Group 2 Mains – Daily Practice: Questions and Model Answers (10 November 2026)

1. Unit III – Social Issues (Tamil Nadu) · 15 marks · 250 words

Question: On 01.11.2026 the Tamil Nadu Government ordered four new NDPS special courts – at Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Vellore and Chennai – to speed up the trial of drug cases. In this context, examine the causes of the spread of drug abuse among the youth of Tamil Nadu and assess whether the enforcement and rehabilitation measures to curb it are adequate.

How to write

- Two directive verbs – "examine" (causes) and "assess" (adequacy of measures); headings for the introduction, causes, assessment and the way forward
- tabulate the causes under supply, psycho-social, economic and family-media factors, and draw the flowchart easy availability → peer pressure → experimentation → addiction → loss of education, crime
- in the assessment show the strengths and gaps of the NDPS Act 1985 (sections 27 and 64A), the 11 + 4 special courts, the 65 Anti-Narcotics Task Force units (May 2026), MANAS 1933 and the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (15.08.2020)
- add a balancing line that treats drug use as a health issue and the user not only as an offender, and end with "supply reduction + demand reduction + harm reduction"; no party or leader names

Model answer

Introduction

Drug abuse is a **social problem** that harms health, mental health, education, the family and law and order at once. The national survey (MSUI report 2019; ages 10–75) found **cannabis use at 2.83%** and **opioid use at 2.1%**. To speed up trials, the Tamil Nadu Government on **01.11.2026** ordered **4 more courts** in addition to the existing 11 NDPS special courts.

Easy availability → **Peer pressure, stress** → **Experimentation** → **Addiction** → **Loss of education, crime, family breakdown**

A) Causes of the spread

Factor	Explanation
Supply	Smuggling through the long coastline and inter-State borders; synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine; sale through the internet, couriers and encrypted apps.

Psycho-social	Peer pressure, examination and job stress, loneliness; hostel life and urban migration.
Economic	Unemployment among educated youth; easy money from petty sale – users turn into peddlers.
Family-media	Weak parental supervision; normalisation of alcohol use; glamourising of drugs on screen and social media.

B) Measures – are they adequate?

What exists (strengths)	Gaps
Enforcement: NDPS Act 1985; 65 Anti-Narcotics Task Force units (May 2026) – with power to attach property; 11 + 4 special courts; MANAS helpline **1933** (18.07.2024). **Rehabilitation:** section **64A** – immunity from prosecution for a user who volunteers for treatment; Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (15.08.2020) – now in all districts; 14446 de-addiction helpline.	Many arrests of petty users, little action against the top of the trafficking network; about 3.96 lakh NDPS cases pending in India (Union Home Ministry, August 2026); section 27 makes the user an offender too – stigma and delayed treatment; shortage of rehabilitation centres and counsellors in rural areas; no recent State-level survey of drug use.

C) Way forward

- **Supply reduction:** coastal and port surveillance; NCB – State police coordination; monitoring of online trafficking; attachment of big traffickers' property.
- **Demand reduction:** a counsellor in every college, life-skills education, sports; parent-teacher awareness; skill-based jobs.
- **Harm reduction:** de-addiction wards in district hospitals; awareness of section 64A; a State-level survey of drug use.

Conclusion

Courts and arrests are necessary, but the goal of a "drug-free Tamil Nadu" will be realised only when **supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction** work together and the user is also seen as a patient.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Examine" (causes) and "assess" (adequacy) – give each a heading; the assessment must show both strengths and gaps. A four-factor cause table, a "what exists – gaps" table and one flowchart give the full analysis within 250 words. Section 27 (use is an offence) versus section 64A (immunity on volunteering for treatment) – this distinction is what the examiner looks for; never miss 01.11.2026, 1933 and 15.08.2020. One line "supply reduction + demand reduction + harm reduction" lifts the answer. Keep the news hook (new courts) to one line; no party or leader names.

About 350 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- News hook: on 01.11.2026, on the Chief Minister's directions, the Tamil Nadu Government ordered 30 special courts – 26 POCSO courts (₹46.59 crore) and 4 NDPS special courts at Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Vellore and Chennai (additional court); the State already has 11 NDPS special courts (DT Next; All India Radio, 01.11.2026).
- May 2026: 65 Anti-Narcotics Task Force units across all police districts and commissionerates; a seven-point plan – watch on offenders and syndicates, online surveillance of digital platforms, intelligence-based raids, inter-State and inter-district tracking, strict NDPS enforcement, rehabilitation, awareness in educational institutions; power to attach property acquired through drug trade (DT Next, 12.05.2026).
- National data: MSUI report (Ministry of Social Justice – AIIMS NDDTC; released 2019, fieldwork 2018; ages 10–75) – alcohol 14.6%, cannabis 2.83%, opioids 2.1%; use recorded among children aged 10–17 too. About 3.96 lakh NDPS cases pending in India; the Union Home Ministry asked States to set up exclusive NDPS courts (August 2026).
- Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan: launched 15.08.2020 in 272 most vulnerable districts, later extended to all districts; 15.44 crore+ people sensitised (PIB, 02.04.2025). Helplines: MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asuchna Kendra) 1933, launched 18.07.2024 (NCB); de-addiction helpline 14446 (Ministry of Social Justice).
- Law: Article 47 – the State shall endeavour to prohibit intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health (Directive Principle). NDPS Act, 1985 – s.27: consumption is an offence (up to one year for certain drugs, six months for others); s.64A: a user charged under s.27 or with a small-quantity offence who volunteers for treatment at a government-run or recognised centre gets immunity from prosecution, which may be withdrawn if treatment is not completed.
- Causes (for analysis): supply – smuggling through the coast and State borders, synthetic drugs made from imported precursor chemicals, internet, couriers and encrypted apps; demand – peer pressure, stress, loneliness, unemployment, weak family supervision, media glamour.
- Gaps: seizures and arrests are the only yardstick (no recent State-level survey of drug use); many cases against petty users, little action on big traffickers and their finances; pendency; shortage of rehabilitation centres and counsellors in rural areas; stigma; low awareness of s.64A.
- Value-add terms: supply reduction, demand reduction, harm reduction, synthetic drugs, precursor chemicals, health-first approach, peer support, rehabilitation.

2. Unit IV – Science and Technology in Development · 15 marks · 250 words

Question: On 07.11.2026 the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister ordered the implementation of the "Vetri Laptop Scheme" with an allocation of ₹2,000 crore to improve the technological skills of college students. In this context, examine the role of such device-distribution schemes in bridging the digital divide in higher education and assess the conditions needed for them to translate into learning and employability.

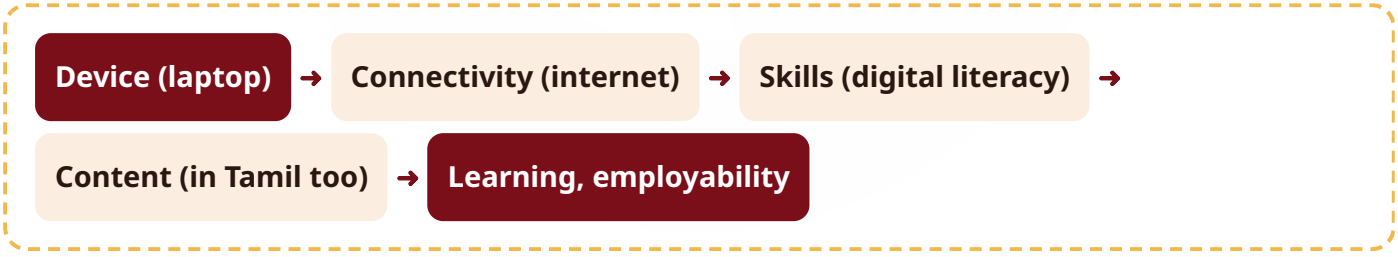
How to write

- Two directive verbs – "examine" (role) and "assess" (conditions); headings for the introduction, digital divide, Tamil Nadu's experience, strengths and limits, conditions and conclusion
- explain the digital divide in three layers – access (device, internet), skills and use – and draw the flowchart device → connectivity → skills → content → learning, employability
- put the numbers in a table: NSS 75th round (computer – rural about 4%, urban about 23%), GER in higher education (Tamil Nadu 47.0% vs India 28.4%, 2021-22), 38,53,572 laptops since 2011 (ELCOT)
- a device alone is not enough – end neutrally with conditions: connectivity, teacher training, curriculum integration, after-sales service, e-waste and outcome measurement

Model answer

Introduction

The **digital divide** is the inequality in devices, internet access and the skills to use them. As per the NSS 75th round (2017-18), households with a computer were **about 4%** in rural areas and **about 23%** in urban areas. Against this background, on **07.11.2026** the Chief Minister ordered the implementation of the **"Vetri Laptop Scheme"** with ₹2,000 crore for students of government and government-aided colleges.



A) Tamil Nadu context – key numbers

Indicator	Details
GER in higher education (2021-22)	Tamil Nadu **47.0%**; India 28.4% – many first-generation students; a large need for devices.
Earlier experience	G.O. (Ms) No. 1, 03.06.2011 – **38,53,572** laptops in six phases from 2011-12 to 2016-17 (ELCOT).

Vetri scheme (2026-27)	First- and second-year undergraduate and diploma students (including polytechnic and ITI); third- and fourth-year professional students left out in 2025-26; Intel Core i5 or equivalent for engineering; procurement by ELCOT; a high-level committee chaired by the Chief Minister.

B) Role – strengths and limits

Strengths	Limits
An own device for students from poor and middle-income families; access to online courses, coding and AI skilling; lower prices through bulk procurement; helps turn high enrolment into quality learning.	Little use without internet connectivity and data costs; risk of becoming an entertainment device if not linked to the curriculum; teacher capacity, after-sales service, e-waste; one-time spending – no continuous outcome measurement.

C) Conditions for turning devices into learning

- **Connectivity:** campus Wi-Fi, rural broadband, data support for students.
- **Skills and content:** academic credit for digital literacy; teacher training; e-lessons in Tamil; linkage with courses such as SWAYAM and NPTEL.
- **Maintenance and monitoring:** a service centre in every district; e-waste take-back; independent evaluation of usage, certification and placement.

Conclusion

A laptop fills only the **first layer** (access) of the digital divide; it becomes **knowledge and employability** only when connectivity, skills and content are added.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Examine" (role) and "assess" (conditions) – give each a heading; both strengths and limits are compulsory. The flowchart "device → connectivity → skills → content → learning" and a numbers table give the full analysis within 250 words. GER 47.0% vs 28.4%, the rural-urban computer gap (about 4% vs 23%) and 38,53,572 laptops – these Tamil Nadu numbers set the answer apart. One line on the three layers "access → skills → use" lifts the answer. Keep the news hook (the order of 07.11.2026) to one line; no praise or criticism of parties or leaders.

About 310 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- News hook: on 07.11.2026 (Saturday) Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay ordered the implementation of the Vetri Laptop Scheme – ₹2,000 crore for 2026-27; announced in the State Budget 2026-27 (05.08.2026) (DT Next, PTI, 07.11.2026).
- Beneficiaries: first- and second-year undergraduate and diploma students (including polytechnic and ITI) of government and government-aided colleges in 2026-27 – arts and science, engineering, medicine, veterinary science, fisheries, agriculture and law; third- and fourth-year professional students who did not get a laptop in the 2025-26 distribution.

- Intel Core i5 or equivalent for engineering students; administrative sanction to ELCOT to procure certified laptops; a high-level steering committee chaired by the Chief Minister to monitor. Aim: digital learning, skill development, online education and employability for students from economically weaker and middle-income families.
- Digital divide (NSS 75th round, 2017-18): households with a computer – rural about 4%, urban about 23%; with internet – rural about 15%, urban about 42%; persons aged 15–29 able to operate a computer – rural about 24%, urban about 56%.
- GER in higher education (18–23, AISHE 2021-22; Economic Survey Table 8.3): Tamil Nadu 47.0% (male 46.8, female 47.3); India 28.4%.
- History: G.O. (Ms) No. 1, Special Programme Implementation Department, 03.06.2011 – free laptops for students of government and government-aided schools and colleges, procured by ELCOT; 38,53,572 laptops in six phases (2011-12 to 2016-17); 15,66,022 laptops for phases VII–IX procured through an international tender, supplied from March 2019; a laptop distribution for college students in 2025-26; Vetri Laptop Scheme 2026-27.
- Linkages: SWAYAM and NPTEL online courses; campus Wi-Fi; rural broadband.
- Challenges: connectivity and data cost; low academic use without curriculum integration; risk of resale or misuse; after-sales service; e-waste; teachers' digital pedagogy; no outcome measurement.
- Value-add terms: digital divide, access-skills-use layers, digital literacy, blended learning, outcome-based evaluation, e-waste, first-generation learner.

3. Unit VII – Indian Economy (Tamil Nadu) · 15 marks · 250 words

Question: On 06.11.2026 the Tamil Nadu Government issued an order extending the waiver of up to ₹75,000 on crop loans taken from co-operative societies between 01.05.2025 and 31.03.2026 to all eligible farmers (about 13.25 lakh), irrespective of the loan amount. In this context, evaluate the merits and limits of crop-loan waivers as a tool to address agrarian distress and suggest sustainable alternatives.

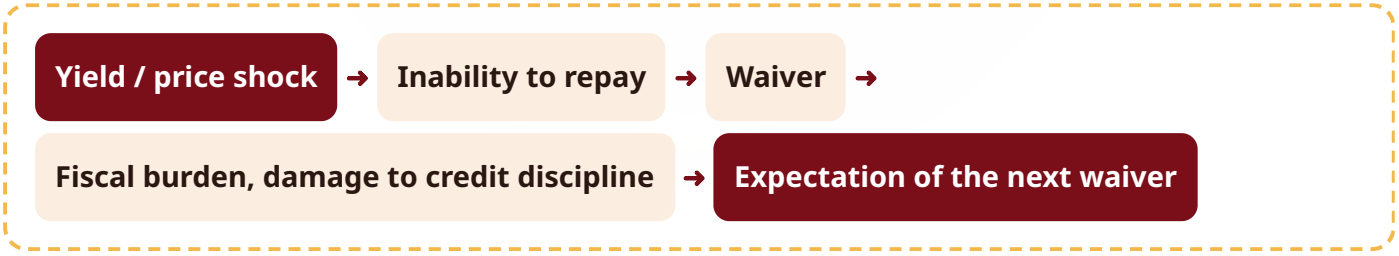
How to write

- Two directive verbs – "evaluate" (merits and limits) and "suggest" (alternatives); headings for the introduction, merits-limits, alternatives and conclusion
- draw the cycle yield / price shock → inability to repay → waiver → fiscal burden, damage to credit discipline → expectation of the next waiver as a flowchart
- use the order of 06.11.2026 (₹2,842.77 crore; 5,90,621 + 7,34,260 farmers), NSS 77th round (average outstanding loan – Tamil Nadu ₹1,06,553, India ₹74,121), the 2021 waiver (₹12,110 crore, 16.43 lakh) and the RBI working group (2019)
- write neutrally without party or leader names; end with sustainable options such as interest subvention (4%), crop insurance, irrigation, price support and credit for tenant farmers

Model answer

Introduction

A crop-loan waiver is a **relief measure** in which the government takes over a farmer's outstanding loan. By the order of **06.11.2026**, the Tamil Nadu Government extended the waiver of up to ₹75,000 on co-operative crop loans to **about 13.25 lakh** farmers irrespective of the loan amount, sanctioning **₹2,842.77 crore** for 2026-27. As per the NSS 77th round (2018-19), the average outstanding loan of an agricultural household was **₹1,06,553** in Tamil Nadu, against the all-India average of ₹74,121.



A) Merits and limits – an evaluation

Merits	Limits

Immediate relief in drought and water-scarcity years; clearing the debt restores eligibility for fresh crop loans; less dependence on usurious moneylenders; a boost to rural consumption.	Only for co-operative borrowers – tenant and landless farmers who borrow from commercial banks or informal sources are left out; bigger borrowers gain more; repeated waivers (2016; 2021 – ₹12,110 crore for 16.43 lakh farmers; 2026) damage credit discipline; they reduce funds for capital spending such as irrigation; the root causes of distress remain.

RBI Internal Working Group (13.09.2019): since 2014-15, 10 States announced waivers of **₹2.4 lakh crore**; it recommended that "loan waivers should be avoided".

B) Sustainable alternatives

Problem	Sustainable solution
Cost of credit	Modified Interest Subvention Scheme – 7% interest, 3% incentive for timely repayment → **4%**; limit raised from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh (announced 2025-26).
Yield risk	Faster claim settlement under crop insurance; rule-based relief linked to drought declaration.
Income	Irrigation and micro-irrigation; procurement and price support; farmer producer organisations; crop diversification.
Access to credit	Joint-liability group loans for tenant and landless farmers; digitisation of land records.

Conclusion

A waiver is a **painkiller**, not a cure. Agrarian distress will ease durably only when targeted, rule-based relief is combined with investment in **income, risk management and water**.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Evaluate" (merits + limits) and "suggest" (alternatives) – give each a heading; avoid a one-sided answer. The debt-waiver cycle flowchart and the "merits – limits" and "problem – solution" tables give a full evaluation within 250 words. ₹1,06,553 vs ₹74,121 (NSS 77th round), ₹2,842.77 crore, 13.25 lakh and the RBI working group 2019 – these numbers set the answer apart. One line "a waiver is a painkiller, not a cure" lifts the answer. Keep the news hook (the order of 06.11.2026) to one line; no party or leader names.

About 310 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- News hook: the Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department issued the order on 06.11.2026 (DT Next, 07.11.2026; UNI). Crop loans from co-operative societies taken between 01.05.2025 and 31.03.2026: loans up to ₹75,000 – full waiver; larger loans – ₹75,000 waived, the rest to be repaid. Beneficiaries about 13.25 lakh – 5,90,621 (up to ₹75,000, full waiver) + 7,34,260 (larger

loans, ₹75,000 each); ₹2,842.774 crore sanctioned for 2026-27. Consultation with farmers' associations on 22.10.2026; the demand for a complete waiver was not accepted.

- 2026 phases: May 2026 – full waiver of co-operative crop loans up to ₹50,000 for marginal farmers, partial relief for small and large farmers; 16.06.2026 – full waiver up to ₹75,000 for all categories, ₹35,000 above that; August 2026 – relief raised up to ₹75,000 for loans of ₹75,000 – ₹1 lakh; 06.11.2026 – ₹75,000 for all borrowers above ₹75,000, removing the loan-amount distinction.
- Earlier Tamil Nadu waivers: 2016 – co-operative crop loans; 05.02.2021 – ₹12,110 crore of co-operative bank crop loans, 16.43 lakh farmers (Rule 110 announcement in the Assembly).
- Debt data: average outstanding loan per agricultural household (NSS 77th round, 2018-19) – Tamil Nadu ₹1,06,553; India ₹74,121 (Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 1378, "Farmers' Indebtedness").
- RBI Internal Working Group to Review Agricultural Credit (13.09.2019): 10 States announced waivers of ₹2.4 lakh crore (1.4% of 2016-17 GDP) since 2014-15, far more than the national waivers of 1990 and 2008; "loan waivers announced by state governments have affected the credit culture"; recommendation – "loan waivers should be avoided"; review agricultural policies and input subsidies holistically.
- Alternatives: Modified Interest Subvention Scheme – 7% interest on short-term loans up to ₹3 lakh, 3% incentive for timely repayment → 4%; Union Budget 2025-26 raised the limit to ₹5 lakh (PIB, 04.02.2025). Crop insurance, irrigation, procurement / price support, farmer producer organisations, joint-liability group loans for tenant farmers, digitised land records.
- Value-add terms: credit discipline, moral hazard, targeted relief, rule-based relief, agrarian distress, fiscal space, informal credit, tenant farmer.