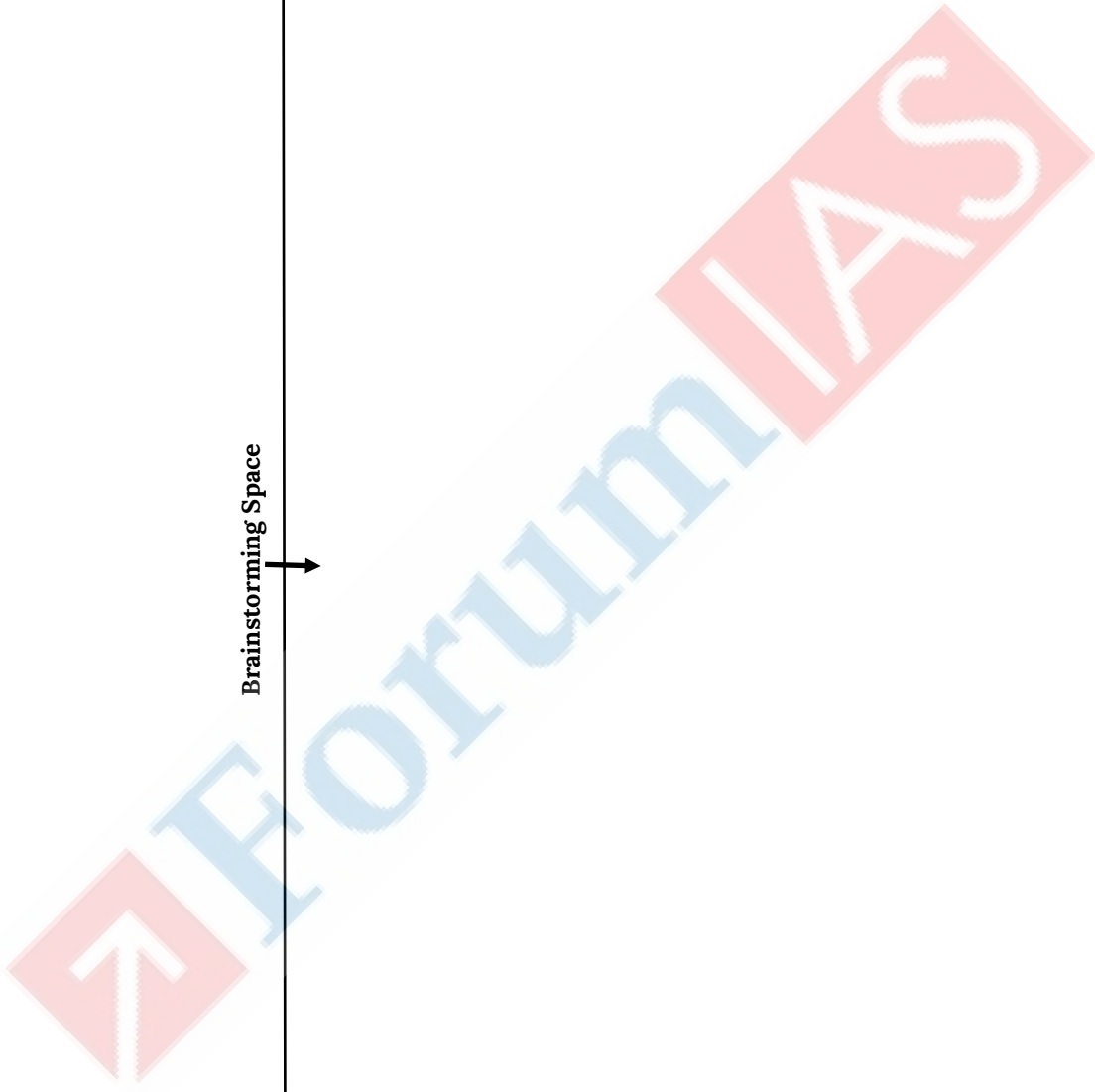
(15 marks, 250 words) (2008)

Brainstorming Space



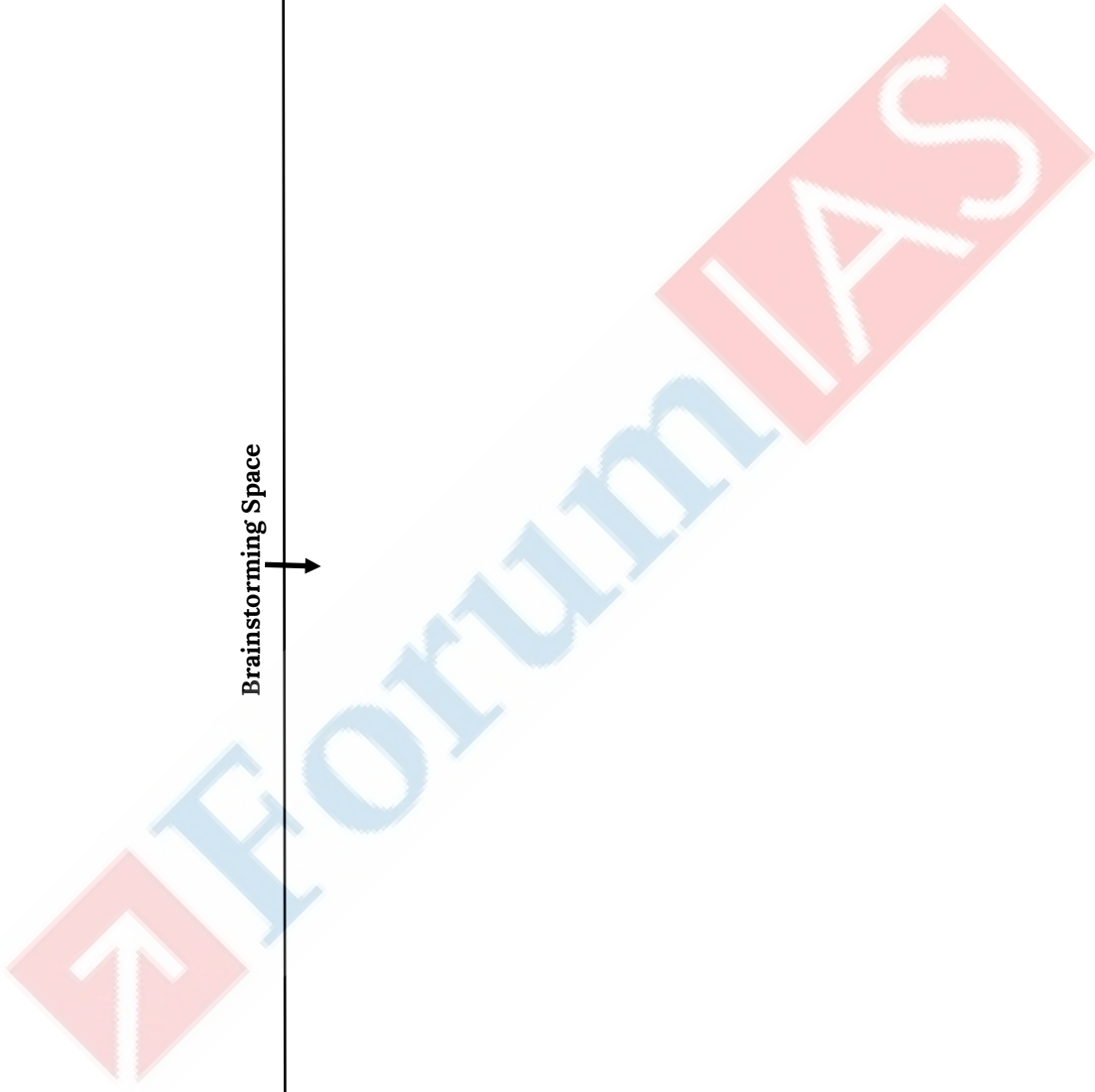
Q.19) Social media and encrypting messaging services pose a serious security challenge. What measures have been adopted at various levels to address the security implications of social media? Also suggest any other remedies to address the problem. (15 marks, 250 words) (2024)

Brainstorming Space



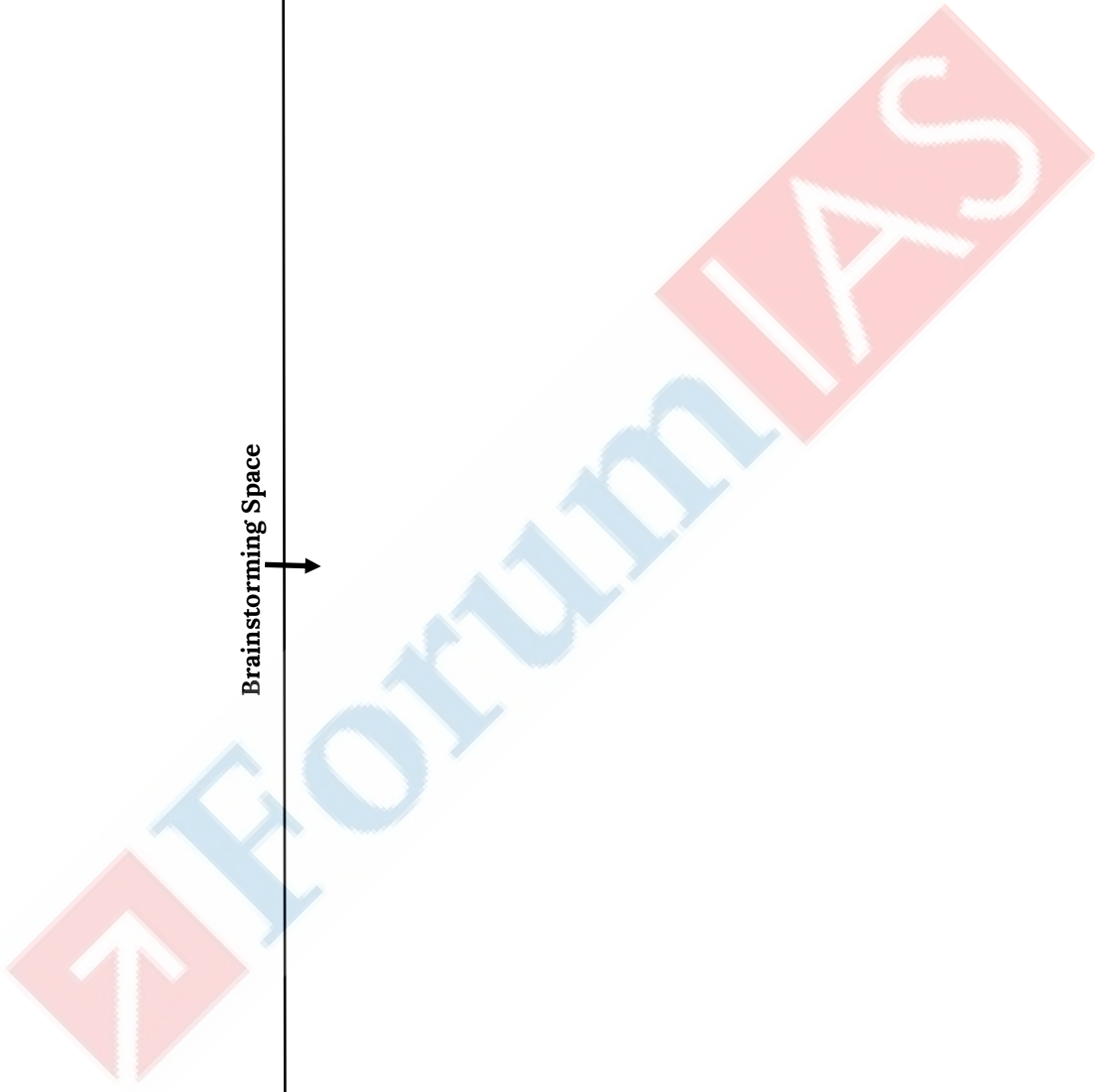
Q.20) Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. (10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

Brainstorming Space



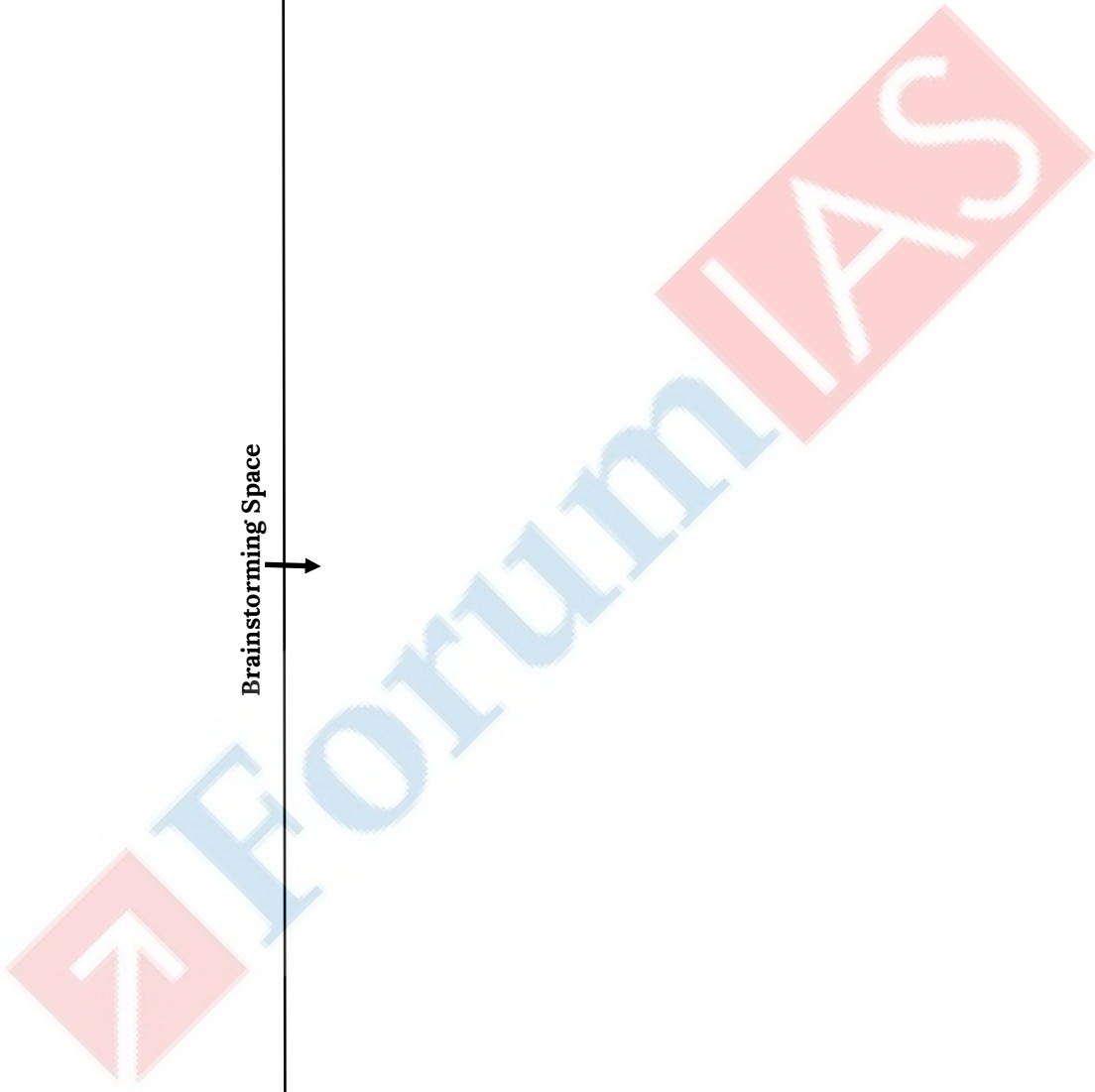
Q.21) What are the different elements of cyber security? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy. (15 marks, 250 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space



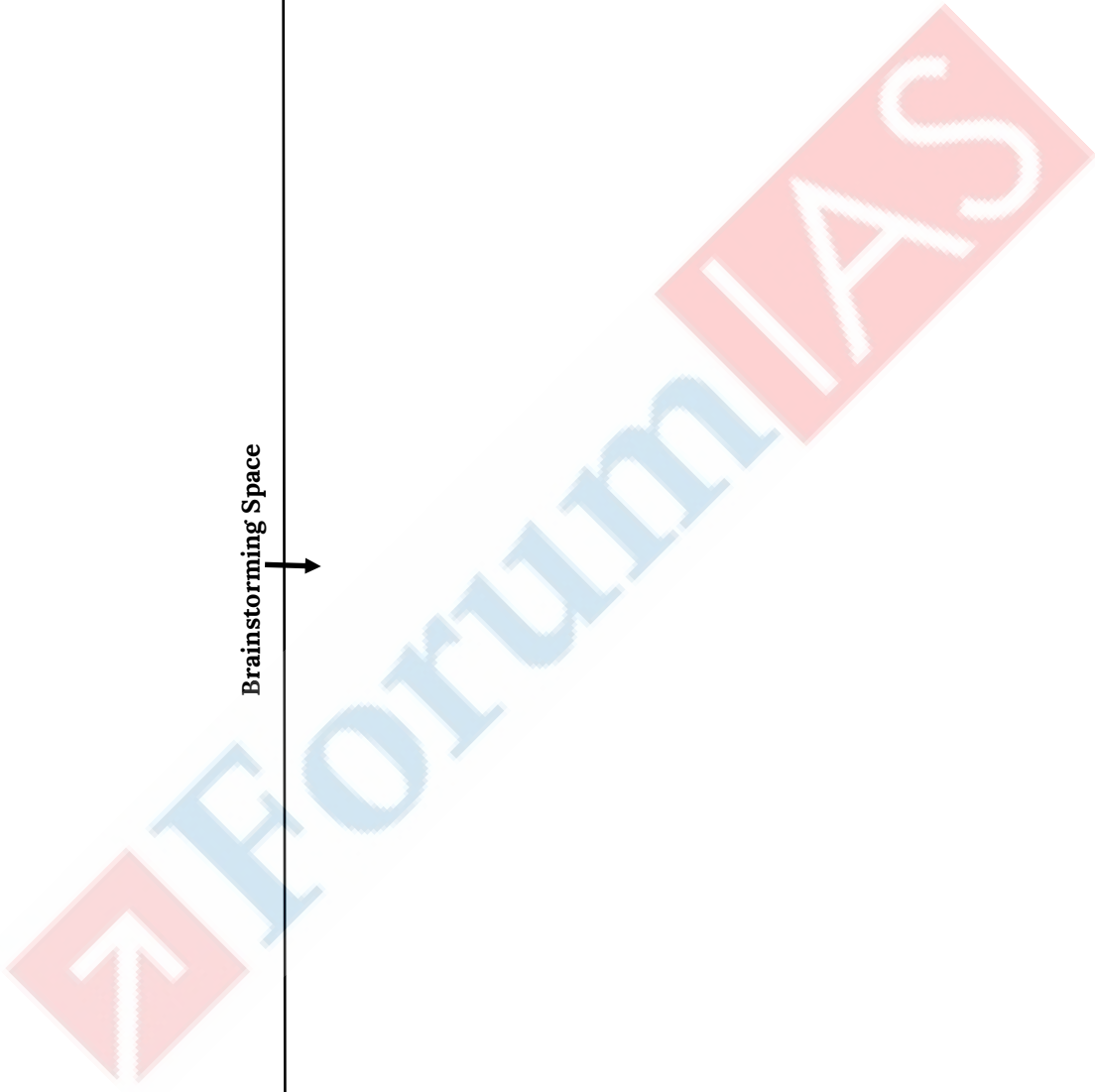
Q.22) Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber attacks. Also, discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks. (10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space



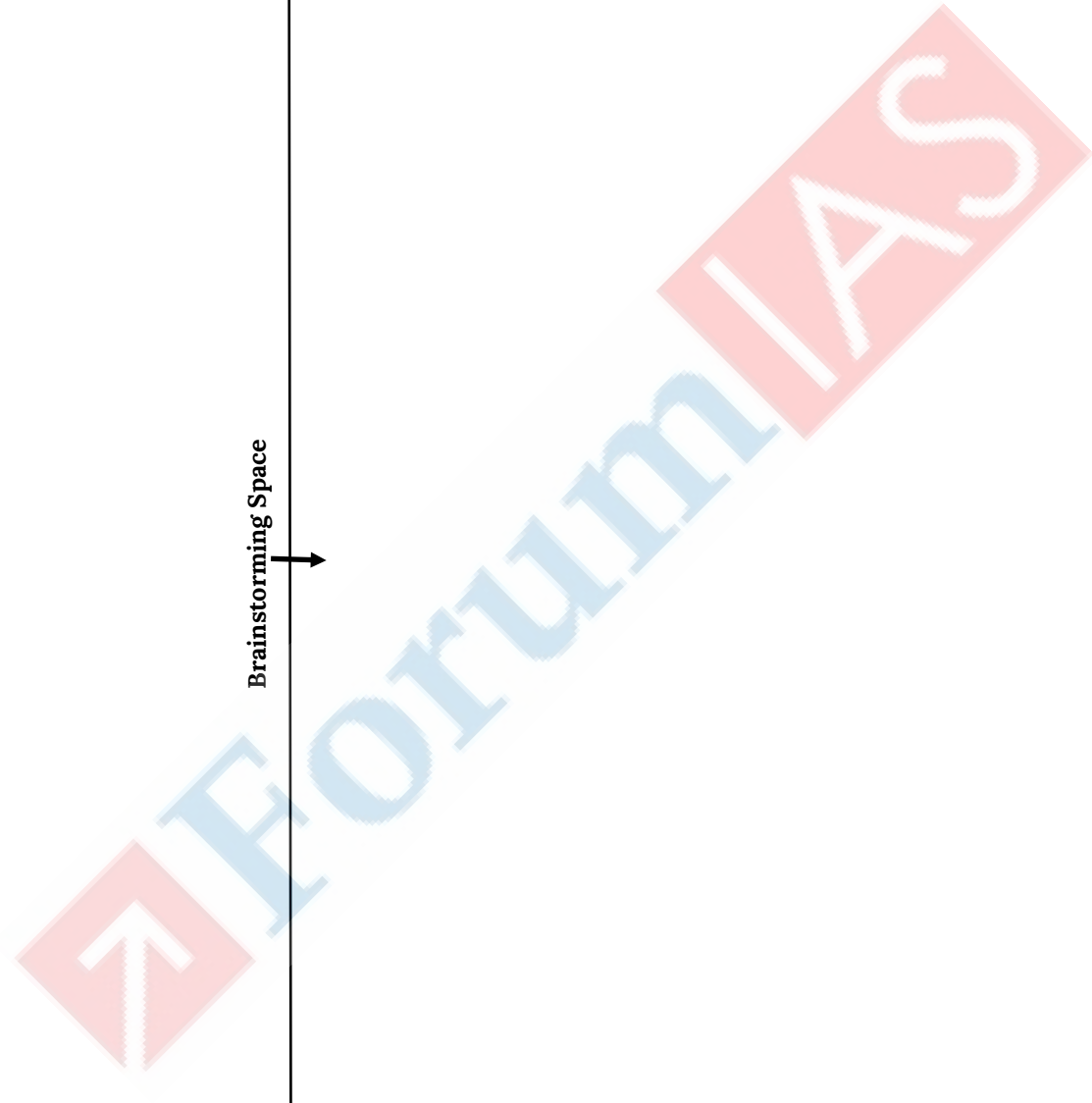
Q.23) Discuss different types of cybercrimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace. (10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space



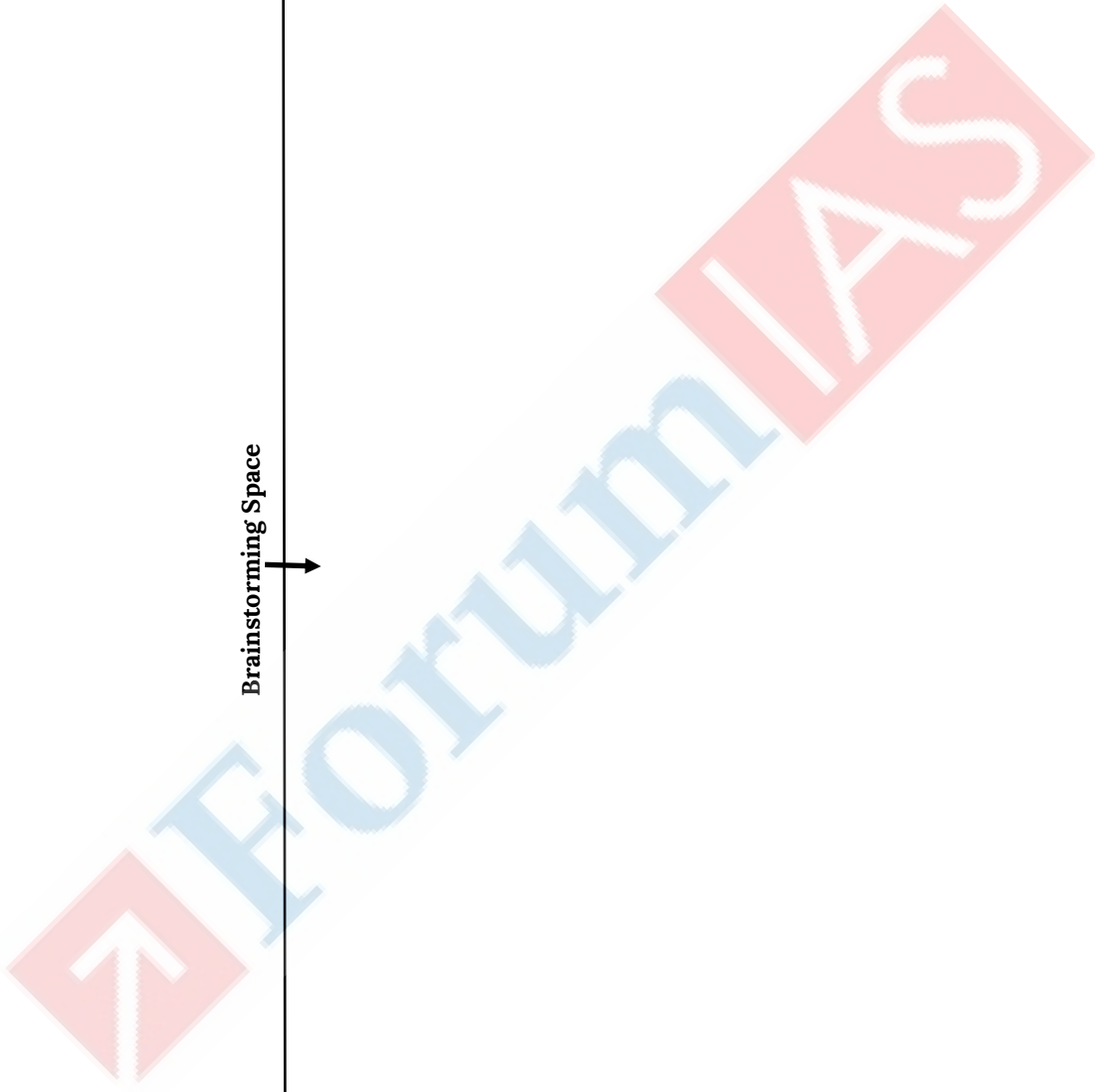
Q.24) What is the Cyber Dome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India. (10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space



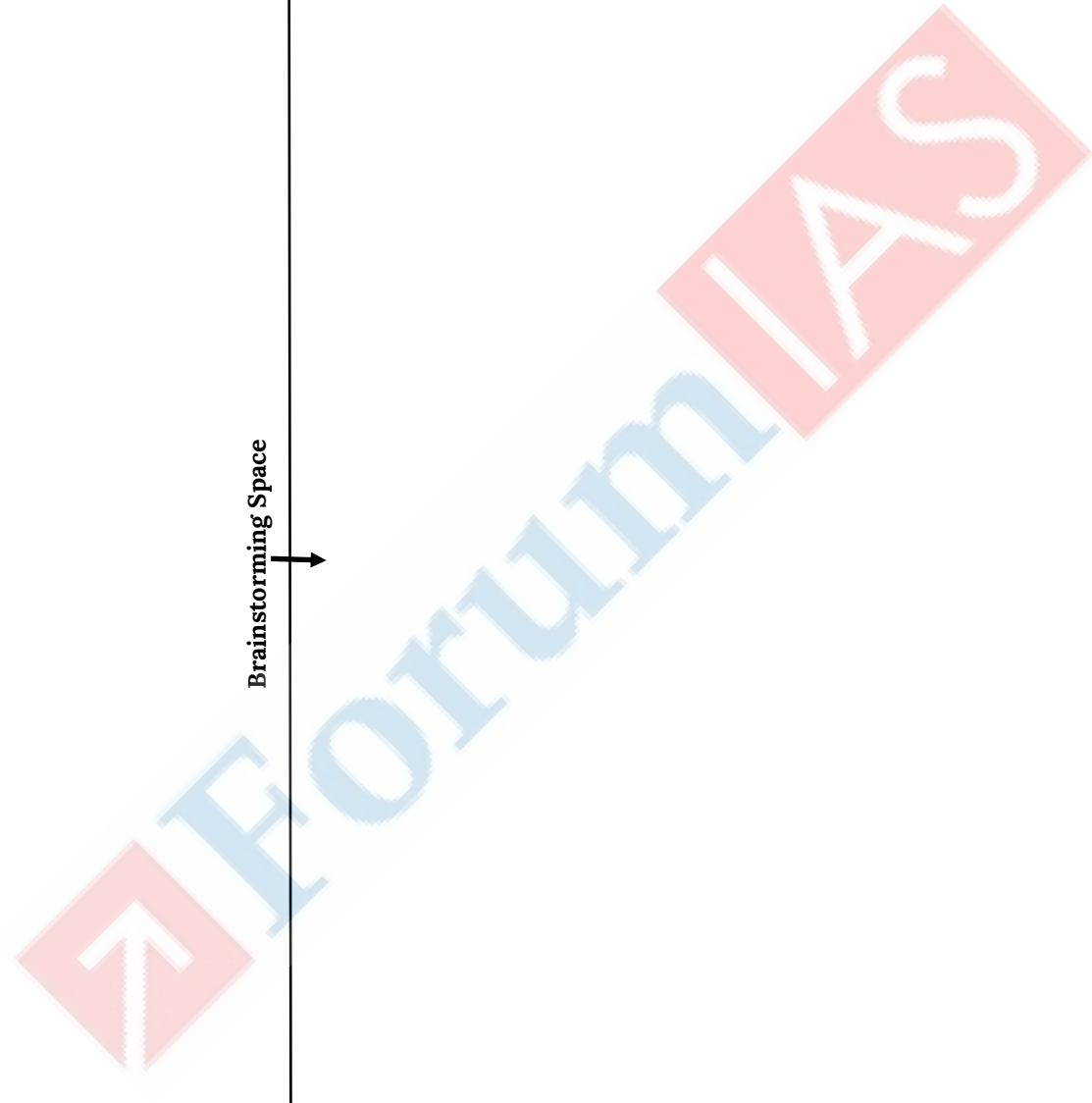
Q.25) Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber-crimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space?  
(15 marks, 250 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



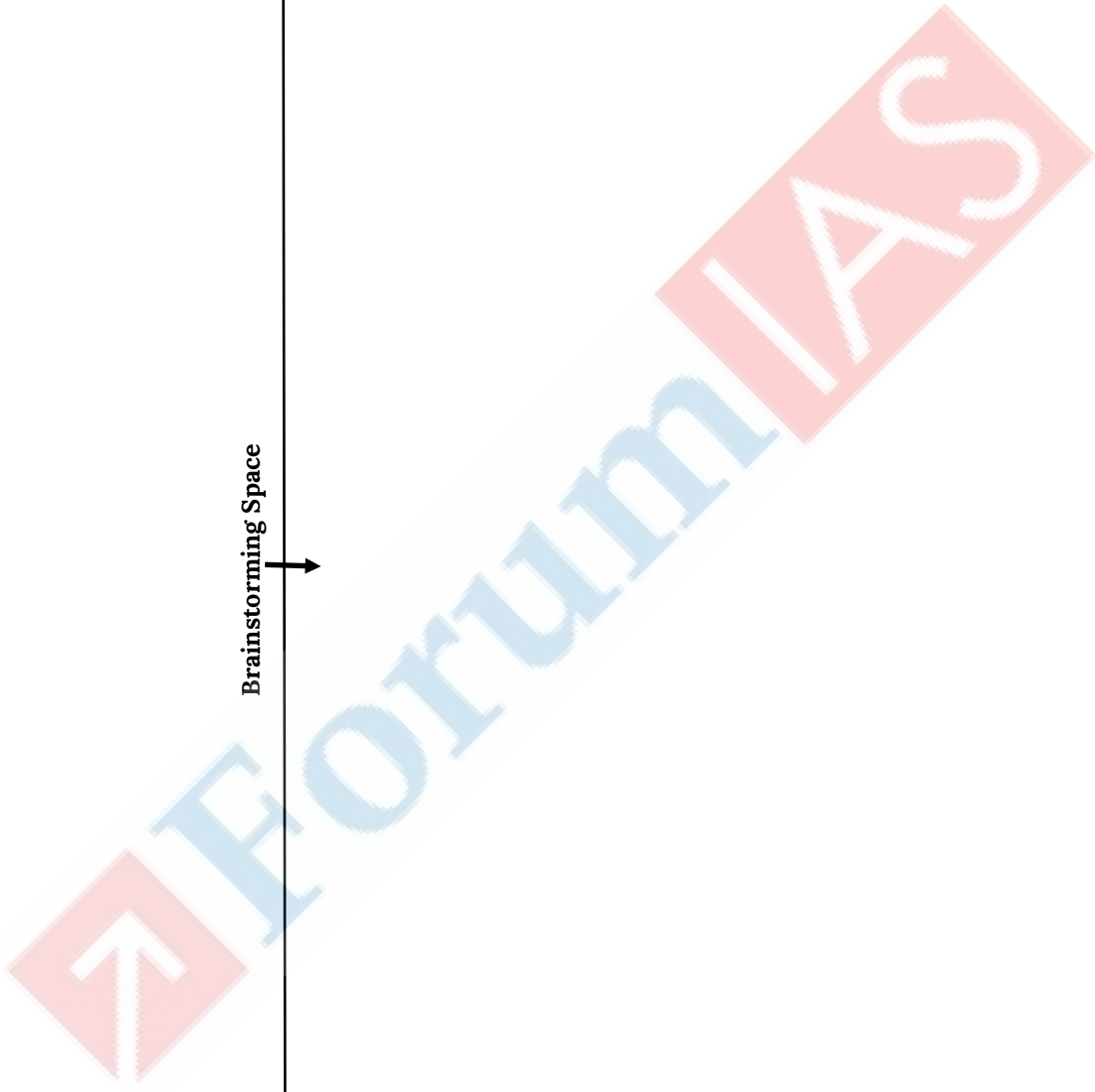
Q.26) Discuss the potential threats of Cyber-attack and the security framework to prevent it. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



Q.27) Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a “Digital Armed Force” to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2015)

Brainstorming Space



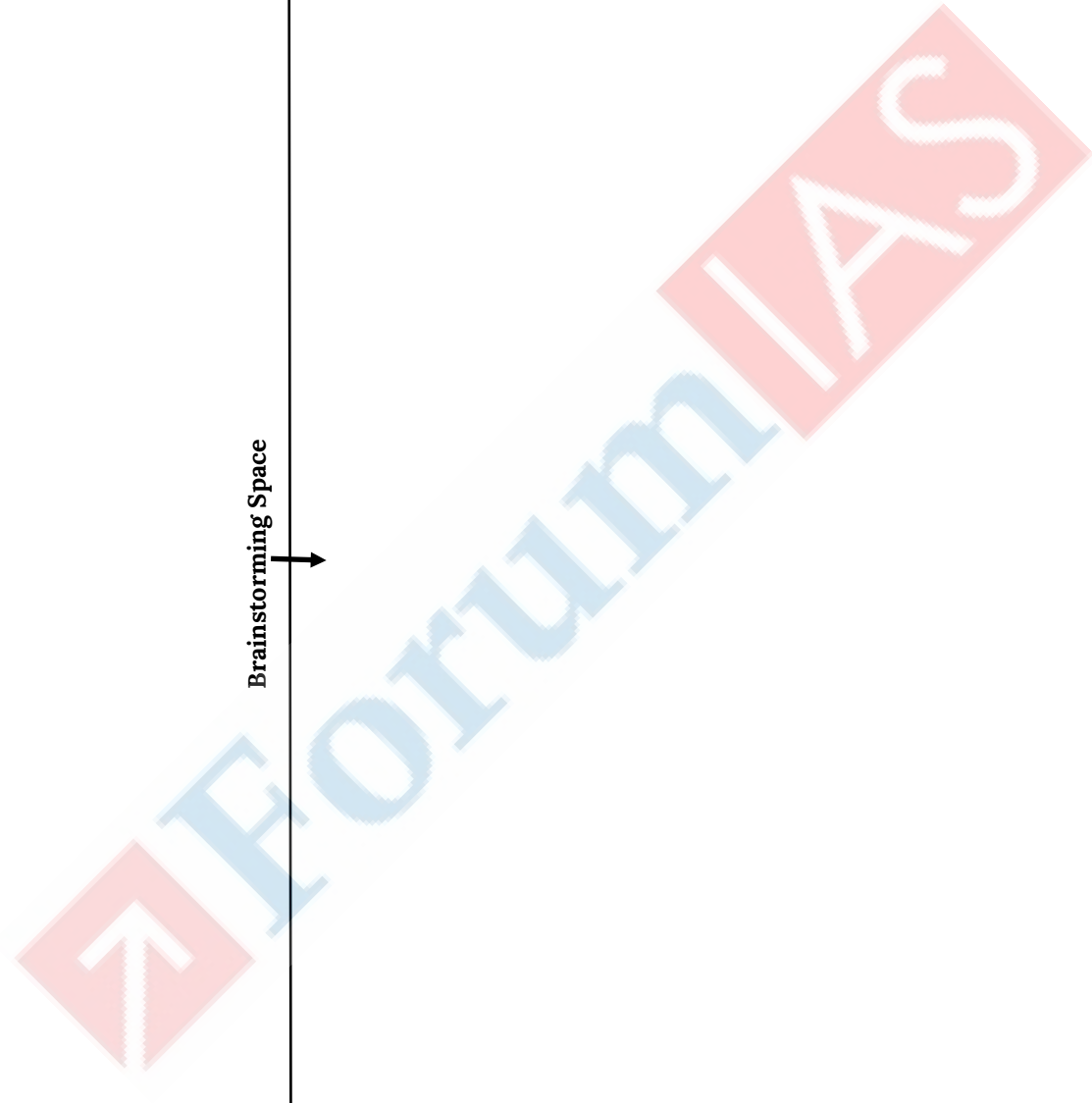
Q.28) Cyber warfare is considered by some defence analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same.

(12.5 marks, 200 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space

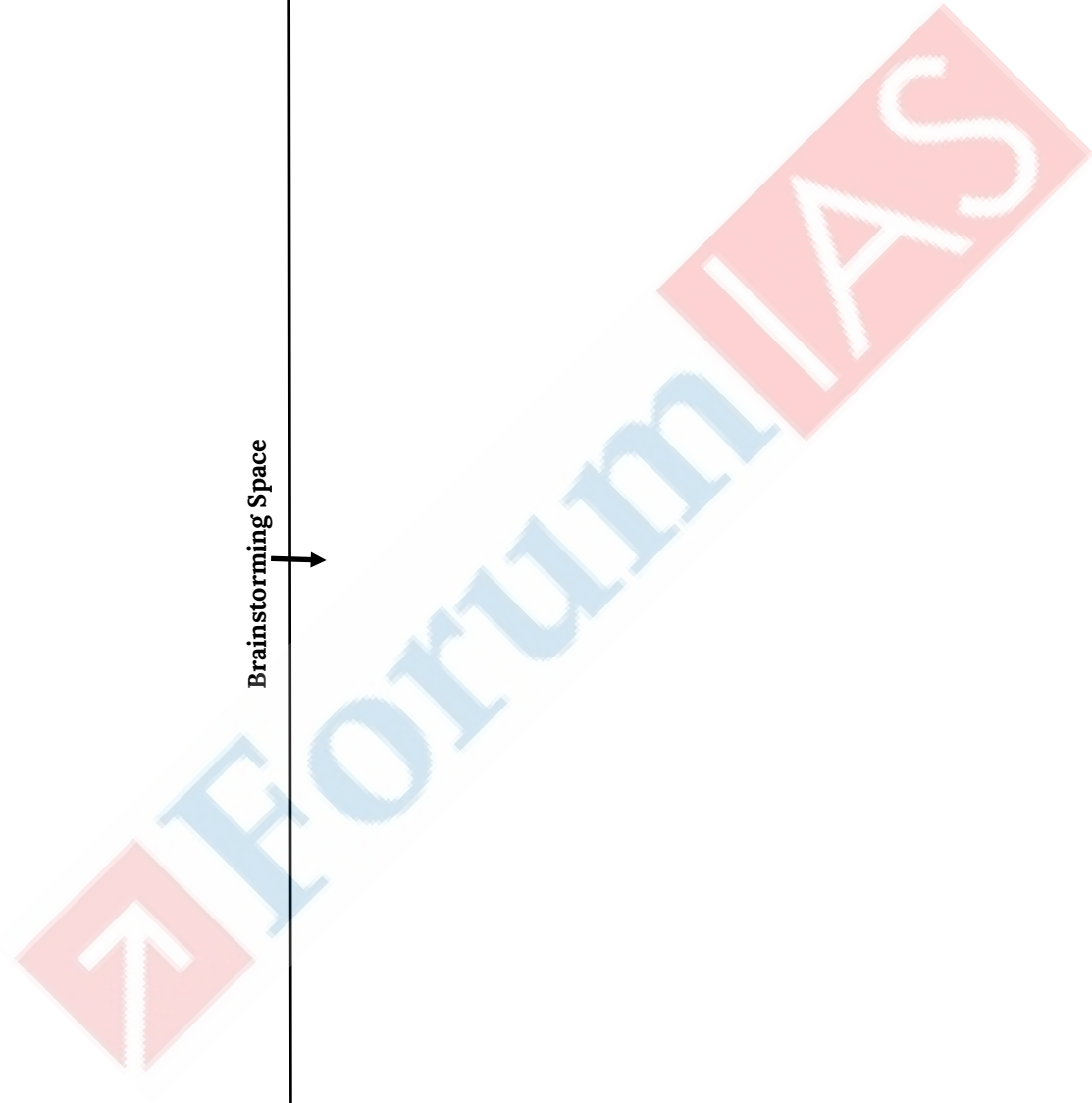
Q.29) What are social networking sites and what security implications do these sites present? (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



Q.30) Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism.  
(10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

Brainstorming Space



Q.31) Give out the major sources of terror funding in India and the efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the No Money for Terror (NMFT) Conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022. (15 marks, 250 words) (2023)

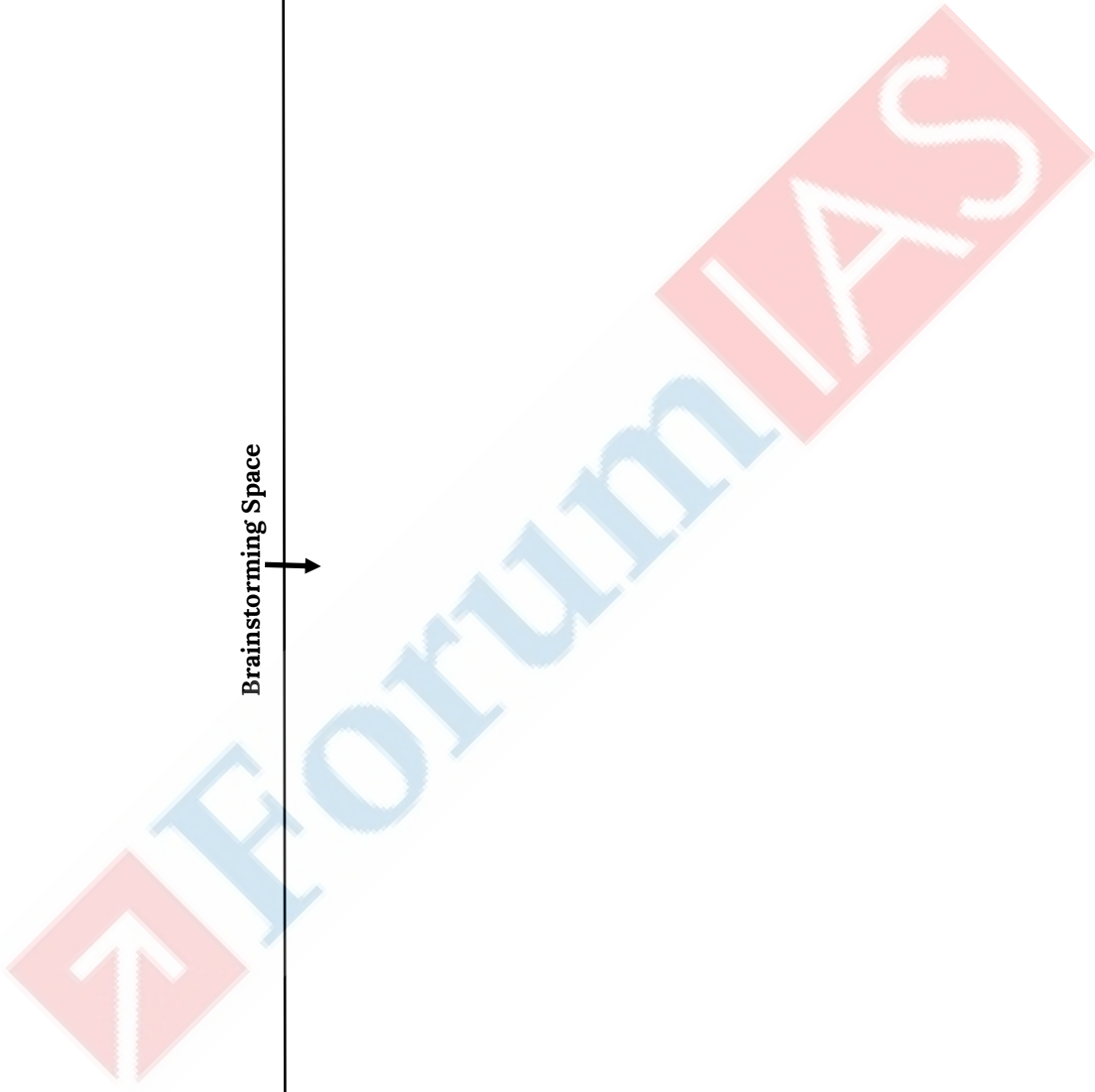
Brainstorming Space



Q.32) Discuss how emerging technologies and globalisation contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2012)

Brainstorming Space



Q.33) India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What countermeasures should be taken to prevent the same?

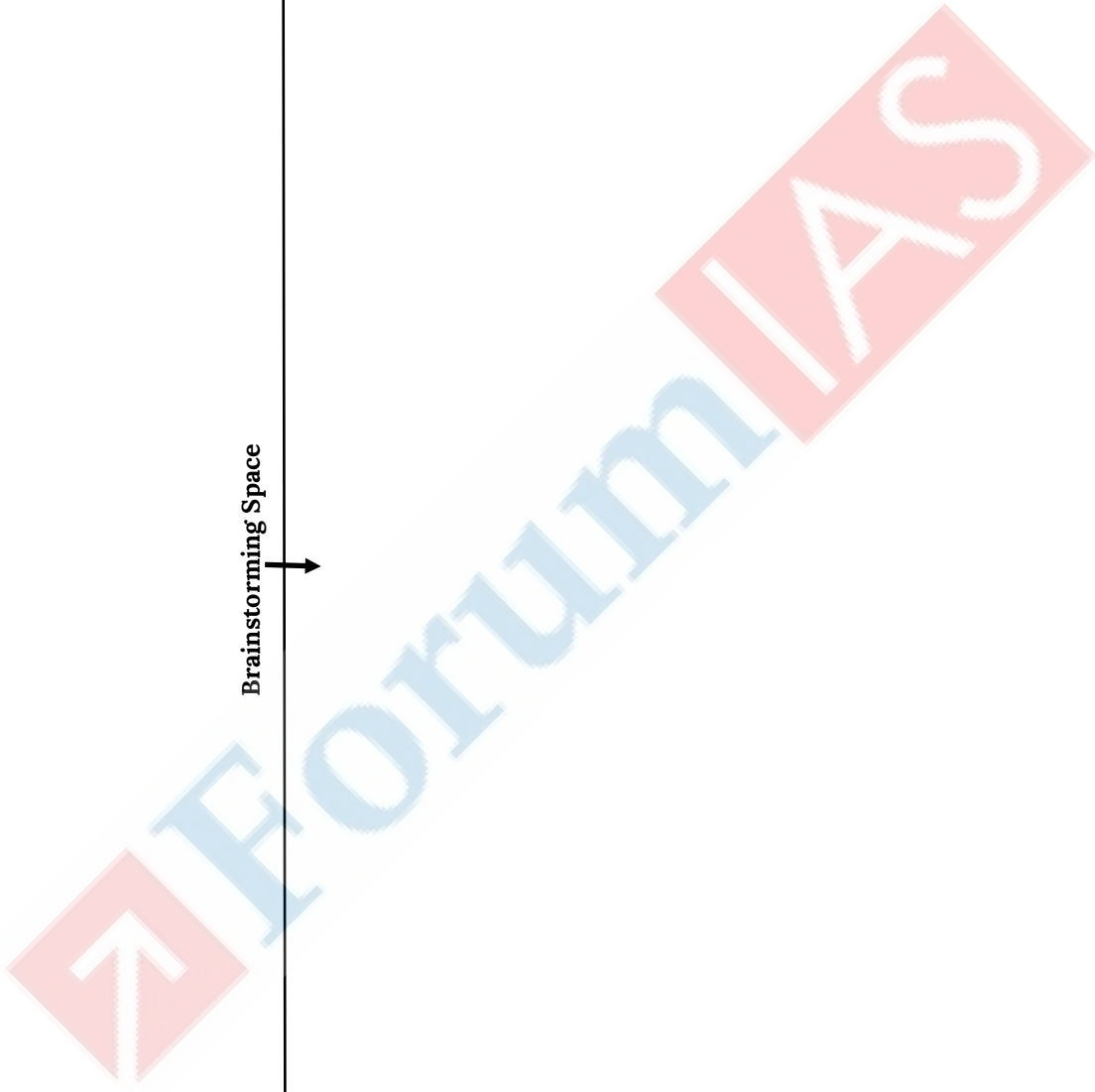
(15 marks, 250 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



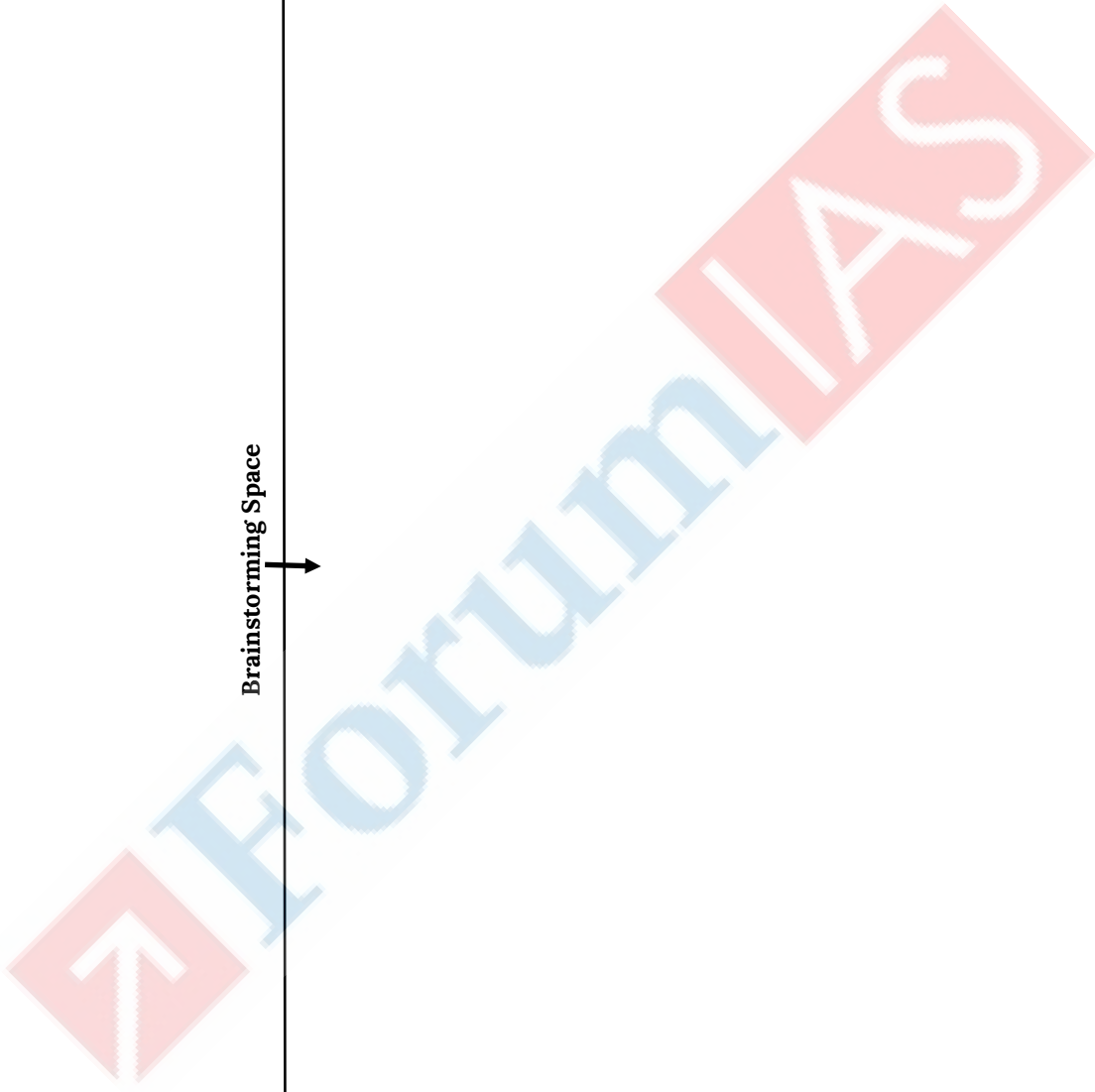
Q.34) Discuss the types of organised crime. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels. (10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



Q.35) Money laundering poses a serious security threat to a country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace? (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



Q.36) India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme.

(15 marks, 250 words) (2024)

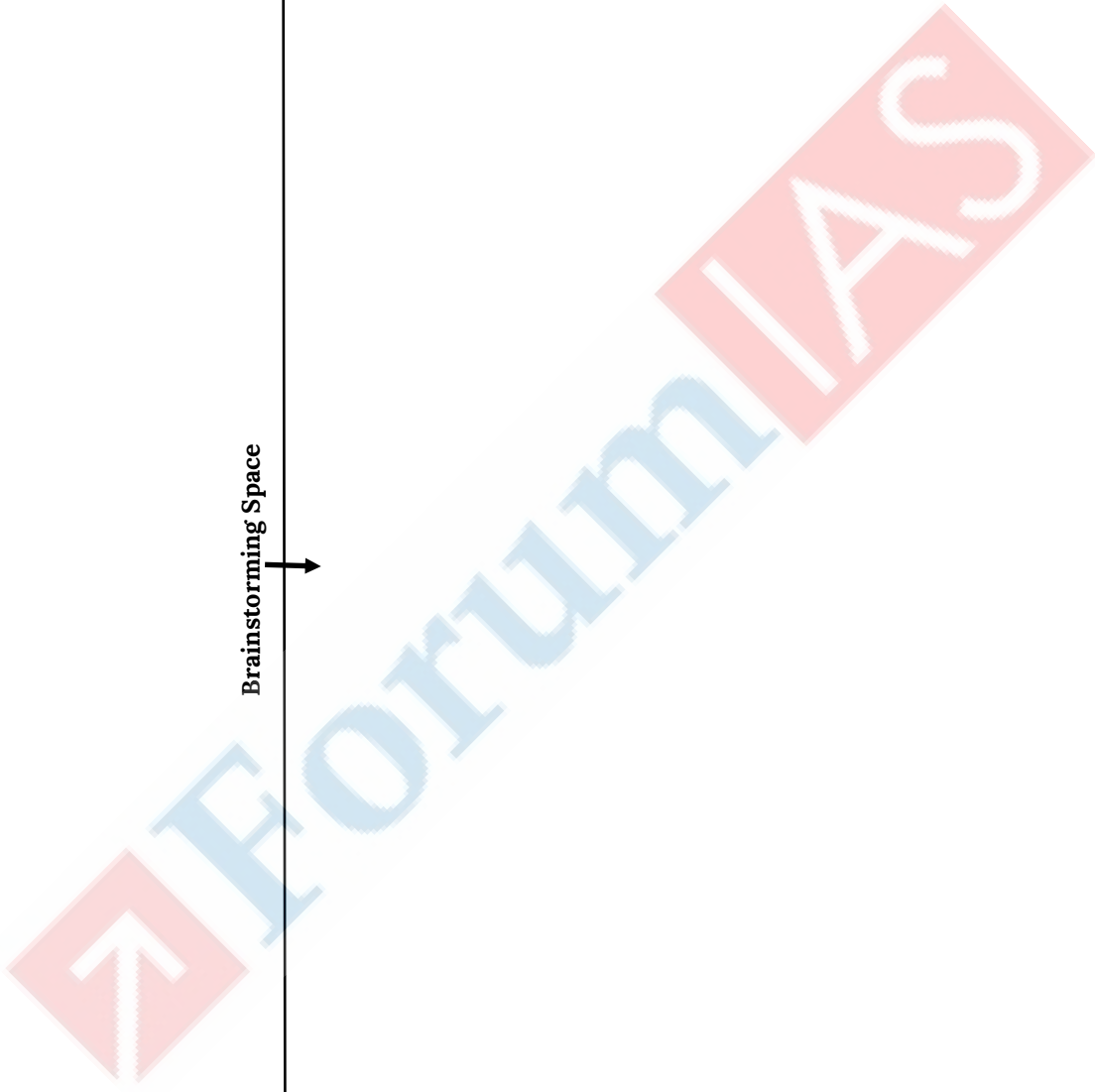
Brainstorming Space

Additional Updates



Q.37) The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat. (10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space



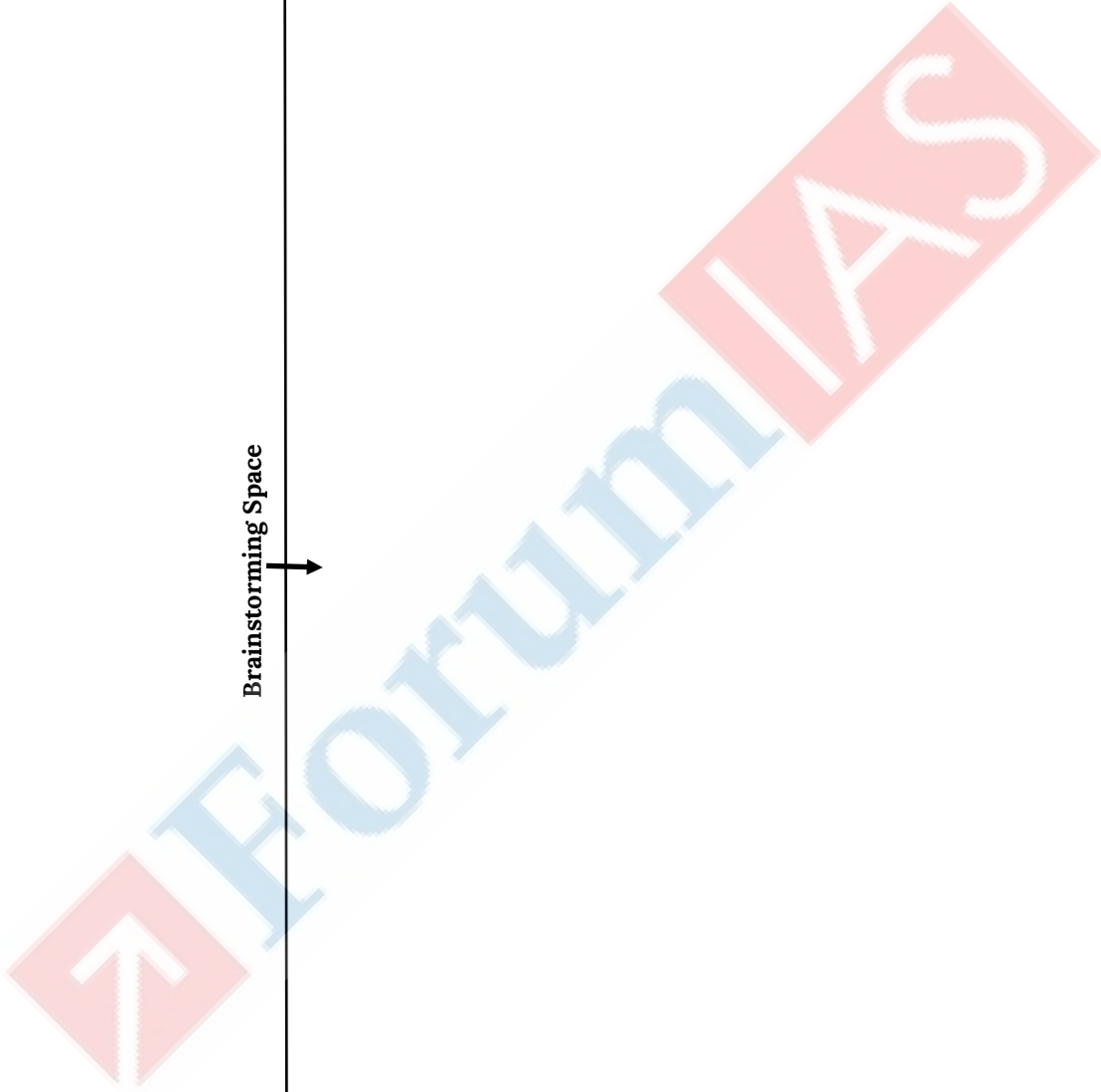
Q.38) Analyse internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also, discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard.

(15 marks, 250 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space

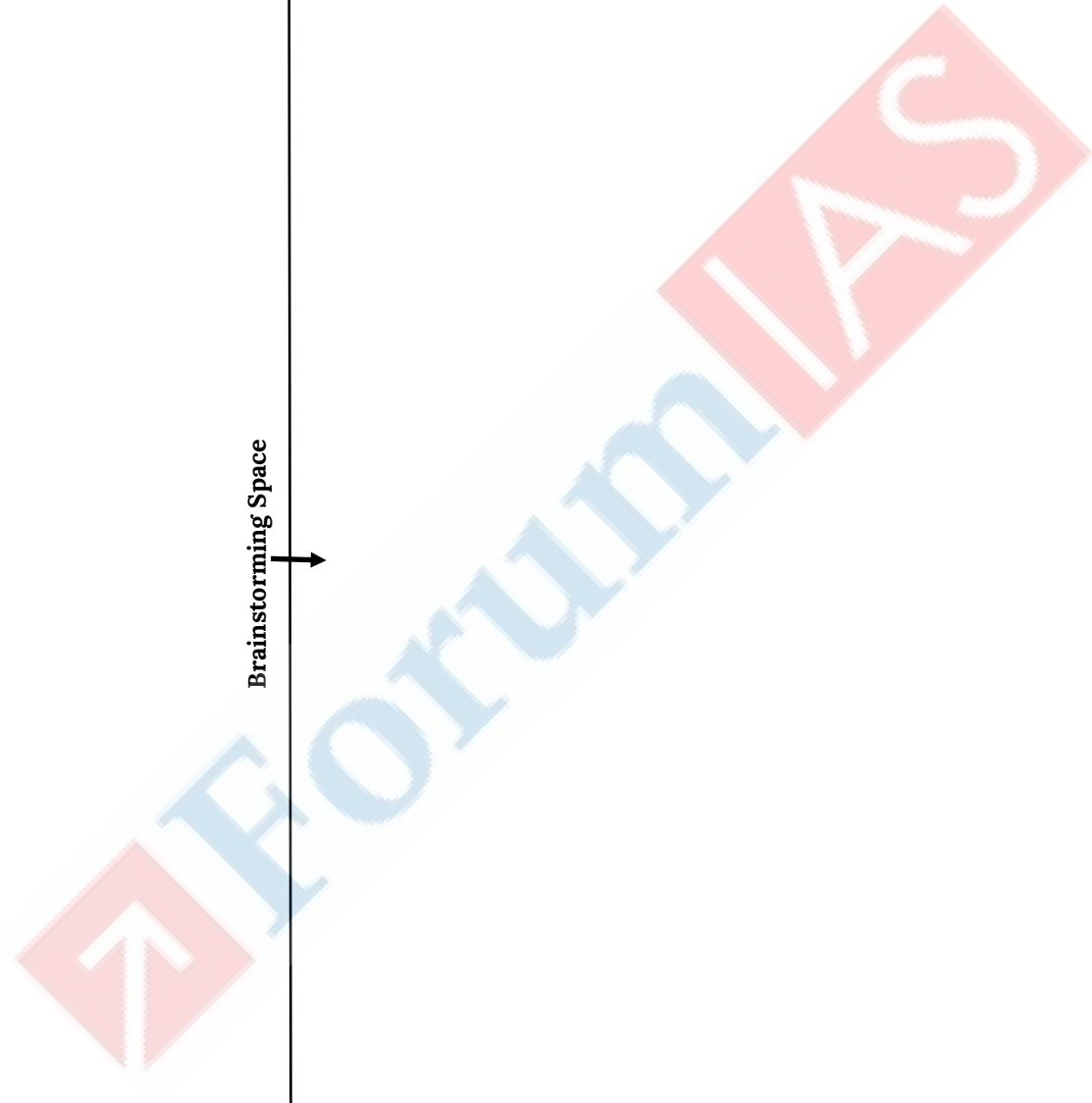
Q.39) For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals. (10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space



Q.40) The north-eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyse the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



Q.41) Human rights activists constantly highlight the view that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is a draconian act leading to cases of human rights abuses by the security forces. What sections of AFSPA are opposed by the activists? Critically evaluate the requirement with reference to the view held by the Apex Court. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2015)

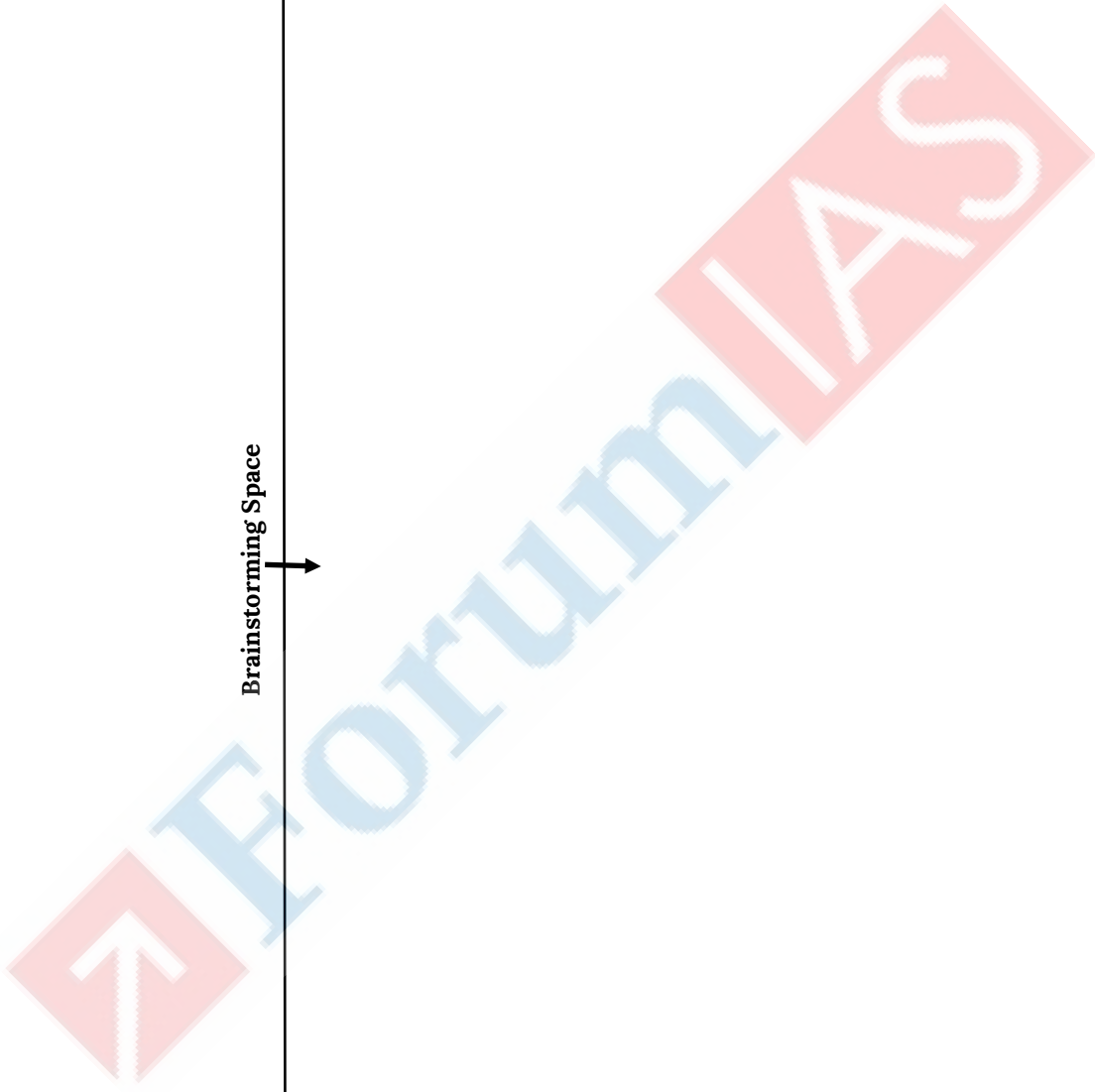
Brainstorming Space

Additional Updates



Q.42) How does illegal trans-border migration pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bringing out the factors which give impetus to such migration. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space



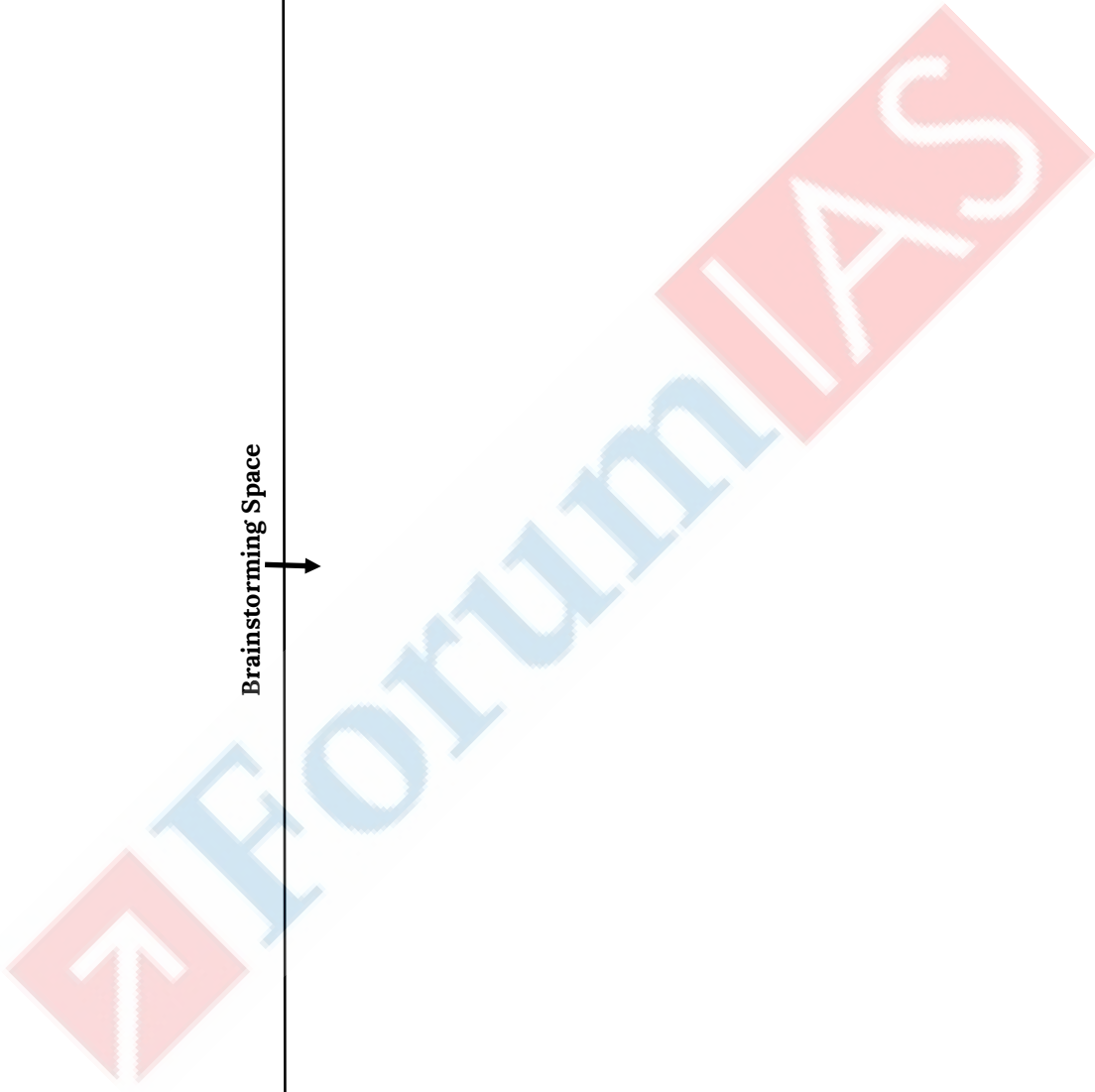
Q.43) "The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which is seen in her neighbourhood." Discuss along with strategies to be adopted to counter this environment. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space

Q.44) What are the major challenges to internal security and peace process in the North-Eastern States? Map the various peace accords and agreements initiated by the government in the past decade.

(15 marks, 250 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



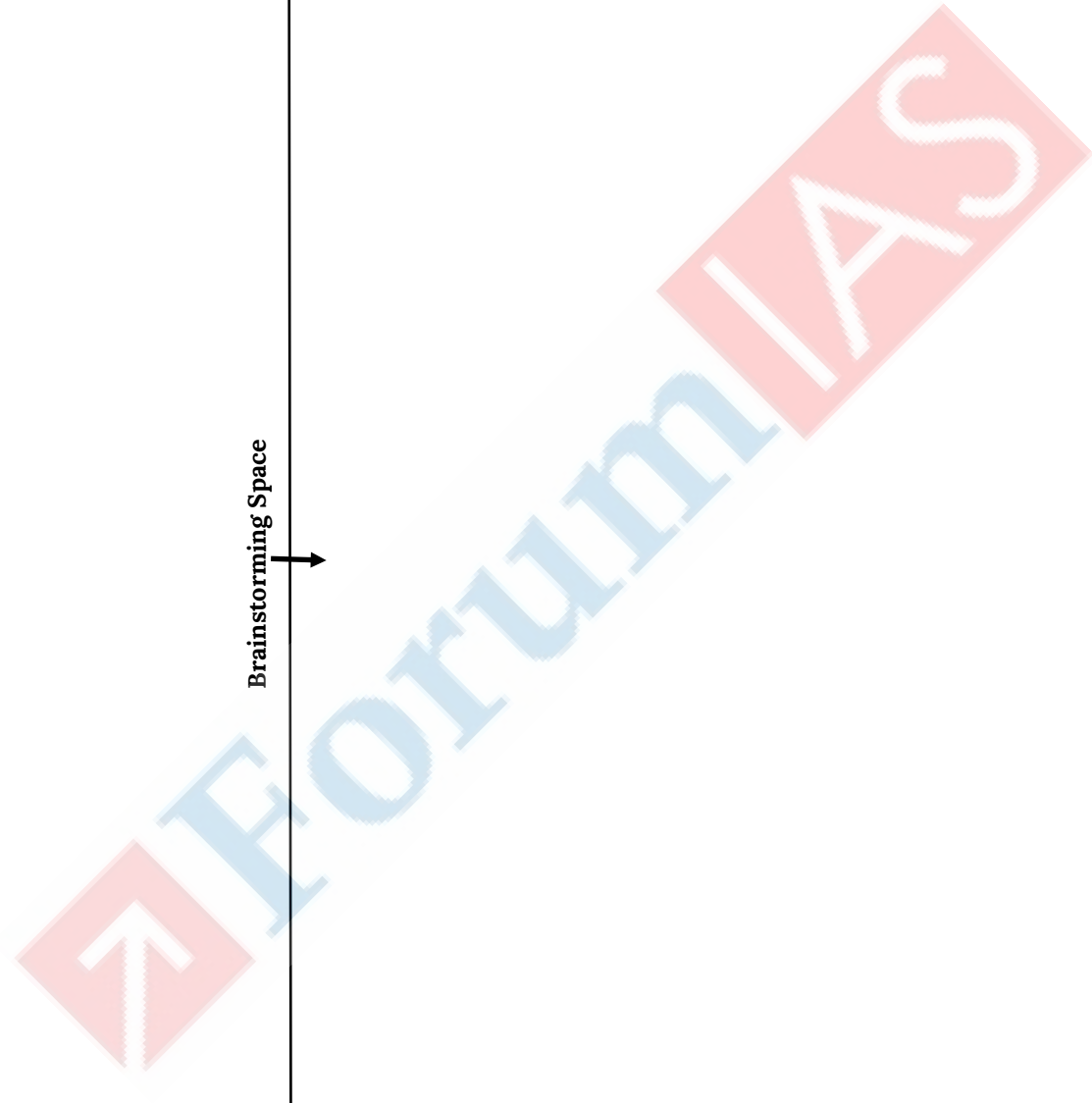
Q.45) Cross-border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges. (15 marks, 250 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space

Q.46) Why is maritime security vital to protect India's sea trade? Discuss maritime and coastal security challenges and the way forward.

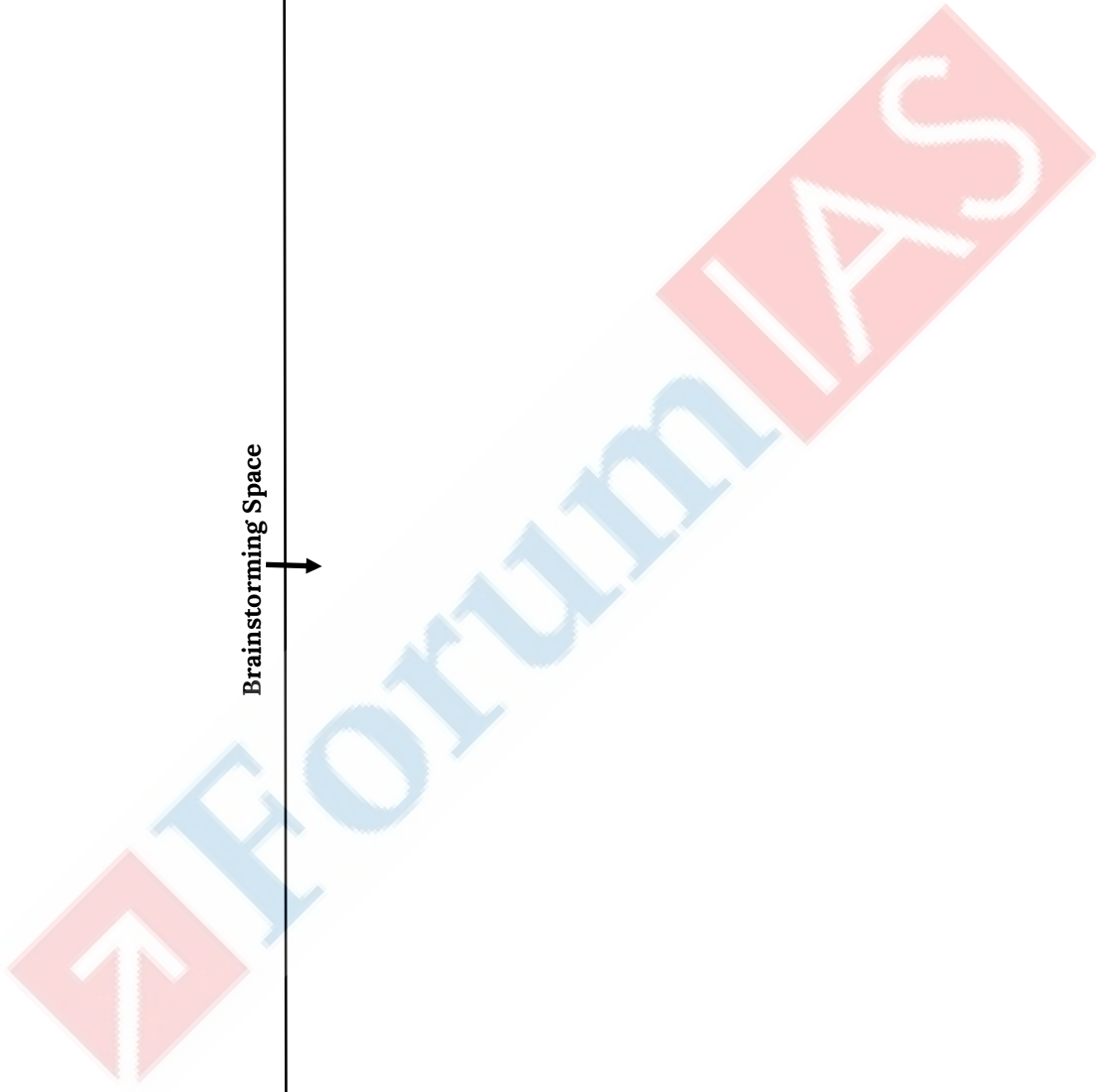
(15 marks, 250 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



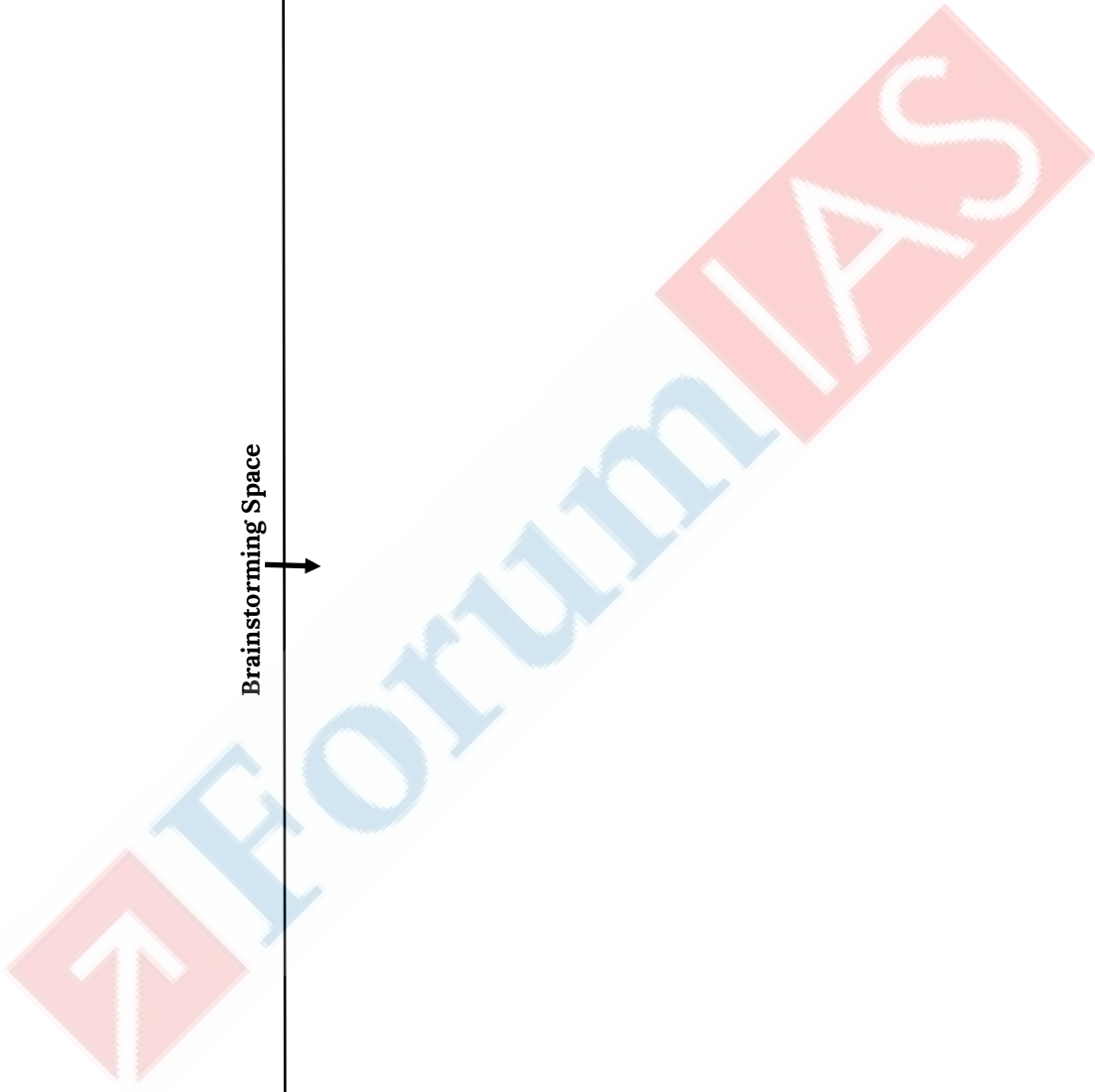
Q.47) What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security. (10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space



Q.48) In 2012, the longitudinal marking for high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65 degrees east to 78 degrees east in the Arabian Sea by the International Maritime Organisation. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns? (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space



Q.49) The persisting drives of the government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements with Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci. Discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2015)

Brainstorming Space

Q.50) Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyse the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth Schedule on the growth of Left Wing Extremism. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2015)

Brainstorming Space