

# INDIAN POLITY – INSTITUTIONS AND ELECTIONS

## UPSC MAINS PYQS (BRAINSTORMING SHEETS - 45 YEARS PYQS COVERED)

### MACRO TOPIC - CONSTITUTIONAL & STATUTORY BODIES

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
1	Attorney General — Role & Limitations	2025	10	'The Attorney General of India plays a crucial role in guiding the legal framework of the Union Government and ensuring sound governance through legal counsel.' Discuss his responsibilities, rights and limitations.
2	Administrative Tribunals — Need & Reforms	2025	10	Comment on the need of administrative tribunals as compared to the court system. Assess the impact of the recent tribunal reforms through rationalization of tribunals made in 2021.
3	NCPCR — Children in Digital Era	2025	15	The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has to address the challenges faced by children in the digital era. Examine the existing policies and suggest measures.
4	CAG — Legality and Propriety	2024	15	'The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety.' Comment.
5	Lok Adalats vs Arbitration Tribunals	2024	15	Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals. Whether they entertain civil as well as criminal cases?
6	Competition Commission — MNCs	2023	10	Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India.
7	Election Commission — MCC	2022	15	Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct.
8	National Commission for Backward Classes	2022	10	Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body.
9	14th Finance Commission	2021	10	How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the states to improve their fiscal position?
10	National Commission for Women	2020	15	Which steps are required for constitutionalisation of a commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the national commission for women would ensure greater gender justice?
11	Attorney General — Chief Legal Adviser	2019	15	'The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India.' Discuss.
12	Central Administrative Tribunal	2019	10	'The Central Administrative Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority.' Explain.
13	NCSC	2018	10	Whether National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions?
14	CAG — Role & Independence	2018	10	'The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play.' Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise.
15	Finance Commission	2018	15	How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission?
16	Election Commission	2017	15	To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant?

17	National Commission for Women	2017	15	Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres?
18	CAG — Audit	2016	12.5	Exercise of CAG's powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149. Discuss whether audit of the Government's Policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own jurisdiction.
19	Quasi-Judicial Body — Definition	2016	12.5	What is a quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.
20	Regulatory Institutions	2015	12.5	'For achieving the desired objectives, it is necessary to ensure that the regulatory institutions remain independent and autonomous.' Discuss in the light of the experiences in recent past.
21	Rail Tariff Authority — Regulatory Reform	2014	12.5	The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers.
22	NHRC	2014	12.5	National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms. Assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary.
23	13th Finance Commission	2013	12.5	Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances.
24	UPSC — Composition & Functions	2008	10	Discuss the composition and functions of Union Public Service Commission.
25	Inter-State Council	2006	10	How does the Inter-State Council establish co-ordination between States?
26	Election Commission	2005	10	What are the steps that the Election Commission may take if a recalcitrant State Government wants to put off Assembly Elections?
27	UPSC — Independence	2004	15	How does the Indian Constitution Seek to maintain independence of the Public Service Commission?
28	Finance Commission	2004	10	What is a Finance Commission? Discuss the main functions of the State Finance Commission.
29	Finance Commission	2003	10	What is a Finance Commission?
30	National Security Council	1999	10	Discuss the composition and functions of the National Security Council.
31	All India Judicial Service	1997	10	Present your views for and against the creation of an All India Judicial Service.
32	Election Commission	1994	10	What is the stand of the Election Commission on the residential qualification of the members of the Rajya Sabha?
33	Planning Commission & NDC	1994	15	Explain the role of the Planning Commission and the National Development Council in the formulation of public policy in India.
34	Election Commission	1994	10	Explain the position of the Election Commission with regard to the residential qualification of the members of the Council of States.
35	Election Commission	1993	10	Describe the composition and functions of the Election Commission of India.
36	National Development Council	1993	10	Describe the composition and functions of the National Development Council.

37	National Integration Council	1991	10	What is National Integration Council? Is there a need for it? What was the major outcome of the recent meeting of the National Integration Council?
38	UPSC	1991	10	What are the constitutional provisions that ensure the independence of the Public Service Commissions in India?
39	CAG — Duties & Independence	1989	15	Define the duties and powers of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in regard to Audit and show how the Constitution provides for his independence from Executive Control.
40	Election Commission	1988	10	Explain the Constitutional responsibilities of the Election Commission of India.

## MACRO TOPIC - ELECTIONS & POLITICAL PARTIES

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
41	Corrupt Practices — RPA 1951	2025	10	Discuss the 'corrupt practices' for the purpose of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Analyze whether increase in assets of legislators disproportionate to known sources of income would constitute 'undue influence'.
42	One Nation One Election	2024	15	Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to 'one nation – one election' principle.
43	Election Disputes — RPA 1951	2022	15	Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or a State Legislature under the Representation of People Act 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void?
44	Disqualification — Corrupt Practices	2020	10	There is a need for simplification of Procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act. Comment.
45	Disqualification — Grounds & Remedies	2019	15	On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification.
46	EVM — Trustworthiness of Elections	2018	10	In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India?
47	Simultaneous Elections	2017	10	'Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people.' Discuss.
48	Regional Political Parties	2008	10	Examine the impact of Regional Political Parties in Indian politics.
49	Voting Behaviour in India	2007	15	What are the Main determinants of voting behaviour in India?
50	Constituency Delimitation	2002	10	Describe the methods of delimiting constituencies for parliamentary elections in India.
51	Electoral Reforms — Major Reforms Needed	2000	10	Identify the major electoral reforms which are necessary in the Indian Political System.
52	Types of Elections	1998	10	Differentiate and state the significance of general election, mid-term election and by-election.
53	Electoral System — Review & Modifications	1990	15	Review the present Electoral System in India and suggest modifications to ensure better and healthier Policy.

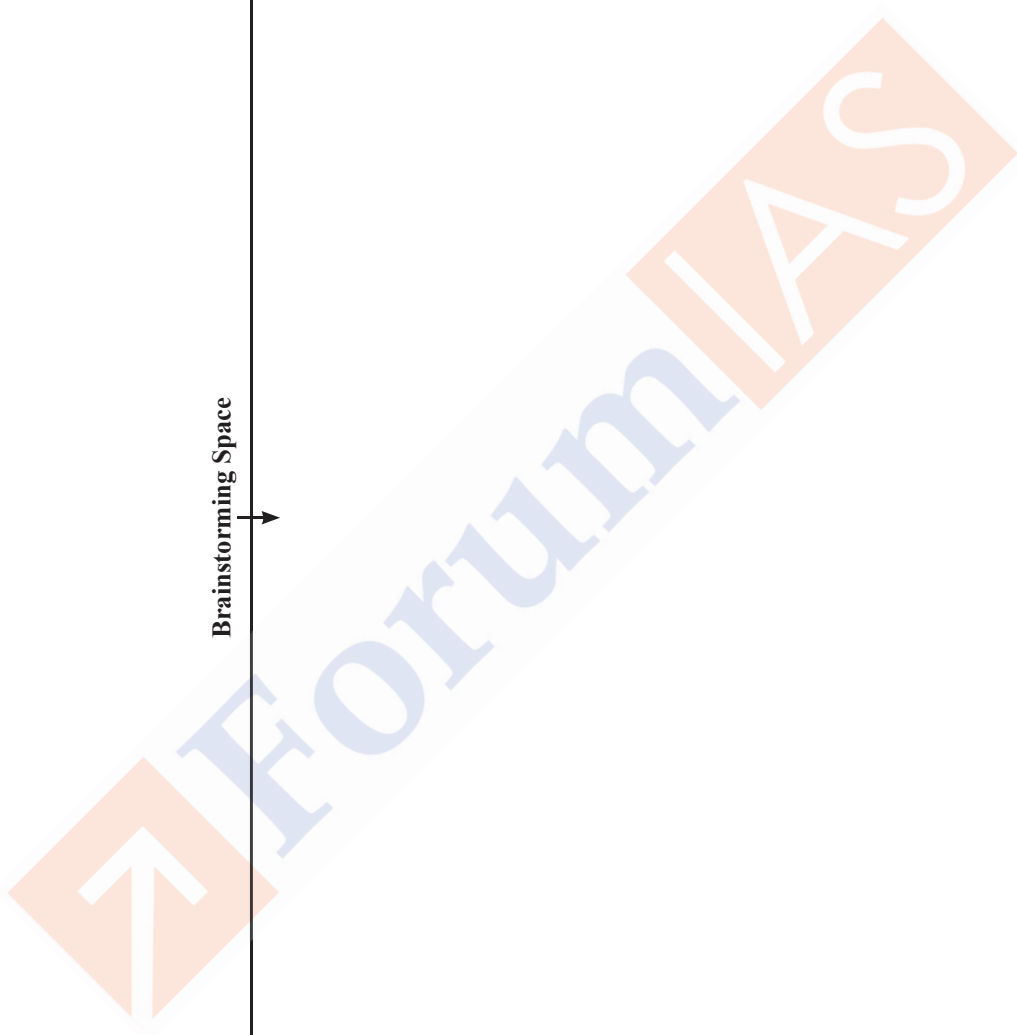
54	One Party Dominant System	1985	15	Is it correct to describe the party system in India as One party Dominant system? Give reasons for your answer.
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### MACRO TOPIC - PRESSURE GROUPS & POLITICAL PARTIES

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
55	Business Associations & Public Policy	2021	10	'Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policymaking in India.' Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies.
56	Farmer Organisations	2019	10	What are the methods used by the farmer's organizations to influence the policy-makers in India and how effective are these methods?
57	Informal vs Formal Pressure Groups	2017	10	How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree that informal pressure groups have emerged as powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years?
58	Structure & Functioning	2013	10	Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. Assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India.
59	Pressure Groups — Anonymous Empire	2009	15	Pressure groups are an anonymous empire and are an unofficial Government. Do you agree with above statement? Substantiate with reasons.
60	Pressure Groups vs Political Parties	2008	15	Pressure groups and political parties share an intimate and inconclusive relationship. Analyse how political parties and pressure groups are different from each other.
61	Pressure Groups — Rise & Failure	2006	15	Pressure groups mushroomed in India but quality of work did not improve. Discuss the reasons for the rise in pressure groups and their failure to make impact in India.
62	Characteristics of Pressure Groups	1999	15	Pressure groups in India are not matured but they are too diverse. Analyse the characteristics of pressure groups in India.
63	Pressure Groups — India vs West	1997	15	Functioning of pressure groups differ widely in India and western countries. Analyse.

**Q.1)** 'The Attorney General of India plays a crucial role in guiding the legal framework of the Union Government and ensuring sound governance through legal counsel.' Discuss his responsibilities, rights and limitations. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2025]

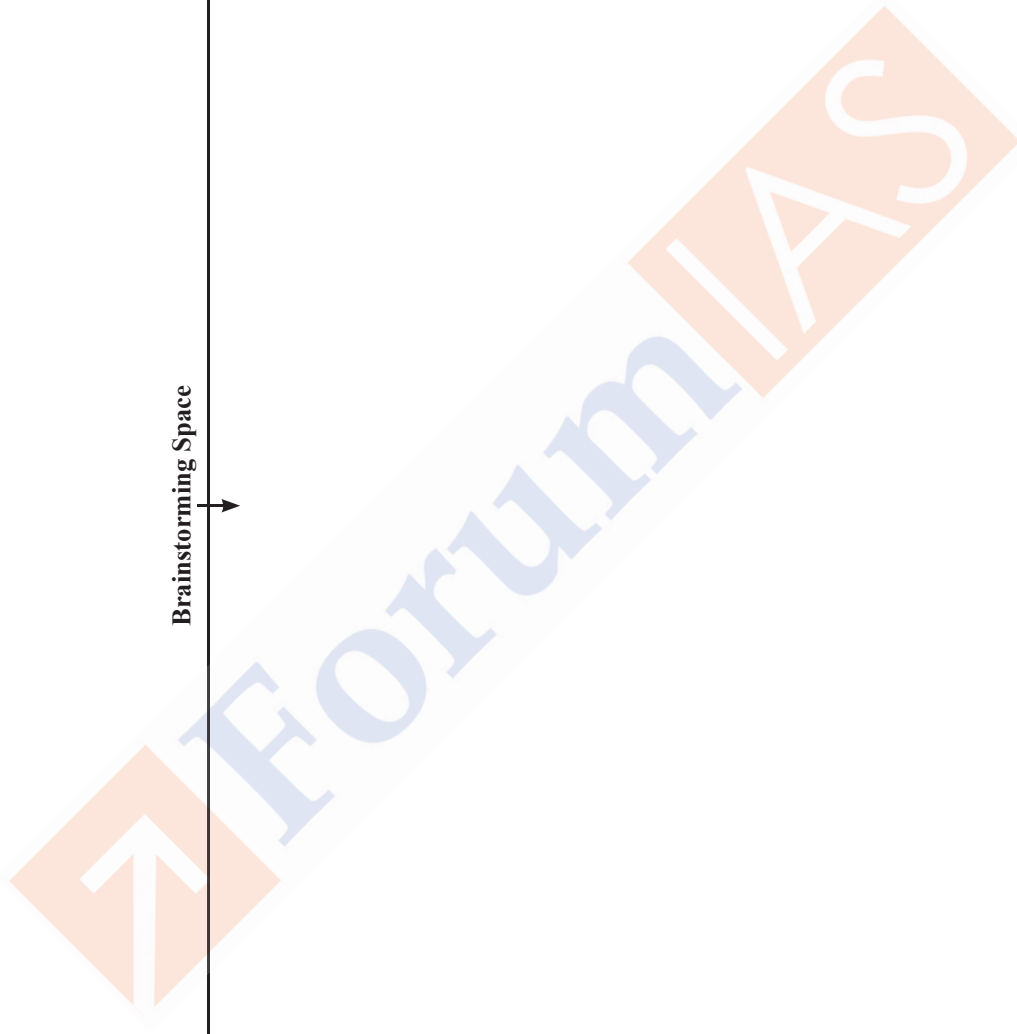
Brainstorming Space



**Q.2)** Comment on the need of administrative tribunals as compared to the court system. Assess the impact of the recent tribunal reforms through rationalization of tribunals made in 2021.

(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2025]

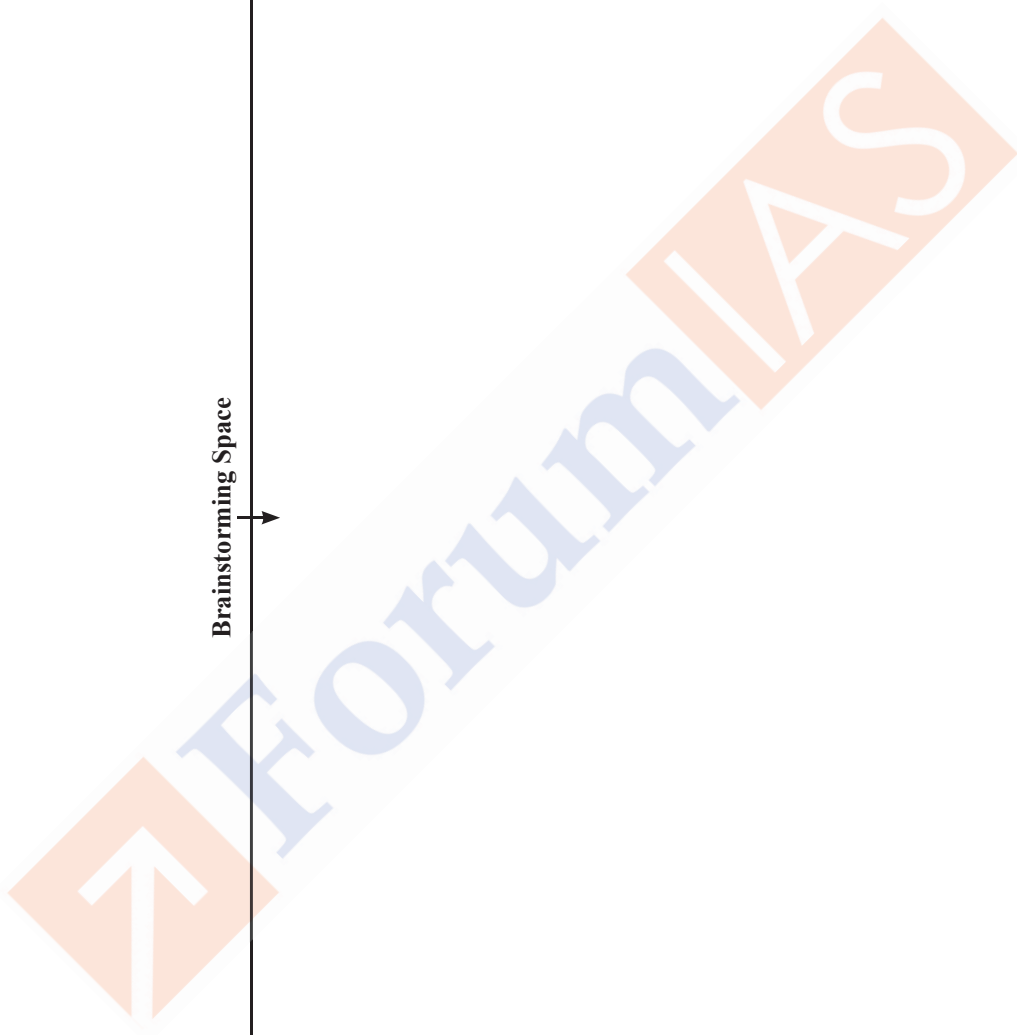
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**Q.3)** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has to address the challenges faced by children in the digital era. Examine the existing policies and suggest measures.

(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2025]

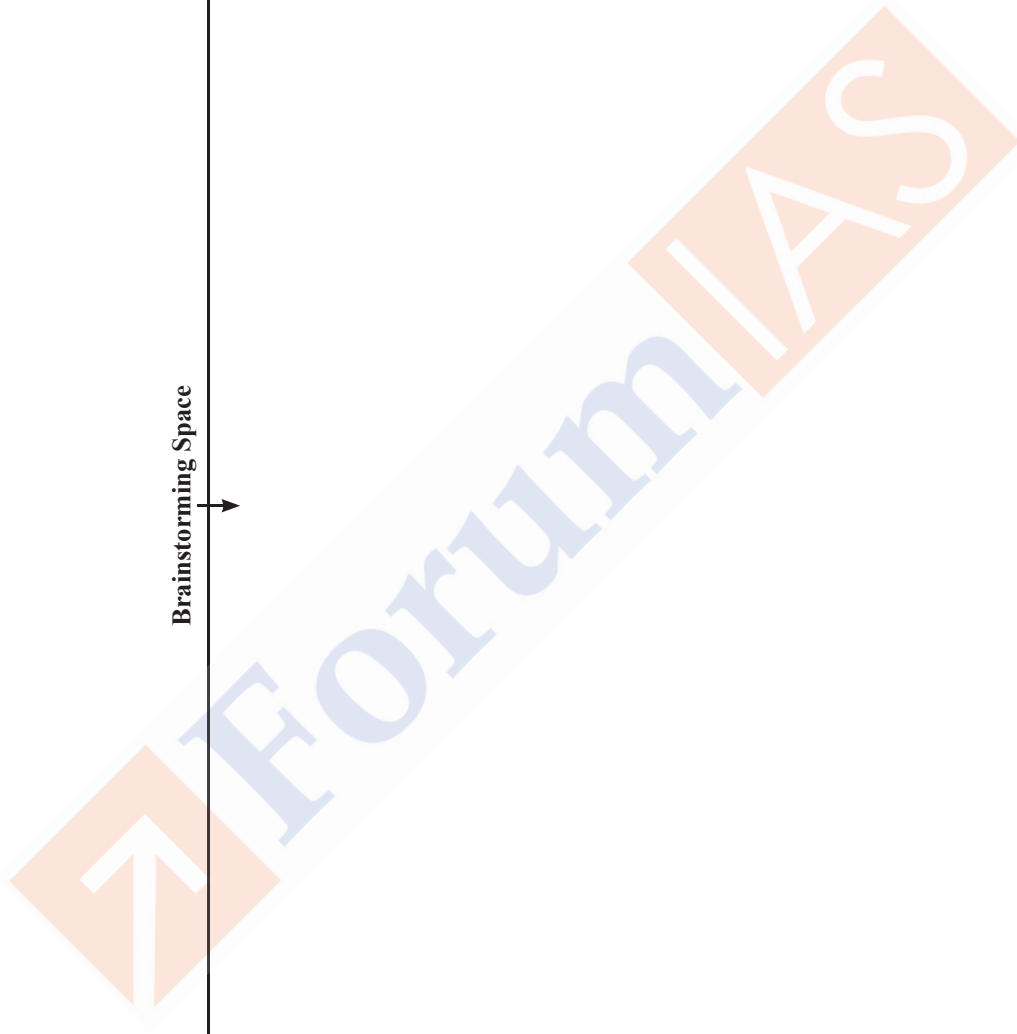
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Q.4) 'The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety.' Comment.

(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2024]

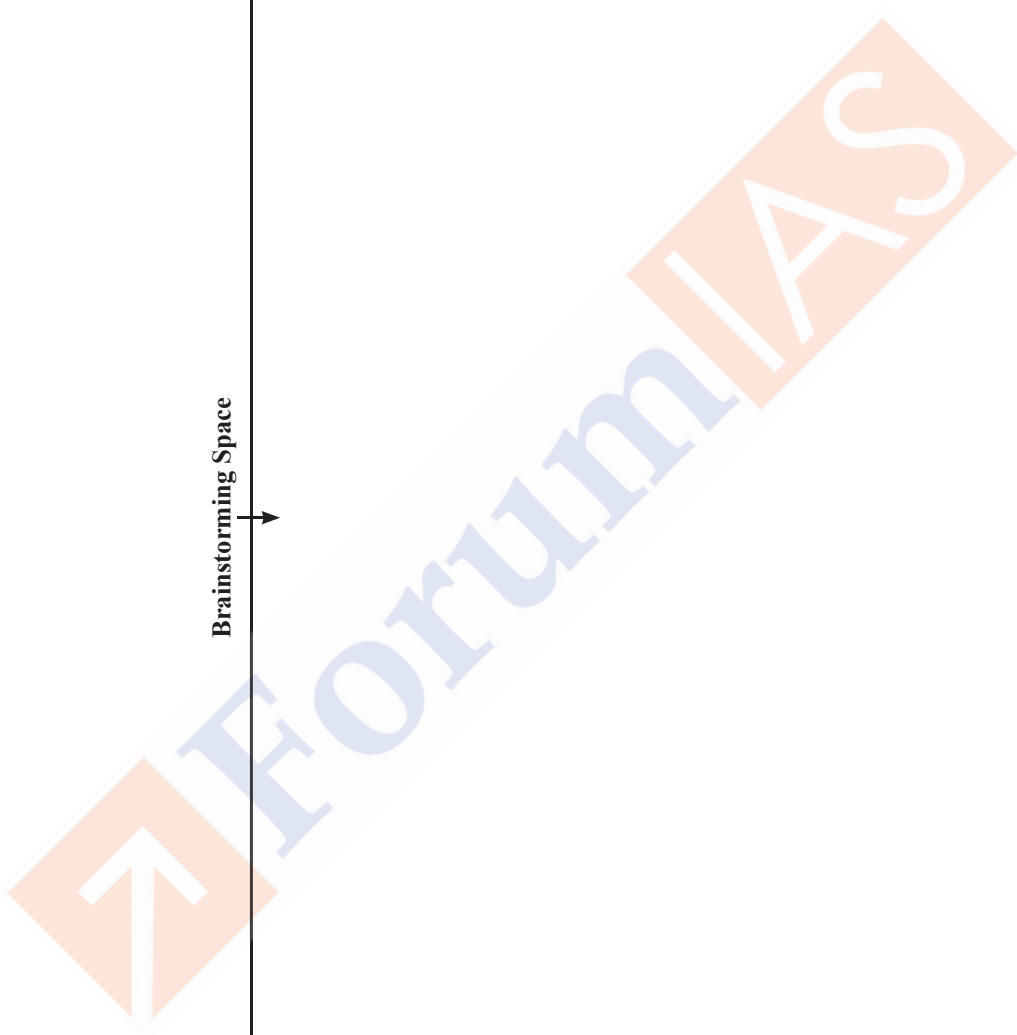
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**Q.5)** Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals. Whether they entertain civil as well as criminal cases?

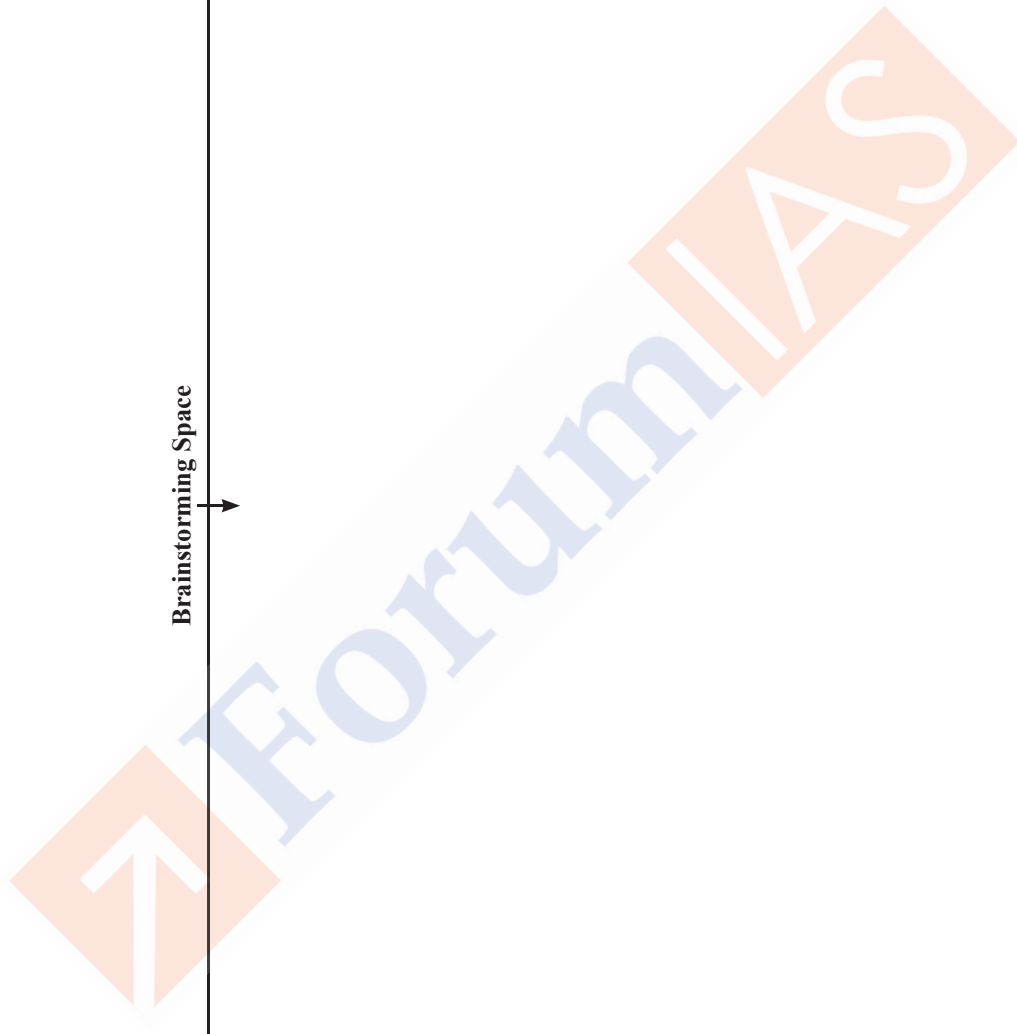
(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2024]

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**Q.6)** Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India.  
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2023]

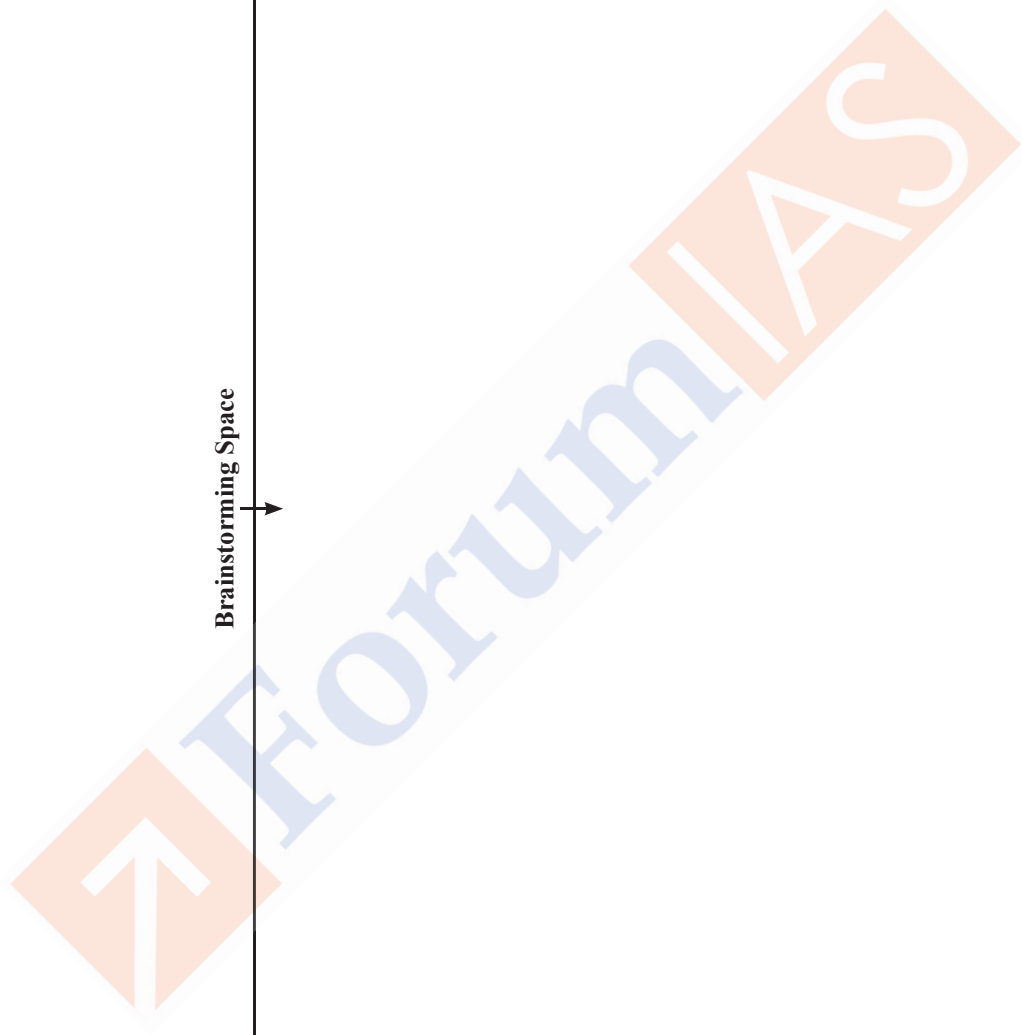
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Q.7) Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct.

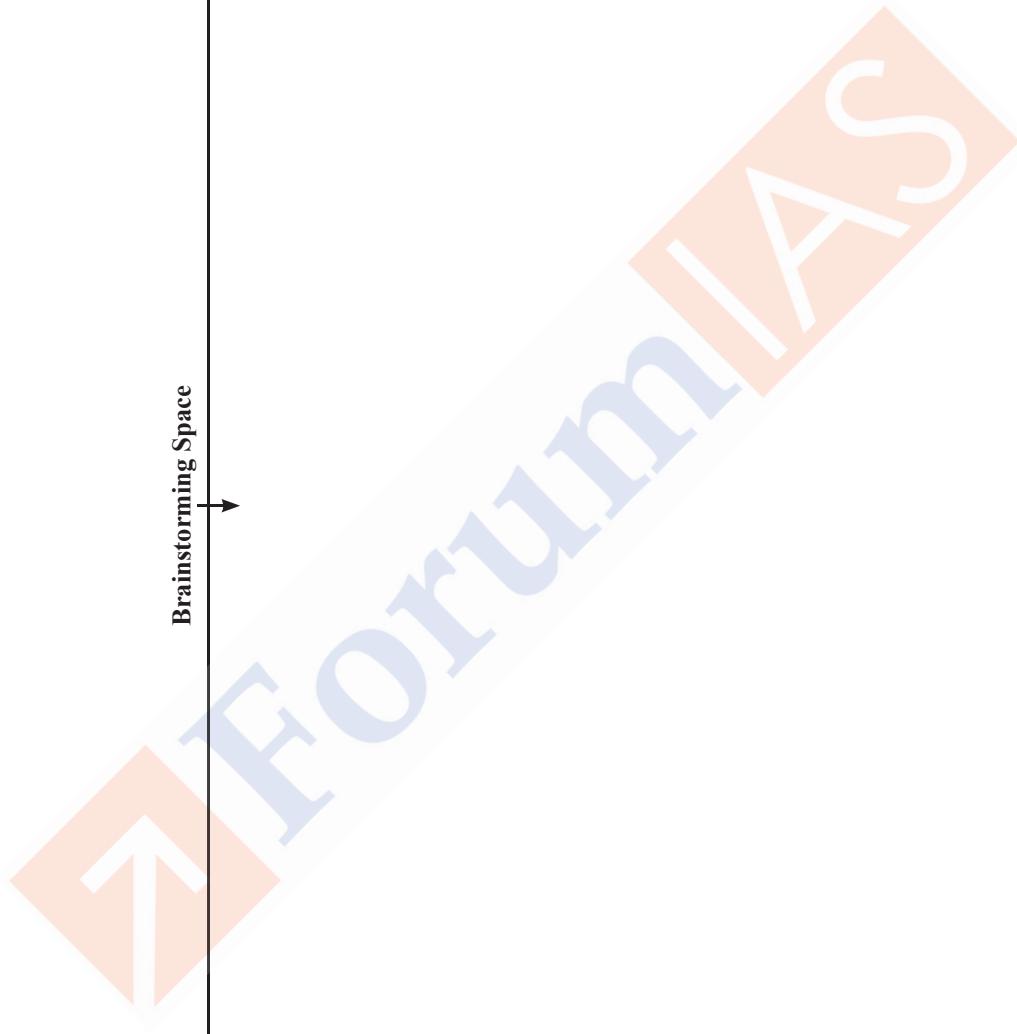
(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2022]

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**Q.8)** Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2022]

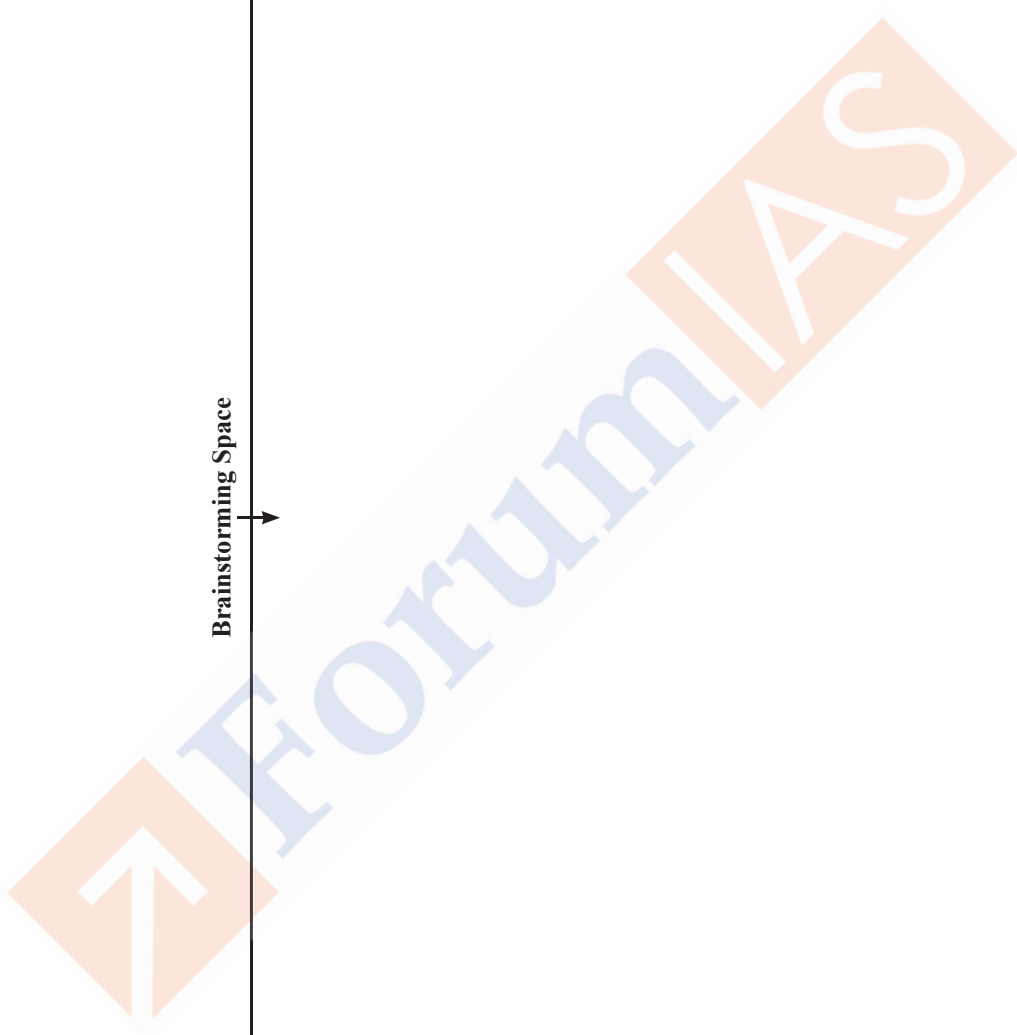
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**Q.9)** How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the states to improve their fiscal position?

(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2021]

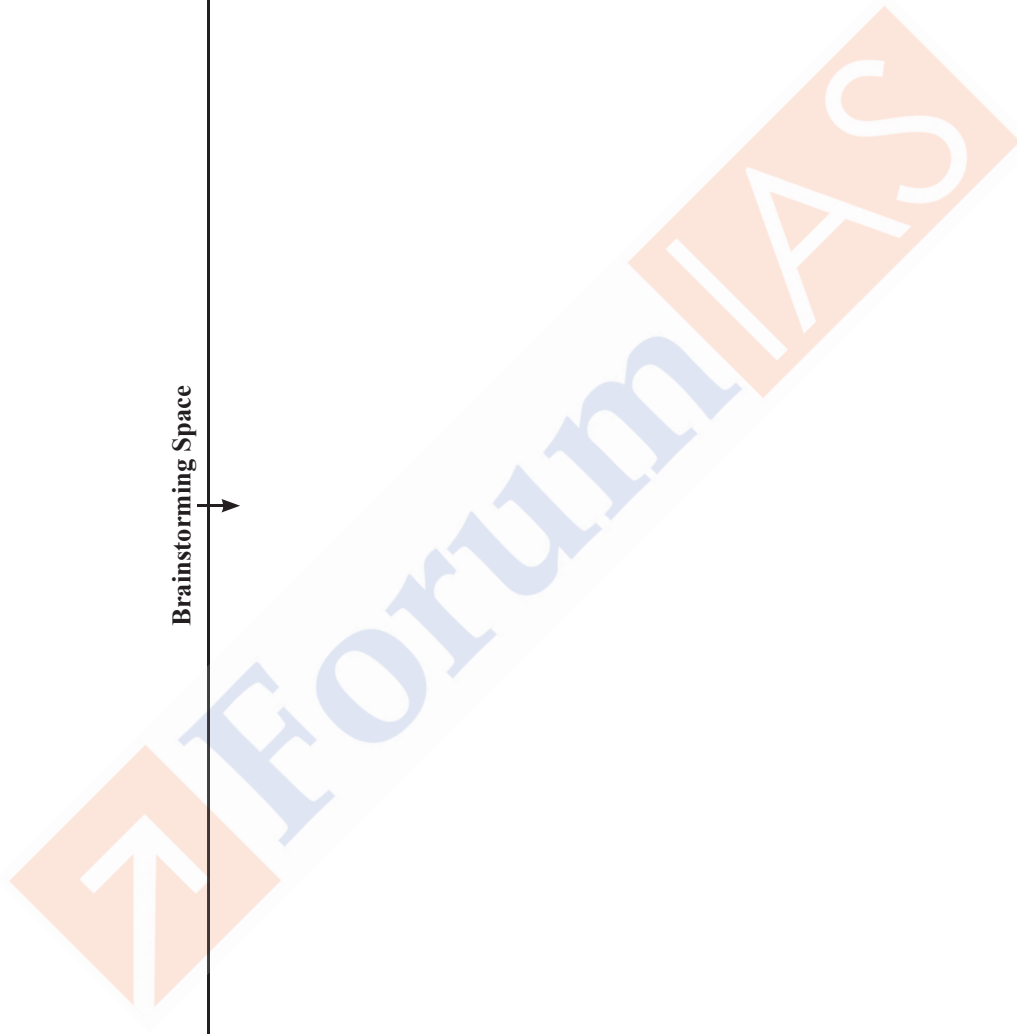
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**Q.10)** Which steps are required for constitutionalisation of a commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the national commission for women would ensure greater gender justice?

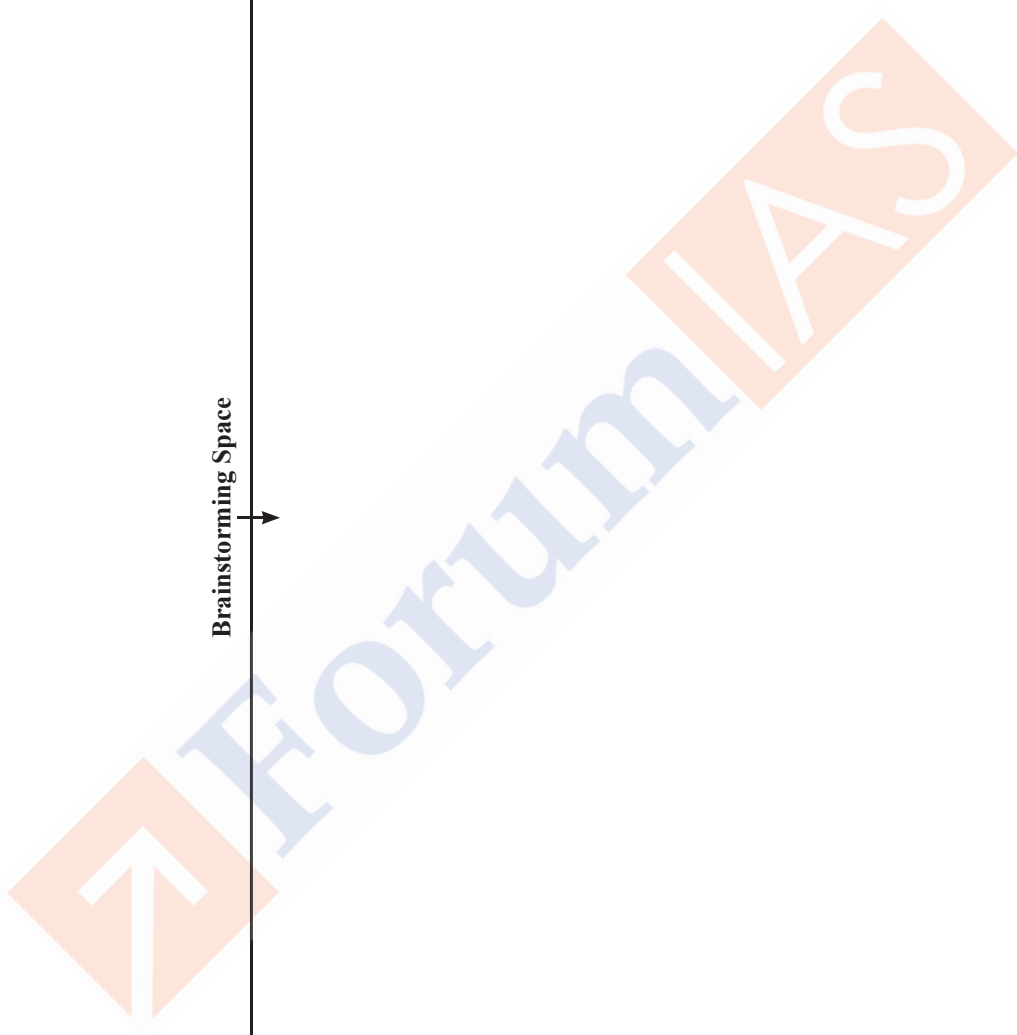
(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2020]

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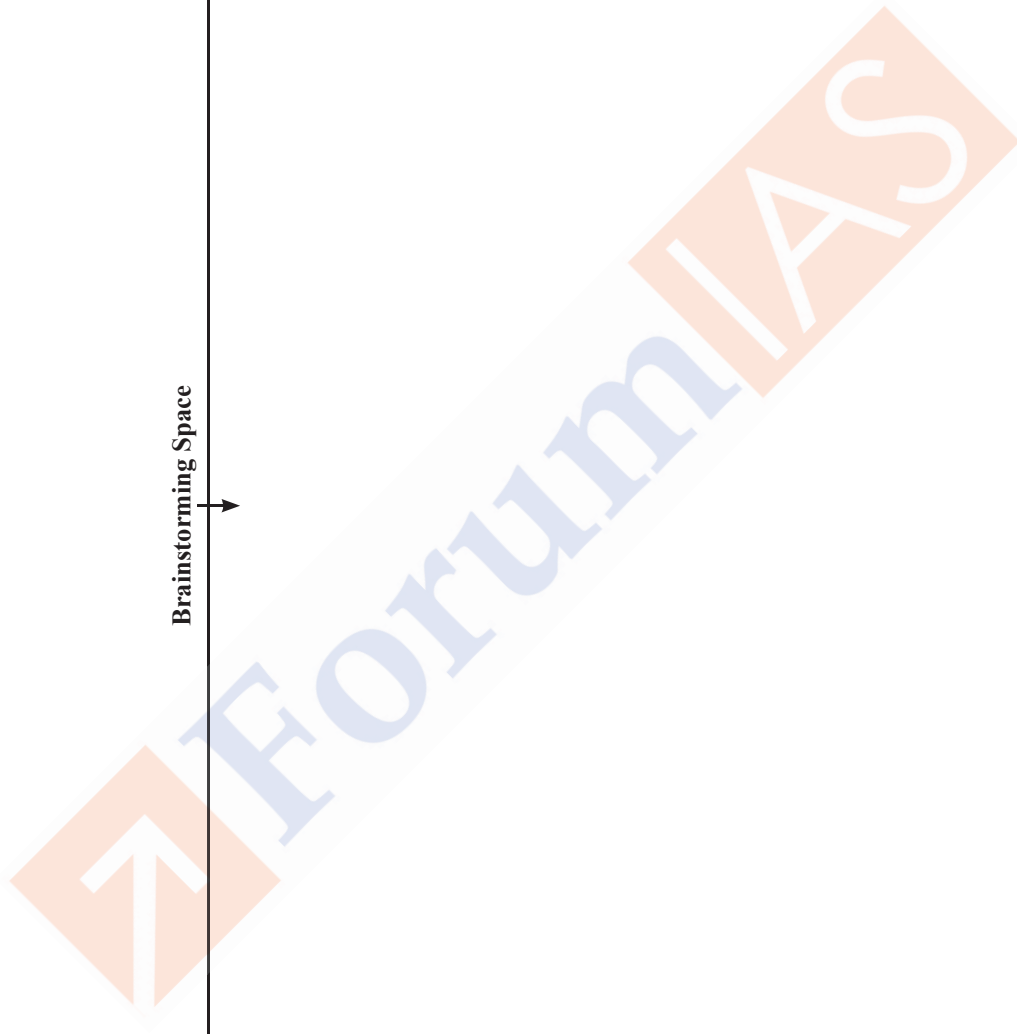
**Q.11)** 'The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India.' Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2019]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.12)** 'The Central Administrative Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority.' Explain. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2019]

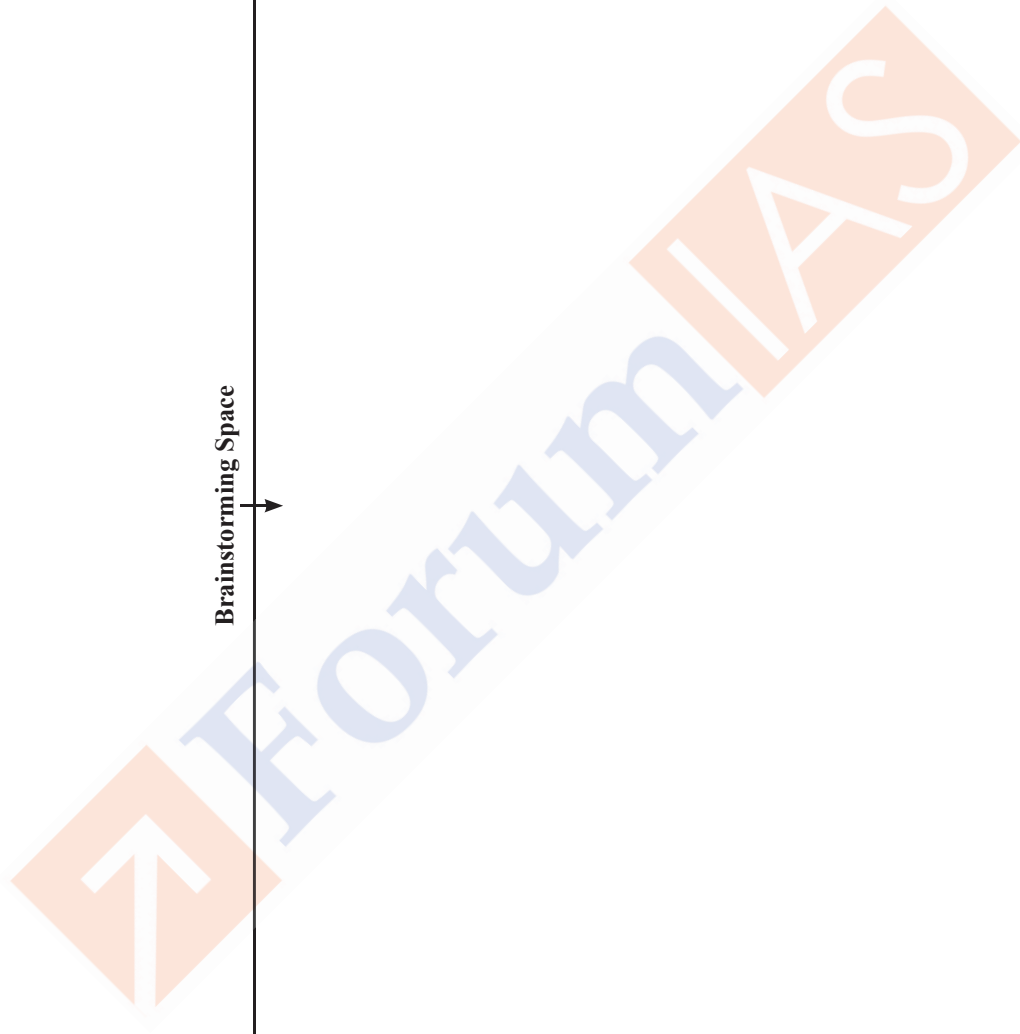
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**Q.13)** Whether National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions?

(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2018]

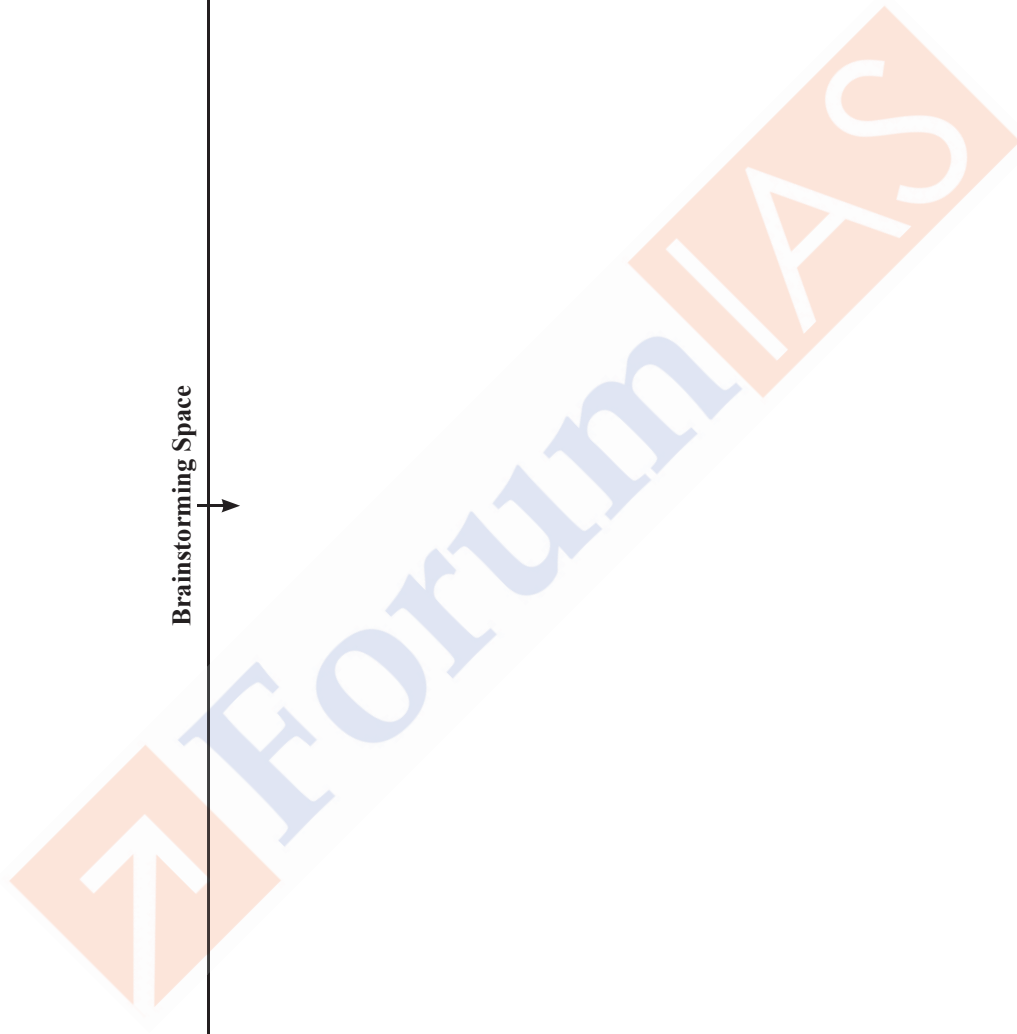
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**Q.14)** 'The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play.' Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise.

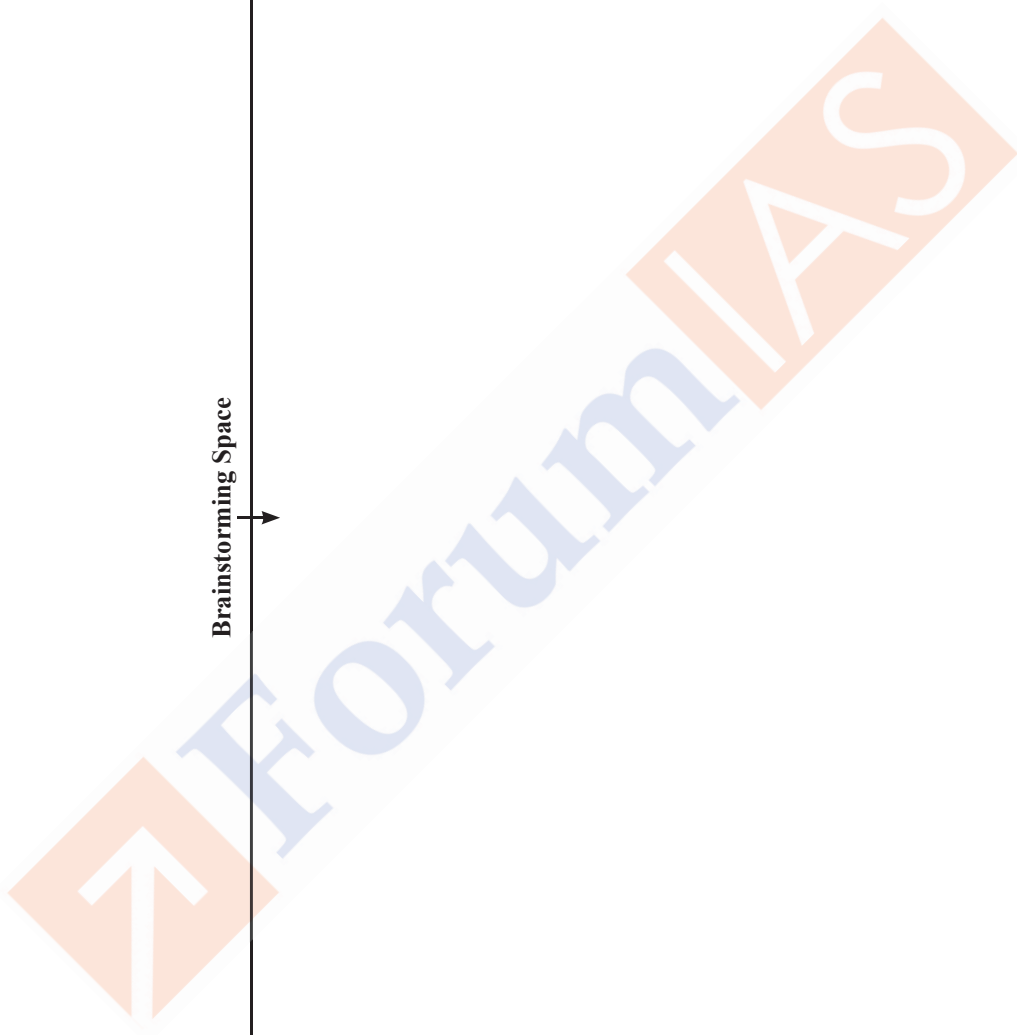
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2018]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.15)** How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2018]

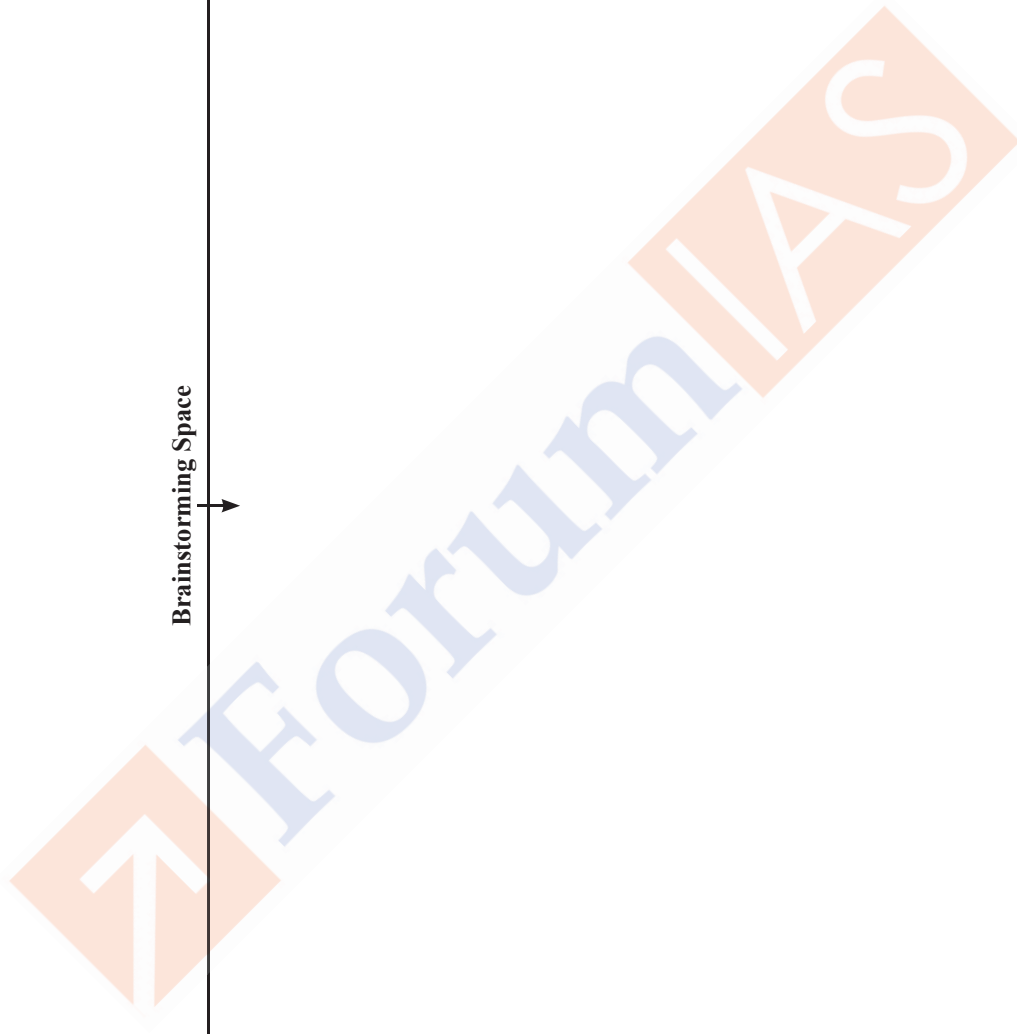
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**Q.16)** To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant?

(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2017]

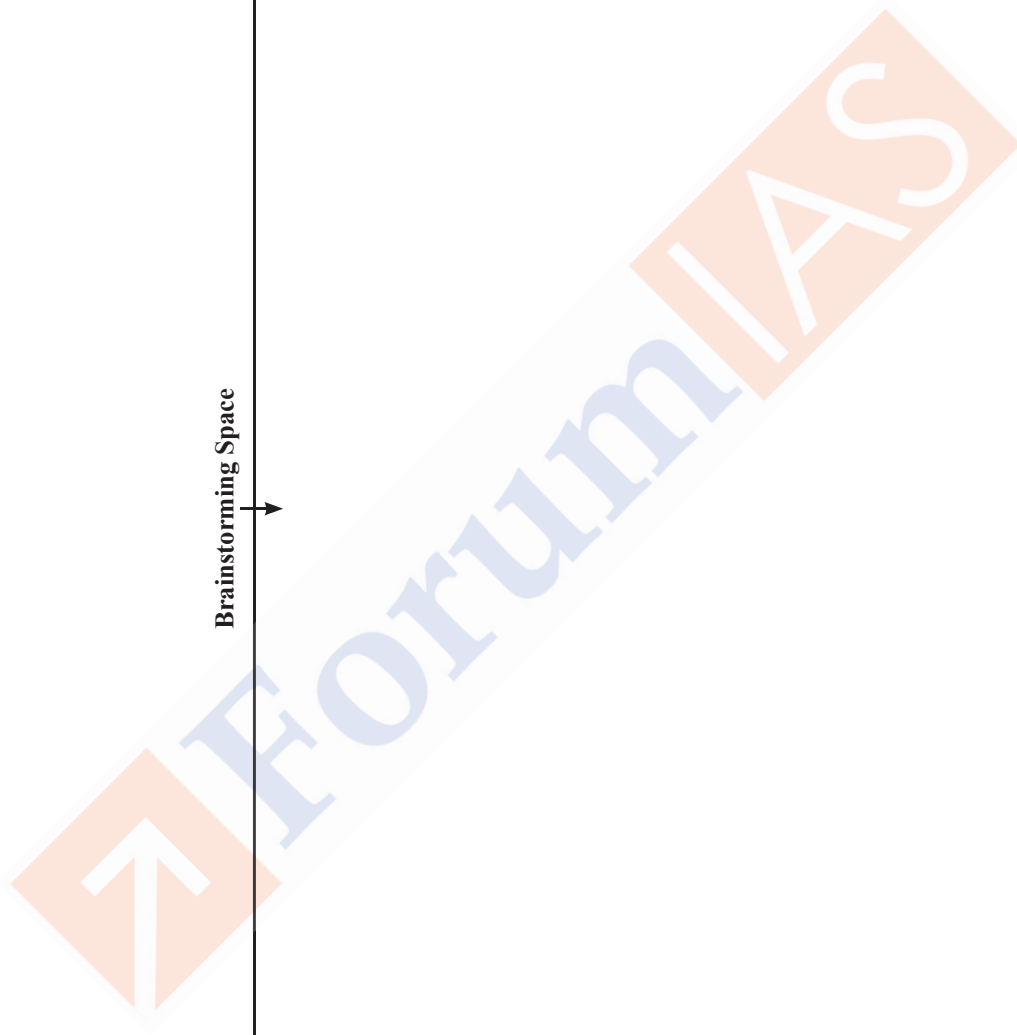
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Q.17) Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres?

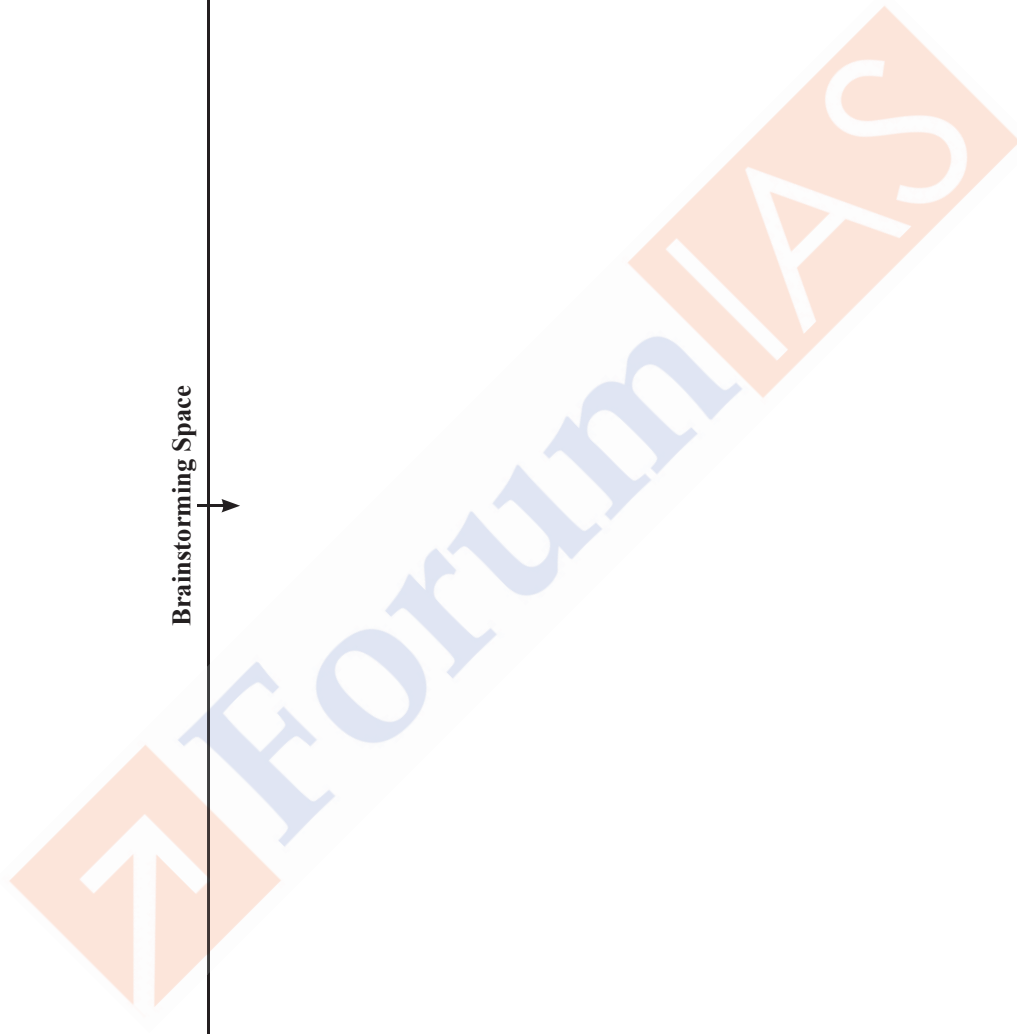
(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2017]

Brainstorming Space



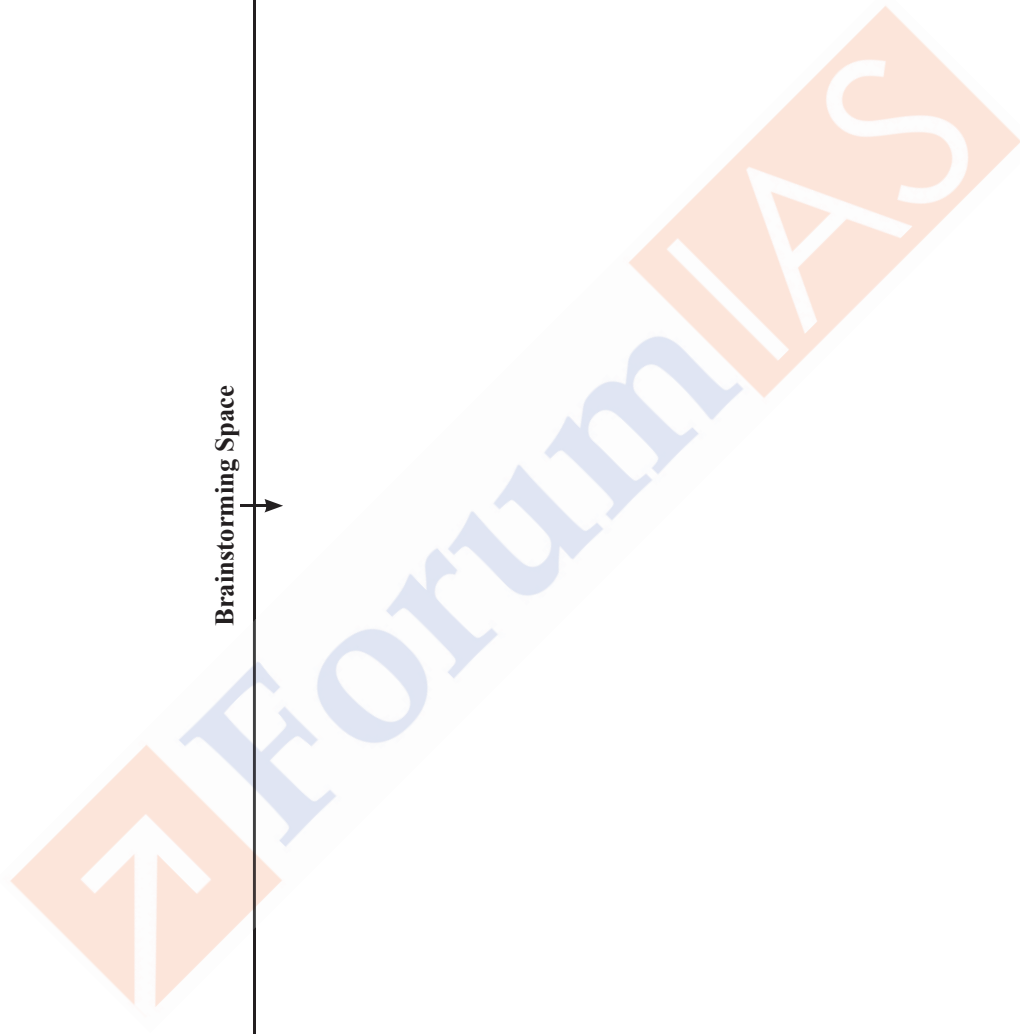
**Q.18)** Exercise of CAG's powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149. Discuss whether audit of the Government's Policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own jurisdiction. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2016]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.19)** What is a quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2016]

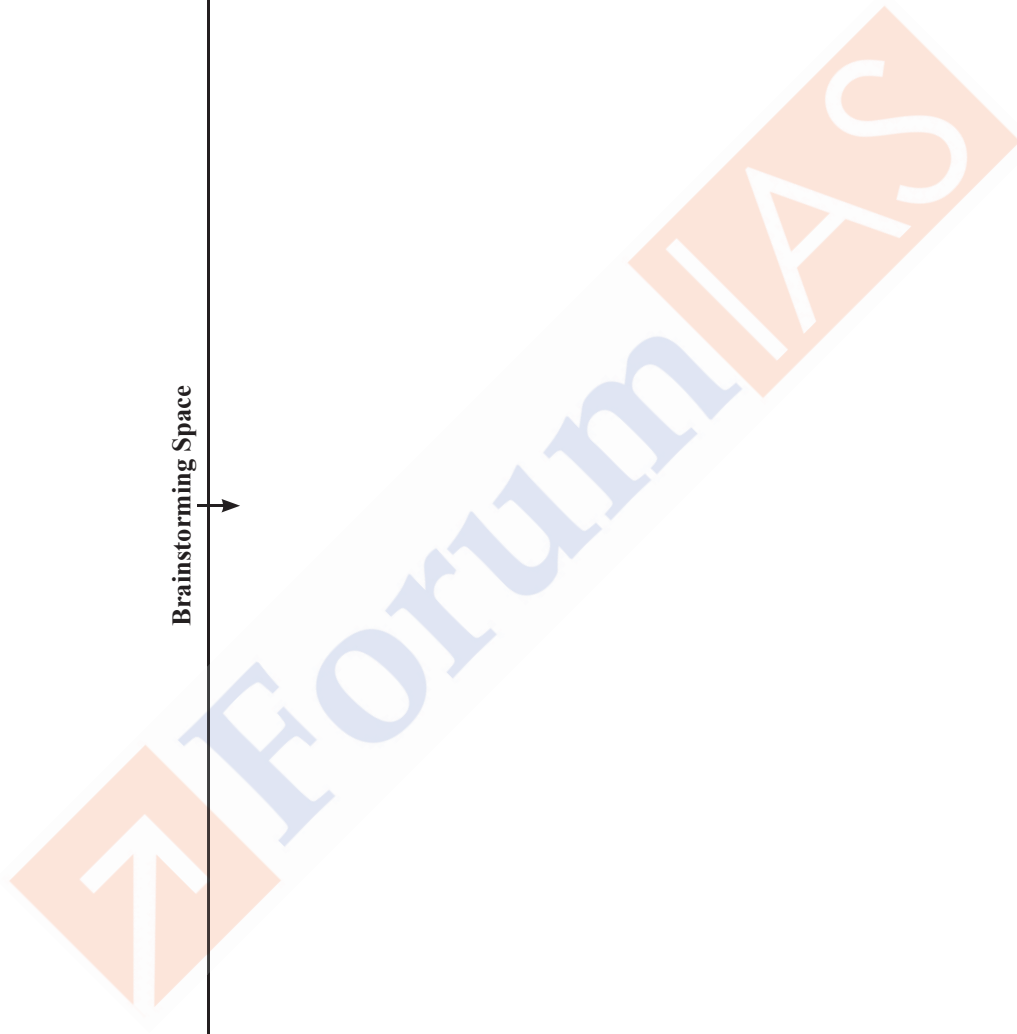
Brainstorming Space



**Q.20)** 'For achieving the desired objectives, it is necessary to ensure that the regulatory institutions remain independent and autonomous.'  
Discuss in the light of the experiences in recent past.

(12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2015]

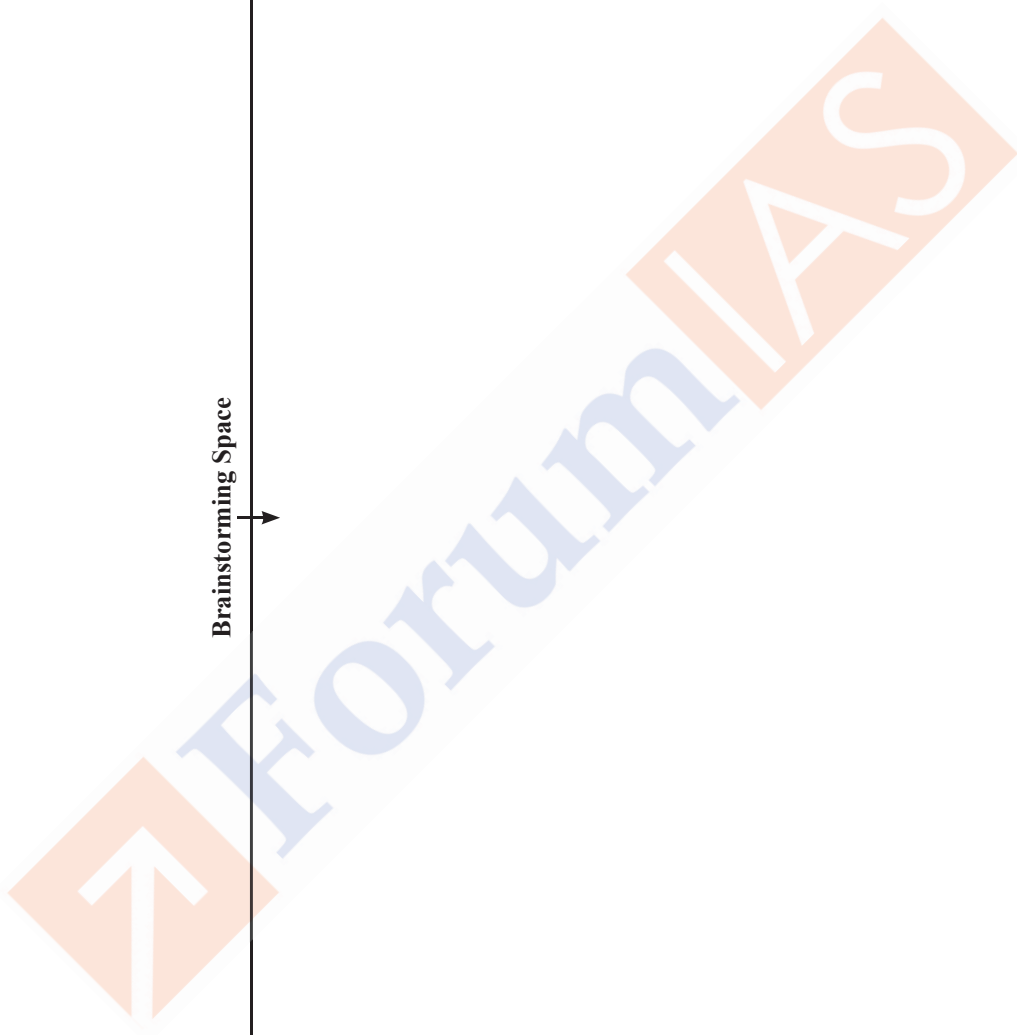
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**Q.21)** The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers.

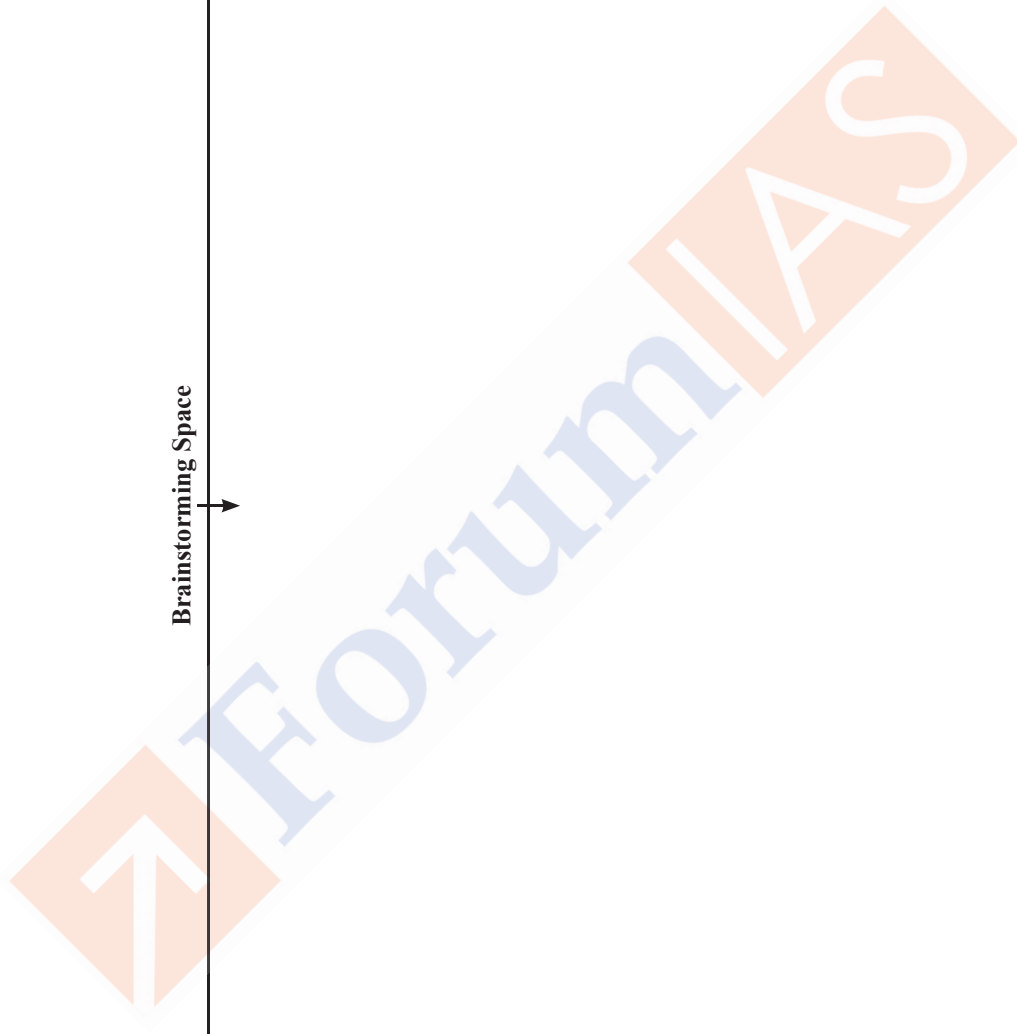
(12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2014]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.22)** National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms. Assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2014]

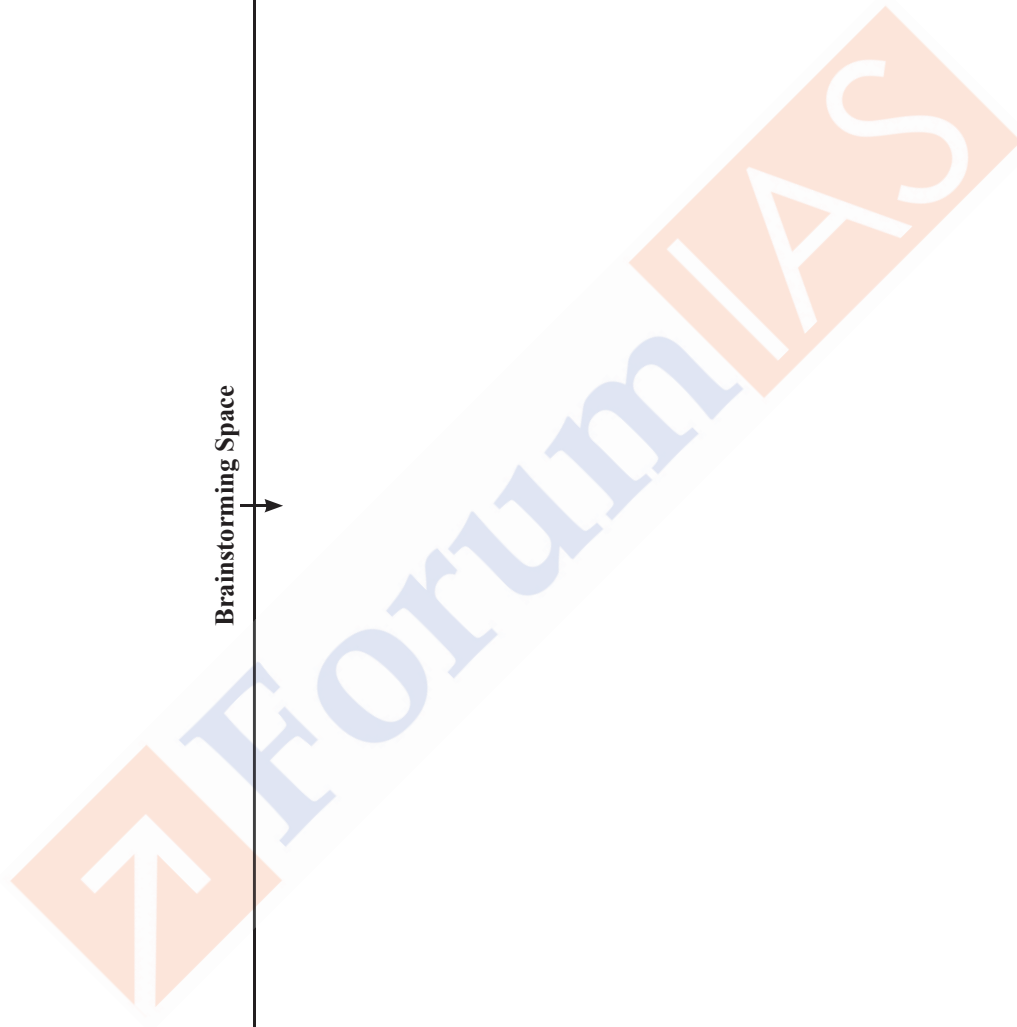
Brainstorming Space



**Q.23)** Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances.

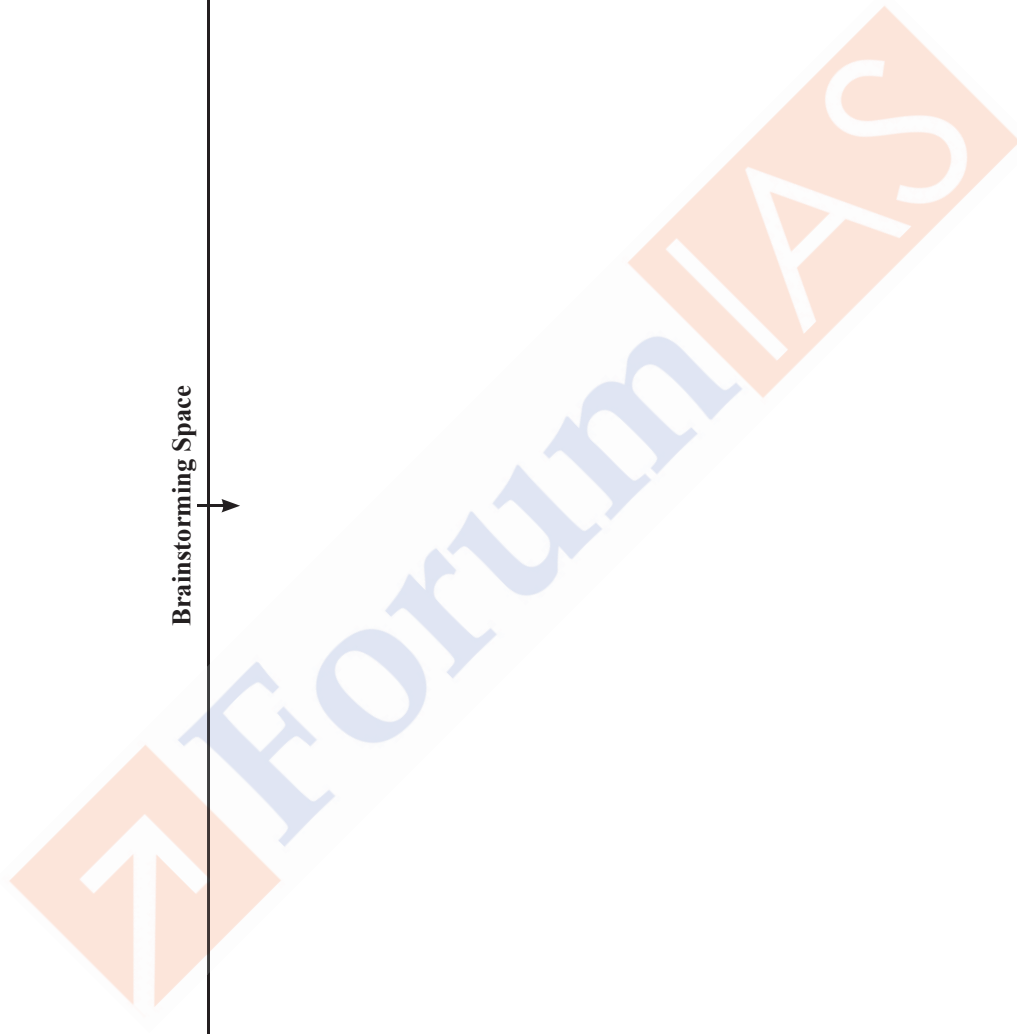
(12.5 Marks, 200 Words) [2013]

Brainstorming Space



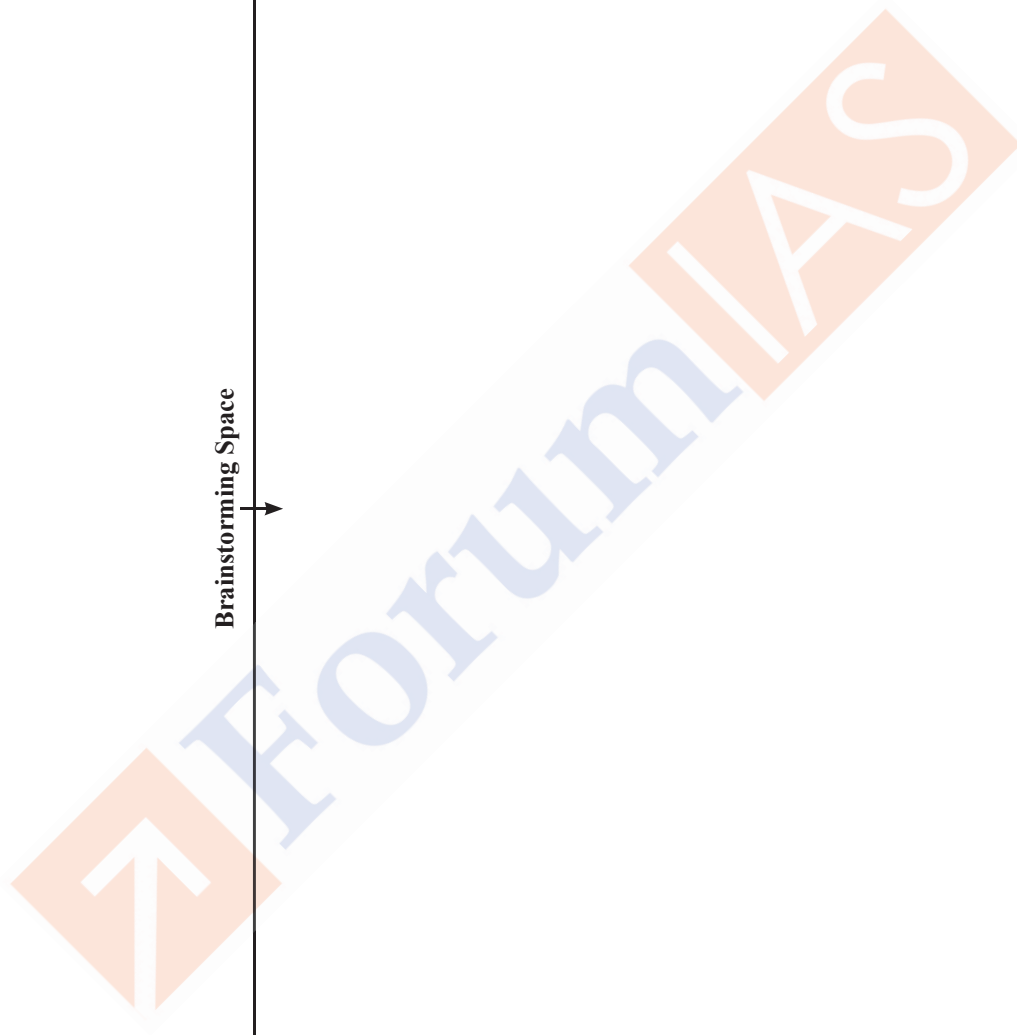
**Q.24)** Discuss the composition and functions of Union Public Service Commission. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2008]

Brainstorming Space



Q.25) How does the Inter-State Council establish co-ordination between States? (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2006]

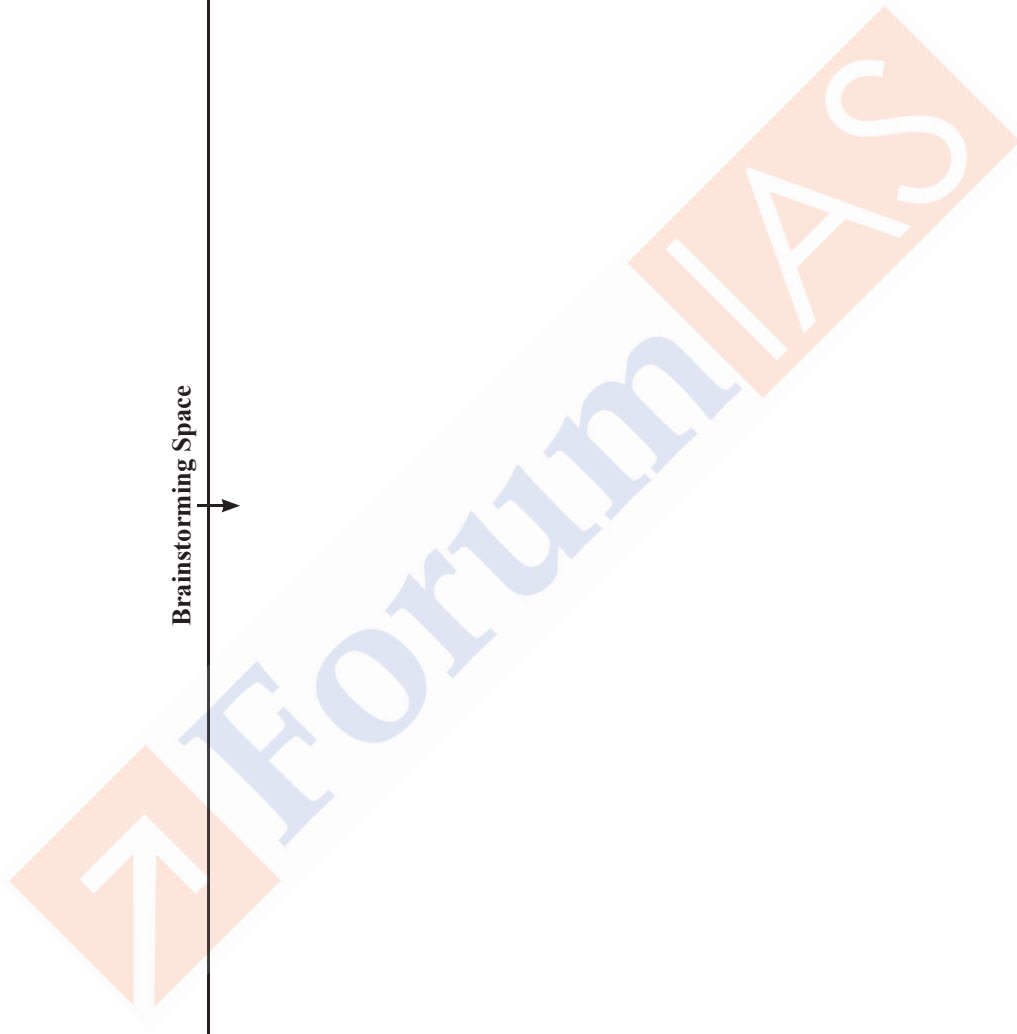
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**Q.26)** What are the steps that the Election Commission may take if a recalcitrant State Government wants to put off Assembly Elections?

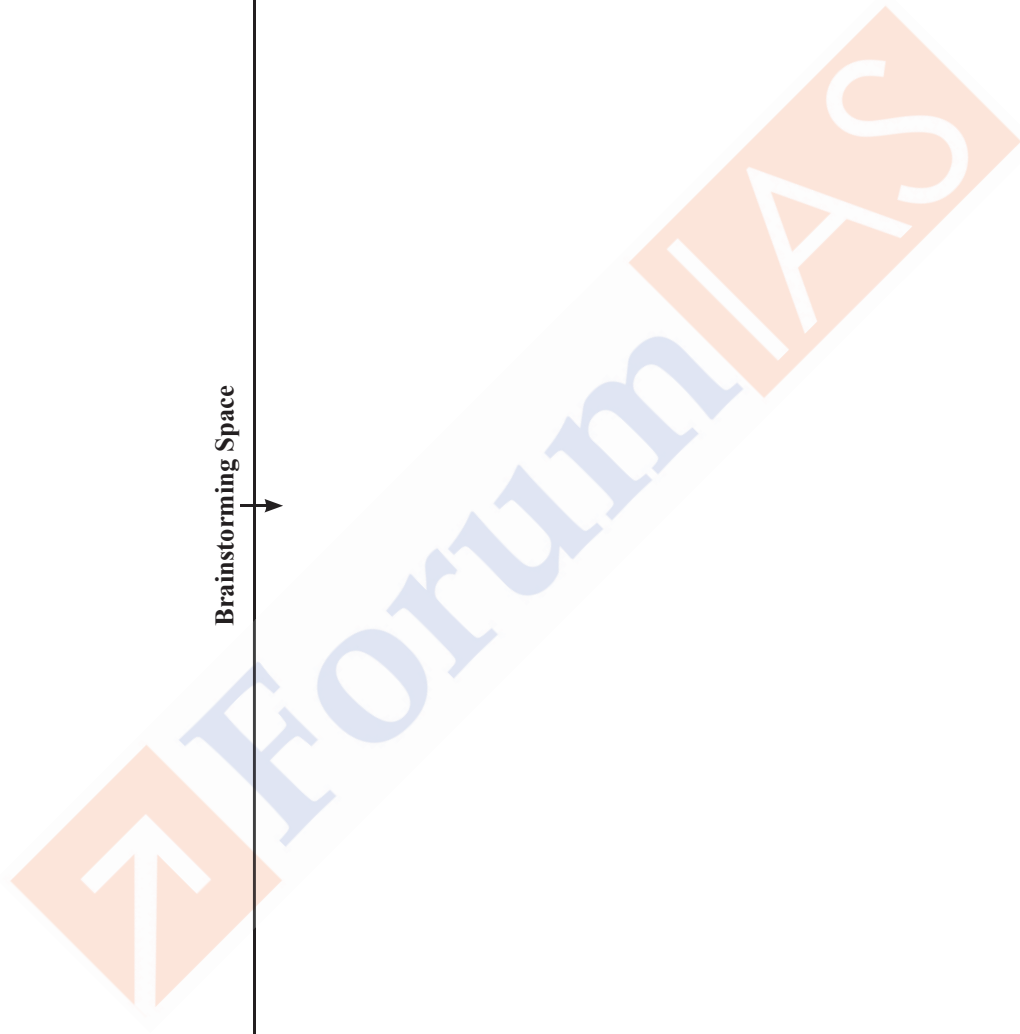
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2005]

Brainstorming Space



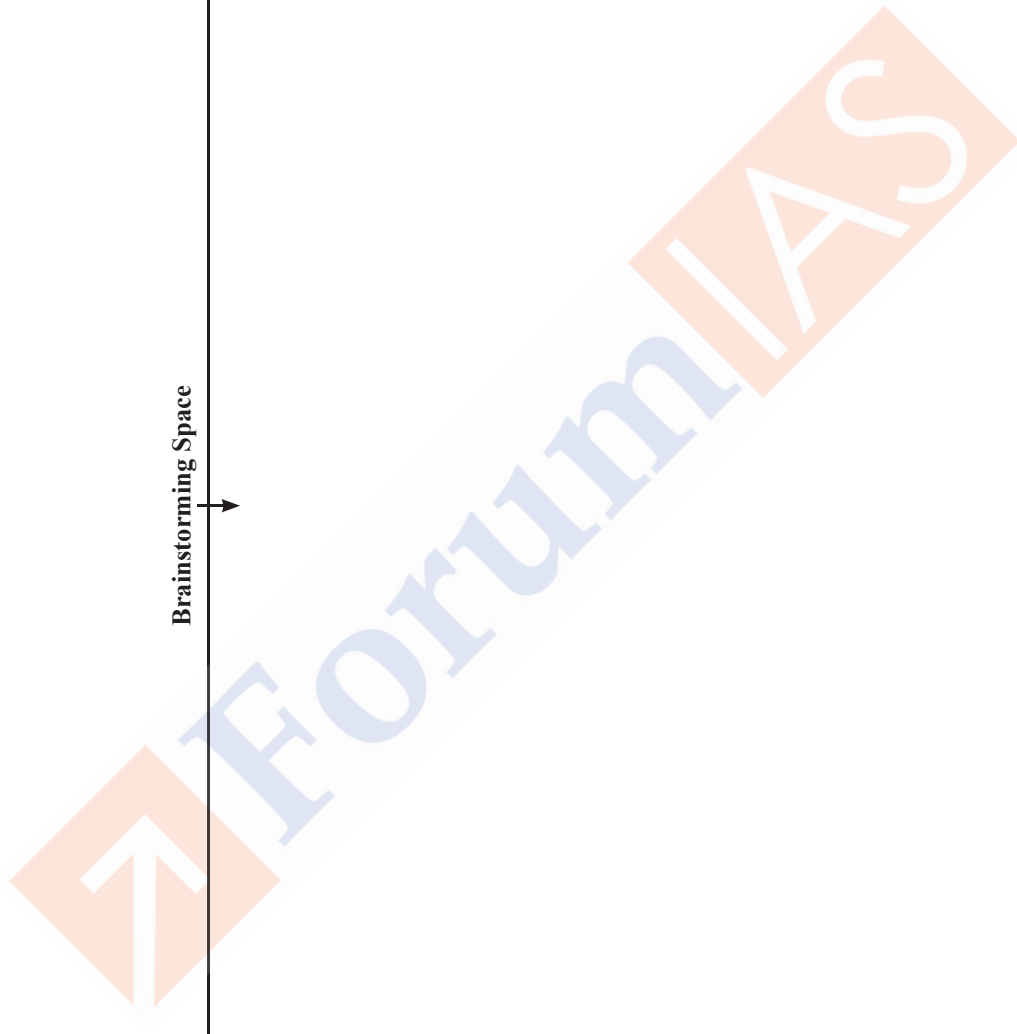
Q.27) How does the Indian Constitution Seek to maintain independence of the Public Service Commission? (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2004]

Brainstorming Space



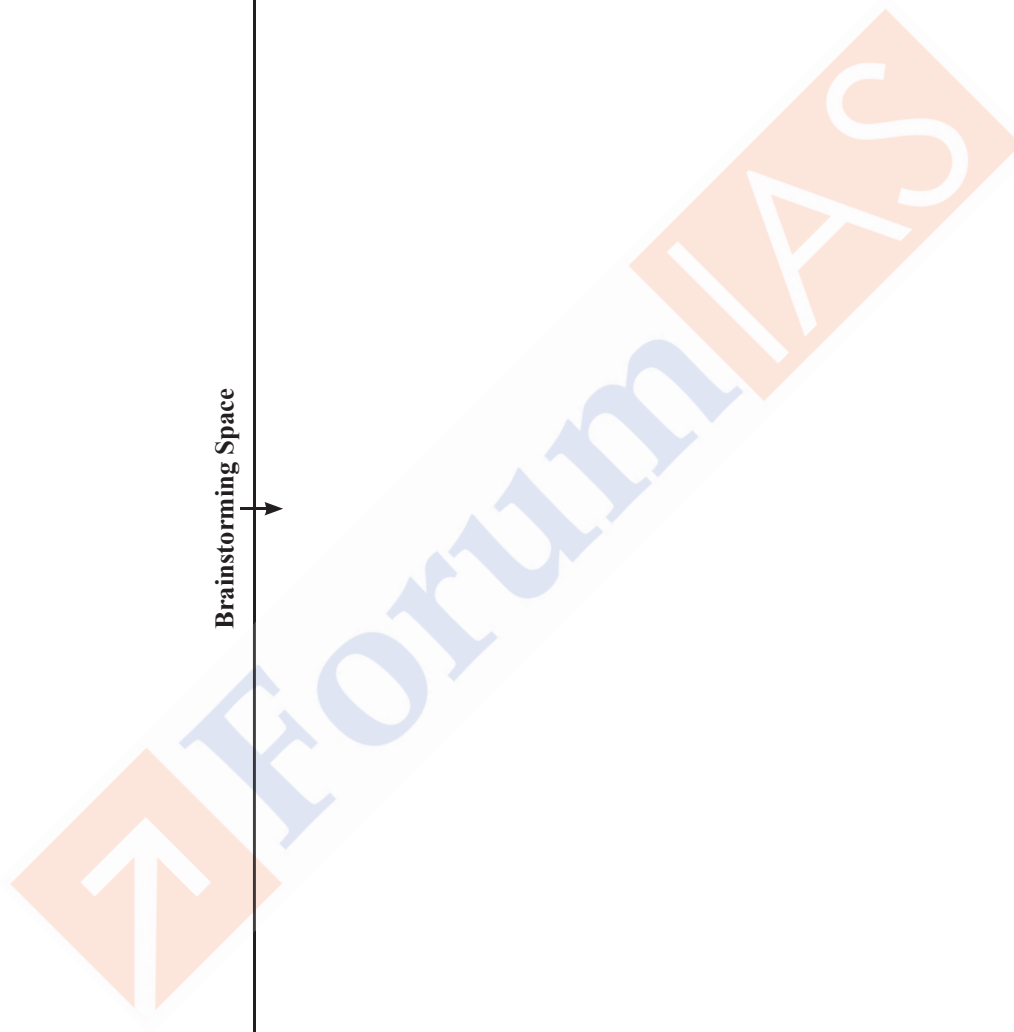
**Q.28)** What is a Finance Commission? Discuss the main functions of the State Finance Commission. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2004]

Brainstorming Space



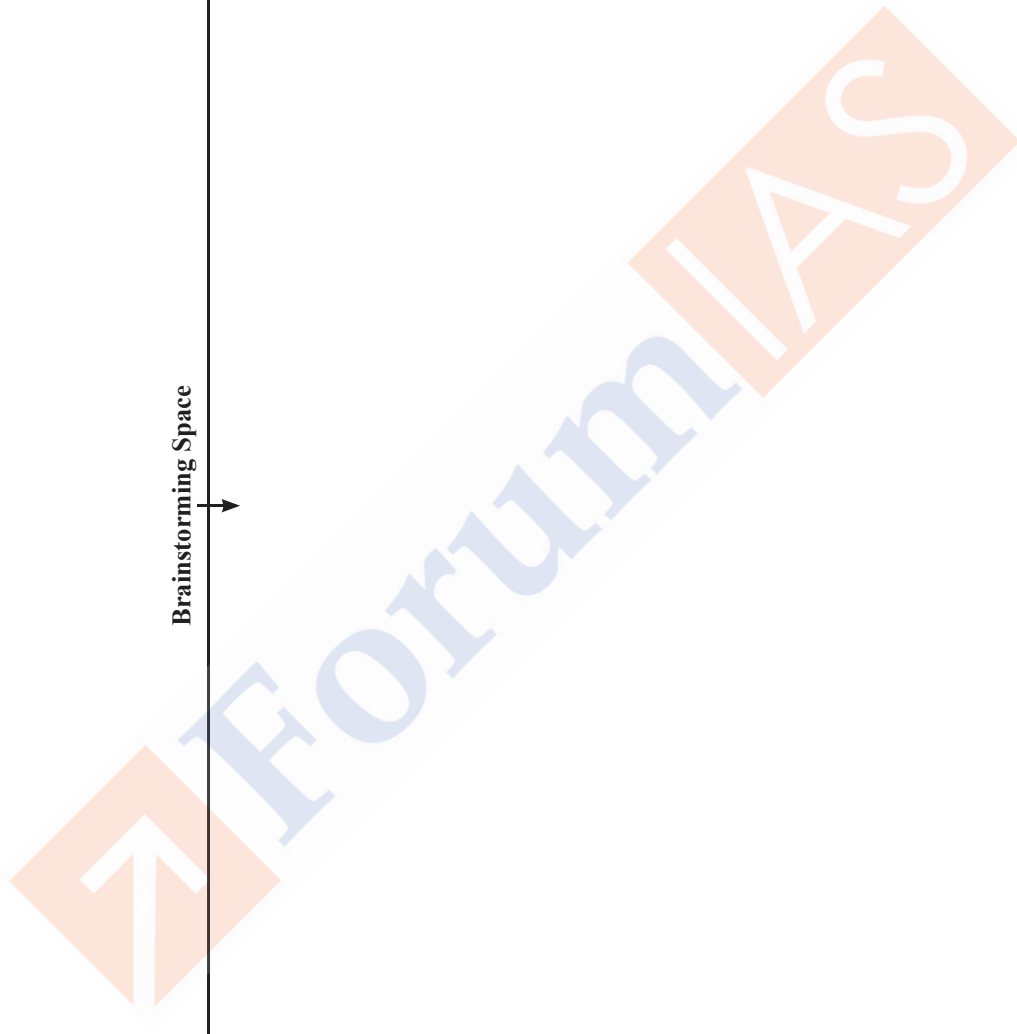
Q.29) What is a Finance Commission? (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2003]

Brainstorming Space



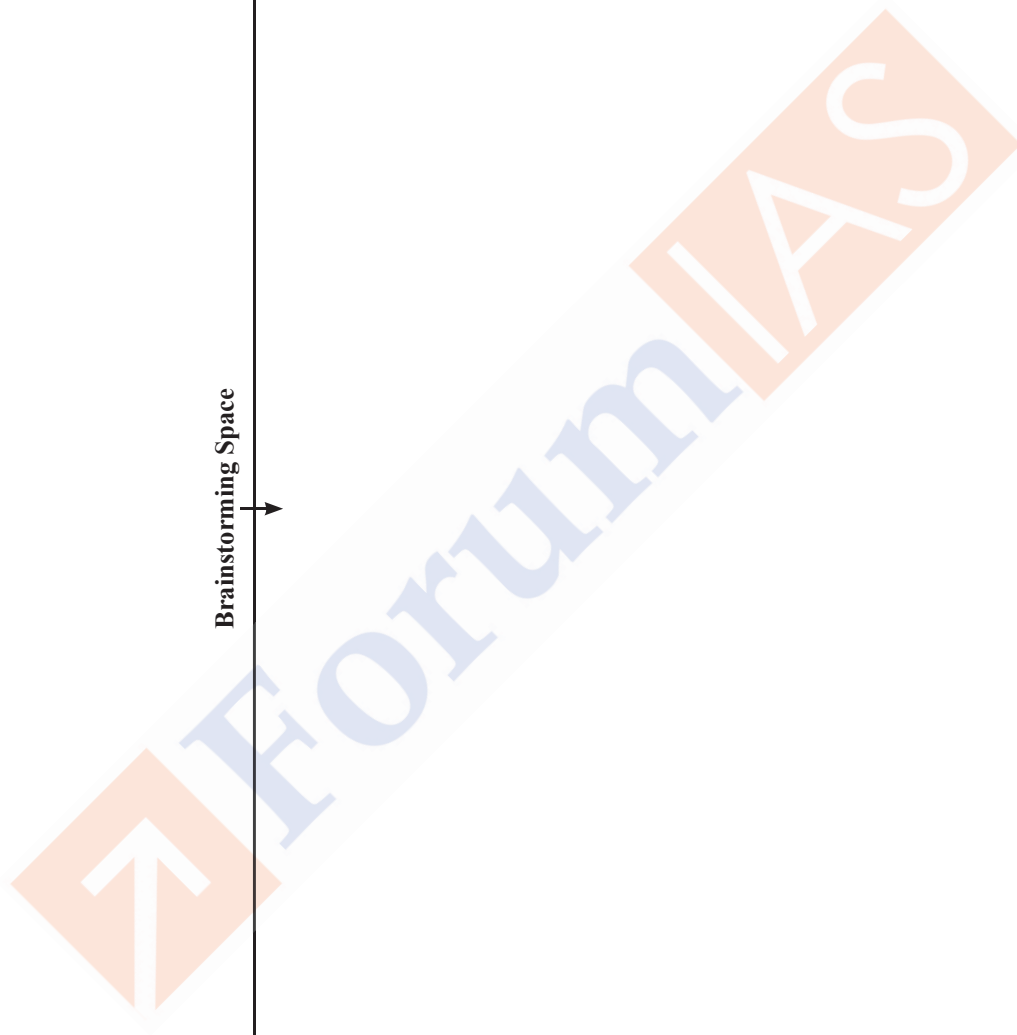
**Q.30)** Discuss the composition and functions of the National Security Council.  
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [1999]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.31)** Present your views for and against the creation of an All India Judicial Service.  
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [1997]

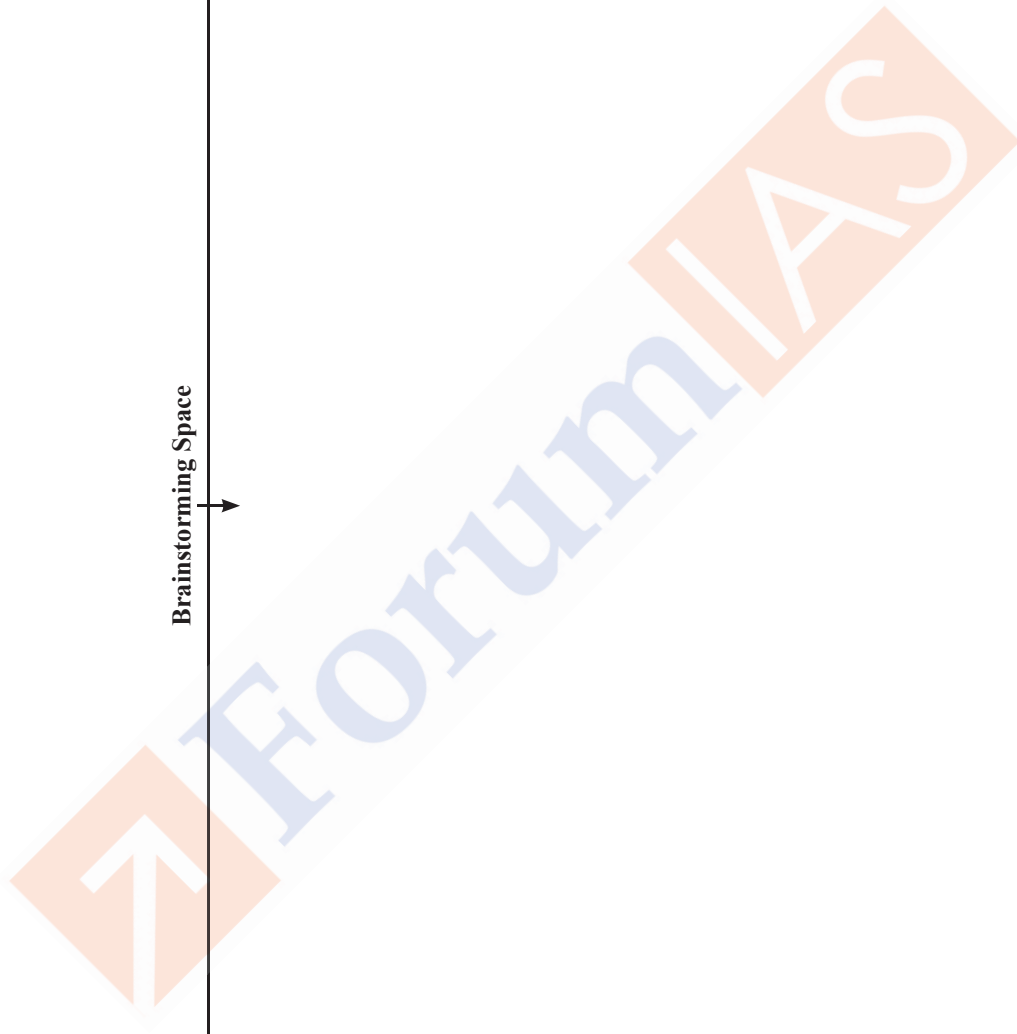
Brainstorming Space



**Q.32)** What is the stand of the Election Commission on the residential qualification of the members of the Rajya Sabha?

(10 Marks, 150 Words) [1994]

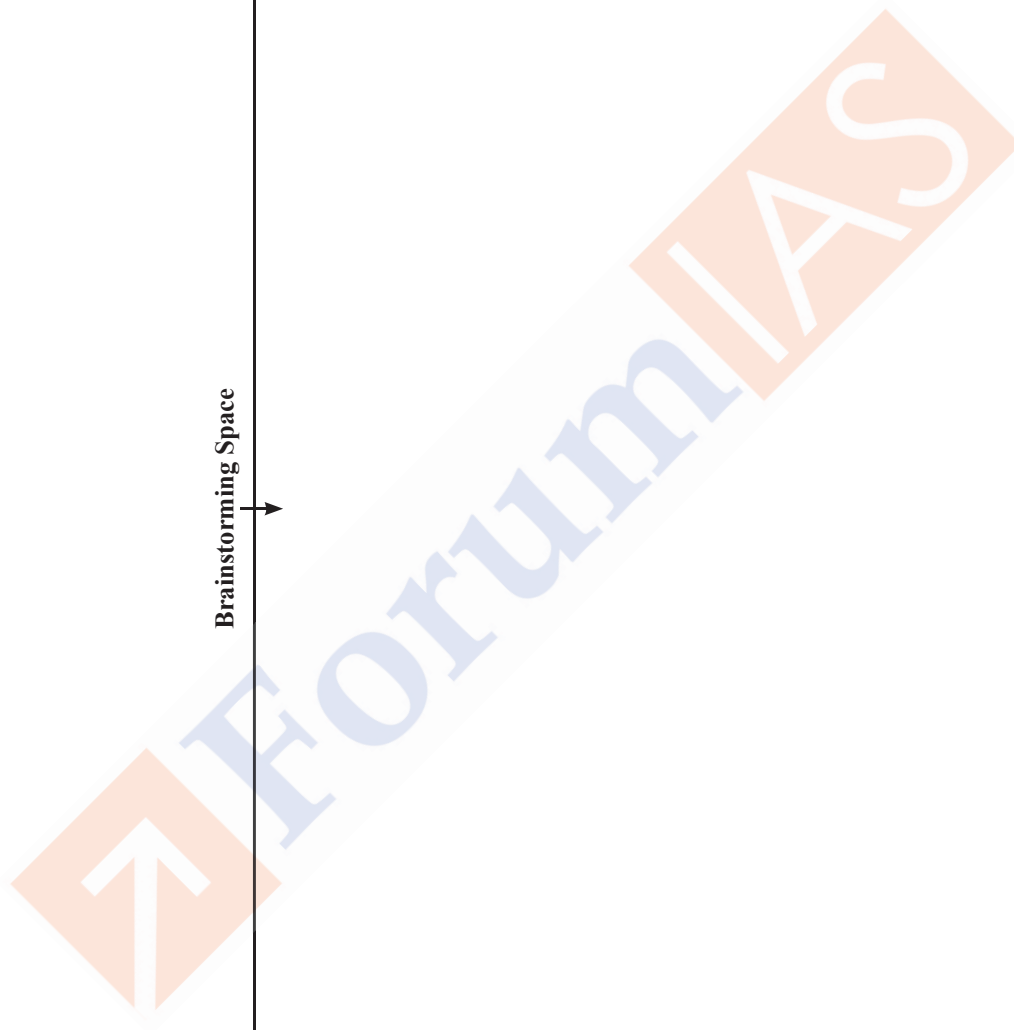
Brainstorming Space



**Q.33)** Explain the role of the Planning Commission and the National Development Council in the formulation of public policy in India.

(15 Marks, 250 Words) [1994]

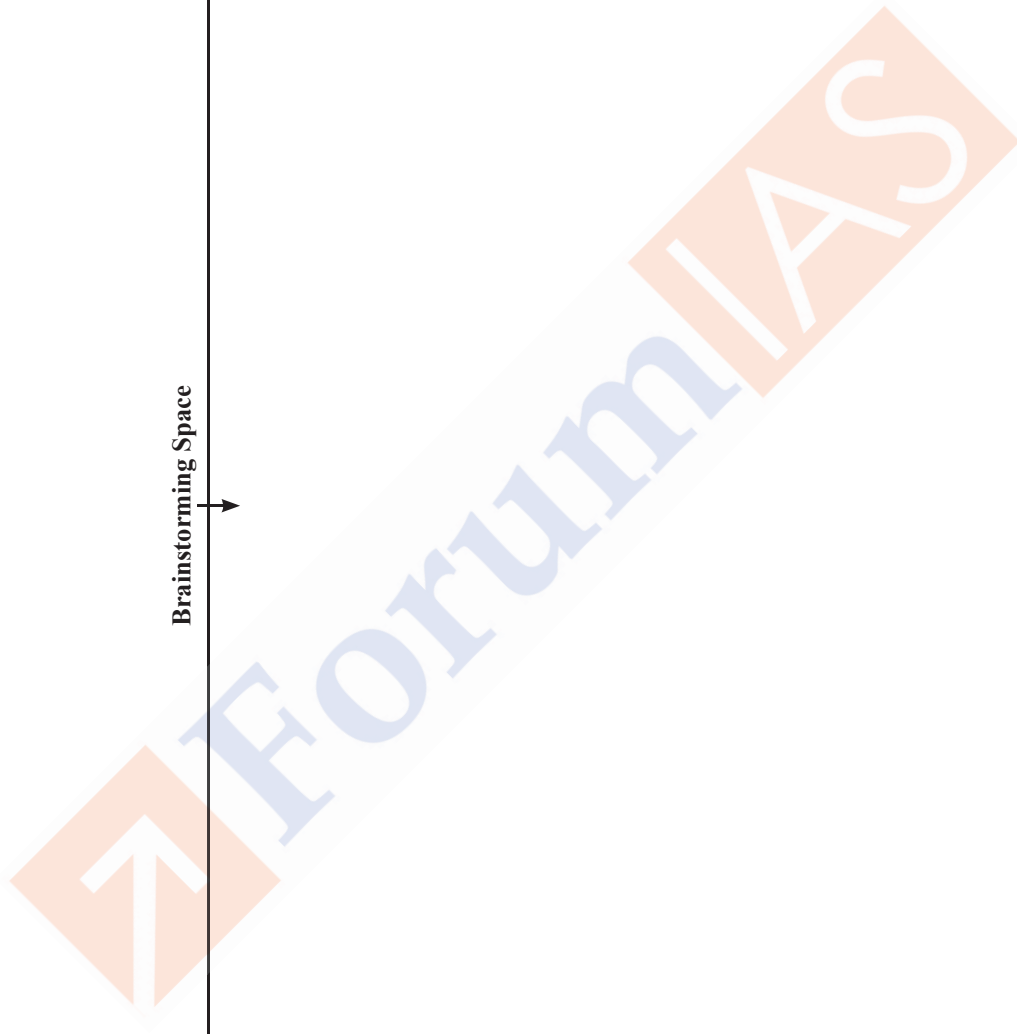
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**Q.34)** Explain the position of the Election Commission with regard to the residential qualification of the members of the Council of States.

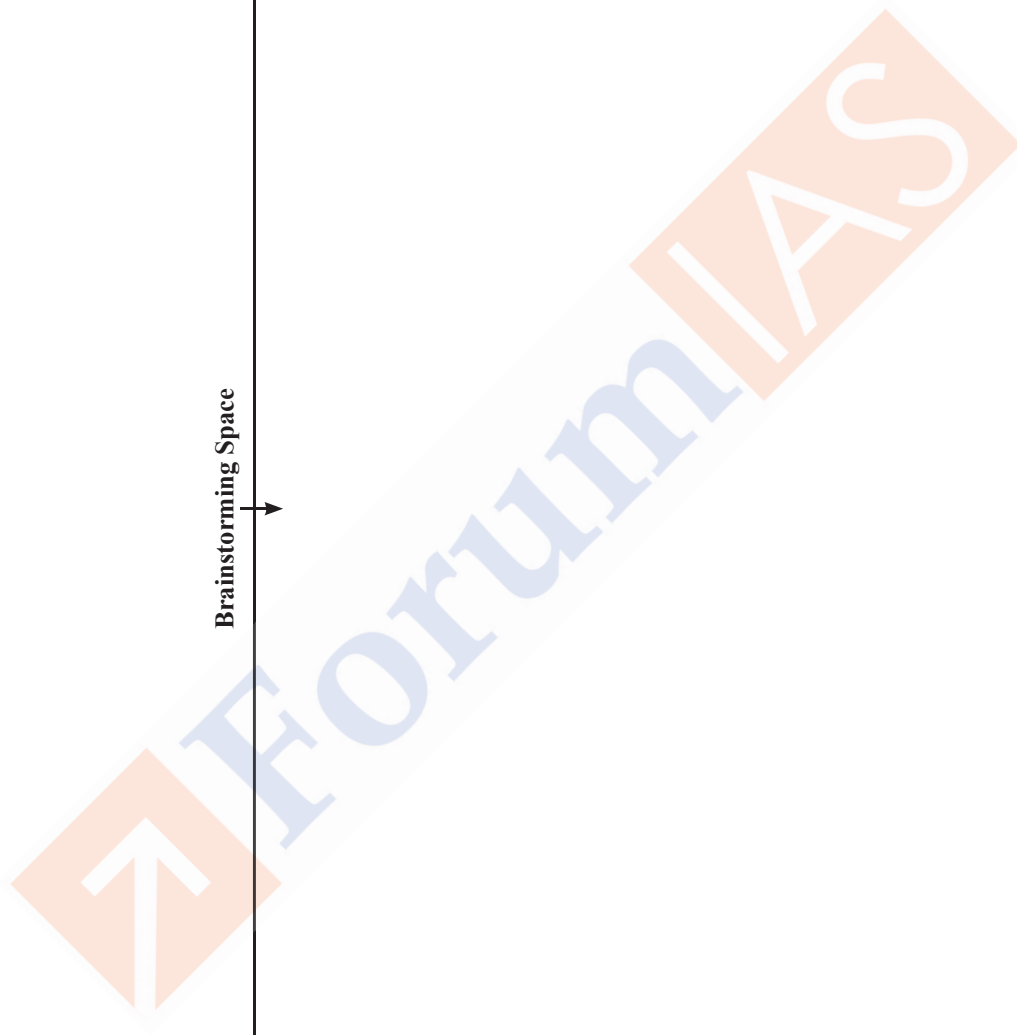
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [1994]

Brainstorming Space



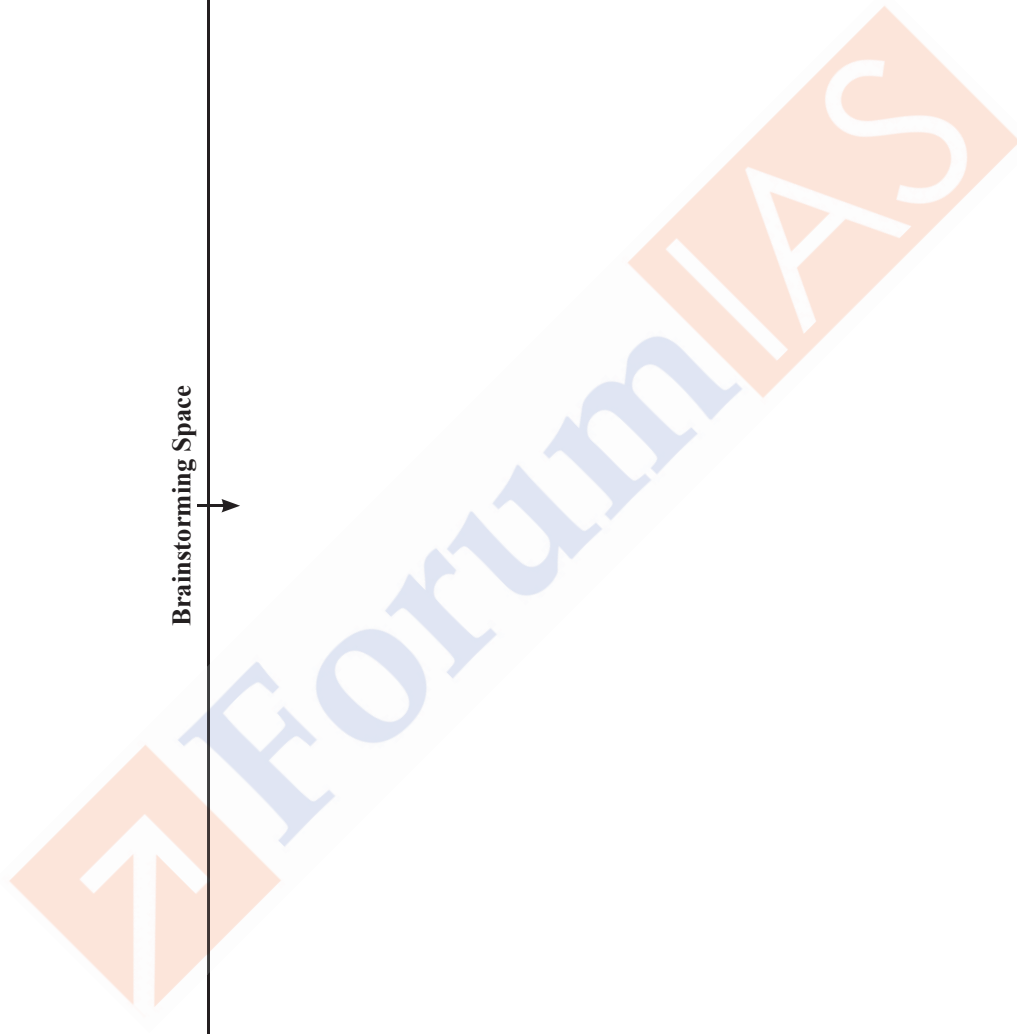
**Q.35)** Describe the composition and functions of the Election Commission of India. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [1993]

Brainstorming Space



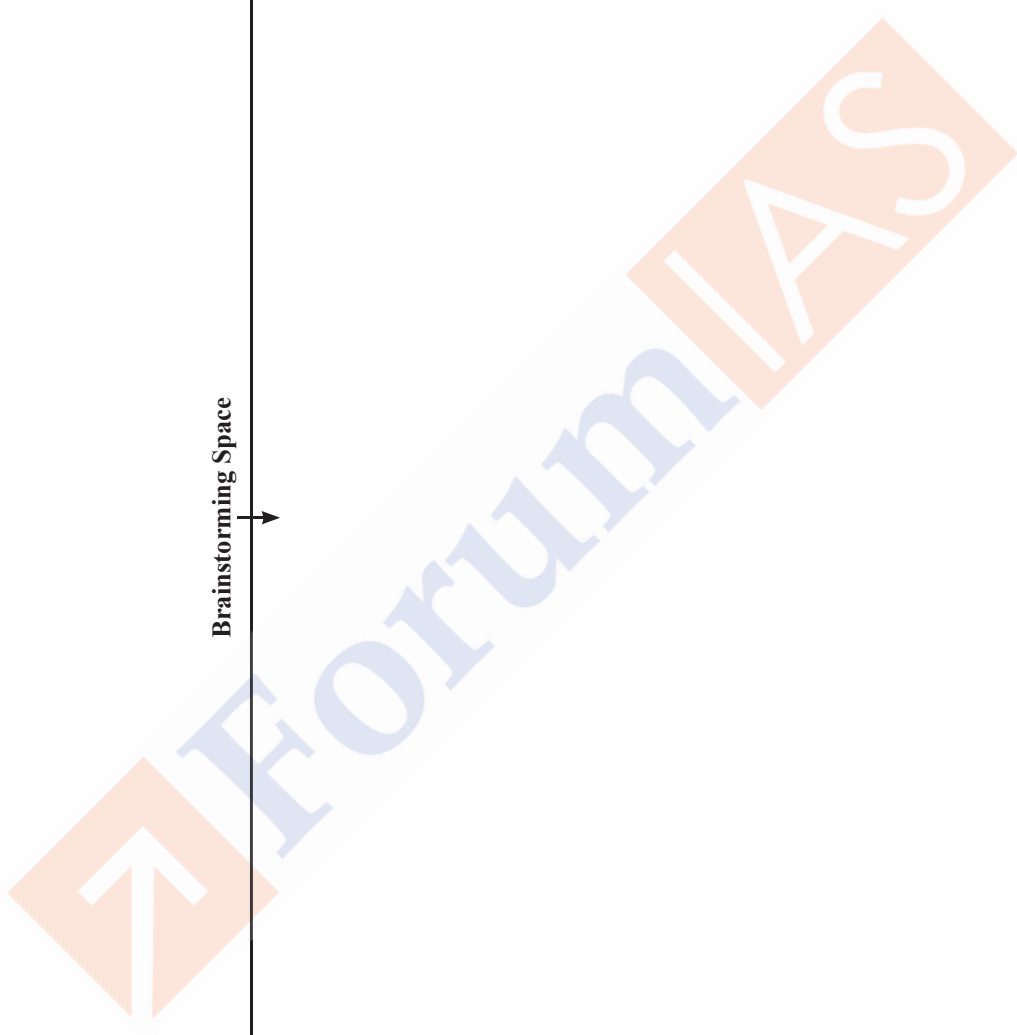
**Q.36)** Describe the composition and functions of the National Development Council.  
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [1993]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.37)** What is National Integration Council? Is there a need for it? What was the major outcome of the recent meeting of the National Integration Council?  
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [1991]

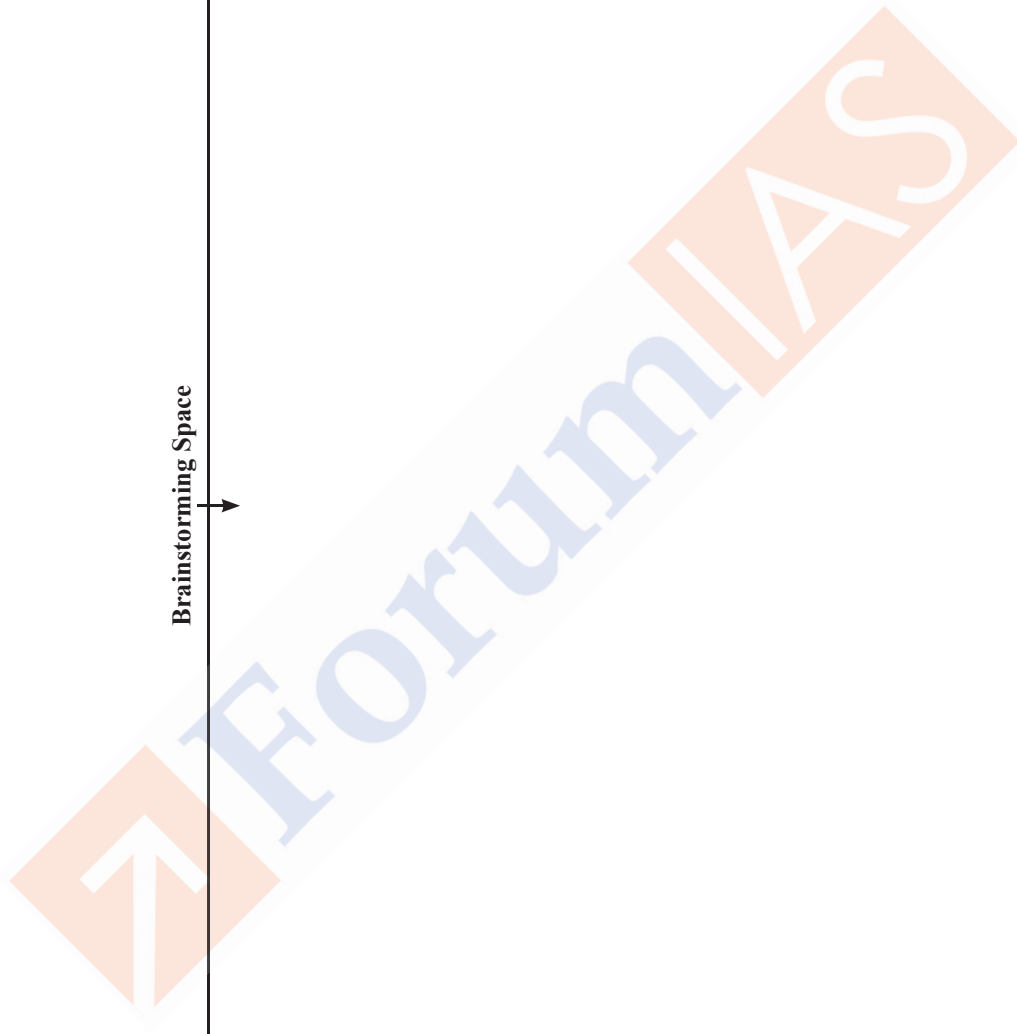
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**Q.38)** What are the constitutional provisions that ensure the independence of the Public Service Commissions in India?

(10 Marks, 150 Words) [1991]

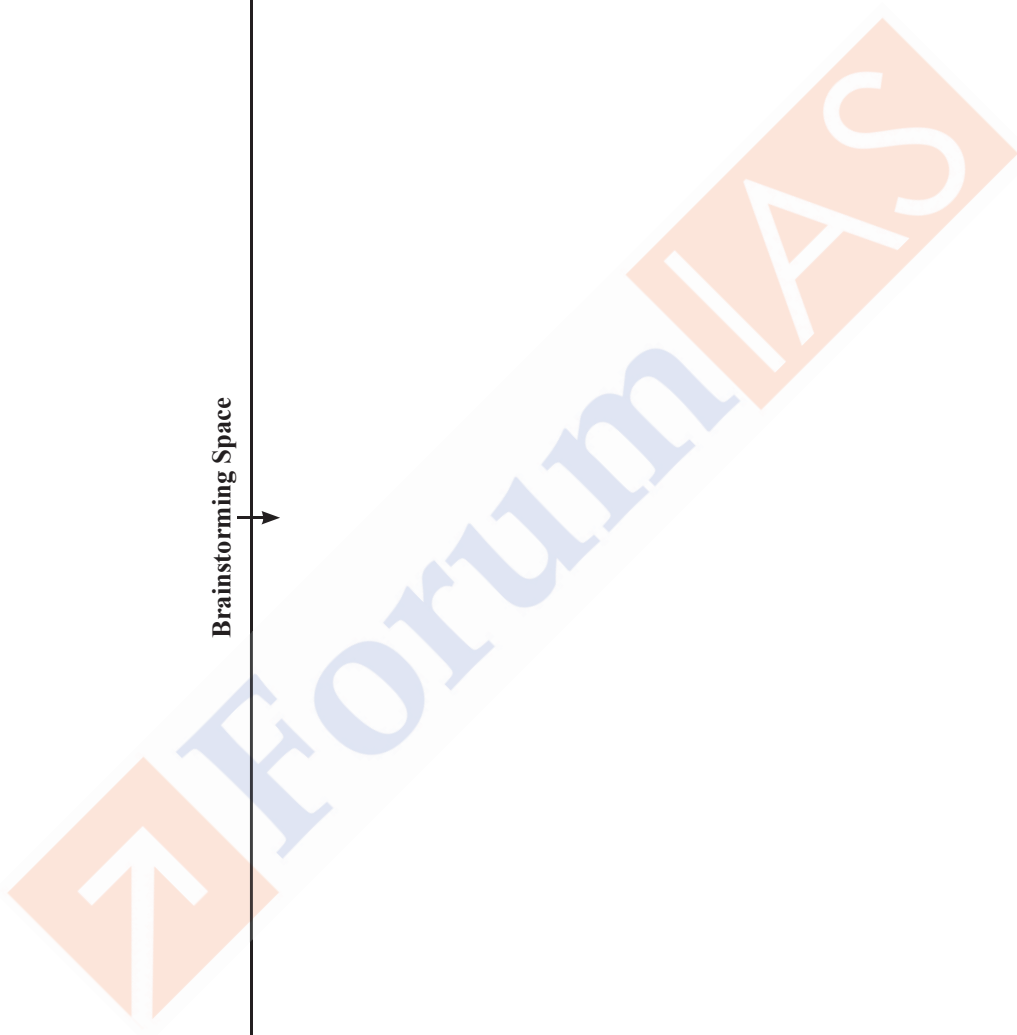
Brainstorming Space



**Q.39)** Define the duties and powers of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in regard to Audit and show how the Constitution provides for his independence from Executive Control.

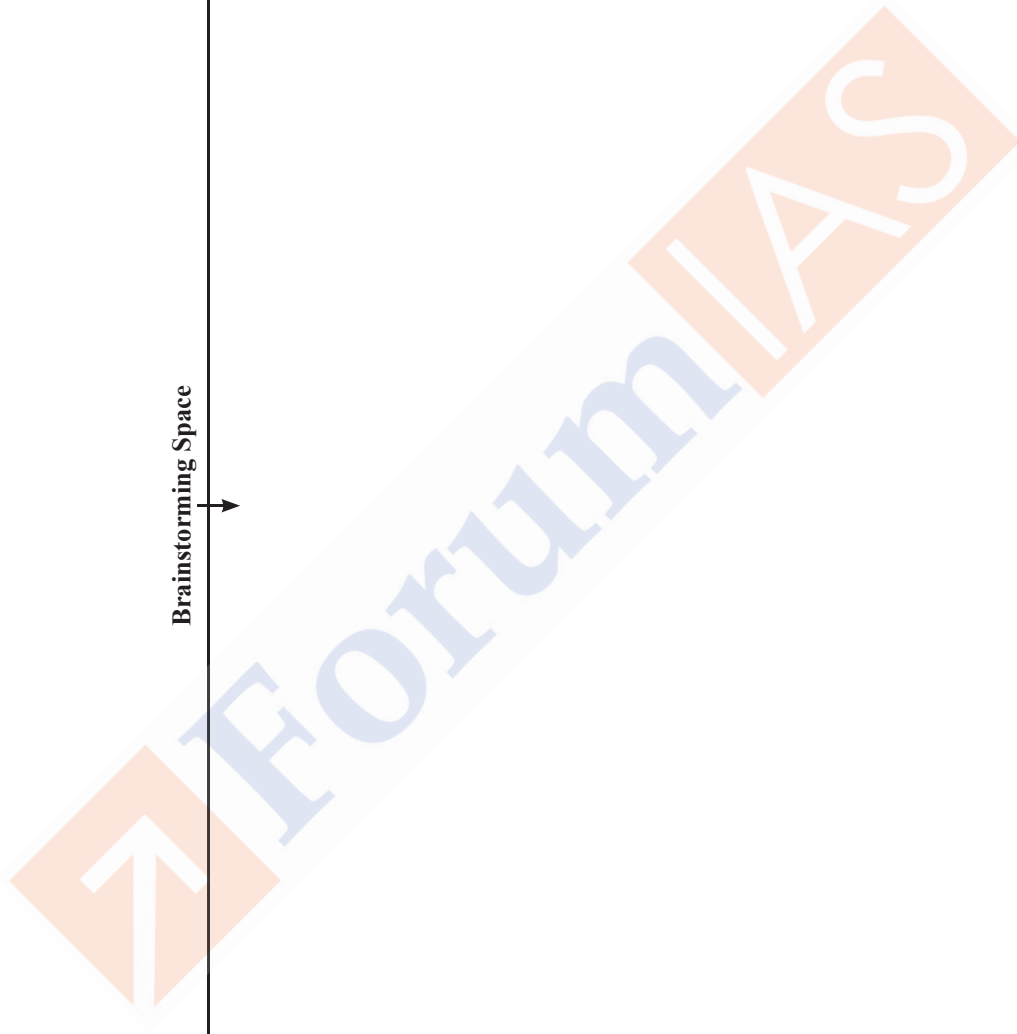
(15 Marks, 250 Words) [1989]

Brainstorming Space



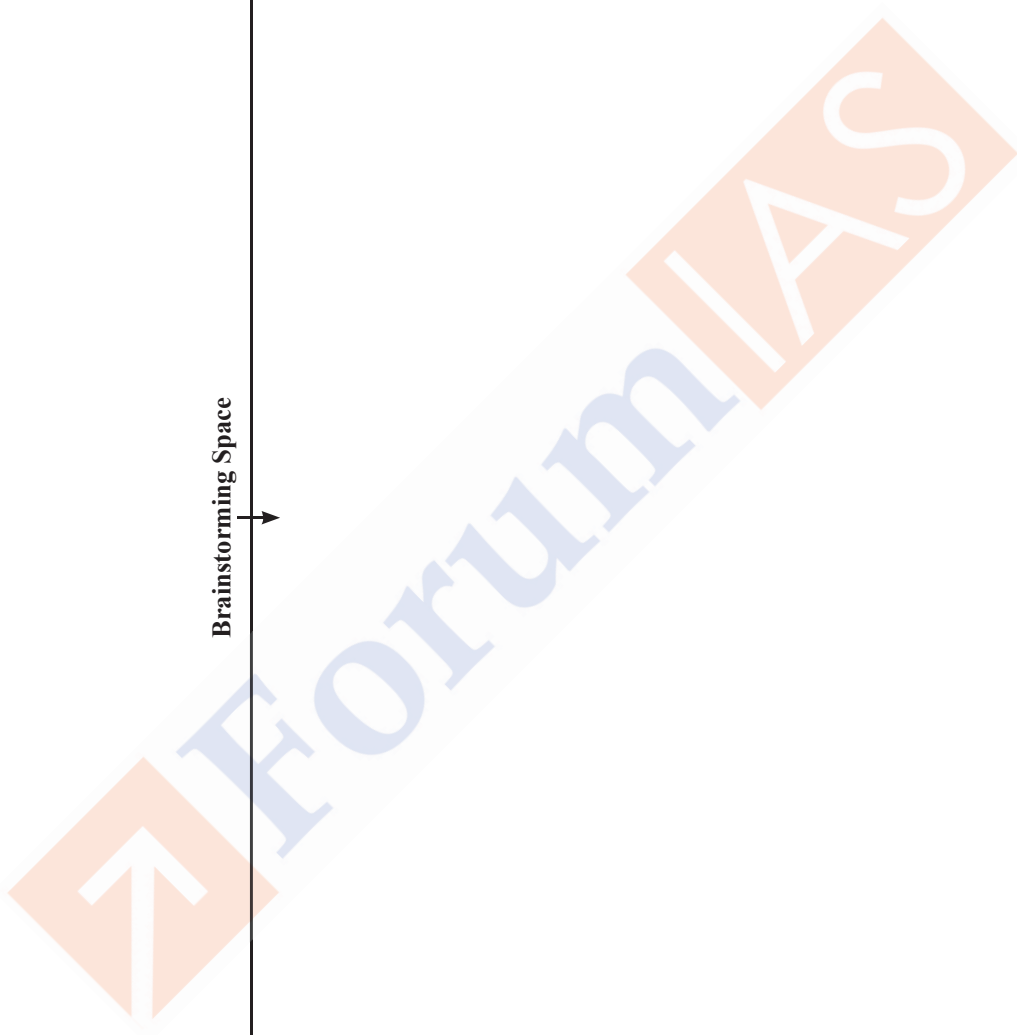
**Q.40)** Explain the Constitutional responsibilities of the Election Commission of India. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [1988]

Brainstorming Space



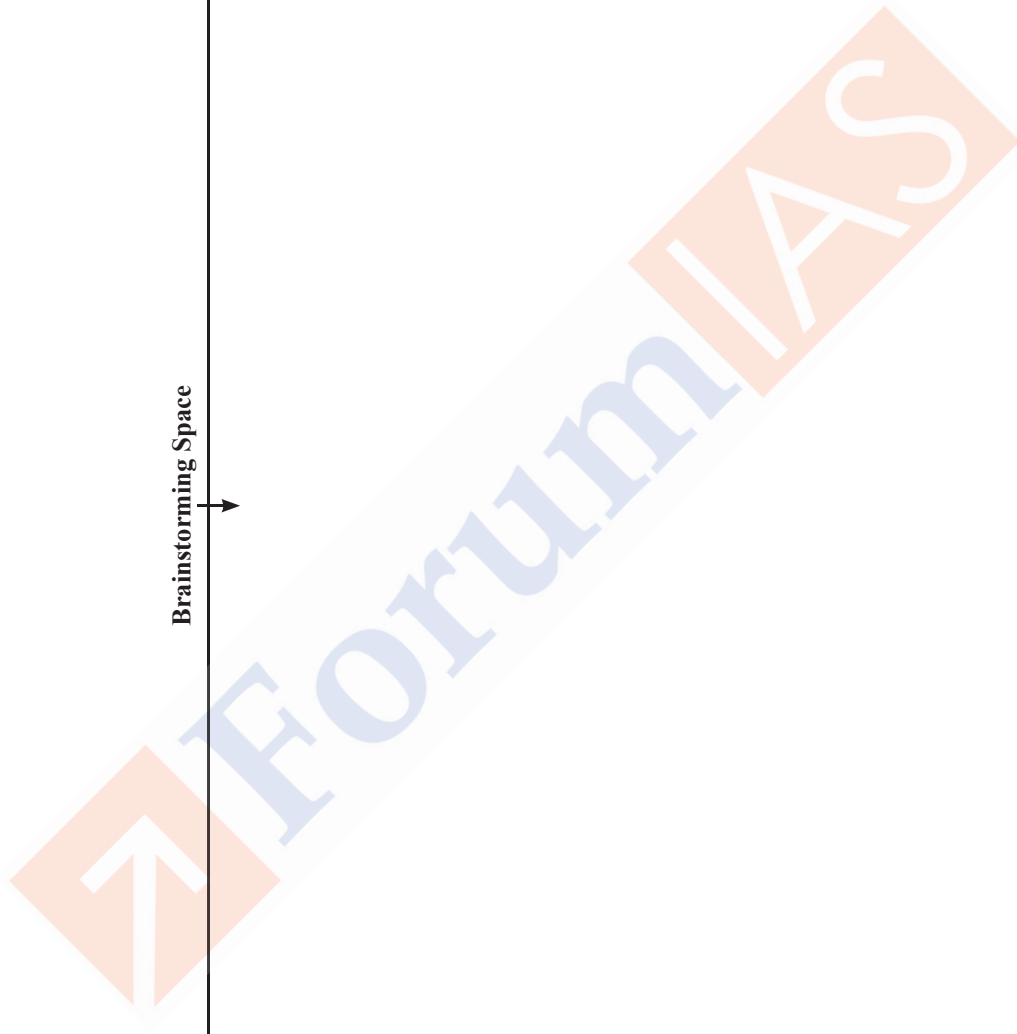
**Q.41)** Discuss the 'corrupt practices' for the purpose of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Analyze whether increase in assets of legislators disproportionate to known sources of income would constitute 'undue influence'. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2025]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.42)** Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to 'one nation – one election' principle. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2024]

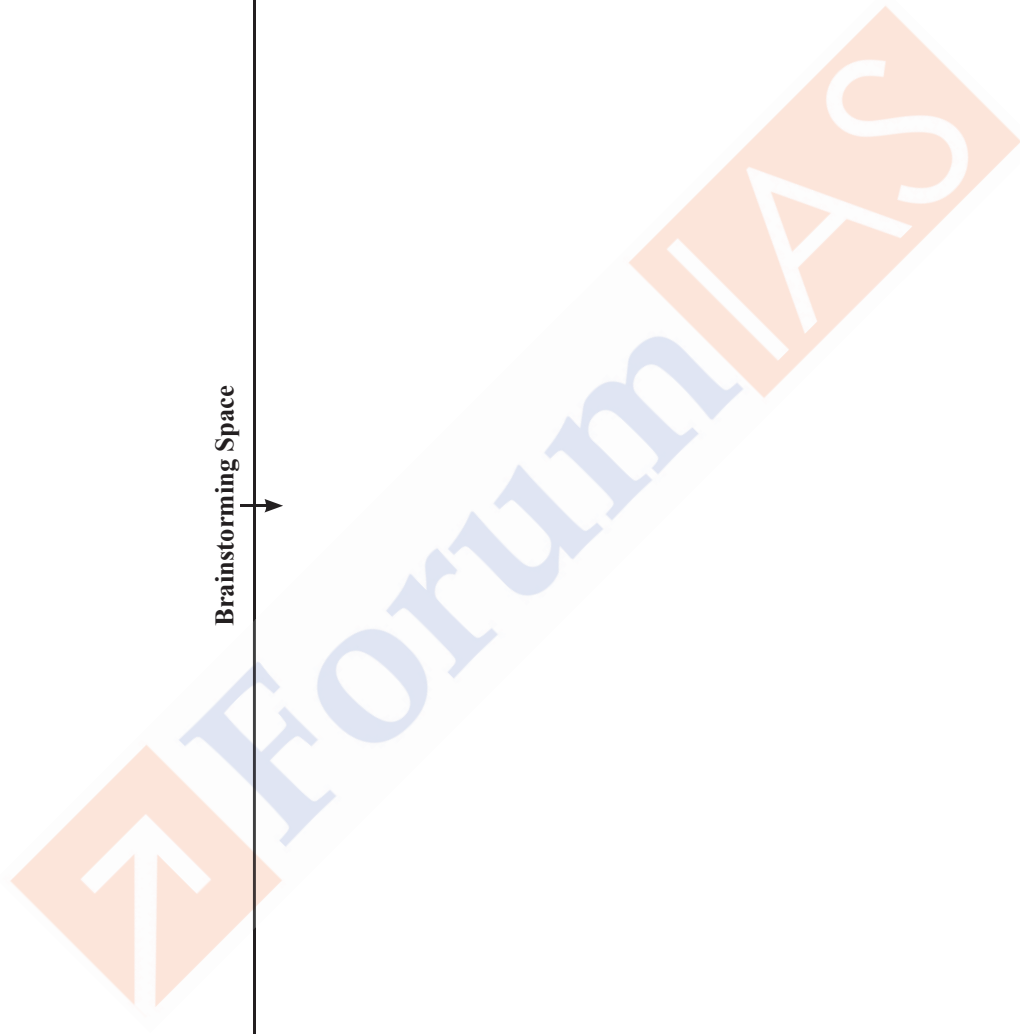
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**Q.43)** Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or a State Legislature under the Representation of People Act 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void?

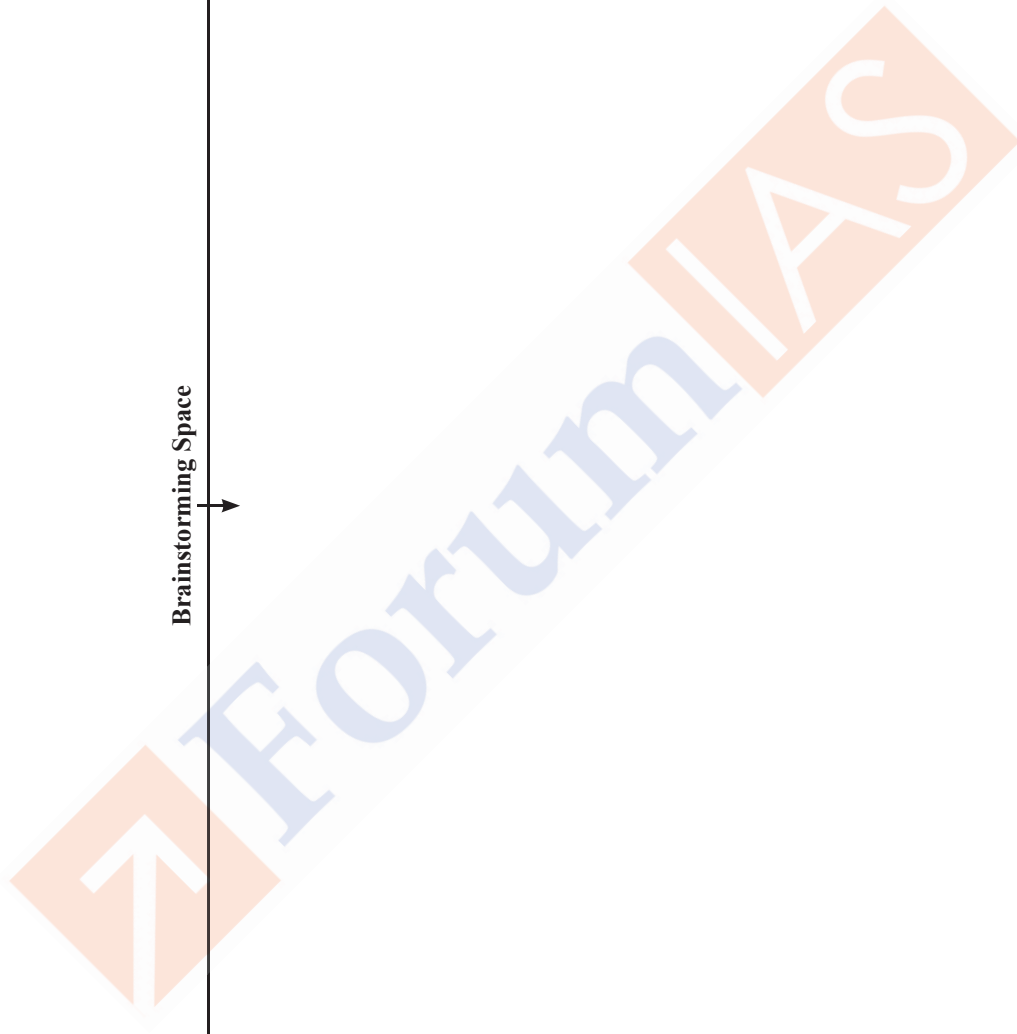
(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2022]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.44)** There is a need for simplification of Procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act. Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2020]

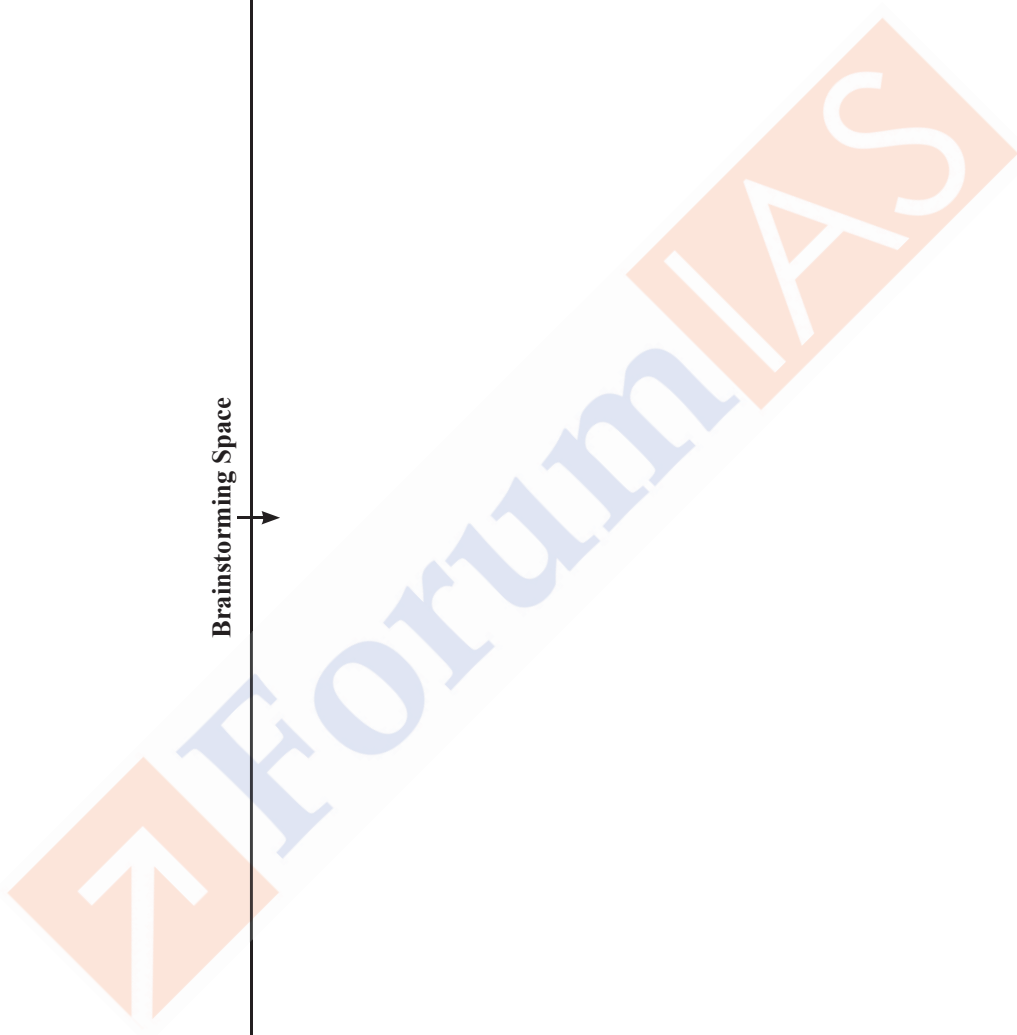
Brainstorming Space



**Q.45)** On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification.

(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2019]

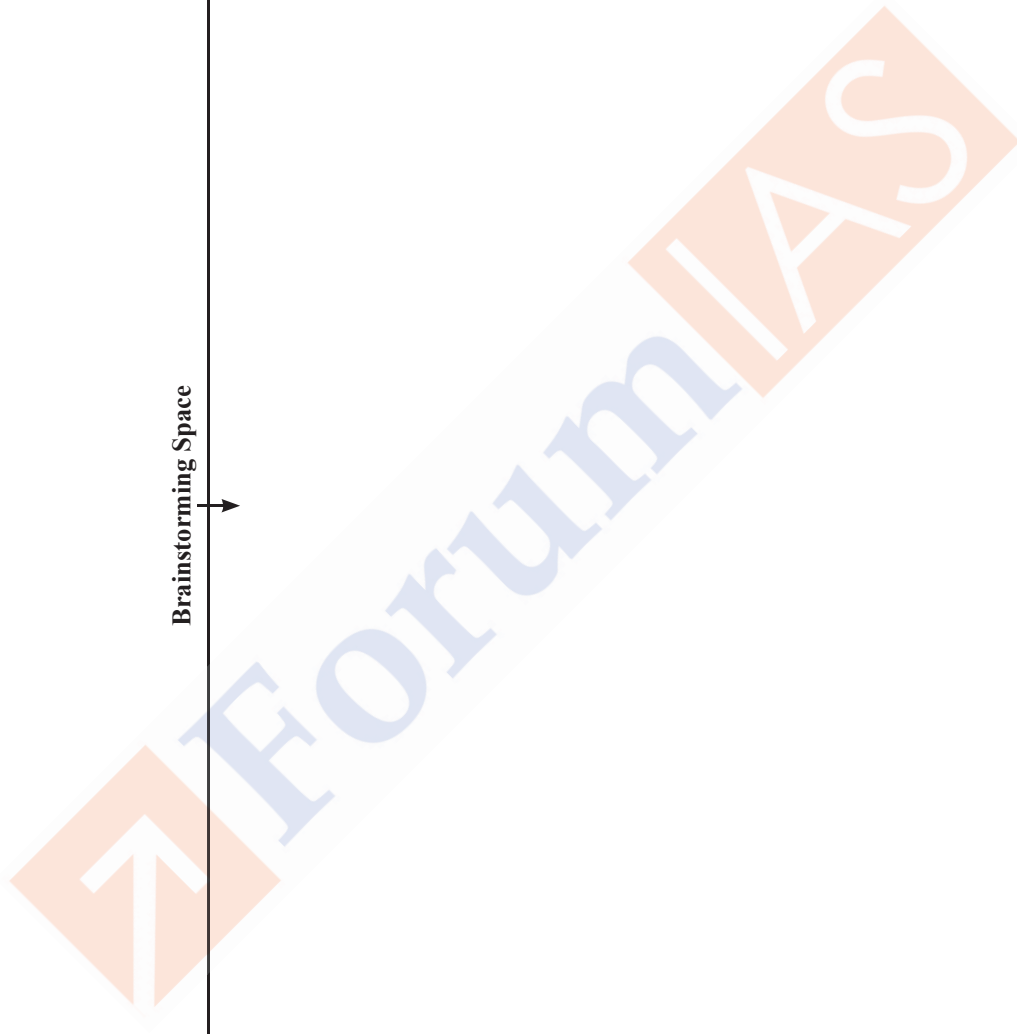
Brainstorming Space



**Q.46)** In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India?

(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2018]

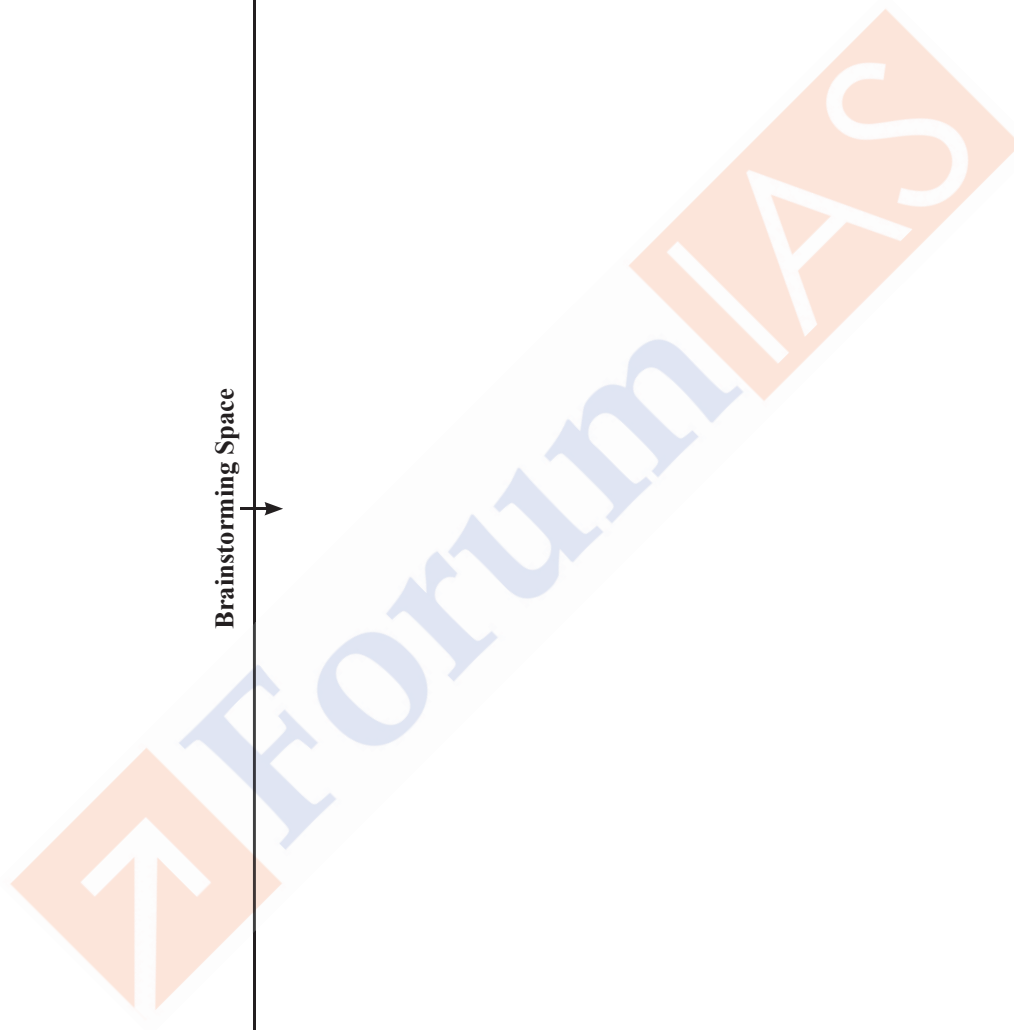
Brainstorming Space



**Q.47)** 'Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people.' Discuss.

(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2017]

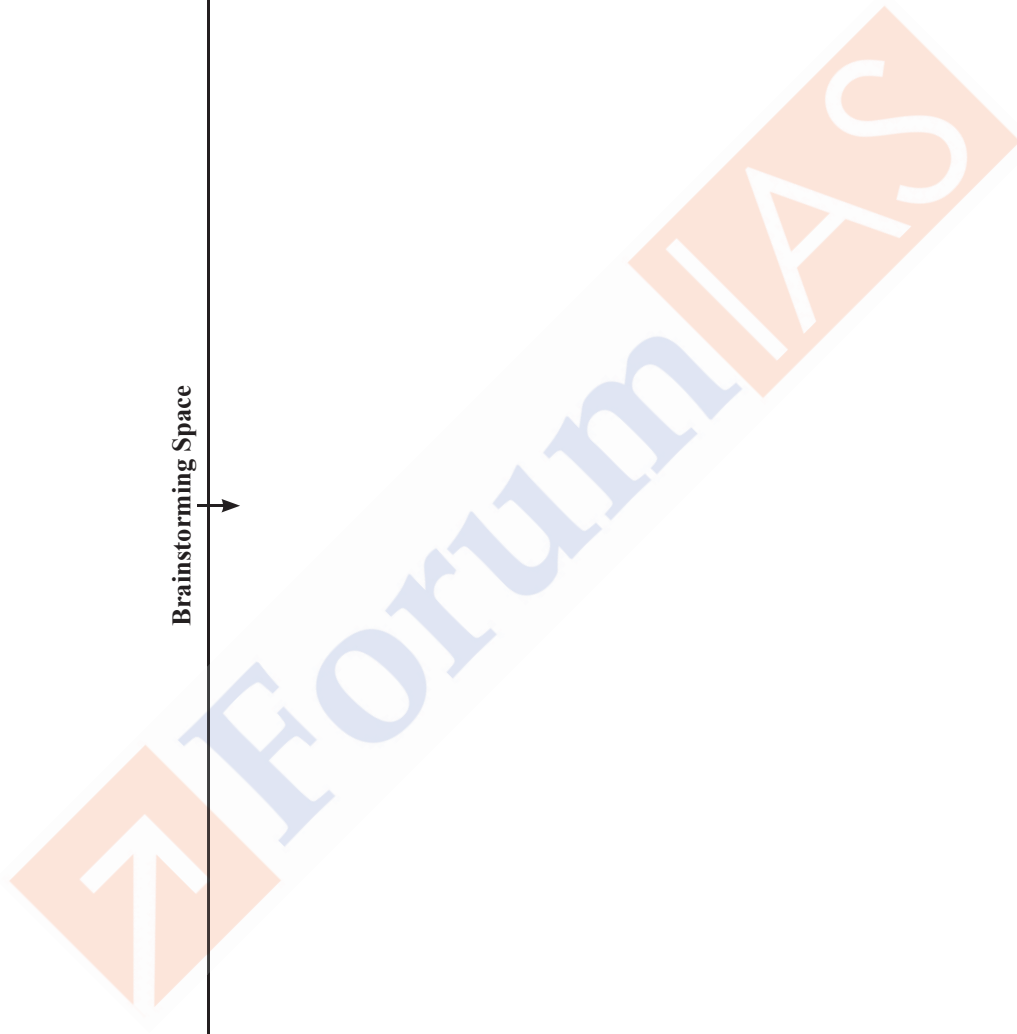
Brainstorming Space



**Q.48)** Examine the impact of Regional Political Parties in Indian politics.

(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2008]

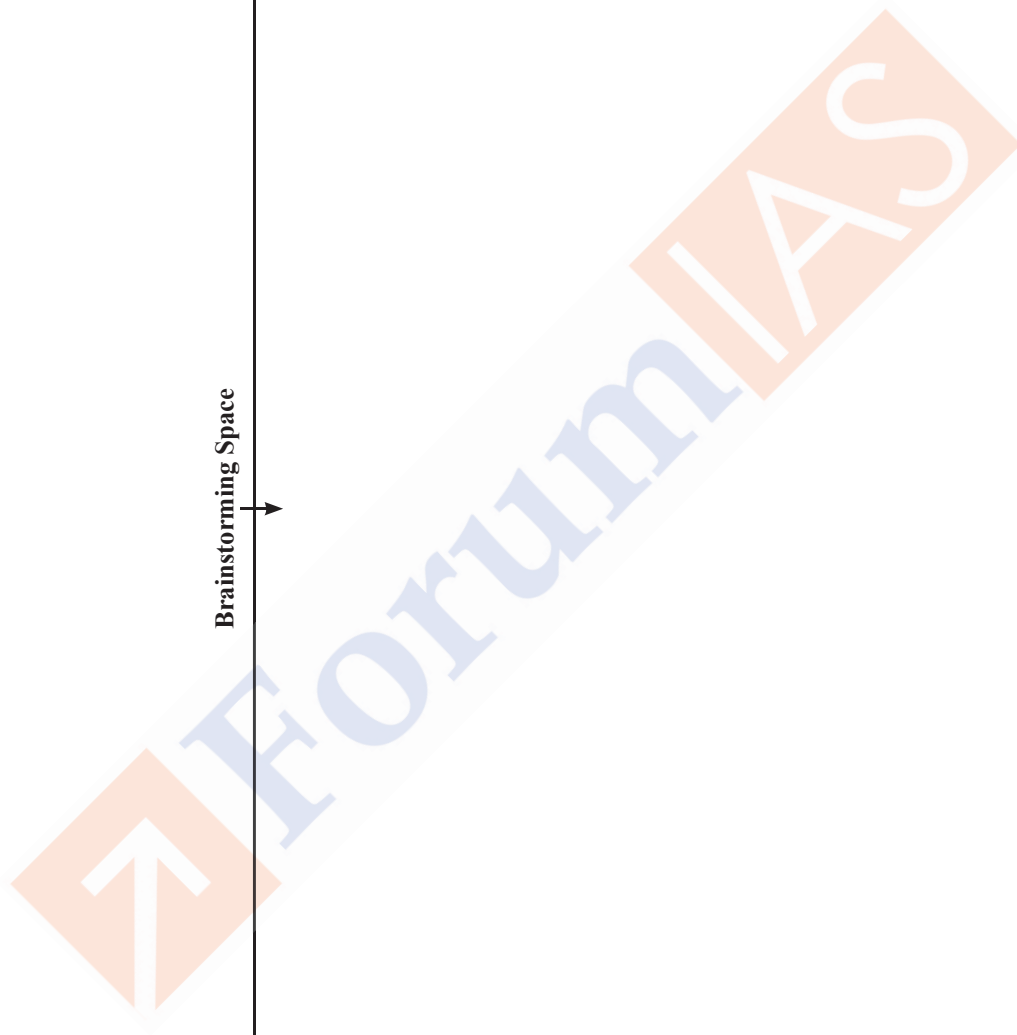
Brainstorming Space



Q.49) What are the Main determinants of voting behaviour in India?

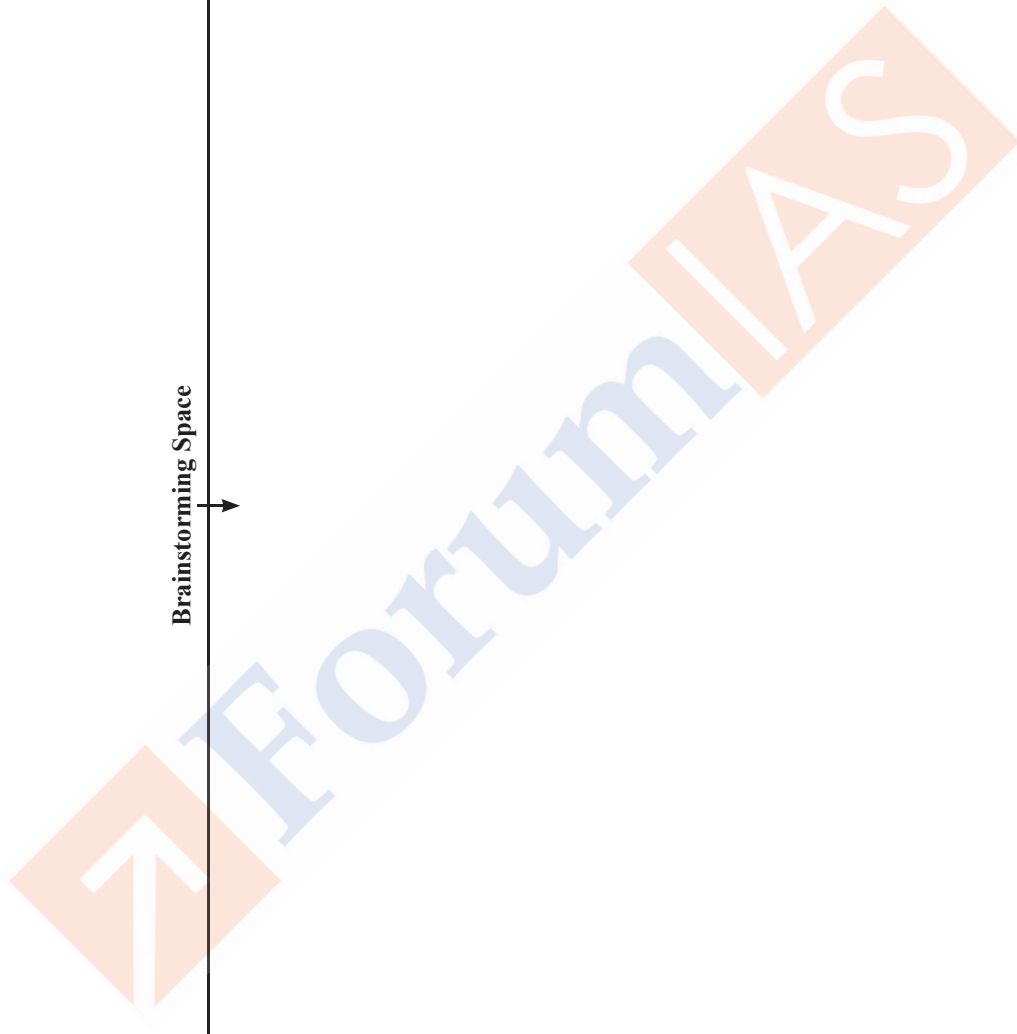
(15 Marks, 250 Words) [2007]

Brainstorming Space



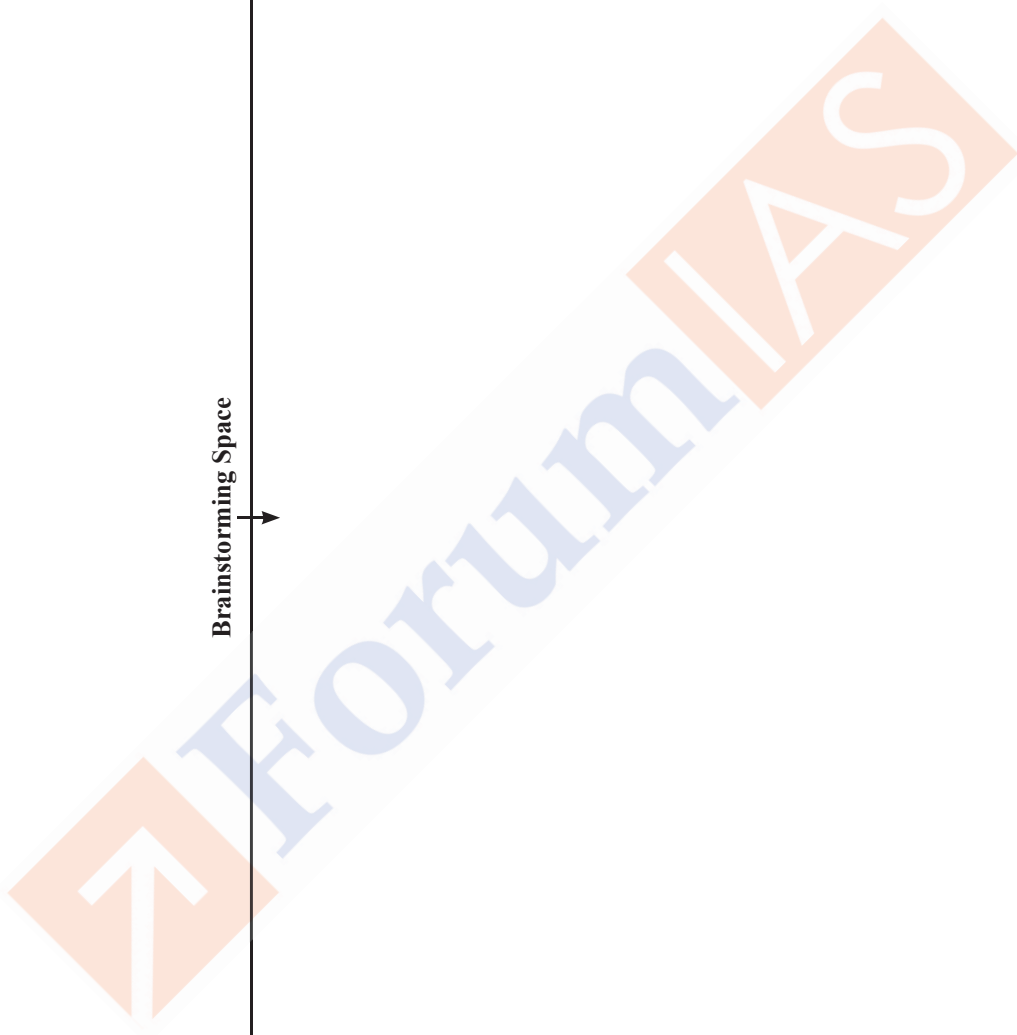
**Q.50)** Describe the methods of delimiting constituencies for parliamentary elections in India. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2002]

Brainstorming Space



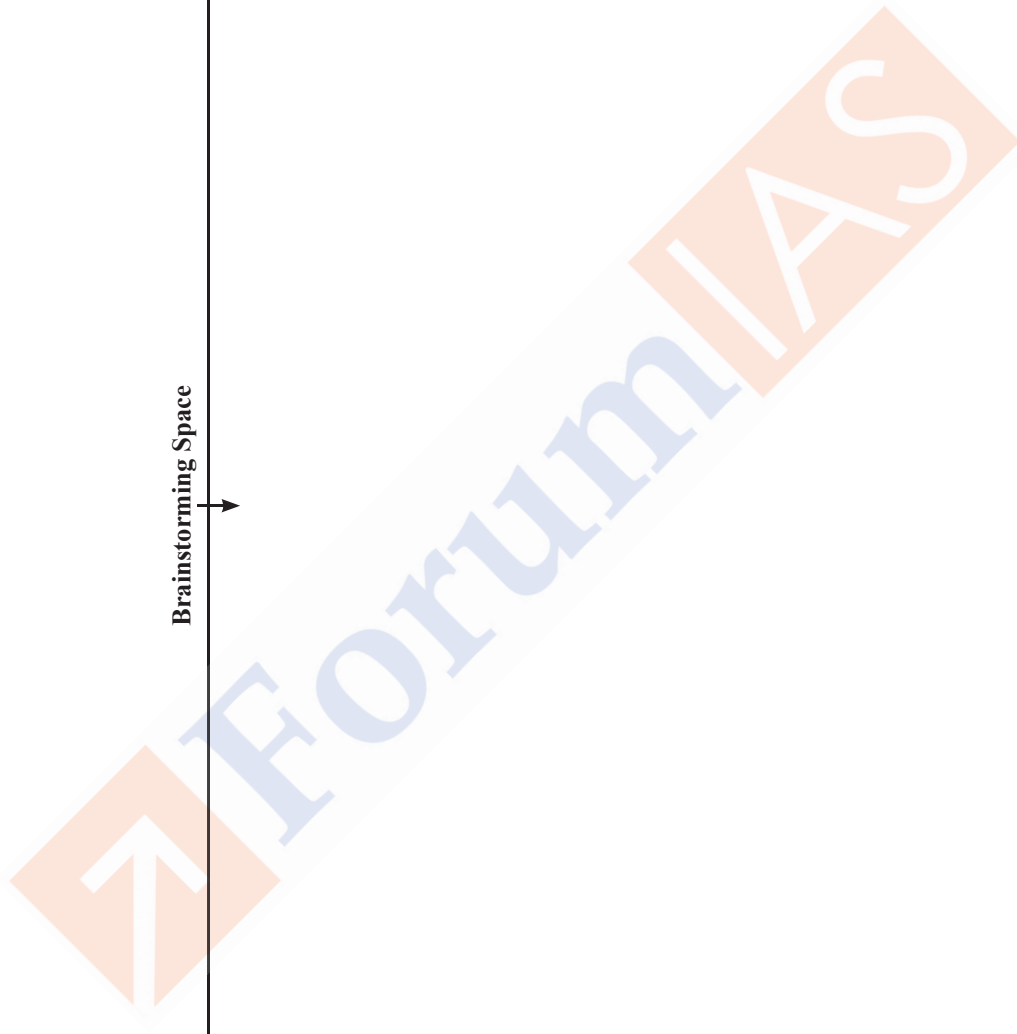
**Q.51)** Identify the major electoral reforms which are necessary in the Indian Political System. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2000]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.52)** Differentiate and state the significance of general election, mid-term election and by-election. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [1998]

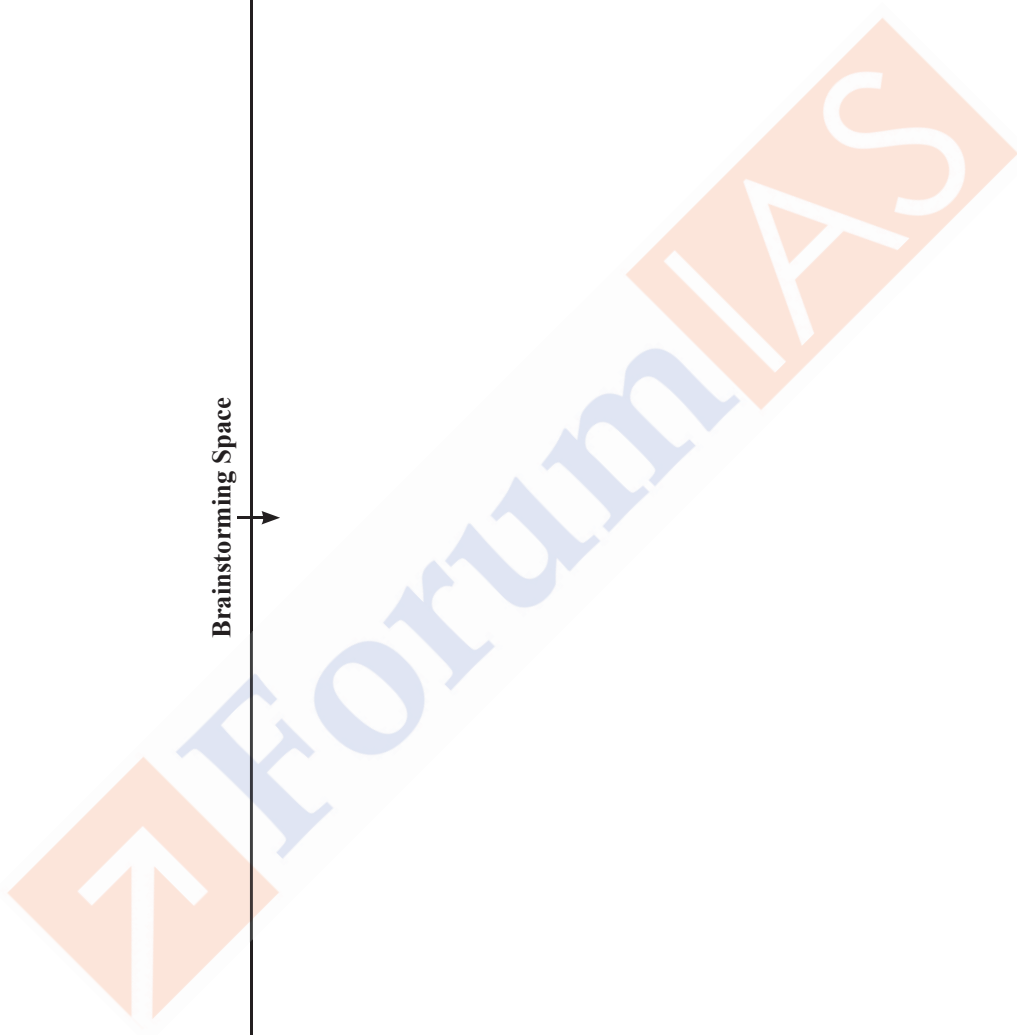
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**Q.53)** Review the present Electoral System in India and suggest modifications to ensure better and healthier Policy.

(15 Marks, 250 Words) [1990]

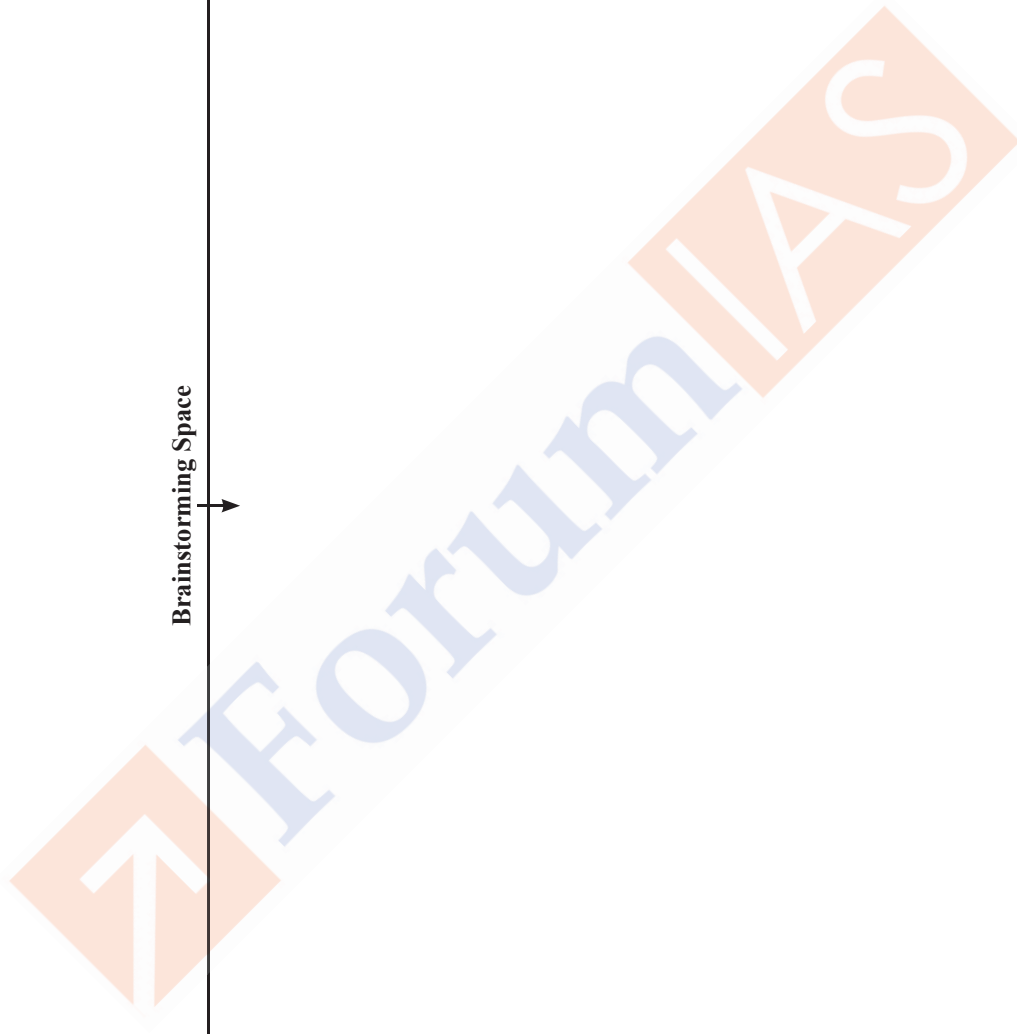
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**Q.54)** Is it correct to describe the party system in India as One party Dominant system? Give reasons for your answer.

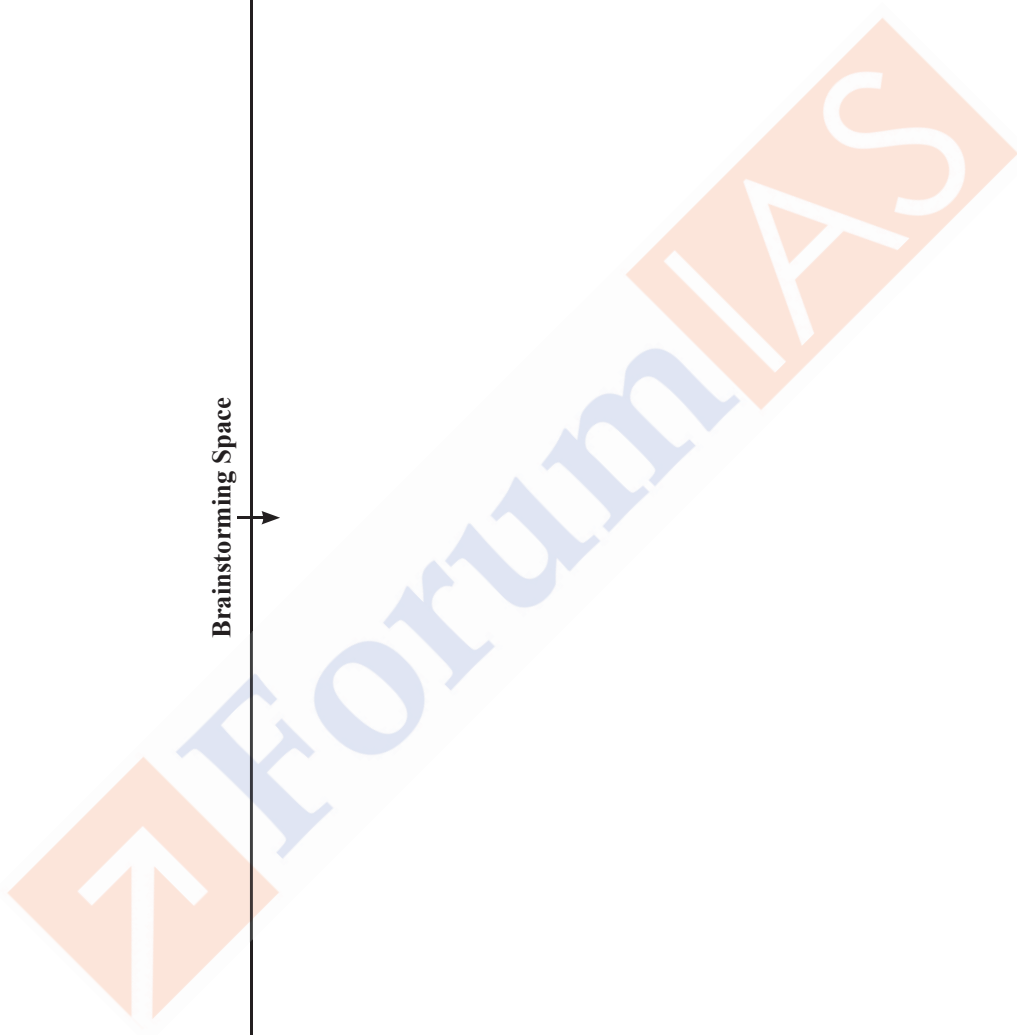
(15 Marks, 250 Words) [1985]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.55)** 'Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policymaking in India.' Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. (10 Marks, 150 Words) [2021]

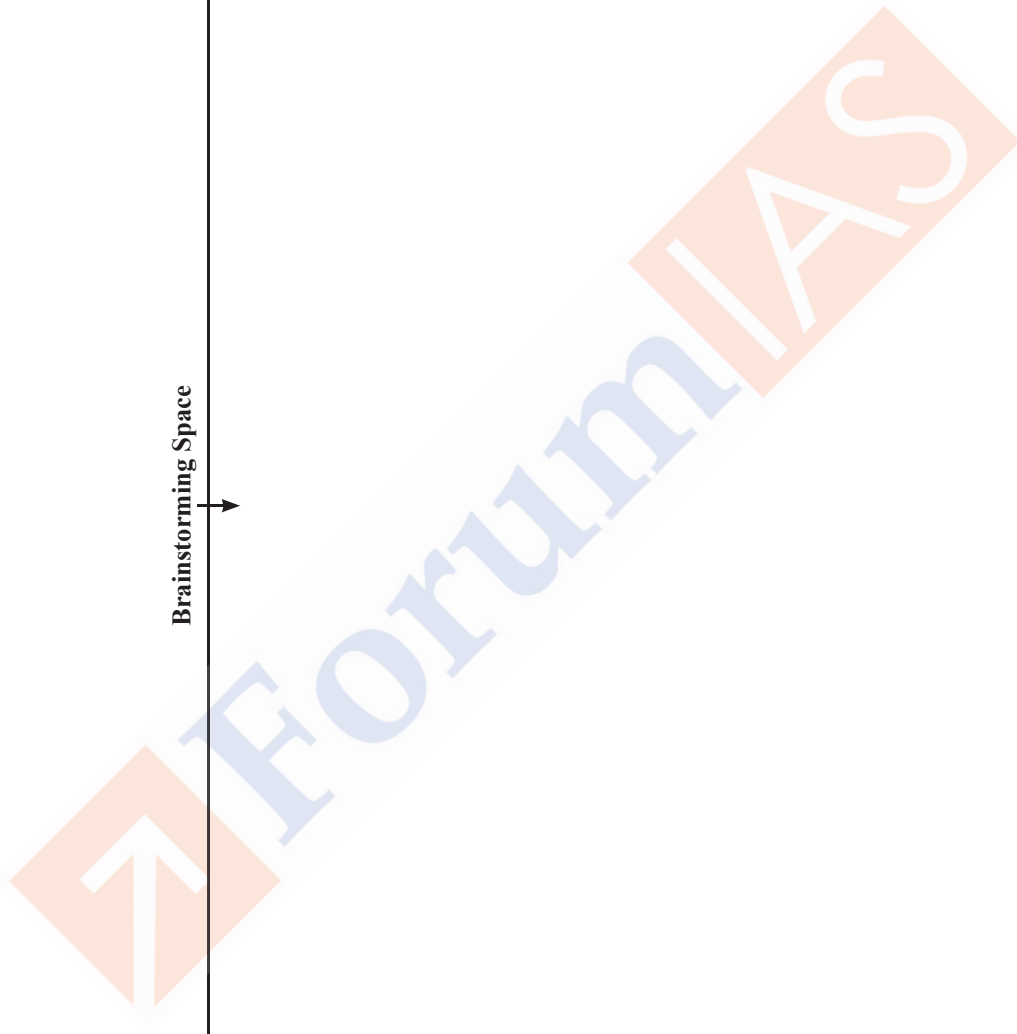
Brainstorming Space



**Q.56)** What are the methods used by the farmer's organizations to influence the policy-makers in India and how effective are these methods?

(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2019]

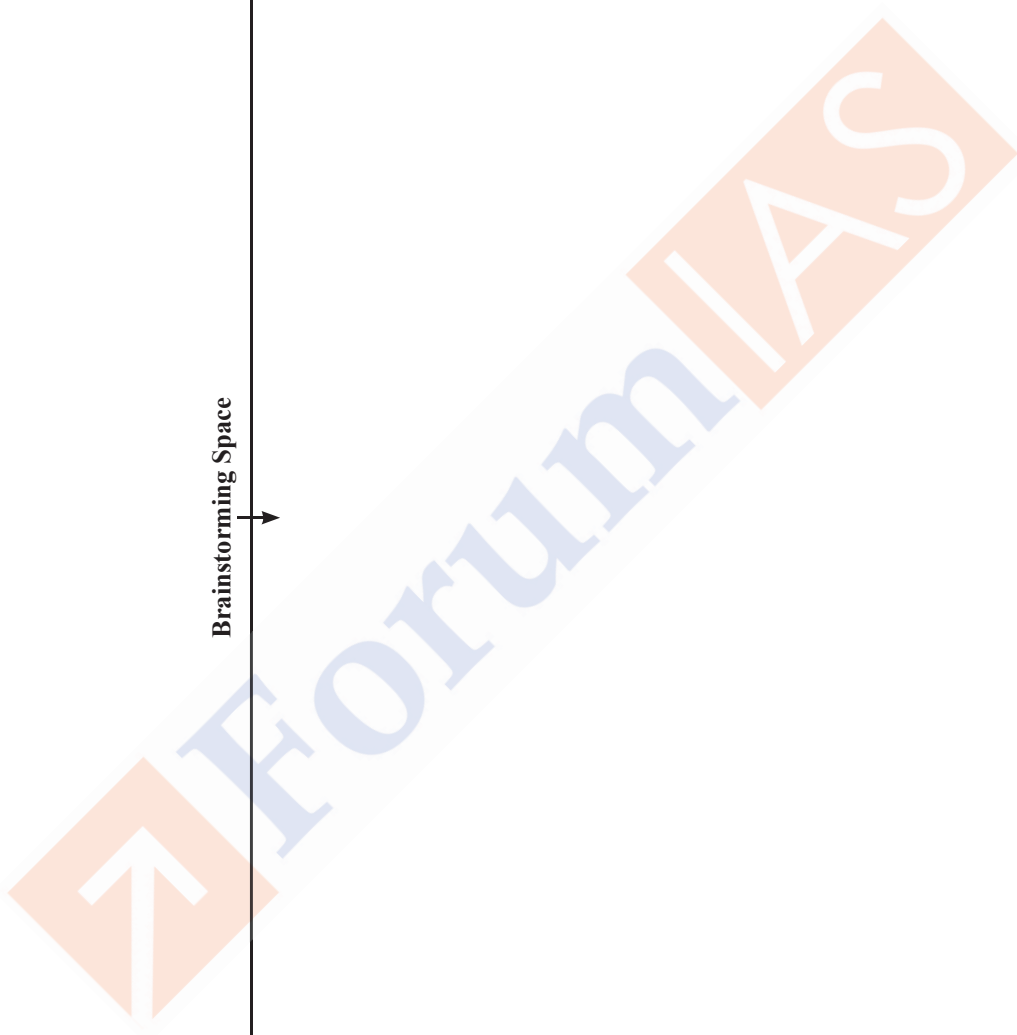
Brainstorming Space



**Q.57)** How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree that informal pressure groups have emerged as powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years?

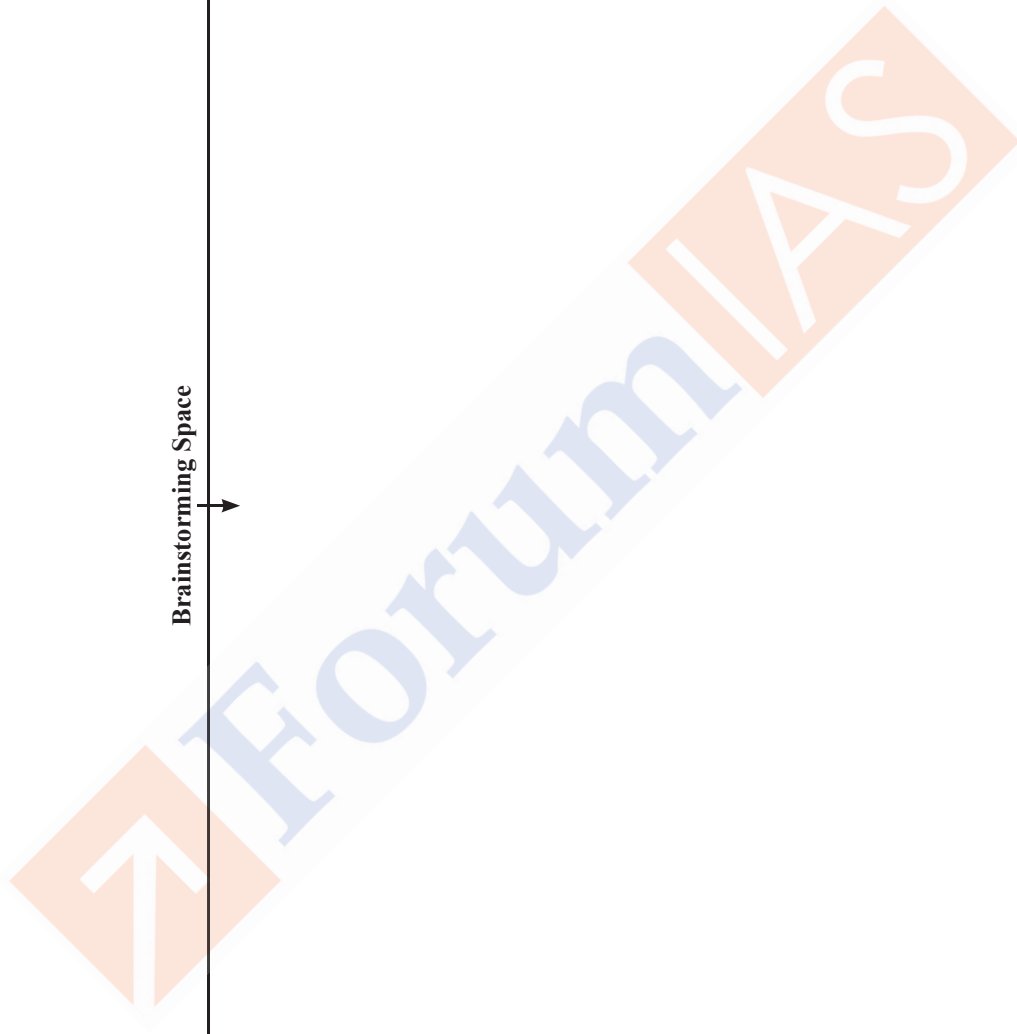
(10 Marks, 150 Words) [2017]

Brainstorming Space



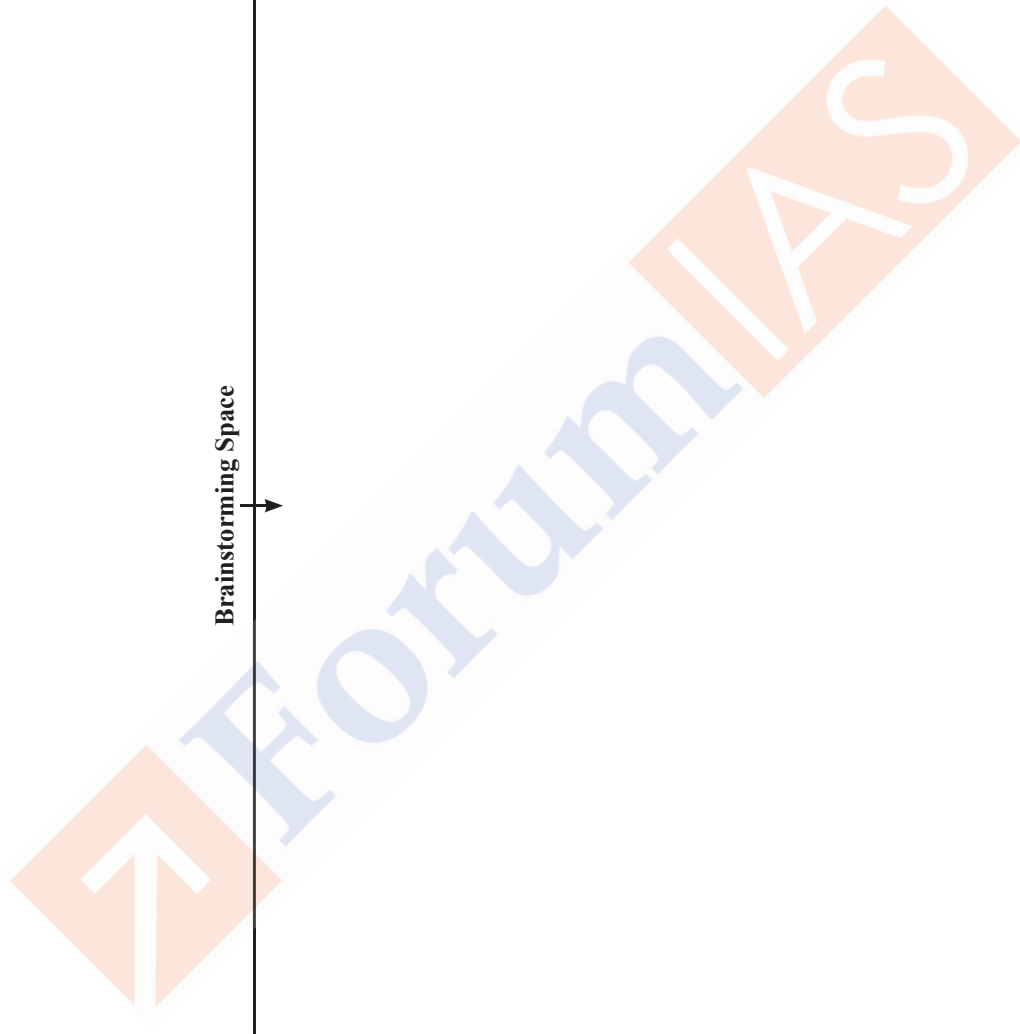
**Q.58)** Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. Assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India. (10 Marks, 200 Words) [2013]

Brainstorming Space



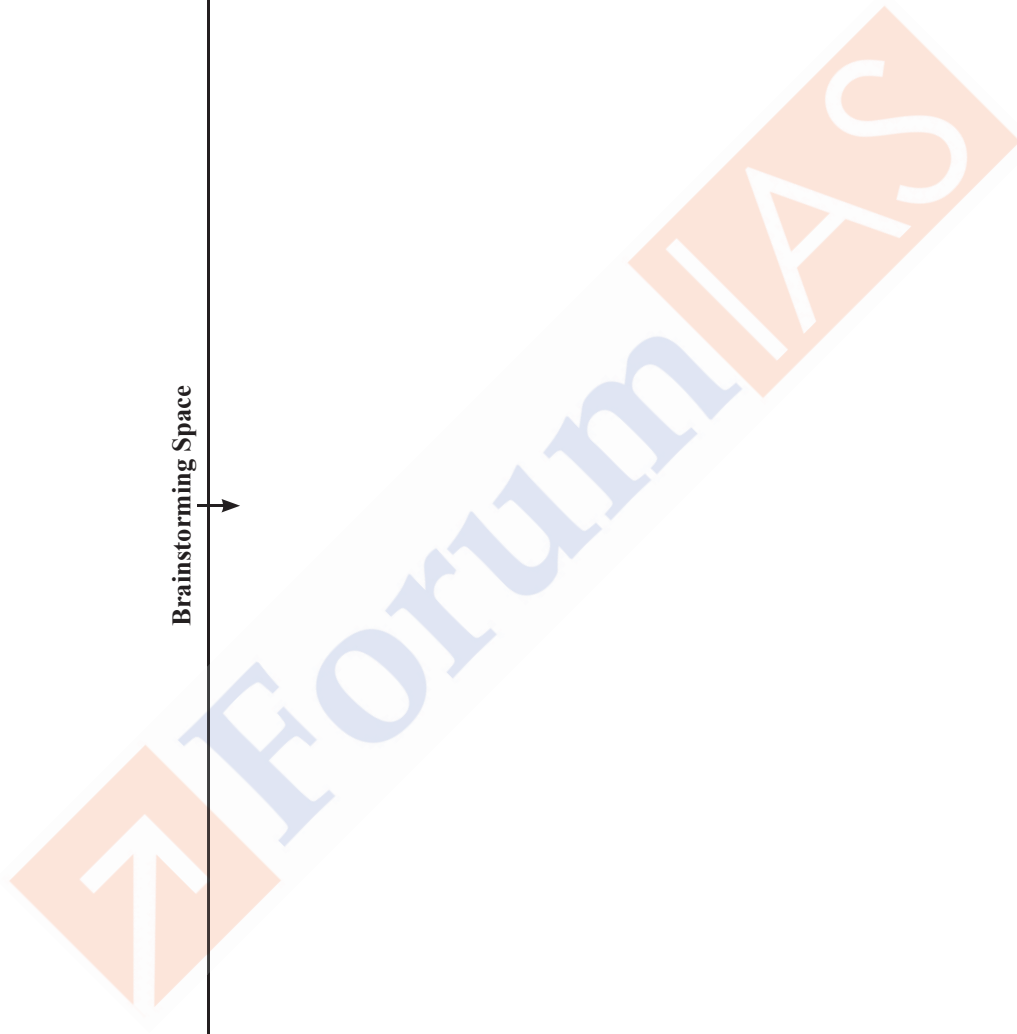
**Q.59)** Pressure groups are an anonymous empire and are an unofficial Government. Do you agree with above statement? Substantiate with reasons. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2009]

Brainstorming Space



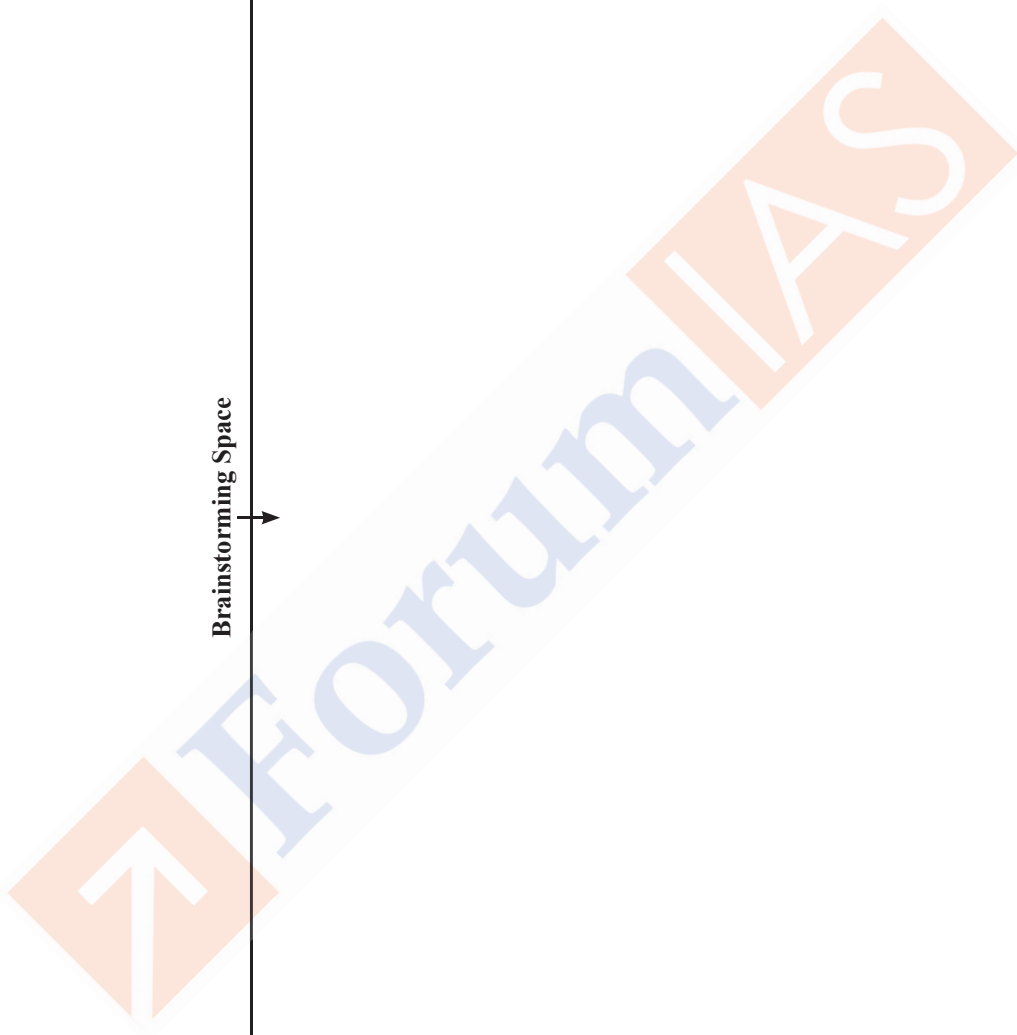
**Q.60)** Pressure groups and political parties share an intimate and inconclusive relationship. Analyse how political parties and pressure groups are different from each other. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2008]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.61)** Pressure groups mushroomed in India but quality of work did not improve. Discuss the reasons for the rise in pressure groups and their failure to make impact in India. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [2006]

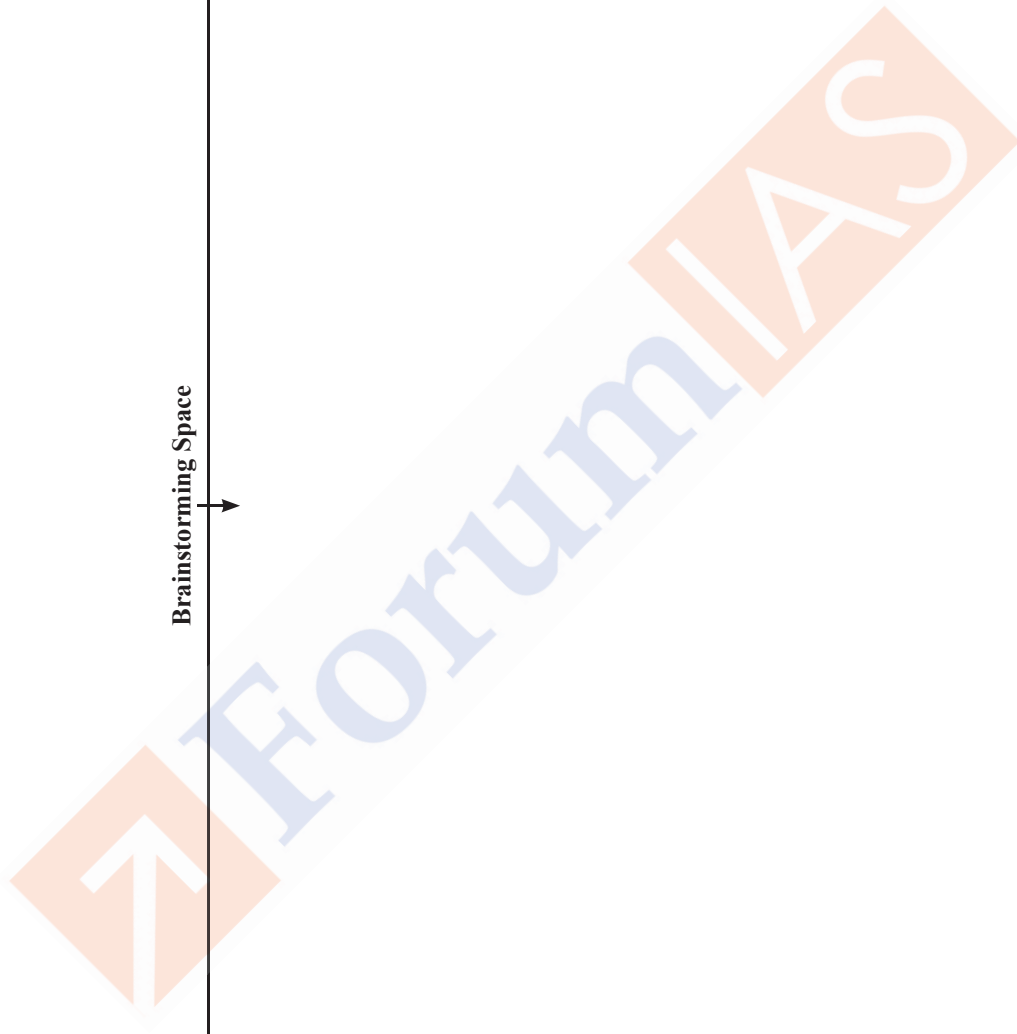
Brainstorming Space



**Q.62)** Pressure groups in India are not matured but they are too diverse. Analyse the characteristics of pressure groups in India.

(15 Marks, 250 Words) [1999]

Brainstorming Space



**Q.63)** Functioning of pressure groups differ widely in India and western countries. Analyse. (15 Marks, 250 Words) [1997]

Brainstorming Space

