Group 2 Mains – Daily Practice: Questions and Model Answers (18 November 2026)

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

Question: Describe the causes and course of the Vellore Mutiny of 1806, and assess its place in the history of Indian resistance to British rule.

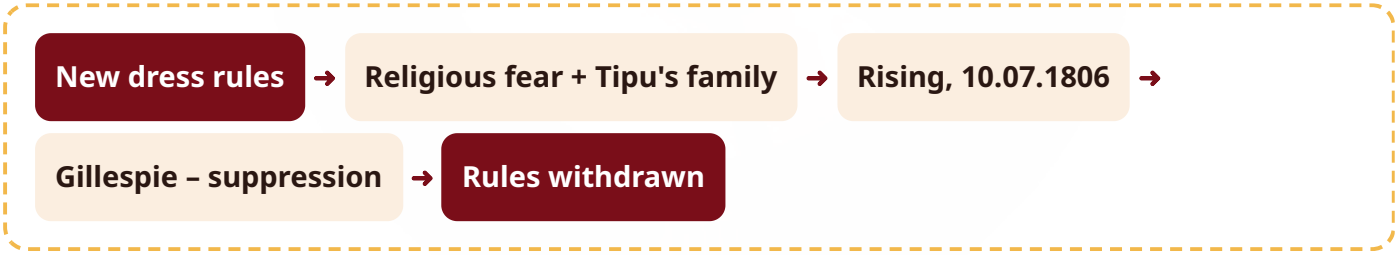
How to write

- Directive verbs "describe" and "assess" – three headings: causes, course–results, assessment
- draw the flowchart dress rules → religious fear → rising → suppression → rules withdrawn, and a causes table
- get 10.07.1806, Cradock, Bentinck, Gillespie (Arcot) and Tipu's family right
- end with the assessment "forerunner of 1857", linked to Tamil Nadu's tradition of resistance

Model answer

Introduction

The rising of the Company's Indian sepoys in **Vellore Fort** early on 10.07.1806 was the **first major sepoy revolt**, half a century before 1857. It followed the Poligar wars and the South Indian Rebellion (1800–01); 2026 marks its 220th year.



A) Causes

Cause	Details
Religious–cultural	C-in-C Sir John Cradock's new dress rules: ban on sect marks and earrings; shaved chins; a new round turban – fear of conversion.
Political	Tipu's family, lodged in the fort after 1799 – hopes of reviving Mysore rule.
Service–economic	Low pay and contempt from European officers; resentment after the crushing of the Poligars.
Immediate	Flogging and dismissal of sepoys who protested.

B) Course and results

Stage	Event
Rising	2 a.m.; 14 British officers and 115 men of the 69th killed; Mysore flag raised.
Suppression	Colonel Gillespie rode in from Arcot (26 km) with cavalry and retook the fort within hours; ~350 sepoys killed.
Results	Harsh punishment (6 blown from guns, 8 hanged); three battalions disbanded; dress rules withdrawn; Governor Bentinck and C-in-C Cradock recalled; Tipu's family moved to Calcutta.

C) Assessment

- **Forerunner of 1857:** interference with faith was the trigger in both (1806 – the turban; 1857 – greased cartridges); Hindu and Muslim sepoys rose together.
- **Limits:** no plan, leadership or popular support; one fort, one day.
- **Lesson:** the Company learnt not to meddle with social–religious customs.

Conclusion

The Vellore district administration calls it "a prelude to the Great Revolt of 1857"; it is a key link in Tamil Nadu's tradition of resistance (Puli Thevar → Kattabomman → Marudhu brothers → Vellore) and deserves its due place in the freedom struggle.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Describe and assess" – causes, course–results and assessment; skipping the assessment costs half the marks. Get the date (10.07.1806), names (Cradock, Bentinck, Gillespie) and numbers (14 officers, 115 men, ~350 sepoys) right. Write "forerunner of 1857" rather than flatly calling it the "first war of independence".

About 290 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- 1799 – Tipu fell in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War; his family was lodged in Vellore Fort. The South Indian Rebellion of 1800–01 (Marudhu brothers) and the crushing of the Poligars bred resentment in the south.
- Date and time: 10.07.1806, about 2 a.m. Garrison: four companies of the British 69th (South Lincolnshire) Regiment; 1/1, 2/1 and 2/23 Madras Native Infantry.
- British losses: 14 officers and 115 men of the 69th killed. Relief: Colonel Rollo Gillespie with the 19th Light Dragoons from Arcot, 26 km (16 miles) away. About 350 sepoys killed and as many wounded.
- Results: dress rules cancelled; Governor William Bentinck and C-in-C Sir John Cradock recalled; Tipu's family moved to Calcutta; three battalions disbanded.
- Vellore Fort – a Vijayanagara-era stone fort, now an ASI-protected monument.
- Answer-boosting terms: sepoy mutiny, dress regulations, forerunner of 1857, court martial, tradition of anti-colonial resistance.

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

Question: In 2025 Tamil Nadu amended its local body laws to nominate a person with disability to every local body. In this context, examine the problems faced by persons with disabilities in Tamil Nadu and evaluate the legal and welfare measures for their empowerment.

How to write

- Directive verbs "examine" and "evaluate" – three headings: problems, measures–evaluation, way forward
- draw the flowchart identity → education → jobs → social security → political voice, and a three-column evaluation table
- quote Census 2011 (2.68 crore; Tamil Nadu 11,79,963), RPwD 2016 (21 disabilities, 4%, 5%) and the 2025 nomination numbers correctly
- end with the rights principle "nothing about us without us"

Model answer

Introduction

Census 2011: **2.68 crore** persons with disabilities in India (2.21%), **11,79,963** in Tamil Nadu (about 1.64%). A 2025 amendment of the rural and urban local body laws ensures a nominated member with disability in **every local body** – from "charity" to "rights".

Identity (UDID card) → **Inclusive education** → **Jobs – 4% reservation** →
Maintenance allowance → **Political voice – local body nomination**

A) Problems

Problem	Details
Accessibility	Offices, buses, footpaths and websites are often not barrier-free.
Education, jobs	Few special educators and assistive devices – dropouts; backlog in the 4% posts; few private jobs.
Attitudes, data	Stigma; double discrimination for women; rural certification hurdles; no census data after 2011.

B) Measures – evaluation

Measure	Details	Evaluation

RPwD Act 2016	Follows the UNCRPD (2007); 21 disabilities (7 in 1995); benchmark 40%; 4% in government posts, 5% in higher education; free education at 6–18	Strong law; implementation is the gap
Tamil Nadu (Policy Note 2024-25)	First State with a separate department; 8,05,919 UDID cards; ₹2,000 a month for the severely affected	Income security; must link to jobs
Accessible India Campaign (03.12.2015)	National drive to make government buildings, transport and websites barrier-free	Needs regular audit and monitoring
Local body nomination (2025)	~650 urban bodies, 12,913 village panchayats, 388 unions, 37 district panchayats	Direct voice in decisions

C) Way forward

- Accessibility audit of public buildings and buses.
- Special recruitment for the 4% backlog; incentives for private employers.
- Special educators and assistive devices in every block.
- Training for nominated members; accurate data in the next Census.

Conclusion

Law and welfare put Tamil Nadu in the front rank, but only accessibility, jobs and changed attitudes, guided by **"nothing about us without us"**, can deliver true inclusion.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Examine and evaluate" – problems, measure–evaluation (three columns) and way forward. Data that earns marks: 2.68 crore (2.21%), Tamil Nadu 11,79,963; RPwD 2016 – 21 disabilities, 4%, 5%; the 2025 local body nominations. Use respectful terms and mention the shift from charity to rights.

About 280 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 – 7 disabilities; after India ratified the UNCRPD in 2007, the RPwD Act 2016 was enacted. Accessible India Campaign launched on 03.12.2015; 3 December is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Census 2011: India 2.68 crore (2.21%); Tamil Nadu 11,79,963 (male 6,57,418; female 5,22,545).
- RPwD Act 2016: 21 disabilities; benchmark disability 40% or more; Section 34 – 4% in government posts; Section 32 – 5% in higher education; Section 31 – free education for ages 6–18.
- Tamil Nadu (Policy Note 2024-25): first State with a separate department; 8,05,919 UDID cards; ₹2,000 a month for the severely affected – 2,20,258 persons (2023-24); 2024-25 outlay ₹1,389.16 crore.
- Local body nomination (Bills introduced 16.04.2025): about 650 urban bodies, 12,913 village panchayats, 388 panchayat unions, 37 district panchayats.

- Answer-boosting terms: rights-based approach, accessibility, universal design, inclusive education, reasonable accommodation.

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

Question: Trace Tamil Nadu's efforts to restructure Union–State relations from the Rajamannar Committee (1969) to the recent decision (November 2026) to entrust the subject to the State Law Commission, and compare its recommendations with those of the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions.

How to write

- Directive verbs "trace" and "compare" – three headings: timeline of efforts, comparison, assessment
- draw the flowchart 1969 → 1974 → 1983 → 2007 → 2025 → 2026, and a three-column comparison table
- cite G.O. 1741 (22.09.1969), the 16.04.1974 resolution and Articles 263, 356, 365 correctly
- end with a neutral assessment in terms of cooperative federalism

Model answer

Introduction

The Constitution creates a "federation with a strong Centre". The Tamil Nadu Government set up the **Rajamannar Committee** in 1969 to study Union–State relations; by an order of 06.11.2026 the subject was entrusted to the **State Law Commission**.

Rajamannar (1969) → **Resolution (1974)** → **Sarkaria (1983)** → **Punchhi (2007)** →
Kurian Joseph Committee (2025) → Law Commission (2026)

A) Tamil Nadu's efforts

Stage	Details
Rajamannar Committee	G.O. 1741 (22.09.1969); P.V. Rajamannar, A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, P. Chandra Reddy; report 1971; Assembly autonomy resolution 16.04.1974.
High-Level Committee	April 2025 – Justice Kurian Joseph (chair), K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty, M. Naganathan; Part I report February 2026 (10 chapters incl. Governor, language, delimitation, education, GST).
State Law Commission	Reconstituted 07.08.2026; as functions overlapped, the committee was wound up by an order of 06.11.2026 and its records handed over.

B) Recommendations compared

Subject	Rajamannar (1971)	Sarkaria (1988), Punchhi (2010)

Inter-State Council (Art. 263)	Constitute at once; advice ordinarily binding	Sarkaria: permanent Council (set up 1990); Punchhi: strengthen it
Emergency, Governor	Repeal Art. 365; omit provisions for reserving State Bills	Sarkaria: Art. 356 as a last resort; Governor a non-political person appointed after consulting the Chief Minister; Punchhi: localised emergency, fixed five-year term for Governors
Powers, finance	Residuary powers to States; permanent Finance Commission; many Concurrent subjects to the State List	Sarkaria: residuary taxation with the Union; consult States before Concurrent List laws; Punchhi: consult through the Council

C) Assessment

- The Union did not accept the Rajamannar report; yet the Inter-State Council (1990) and the S.R. Bommai judgment (1994) addressed the same issues.
- The Part I recommendations now fall to the State Law Commission for consideration.

Conclusion

Regular Council meetings, clear norms for the Governor's role and transparent fiscal sharing support cooperative federalism; the Constitution intends the Union and States to resolve differences through consultation.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Trace and compare" – a timeline table plus a comparison table; without the comparison half the marks are lost. Dates that earn marks: 22.09.1969, 16.04.1974, the 2025 committee, 06.11.2026. Do not praise or blame parties – write in neutral constitutional language. Get Articles 263, 356 and 365 right.

About 300 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- Seventh Schedule – Union, State and Concurrent Lists; residuary power (Art. 248) with Parliament. Art. 263 – Inter-State Council; Art. 356 – President's Rule; Art. 365 – failure to comply with Union directions may be treated as a breakdown of constitutional machinery.
- Rajamannar Committee: G.O. Ms. No. 1741, Public (Political), 22.09.1969; report 1971; recommended an Inter-State Council at once, repeal of Art. 365, residuary powers to States and a permanent Finance Commission.
- State autonomy resolution: Tamil Nadu Assembly, 16.04.1974.
- Sarkaria Commission: set up 1983, report 1988; the Inter-State Council was set up in 1990. Punchhi Commission: set up 2007, report 2010; fixed tenure for Governors, localised emergency.

- Kurian Joseph Committee: formed April 2025; Part I report February 2026; Part II due 31.05.2027; wound up by order of 06.11.2026 – work moved to the State Law Commission (reconstituted 07.08.2026).
- Answer-boosting terms: cooperative federalism, State autonomy, residuary powers, fiscal federalism, Inter-State Council.