Group 2 Mains – Daily Practice: Questions and Model Answers (14 November 2026)

1. Unit I – Modern History of India (Tamil Nadu) · 15 marks · 250 words

Question: The Jambudweepa Proclamation issued by the Marudhu brothers on 16.06.1801 completes 225 years this year; it is hailed as the first call to Indians to unite against British rule. In this context, discuss the causes, course and significance of the South Indian Rebellion of 1800–1801.

How to write

- Directive verb "discuss" – three separate headings for causes, course and significance, with an introduction and conclusion
- draw the flowchart Nawab's debts – tribute → Kattabomman hanged → Oomaithurai escapes → proclamation → 24.10.1801 → 1801 treaty, and a significance vs limits table
- show the spread of the confederacy (Sivaganga, Panchalankurichi, Dindigul, Malabar, Mysore) and the places where the proclamation was pasted (Tiruchi fort, Srirangam) correctly
- state the outcome – the Madras Presidency and the end of the palayakkarar system – and close with a one-line comparison with 1806 and 1857

Model answer

Introduction

The **South Indian Rebellion of 1800–1801** (the Second Palayakkarar War) was a joint war waged by the palayakkarars and rulers of the south against the English East India Company's tribute collection and its seizure of sovereignty. Its centre was the **Marudhu brothers** of Sivaganga – Periya Marudhu (Vellai Marudhu) and Chinna Marudhu. The **Jambudweepa Proclamation** issued by Chinna Marudhu on **16.06.1801** was pasted on the wall of the Nawab's palace in the Tiruchi fort and at Srirangam; 2026 marks its 225th year.

Nawab's debts – Company gets the right to collect tribute →

Kattabomman hanged (Kayathar, 16.10.1799) →

Oomaithurai escapes from Palayamkottai prison →

Jambudweepa Proclamation (16.06.1801) →

Marudhu brothers hanged (Tiruppathur, 24.10.1801) →

Carnatic Treaty (1801) – direct Company rule

A) Causes

Cause	Explanation
Economic	In return for the Nawab of Arcot's debts, the Company obtained the right to collect tribute from the palayakkarars; harsh collection and the burden of military expenses.
Political	Loss of the palayakkarars' traditional rights – keeping troops, policing, justice; Wellesley's annexationist policy; after the fall of Tipu (1799) the Company's hand grew stronger.
Immediate	The hanging of Veerapandiya Kattabomman in the First Palayakkarar War (1799); Oomaithurai's escape and the rebuilding of the Panchalankurichi fort.

B) Course

Aspect	Details
Confederacy	The Marudhu brothers (Sivaganga) and Oomaithurai (Panchalankurichi), with chiefs of the Dindigul, Malabar and Mysore regions – a peninsula-wide alliance.
Proclamation	Called on the people of "Jambudweepa" (India) to unite, irrespective of caste and creed, and drive out the English – condemning those who submitted to them.
Suppression	Company forces under Colonel Agnew; the fall of Kalaiyarkoil; the Marudhu brothers were hanged at Tiruppathur on 24.10.1801; Oomaithurai too was captured and put to death.

C) Significance – an assessment

Significance	Limits

The **first call for unity** across caste, religion and region – before the Vellore Revolt (1806) and 1857.	An alliance of regional chiefs; it did not grow into a broad mass movement.
The word "Jambudweepa" marks the beginning of a **pan-Indian consciousness**.	No modern arms or unified command; betrayal.
A legacy of sacrifice that still lives in popular memory in Tamil Nadu.	Result of defeat: the Carnatic Treaty of 1801 brought the whole Tamil region under **direct Company rule** (Madras Presidency); the power of the palayakkarars came to an end.

Conclusion

Though it ended in defeat, the Jambudweepa Proclamation put forward as early as 1801 the idea that "all Indians must unite against foreign rule"; that is why the South Indian Rebellion is hailed as a **forerunner** in the history of India's freedom struggle.

Scoring tips (faculty note): Three parts are asked – causes, course and significance: give each a heading, and state the limits within significance. Dates earn marks: 16.10.1799, 16.06.1801, 24.10.1801; places – Kayathar, Tiruchi fort, Srirangam, Kalaiyarkoil, Tiruppathur. Show the spread of the confederacy (Sivaganga, Panchalankurichi, Dindigul, Malabar, Mysore) – the term "peninsular confederacy" strengthens the answer. Do not write a biography of Kattabomman or the Marudhu brothers; a one-line comparison with 1806 and 1857 is enough.

About 420 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 3 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- News hook: the Jambudweepa Proclamation of 16.06.1801 – 225 years in 2026; the Marudhu brothers were hanged at Tiruppathur (Sivaganga) on 24.10.1801 – remembered every October.
- A letter by J. Webbe, Chief Secretary to the Governor, to Lt Col Agnew alerting the military about the proclamation was found in the Government Archives, Chennai (The Hindu).
- Timeline: 16.10.1799 Veerapandiya Kattabomman hanged at Kayathar; Oomaithurai escapes from Palayamkottai prison; 16.06.1801 proclamation at the Tiruchi fort and Srirangam; 24.10.1801 Marudhu brothers hanged at Tiruppathur; Carnatic Treaty of 1801 (direct Company rule).
- Confederacy: the Marudhu brothers (Sivaganga) and Oomaithurai (Panchalankurichi), with chiefs of the Dindigul, Malabar and Mysore regions.
- Syllabus link: palayakkarar system (Madurai Nayaks); early resistance in Tamil Nadu – Puli Thevar, Kattabomman, Velu Nachiyar, Marudhu brothers, Dheeran Chinnamalai; Vellore Revolt (1806).
- Value-add terms: peninsular confederacy, tribute, sovereignty, annexationist policy, pan-Indian consciousness, precursor revolt.

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

Question: Chennai already has three seawater desalination plants, and a fourth 400 MLD plant is under construction at Perur. Explain the technology of seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) desalination and evaluate its role and limitations in ensuring water security for Tamil Nadu.

How to write

- Two directive verbs – "explain" (SWRO technology) and "evaluate" (role and limitations); headings for the introduction, technology, Tamil Nadu's experience, evaluation, way forward and conclusion
- draw the flowchart intake → pre-treatment → high-pressure pump → RO membrane → post-treatment → supply / brine, and a table of Chennai's plants
- cite Minjur 100, Nemmeli 100 + 150 and Perur 400 MLD; 350 → 750 MLD; KfW and JICA correctly
- state the energy and brine limits and end with the way forward – integrated water management with rainwater harvesting and reuse

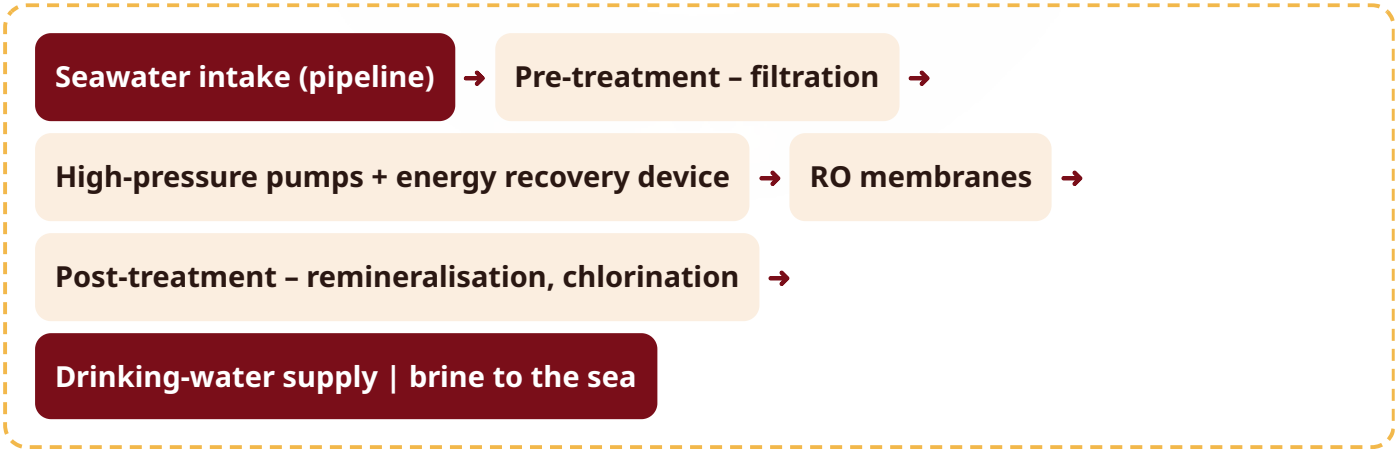
Model answer

Introduction

Chennai, which has no perennial river, depends heavily on lakes filled by the northeast monsoon; when the rains fail, a drinking-water crisis follows. As a source that does not depend on the monsoon, the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) uses **seawater desalination**; a fourth plant (400 MLD) is being built at Perur.

A) The technology – seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO)

In osmosis, water moves from a lower to a higher salt concentration. When a **pressure higher than the osmotic pressure** is applied, the flow is reversed and only pure water passes through a semi-permeable membrane; the salt stays behind as **brine**.



B) Tamil Nadu's experience – Chennai's plants

Plant	Capacity	Details
Minjur	100 MLD	North Chennai; about 10 lakh people
Nemmeli – I	100 MLD	South Chennai; about 9 lakh people

Nemmeli – II	150 MLD	Opened 24.02.2024; ₹1,516 crore; funded by KfW (Germany) and AMRUT; recovery rate 45%; about 9 lakh people (Velachery, Alandur, Madipakkam and other areas)
Perur (Chengalpattu)	400 MLD	Under construction; foundation stone 21.08.2023; estimate ₹4,276.44 crore; JICA (Japan) assistance; 22.67 lakh people

Capacity in operation is **350 MLD**; with Perur it will be **750 MLD**. BARC also has a nuclear desalination demonstration plant at Kalpakkam.

C) Role and limitations – an evaluation

Role (benefits)	Limitations
A **steady, year-round** source independent of the monsoon – insurance against drought.	High **energy** need (high-pressure pumps); high production cost.
Reduces over-extraction of groundwater and seawater intrusion.	**Brine** discharge – impact on marine life and fishing; coastal land and CRZ restrictions.
Reliable water for metropolitan and industrial growth.	Useful only for coastal cities; piping inland is costly; import dependence for membranes and equipment.

D) Way forward

- "Green desalination" powered by solar and wind; energy recovery devices as a norm.
- Recover salt and minerals from brine; diffusers and continuous monitoring of the marine environment.
- Desalination as the "last resort" – first rainwater harvesting (compulsory for buildings since 2003), lake restoration, wastewater reuse (TTRO) and cutting pipeline losses (SDG 6).

Conclusion

Desalination is an essential **insurance** for Chennai's water security, but not the only answer. **Integrated water management** – combining green energy, brine management, reuse and conservation – is the sustainable path for Tamil Nadu.

Scoring tips (faculty note): Two directive verbs – "explain" (the SWRO technology) and "evaluate" (role and limitations): separate headings; the flowchart is the heart of the technology part. Chennai's four plants and capacities (100 + 100 + 150 = 350 MLD; 750 MLD with Perur) and the funding agencies (KfW, JICA) are Tamil Nadu data that earn marks. Use scientific terms correctly – "osmotic pressure", "semi-permeable membrane", "brine", "energy recovery device", "integrated water management". Do not list only benefits; balance them with the energy and environmental limits.

About 400 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- Perur 400 MLD plant – foundation stone 21.08.2023 (by the then CM M.K. Stalin); ₹4,276.44 crore; JICA assistance; 22.67 lakh people in Greater Chennai Corporation, Tambaram Corporation and 20 village panchayats to benefit.
- Nemmeli – II (150 MLD) opened 24.02.2024; ₹1,516 crore; 48.10 km pipeline to the Sholinganallur intermediate station; funded by KfW and AMRUT; SWRO with a 45% recovery rate and energy recovery devices (CMWSSB).
- Existing: Minjur 100 MLD (about 10 lakh people), Nemmeli – I 100 MLD (about 9 lakh people); in operation 350 MLD, 750 MLD with Perur; BARC nuclear desalination demonstration plant at Kalpakkam.
- Science: osmosis vs reverse osmosis; seawater salinity about 35 g per litre; thermal methods MSF and MED vs membrane RO; drinking water standard BIS IS 10500 (TDS acceptable limit 500 mg/L).
- Rainwater harvesting made compulsory for all buildings by the Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (Ordinance No. 4 of 2003, 19.07.2003).
- Value-add terms: osmotic pressure, brine, energy recovery device, recovery rate, green desalination, integrated water management.

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

Question: Tamil Nadu has continued its universal Public Distribution System even after implementing the National Food Security Act, 2013 from 01.11.2016. Examine the features and achievements of Tamil Nadu's PDS and the challenges before it.

How to write

- Directive verb "examine" – four headings for features, achievements, challenges and the way forward; define food security in the introduction
- draw the flowchart FCI → TNCSC godown → fair price shop → PoS / biometrics → card holder, and a table of card categories
- cite 01.11.2016; 2,24,13,920 cards; 36,954 shops; AAY 35 kg; ₹10,500 crore correctly, saying "as on 31.05.2024"
- state the fiscal, leakage and nutrition challenges and end with the way forward – from food security to nutrition security

Model answer

Introduction

Food security means access for all people, at all times, to enough nutritious food. While most States follow the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Tamil Nadu has run a **universal PDS** for about 50 years, and has continued it even after implementing the National Food Security Act, 2013 from **01.11.2016** – ten years ago this month.

Food Corporation of India + State procurement →

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) godowns → **36,954 fair price shops** →

PoS device – QR card, biometric authentication → **2.24 crore family card holders**

A) Features (as on 31.05.2024, State Policy Note 2024-25)

Feature	Details
Family cards	Total 2,24,13,920 smart cards – Priority Households (PHH) 95,81,846; Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) 18,64,099; Non-Priority (NPHH) 1,05,22,987; sugar cards 3,80,280; no-commodity cards 64,708.
Free rice	12–20 kg per card (by member units); AAY 35 kg; the State separately allots about 1 lakh tonnes a month for NPHH cards too.
Special PDS (2007)	Tur dal 1 kg at ₹30; palmolein 1 litre at ₹25; sugar ₹25 a kg (AAY ₹13.50).

Shops	36,954 fair price shops (26,502 full-time, 10,452 part-time); 34,848 run by co-operatives.
Technology	Aadhaar seeding 99.42%; monthly biometric authentication success about 98.5%; portability through One Nation One Ration Card.
Finance	Food subsidy of ₹10,500 crore in 2024-25.

B) Achievements

- Very low exclusion error – no eligible family is left out; a safety net during droughts, the pandemic and disasters.
- Checks market price rises and lowers the share of food in poor households' spending, freeing money for education and health.
- Together with the noon meal and breakfast schemes, it has helped reduce poverty and hunger – Tamil Nadu 2.20% in NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (2023 report): 4.76% (2015-16) → 2.20% (2019-21).

C) Challenges

Challenge	Explanation
Fiscal burden	The Union allocates only as per NFSA ratios; the State bears the extra need (tide-over allocation, NPHH).
Leakage and smuggling	Diversion of rice to other States and to flour mills – watched by the Civil Supplies CID.
Nutrition	Rice-centred; low protein and micronutrients – millets and pulses are needed.
Access	Biometric failures for the elderly and persons with disabilities, queues, distance to shops; complaints on quality and short weighing.

D) Way forward

- Move "from food security to nutrition security" with millets, fortified rice and pulses.
- GPS tracking from godown to shop, SMS alerts, social audit and a stronger grievance system.
- Doorstep delivery for the elderly and mobile shops; dialogue with the Union for a fair allocation.

Conclusion

The universal PDS is the foundation of Tamil Nadu's **welfare model**. By managing the cost efficiently, plugging leakages and putting nutrition at the centre, it can guide the country towards SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Examine" – give separate headings to features, achievements and challenges; the way forward is a must. Official numbers are the strength of this answer: 01.11.2016, 2.24 crore cards, 36,954 shops, AAY 35 kg, ₹10,500 crore subsidy – say "as on 31.05.2024". Terms

like "universal vs targeted PDS", "exclusion / inclusion error" and "nutrition security" earn marks. No names of parties or leaders; balance the gains with the challenges.

About 440 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- News hook: Tamil Nadu implemented the National Food Security Act, 2013 from 01.11.2016 – ten years in November 2026 – while continuing its universal PDS (about 50 years).
- The Union provides free foodgrains to NFSA beneficiaries (PMGKAY) for five years from 01.01.2024.
- Policy Note 2024-25 (as on 31.05.2024): 2,24,13,920 smart family cards – PHH 95,81,846, AAY 18,64,099, NPHH 1,05,22,987, NPHH-sugar 3,80,280, no-commodity 64,708; 36,954 fair price shops (26,502 full-time, 10,452 part-time; 34,848 run by co-operatives).
- Entitlements: free rice 12–20 kg per card by units, AAY 35 kg; special PDS (2007) – tur dal ₹30/kg, palmolein ₹25/litre; sugar ₹25/kg (AAY ₹13.50); Annapoorna 4,988 persons 10 kg free, old-age pensioners 3,05,134 persons 5 kg free.
- Union monthly rice allocation 2,97,033.30 tonnes (AAY 62,477.66; PHH 1,42,476.91; tide-over 92,078.73); State adds about 1 lakh tonnes for NPHH; average offtake about 3.63 lakh tonnes a month; food subsidy ₹10,500 crore (2024-25).
- Technology: Aadhaar seeding 99.42%; biometric success about 98.5%; One Nation One Ration Card portability. NITI Aayog National MPI (2023 report): Tamil Nadu 4.76% (2015-16) → 2.20% (2019-21).
- Static link: NFSA coverage up to 75% rural and 50% urban; Articles 47 and 21; SDG 2. Value-add terms: universal vs targeted PDS, exclusion / inclusion error, tide-over allocation, nutrition security, portability.