Group 2 Mains – Daily Practice: Questions and Model Answers (13 November 2026)

1. Unit II – Tamil Society: Culture and Heritage · 15 marks · 250 words

Question: Explain, with literary evidence, the place of eru thazhuvuthal (jallikattu) in Tamil culture, and in the light of the legal struggle from the 2014 ban to the 2023 Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court, assess the balance between cultural rights and animal welfare.

How to write

- Two directive verbs – "explain" (cultural place) and "assess" (balance of culture and animal welfare); headings for the introduction, cultural place, legal struggle, assessment, way forward and conclusion
- tabulate four fields – literature, agriculture, society, people's movement – and draw the flowchart Nagaraja ban (2014) → notification (2016) → Amendment Act (2017) → reference (2018) → judgment (2023)
- cite Mullaikkali, the five native breeds, Entry 17 of the Concurrent List, Articles 29(1) and 51A(g) and 18.05.2023 correctly
- show both gains and challenges and end with the way forward of a "tradition without cruelty"; stay neutral

Model answer

Introduction

Eru thazhuvuthal (jallikattu) is a sport of valour rooted in the pastoral life of the Mullai (forest-pasture) region; today it is held during Thai Pongal – Maattu Pongal at Alanganallur, Palamedu, Avaniyapuram and other places in Madurai district. Its journey from the 2014 ban to the Constitution Bench judgment of 18.05.2023 shows that a cultural right and animal welfare can go together.

A) Place of eru thazhuvuthal in Tamil culture

Field	Explanation
Literary evidence	The **Mullaikkali** poems of Kalittokai describe bull-embracing in detail; the custom that the herdsman's daughter marries the youth who tames the bull links valour and love.
Agrarian economy	A tradition of identifying strong bulls for ploughing and breeding; Tamil Nadu's native breeds – Kangayam, Pulikulam, Umblachery, Bargur, Alambadi – are kept alive.
Social cohesion	A village festival that brings the temple, families and the village together.

People's movement	The peaceful mass protests of January 2017 at the Marina in Chennai and elsewhere expressed cultural feeling.

B) The legal struggle

AWBI v. A. Nagaraja – ban (07.05.2014) → **Union notification (07.01.2016)** →
Protests; TN Amendment Act 2017 + Rules →
Reference to Constitution Bench (02.02.2018) →
Five-judge Bench upholds the law (18.05.2023)

Question	Judgment of 18.05.2023
Legislative competence	Prevention of cruelty to animals – **Entry 17, Concurrent List**; the Amendment had Presidential assent – valid.
Colourable legislation?	No; the Act and Rules "substantially minimise" pain and suffering to animals.
Cultural heritage (Art. 29(1))?	Not decided by the Court – "the legislature is best suited to decide that"; it did not accept the contrary view in Nagaraja.
Other States	Karnataka's Kambala and Maharashtra's bullock-cart race laws also upheld.

C) Assessment – culture and animal welfare

Gains	Challenges
Value for native bulls; rural economy and tourism (the "Kalaignar Centenary Jallikattu Arena" at Keelakarai, Madurai, opened 24.01.2024).	Injuries and deaths of players and spectators; full enforcement of the Rules to prevent cruelty to bulls.
A legally regulated event – district administration permission, veterinary examination.	Balance with the fundamental duty of compassion for living creatures – Article 51A(g).

D) Way forward

- Strict enforcement – CCTV, medical teams, insurance, spectator barricades.
- Conservation of native breeds – breeding centres, support to cattle keepers.
- Cultural documentation – record literary, archaeological and oral traditions.

Conclusion

Eru thazhuvuthal is a symbol of Tamil valour and agrarian life; the legal recognition given by the Court is also a responsibility – following the principle of a **"tradition without cruelty"** is its lasting protection.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Explain" (cultural place) and "assess" (law and animal welfare) – separate headings; both gains and challenges are a must. Dates earn marks: 07.05.2014, 07.01.2016, January 2017, 02.02.2018, 18.05.2023; Entry 17 of the Concurrent List, Articles 29(1) and 51A(g). Tamil terms like "Mullaikkali" and "eru thazhuvuthal" and the five native breeds make the answer stand out. No party or leader names; write correctly that the Court did not decide the "cultural heritage" question.

About 410 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 3 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- AWBI v. A. Nagaraja – two-judge Bench, 07.05.2014: jallikattu and bullock-cart races banned; review dismissed on 16.11.2016.
- Union notification 07.01.2016 – allowed with restrictions (stayed by the Supreme Court on 12.01.2016).
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017 and Conduct of Jallikattu Rules, 2017 (January 2017), after the January 2017 protests.
- 02.02.2018 – Justices Dipak Misra and Rohinton Nariman referred the case to a Constitution Bench (questions on Articles 29, 51A(g), 51A(h), 14, 21 and Entry 17).
- 18.05.2023 – Justices K.M. Joseph, Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and C.T. Ravikumar upheld the Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra amendments.
- Holdings: not colourable legislation; State competence under Entry 17, Concurrent List; Presidential assent obtained; the Act and Rules "substantially minimise" pain to animals; whether jallikattu is cultural heritage was left to the legislature.
- Culture: Mullaikkali of Kalittokai; native breeds Kangayam, Pulikulam, Umblachery, Bargur, Alambadi; Kalaignar Centenary Jallikattu Arena, Keelakarai near Alanganallur, Madurai, opened 24.01.2024.
- Value-add terms: cultural right, Article 29(1), Entry 17 of List III, colourable legislation, compassion for living creatures – Article 51A(g), native breed conservation.

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

Question: Though Tamil Nadu leads on many health indicators, NFHS-5 (2019-21) data show that 57.4% of children aged 6-59 months and 53.4% of women aged 15-49 are anaemic. Examine the causes of undernutrition and anaemia in Tamil Nadu and comment on the adequacy of the measures taken by the Government to address them.

How to write

- Two directive verbs – "examine" (causes) and "comment" (adequacy of measures); headings for the introduction, situation, causes, measures, way forward and conclusion
- draw an NFHS-4 → NFHS-5 comparison table and the flowchart poor diet + infection → iron deficiency → maternal anaemia → low birth weight → stunting
- use numbers such as 25.0, 14.6, 57.4, 53.4 and 16.3% with the all-India averages, and the breakfast scheme, Uttachathai Uruthi Sei and Anaemia Mukt Bharat
- show both strengths and gaps and end with the way forward – life-cycle approach and diet diversity; stay neutral

Model answer

Introduction

Tamil Nadu leads on indicators such as infant mortality (15 per 1,000 live births in 2019) and institutional delivery. But data from the **National Family Health Survey NFHS-5 (2019-21)** show that **anaemia** – "hidden hunger" – and undernutrition remain a large social challenge.

A) The situation – data (NFHS-4 → NFHS-5, Tamil Nadu)

Indicator	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	India (NFHS-5)
Stunting (under 5)	27.1%	25.0%	35.5%
Wasting	19.7%	14.6%	19.3%
Underweight	23.8%	22.0%	32.1%
Anaemia – children 6-59 months	50.7%	**57.4%** (rise)	67.1%
Anaemia – women 15-49	55.0%	**53.4%**	57.0%
Adequate diet – children 6-23 months	30.7%	**16.3%** (fall)	–

B) Causes

Type	Causes
Dietary	Rice-centred diets low in iron and protein; little diversity in complementary food for children of 6-23 months; processed-food habits.

Health	Worm infestation, repeated diarrhoea, menstrual blood loss, early pregnancy, short birth spacing.
Socio-economic	Poverty, gender bias in food ("the mother eats last"), low awareness, migrant worker families.
Service gaps	Incomplete intake of iron tablets; poor reach in tribal and hill areas.

Poor diet + infection → **Iron deficiency** → **Maternal anaemia** →
Low birth weight baby → **Stunting** → **Loss of learning and productivity**

C) Government measures – are they adequate?

Scheme	Strength	Gap
Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme (from 15.09.2022; this name from 15.07.2026)	About 20.59 lakh primary school children after the August 2025 expansion; better attendance and attention.	Only for primary classes; the State Planning Commission's evaluation of its effect on anaemia is not yet published.
Uttachathai Uruthi Sei (Phase I – 21.05.2022, Nilgiris; Phase II – November 2024, Ariyalur)	77.3% of Phase I beneficiaries improved; Phase II covers over 76,700 infants up to six months and their mothers (₹22 crore).	A targeted intervention – limited lasting gain unless general diet diversity changes.
Anaemia Mukt Bharat (2018; 6×6×6 strategy), ICDS, PM POSHAN, maternity benefit	Iron-folic acid tablets, testing, treatment, awareness.	Child anaemia rose 50.7 → 57.4% – tablets alone are not enough.

D) Way forward

- A life-cycle approach – adolescent girl → pregnancy → first 1,000 days → school child.
- Diet diversity – millets, pulses, eggs, greens; fortification in the PDS and noon meals.
- Deworming, safe water and sanitation; growth monitoring at anganwadis and a district-wise dashboard.
- Scientific evaluation of the breakfast scheme with haemoglobin levels.

Conclusion

The fall in stunting and wasting is progress; but the rise in child anaemia and the fall in adequate diet are warning bells. Moving from "a full stomach" to **"full nutrition"** is Tamil Nadu's next social transformation.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Examine" (causes) and "comment" (adequacy of measures) – separate headings; both strengths and gaps are a must. The NFHS-4 → NFHS-5 table is the heart of the answer; numbers: 25.0, 14.6, 22.0, 57.4, 53.4, 16.3 – comparison with the all-India average earns marks. Terms like "hidden hunger", "first 1,000 days", "life-cycle approach" and "double burden" lift the answer. Write scheme names in their current official form (Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme); no party or leader names.

About 410 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 3 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- Tamil Nadu, NFHS-4 → NFHS-5: stunting 27.1 → 25.0%; wasting 19.7 → 14.6%; underweight 23.8 → 22.0%; anaemia in children 6-59 months 50.7 → 57.4%; anaemia in women 15-49 55.0 → 53.4%; men 15.2%; exclusive breastfeeding 48.3 → 55.1%; adequate diet for children 6-23 months 30.7 → 16.3% (NHSRC, Union Health Ministry – State Health Dossier 2021).
- IMR 15 (2019; 37 in 2005); MMR 60 (SRS 2016-18).
- India (NFHS-5): stunting 35.5%, wasting 19.3%, underweight 32.1%, child anaemia 67.1%, anaemia in women 57.0%.
- Breakfast scheme: pilot 15.09.2022 in Government primary schools; extended to urban aided schools 26.08.2025 – about 20.59 lakh children in all (PTI); renamed Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme from 15.07.2026; objectives – no child hungry at school, nutrition (especially anaemia), attendance; State Planning Commission evaluation in 100 schools (spc.tn.gov.in).
- Uttachathai Uruthi Sei: Phase I 21.05.2022, Doddabetta panchayat, Nilgiris – 77.3% of beneficiaries improved; Phase II 15.11.2024, Ariyalur – over 76,700 malnourished infants up to six months and their mothers, ₹22 crore, nutrition kits for mothers.
- Anaemia Mukt Bharat (2018): 6 beneficiary groups × 6 interventions × 6 institutional mechanisms; IFA supplementation, test-and-treat, behaviour change communication, non-nutritional causes (PIB). Also ICDS, PM POSHAN, Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.
- Value-add terms: hidden hunger, double burden of malnutrition, first 1,000 days, life-cycle approach, dietary diversity, fortification.

3. Unit V – Constitution, Polity and Governance (Tamil Nadu) · 15 marks · 250 words

Question: Explain the powers of the Governor under Article 200 over Bills passed by the State Legislature, and assess their impact on Union–State relations in the light of the judgment in State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor (08.04.2025) and the Supreme Court's opinion on the Presidential Reference (20.11.2025).

How to write

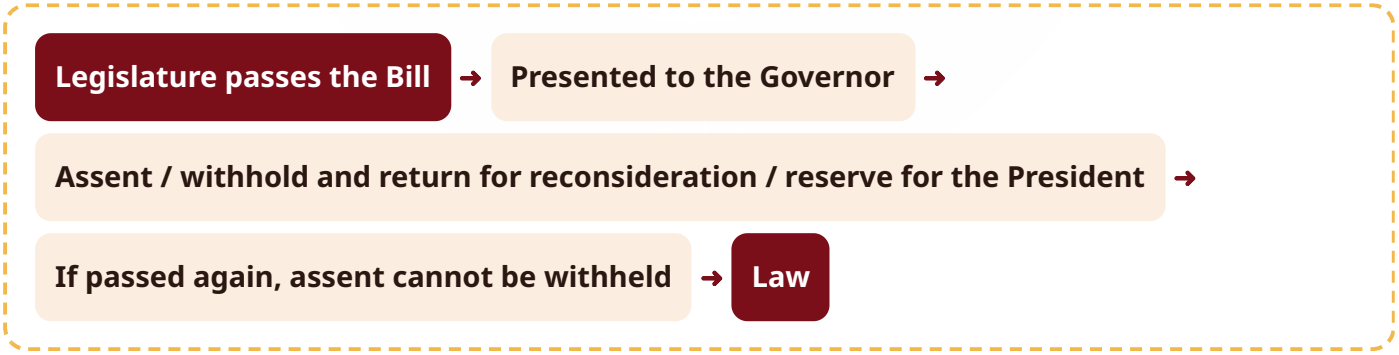
- Two directive verbs – "explain" (powers under Article 200) and "assess" (impact on Union–State relations); headings for the introduction, powers, comparison of the two decisions, assessment, way forward and conclusion
- draw the flowchart Bill passed → Governor → assent / return / reserve → passed again → law and an 08.04.2025 vs 20.11.2025 comparison table
- cite Articles 143, 142, 163, 200, 201 and 361; 1 month / 3 months; 10 Bills; Sarkaria, Punchhi and Rajamannar correctly
- show both positives and concerns and end with the way forward – a code of conduct and consultation; stay neutral and name no persons

Model answer

Introduction

A Bill passed by the State Legislature becomes law only with the Governor's assent (**Article 200**). In the dispute over Bills kept pending for long, the Supreme Court fixed timelines on **08.04.2025** in a case filed by the Government of Tamil Nadu; the five-judge Bench's opinion of **20.11.2025** on the President's reference under Article 143 redrew that position.

A) Powers of the Governor under Article 200



Option	Explanation
Assent	The Bill becomes law.
Withhold assent	A non-Money Bill must be returned to the Legislature "as soon as possible"; if passed again, assent cannot be withheld.
Reserve for the President	Compulsory for a Bill that affects the powers of the High Court; otherwise the President decides under Article 201.

B) Two key decisions – a comparison

Aspect	State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor (08.04.2025, two judges)	Presidential Reference (20.11.2025, five judges)
Timelines	Withholding / reserving on Cabinet advice – 1 month; against advice – up to 3 months.	Courts cannot impose timelines – contrary to the "elasticity" of the Constitution.
Deemed assent	10 Bills deemed to have received assent under Article 142.	"Deemed assent" is antithetical to the spirit of the Constitution; Article 142 does not allow it.
Judicial review	Review if timelines are breached.	Only a limited mandamus for prolonged, unexplained and indefinite inaction – no comment on merits.
Withholding	No concept of "absolute veto" or "pocket veto".	If assent is withheld, the Bill must be returned to the Assembly – the federal reading.

C) Impact on Union–State relations – an assessment

Positives	Concerns
The Governor cannot sit on a Bill indefinitely; withholding means returning it – the primacy of the elected House is secured.	Without timelines, delays may continue; States may have to approach the court each time.
Separation of powers – the judiciary will not take over executive functions.	Governor–State friction weakens cooperative federalism.

D) Way forward

- Sarkaria Commission (1988): reserve Bills only in rare cases; Punchhi Commission (2010): a six-month limit – may be considered through a constitutional amendment.
- A code of conduct for Governors through the Inter-State Council.
- Regular Governor–Cabinet consultation; legal vetting at the drafting stage of Bills.

Related Articles: Article 163 – the Governor normally acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers; Article 361 – the Governor has personal immunity, but his actions remain open to limited judicial review.

Conclusion

The Governor is the guardian of the Constitution, not a rival power centre to the State Government. For the **federal** questions raised from Tamil Nadu's Rajamannar Committee (1969) to this day, dialogue and constitutional conventions are the lasting answer.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Explain" (powers under Article 200) and "assess" (impact on Union–State relations) – separate headings; both positives and concerns are a must. The 08.04.2025 vs 20.11.2025 comparison table is the heart of the answer; cite Articles 143, 142, 163, 200, 201 and 361 correctly. Terms like "deemed assent", "pocket veto", "limited mandamus" and "cooperative federalism" earn marks. No names of the Governor, parties or leaders – write "the Governor" and "the State Government" and stay neutral.

About 460 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 3 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu – Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, 08.04.2025: reserving the 10 re-passed Bills for the President was illegal; timelines – withholding / reserving on Cabinet advice 1 month, against advice up to 3 months; "no concept of absolute veto or pocket veto".
- Presidential Reference (Article 143, May 2025; 14 questions) – CJI B.R. Gavai, Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha and A.S. Chandurkar; opinion 20.11.2025 (ten-day hearing; reserved on 11.09.2025).
- Opinion: three options under Article 200 – assent, withhold, reserve; if assent is withheld the Bill must be returned to the Assembly; timelines "strictly contrary" to constitutional elasticity; deemed assent is a "takeover" of executive functions by the judiciary and Article 142 does not allow it; a limited mandamus for prolonged, unexplained and indefinite inaction; Article 361 is an absolute bar but does not negate this limited review; the 08.04.2025 timelines were held wrong.
- Articles 163, 200, 201, 143, 142, 361; Sarkaria Commission (1983-88), Punchhi Commission (2007-10); Rajamannar Committee (1969, Government of Tamil Nadu) on Union–State relations.
- Value-add terms: deemed assent, pocket veto, limited mandamus, constitutional elasticity, cooperative federalism, constitutional conventions.