Group 2 Mains – Daily Practice: Questions and Model Answers (16 November 2026)

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

Question: Describe the course of the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha led by C. Rajagopalachari during the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930, and assess its role in turning the freedom struggle in Tamil Nadu into a mass movement.

How to write

- Directive verbs "describe" and "assess" – two headings, course (chronology) and role (contribution vs limit); link to the Dandi March in the introduction
- draw the flowchart Tiruchi start → route → arrival at Vedaranyam → breaking the salt law → arrest, and a contribution–limit table
- cite 13.04.1930, 28.04.1930, 30.04.1930, ~240 km, 6 months' rigorous imprisonment and Tiruppur Kumaran 11/12.01.1932 exactly
- end with the assessment "from the politics of a few leaders to a people's struggle"

Model answer

Introduction

The **Salt Satyagraha** was the symbol of the **Civil Disobedience Movement** launched by Gandhiji in 1930. Just as the 24-day march from Sabarmati to Dandi (12.03.1930 – 06.04.1930) took place on the west coast, a march from Tiruchirappalli to **Vedaranyam** was led on the east coast by **C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)**. It was a turning point in Tamil Nadu's freedom struggle.

Salt tax – a burden on the poor; the Dandi March →

13.04.1930 – start from T.S.S. Rajan's house, Tiruchirappalli →

Via Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Thiruthuraipoondi, ~240 km; Vedaranyam on 28.04 →

Dawn of 30.04.1930 – salt law broken at the Agasthiyampalli salt swamp →

Rajaji arrested – 6 months' rigorous imprisonment; salt-making went on for weeks

A) Course of the Satyagraha

Stage	Event

Planning	Vedaranyam was chosen over Tuticorin because of the influence of **Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai**, a salt merchant and Gandhian, who set up the camp and sent guides.
Repression	Thanjavur Collector J.A. Thorne issued a Tamil notice on 07.04.1930 that anyone who fed or sheltered the marchers would be treated as "harbouring criminals".
The march	Left Tiruchi early on 13.04.1930; Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai's song "Kathiyindri Rathamindri" was sung; villages welcomed the marchers.
Breaking the law	Salt was picked up near Agasthiyampalli at dawn on 30.04.1930; police arrests; Rajaji got 6 months' rigorous imprisonment (Tiruchi, later Bellary jail).
People's participation	Women such as Rukmini Lakshmipathi took part; Vedaranyam shops closed the next day; salt-making continued despite arrests.

B) Role in making it a mass movement – assessment

Contribution	Limit
Went beyond the urban educated to **salt merchants, farmers, students and women** – reached the villages of the Cauvery delta.	Concentrated mainly in the Thanjavur–Cauvery delta region.
Non-violent discipline in the face of repression removed people's fear.	The salt law was not repealed at once; the movement was suspended with the Gandhi–Irwin Pact (1931).
When the movement resumed (1932), **Tiruppur Kumaran**, lathi-charged on 11.01.1932, held the flag aloft and died on 12.01.1932 – "Kodi Katha Kumaran".	Severe repression jailed the leaders; the movement came in waves.

Conclusion

The Vedaranyam march turned Tamil Nadu's freedom struggle from the politics of a few leaders into a **people's struggle**. It is still remembered every year on 30 April at the Agasthiyampalli memorial, showing its lasting impact.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Describe and assess" – write the course in chronological order (flowchart) and the role as a "contribution – limit" table. Dates earn marks: 13.04.1930, 28.04.1930, 30.04.1930; Dandi 12.03 – 06.04.1930; Tiruppur Kumaran 11/12.01.1932. Tamil Nadu names – Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai, the Namakkal poet, Rukmini Lakshmipathi – make the answer stand out. Avoid unverified figures such as the exact number of volunteers; "hundreds" is enough.

About 380 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- Civil Disobedience Movement (1930–34): salt tax, boycott of foreign cloth, picketing of toddy shops. Dandi March 12.03.1930 – 06.04.1930 (24 days); the Vedaranyam march began about a week later.
- Start: 5 a.m., 13.04.1930, T.S.S. Rajan's house, Cantonment, Tiruchirappalli. Route: Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Valangaiman, Semmangudi, Needamangalam, Thiruthuraipoondi; about 150 miles (240 km).
- Reached Vedaranyam 28.04.1930; salt law broken at dawn on 30.04.1930 at the Agasthiyampalli salt swamp; Rajaji sentenced to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment.
- Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai – salt merchant who hosted the camp; Collector J.A. Thorne's notice of 07.04.1930 against helping the marchers.
- Memory: re-enacted every 30 April; memorial at Agasthiyampalli; "Rajaji Poonga" at the camp site.
- Tiruppur Kumaran (Desabandu Youth League): lathi-charged 11.01.1932, died 12.01.1932, aged 27.
- Answer-boosting terms: civil disobedience, non-violence, satyagraha, mass movement, repression.

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

Question: The National Green Hydrogen Mission targets a green hydrogen production capacity of 5 million tonnes a year by 2030. Explain what green hydrogen is and its applications, and examine Tamil Nadu's prospects and challenges in this field with reference to the V.O. Chidambaranar Port.

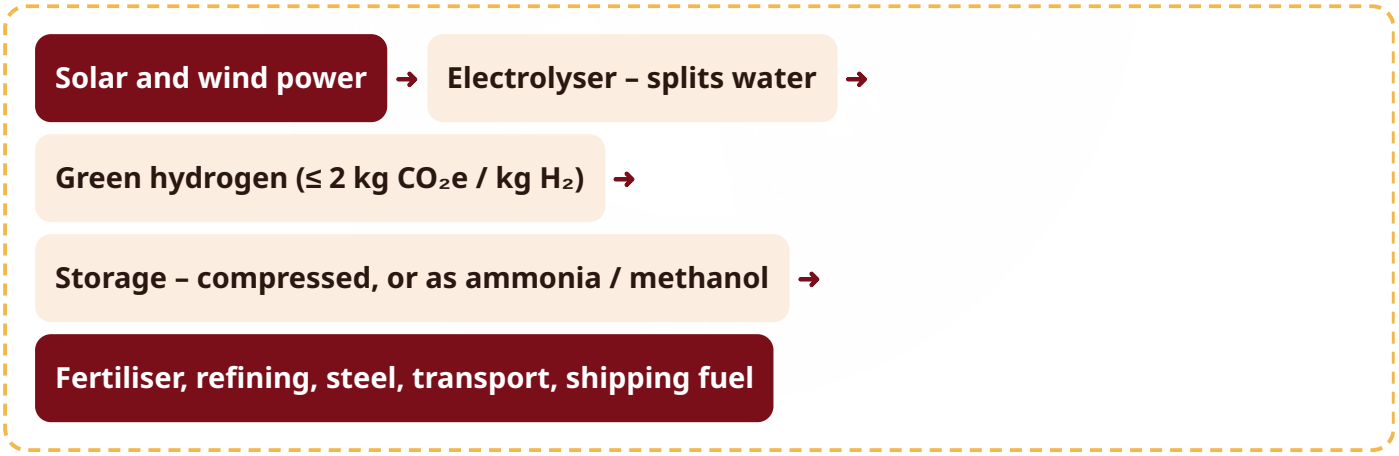
How to write

- Directive verbs "explain" and "examine" – four headings: definition, uses, Tamil Nadu's prospects and challenges; give the electrolysis equation in the introduction
- draw the flowchart solar / wind power → electrolyser → green hydrogen → storage → uses, and a challenge–way forward table
- cite 04.01.2023, ₹19,744 crore, 5 MMT, ≤ 2 kg CO_2e, the VOC 10 Nm^3 pilot and the ₹81.33 crore 3 MW plant exactly
- end with the vision of Tamil Nadu as a green-fuel export hub

Model answer

Introduction

Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced by splitting water through electrolysis using renewable electricity ($2H_2O \rightarrow 2H_2 + O_2$). Under India's standard, emissions must not exceed 2 kg CO_2 equivalent per kg of hydrogen. The **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, approved on 04.01.2023 (₹19,744 crore), targets a production capacity of **5 million tonnes a year** by 2030.



A) Types and applications

Type / sector	Details
Grey / blue / green	From natural gas (CO_2 released) / the same with carbon capture / electrolysis with renewable power
Fertiliser and refining	Replaces grey hydrogen; green ammonia auction – 7.24 lakh tonnes a year at ₹55.75 per kg
Steel and transport	5 steel pilots; road-transport pilots with 37 vehicles on 10 routes; hydrogen buses in Leh (NTPC, November 2024)

Shipping	Green ammonia / methanol as ship fuel; a planned Kandla–Tuticorin coastal green shipping corridor

B) Tamil Nadu's prospects – V.O. Chidambaranar Port

- In October 2025 **V.O. Chidambaranar Port** was recognised as a "Green Hydrogen Hub", with Deendayal (Gujarat) and Paradip (Odisha).
- September 2025 – India's first **port-based green hydrogen pilot** (10 Nm^3 an hour) – for streetlights and an EV charging station.
- Tender of ₹81.33 crore for a **3 MW** plant and refuelling station – at least 45 kg an hour, up to 900 kg a day of refuelling; phased expansion to 10 MW; first-stage commercial production expected in 2029 (DT Next, 18.09.2026).
- Wind and solar resources of the southern districts; export potential through the port.

C) Challenges

Challenge	Way forward
High production cost – electrolysers, power	SIGHT incentives (₹17,490 crore); domestic electrolyser manufacturing
Water demand – in theory 9 kg of pure water per kg of H_2; dry Thoothukudi	Desalination, recycled water
Storage and safety – low density, high pressure (350 bar)	Store as ammonia / methanol; safety standards
Uncertain demand	Long-term purchase agreements, industrial clusters

Conclusion

Green hydrogen is key to India's energy self-reliance and its 2070 net-zero goal. If the V.O. Chidambaranar hub is linked with the renewable energy of southern Tamil Nadu and with desalination, Tamil Nadu can become a green-fuel export hub.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Explain and examine" – four headings: definition and uses (explain), Tamil Nadu's prospects and challenges (examine). The electrolysis equation and the grey–blue–green comparison show this is a science unit. Numbers: 04.01.2023, ₹19,744 crore, 5 MMT, 125 GW, ≤ 2 kg CO_2e, 10 Nm^3 an hour, ₹81.33 crore, 3 MW. The Tamil Nadu angle – VOC Port, desalination – earns the extra marks.

About 380 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- National Green Hydrogen Mission – approved 04.01.2023; ₹19,744 crore: SIGHT ₹17,490 crore, pilots ₹1,466 crore, R&D ₹400 crore, others ₹388 crore.
- 2030 targets: 5 million tonnes a year; ~125 GW of renewable capacity; over ₹8 lakh crore investment; over 6 lakh jobs; over ₹1 lakh crore saved on fossil-fuel imports; ~50 million tonnes of CO_2 abated a year.
- Green hydrogen standard: not more than 2 kg CO_2 equivalent per kg of hydrogen.
- Awards (as of May 2025): 8.62 lakh tonnes a year of production to 19 companies; 3,000 MW a year of electrolyser manufacturing to 15 firms. Green ammonia auction: 7.24 lakh tonnes a year at ₹55.75 per kg.
- Green Hydrogen Hubs (October 2025): Deendayal, V.O. Chidambaranar and Paradip ports. VOC pilot (September 2025): 10 Nm^3 an hour. VOC 3 MW plant: ₹81.33 crore tender, ≥ 45 kg an hour, 720 kg storage, 350 bar, up to 900 kg a day (DT Next, 18.09.2026).
- Syllabus link: Unit IV – energy and green technology; connect with desalination, nuclear energy and the Kulasekarapattinam spaceport.
- Answer-boosting terms: electrolysis, electrolyser, green ammonia, decarbonisation, hard-to-abate sectors, net zero.

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

Question: Explain the composition and jurisdiction of the Tamil Nadu Lokayukta under the Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Act, 2018, enacted in pursuance of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, and assess its effectiveness as an anti-corruption institution.

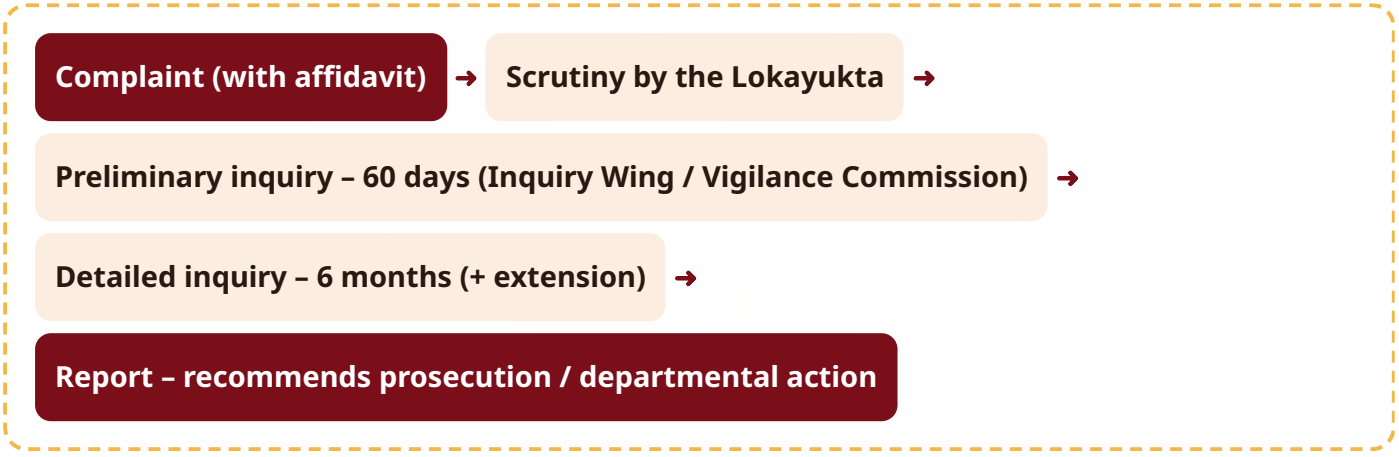
How to write

- Directive verbs "explain" and "assess" – four headings: composition, jurisdiction, strengths vs weaknesses, way forward; cite Section 63 of the Lokpal Act in the introduction
- draw the flowchart complaint → scrutiny → preliminary inquiry (60 days) → detailed inquiry (6 months) → report, and a composition table
- cite Chairperson + 4 (2 judicial), 5 years / 70, the 4-year limit and the ₹1 lakh fine with section numbers exactly
- stay politically neutral and end with the way forward – independent investigation and transparency

Model answer

Introduction

The **Lokayukta** is an independent body that inquires into corruption complaints against public servants (on the Scandinavian "Ombudsman" model), recommended by the First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966). Section 63 of the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** requires every State to set up a Lokayukta within one year. Accordingly, the **Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Act, 2018** (Act 33 of 2018; Governor's assent 13.07.2018) was enacted.



A) Composition

Feature	Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Act, 2018
Members	Chairperson + 4 Members (2 of them Judicial Members) – Section 3
Chairperson	A serving or retired High Court Judge, or a person with 25 years' experience in anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance or law
Selection Committee	Chief Minister (chair), Speaker, Leader of the Opposition; appointed by the Governor (Section 4)

Term	5 years or age 70, whichever is earlier; minimum age 45; no government office afterwards

B) Jurisdiction – Sections 12 and 13

- **Covered**: Ministers including the Chief Minister (serving or former), MLAs, State employees (Groups A–D), staff of boards and corporations, and government-aided societies and trusts.
- **Excluded**: service matters such as appointment, transfer and pay; purely commercial contracts; local bodies (covered by the Local Bodies Ombudsman Act, 2014); complaints more than 4 years after the offence.

C) Effectiveness – assessment

Strength	Weakness
CM, Ministers and MLAs are covered	Preliminary inquiry into officials goes to the Government's Vigilance Commission – limited investigative independence
Time-bound inquiry (60 days, 6 months)	No separate prosecution wing
Leader of the Opposition on the Selection Committee	Up to 1 year's jail + ₹1 lakh fine for false complaints – can deter genuine complainants too
Bar on post-retirement government office – independence	No 50% representation rule for SC/ST/OBC/minorities/women as in the Lokpal Act; appointments litigated (in April 2019 the Madurai Bench of the High Court stayed the appointment of two non-judicial members; the Supreme Court set that order aside in July 2019)

Way forward

- Own investigation and prosecution wings; financial and administrative autonomy.
- Annual report laid in the Assembly and published; online complaints and status tracking.
- Protection for genuine complainants (in the spirit of the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014).

Conclusion

However sound the legal structure, only independent investigation and transparency can take the Lokayukta beyond the "toothless" criticism and make it a guardian of corruption-free good governance.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Explain and assess" – four headings: composition and jurisdiction (explain), strengths vs weaknesses (assess), way forward. Section numbers earn marks: Lokpal Act Section 63; TN Act Sections 3 (composition), 4 (selection), 12 (jurisdiction), 13 (exclusions), 35 (false complaints). Numbers: 1 + 4 (2 judicial), 5 years / 70, 60 days, 6 months, 4 years, ₹1 lakh. Stay politically neutral – assess only the design flaws.

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

Reference notes

Key facts

- First ARC (1966) recommended the Lokpal and Lokayuktas; Maharashtra (1971) was among the first States to set up a Lokayukta. Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, Section 63 – States to set up a Lokayukta within one year.
- Tamil Nadu Act 33 of 2018; Governor's assent 13.07.2018. The Bill was passed by voice vote in July 2018 on the day it was introduced; the then Opposition, whose demand for a select committee was rejected, called it "toothless" and walked out.
- Composition: Chairperson + 4 Members (2 judicial). Selection: CM, Speaker, Leader of the Opposition. Term: 5 years or age 70; minimum age 45.
- Time limits: preliminary inquiry 60 days; detailed inquiry 6 months (+ 6-month extensions); no complaint after 4 years (Section 40). False complaint: up to 1 year + up to ₹1 lakh (Section 35).
- First Lokayukta (2019): Chairperson Justice P. Devadass (retd.); the Madurai Bench of the High Court stayed the appointment of two non-judicial members (April 2019); the Supreme Court set that order aside in July 2019.
- Syllabus link: Unit V – good governance and anti-corruption; connect with DVAC, RTI, social audit and grievance redress.
- Answer-boosting terms: ombudsman, accountability, transparency, institutional independence, whistle-blower.