Group 2 Mains – Daily Practice: Questions and Model Answers (21 November 2026)

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

Question: Explain the contribution of the Tamil Siddhar tradition to social thought and medical knowledge, and assess the place of Siddha medicine in present-day Tamil Nadu and the challenges it faces.

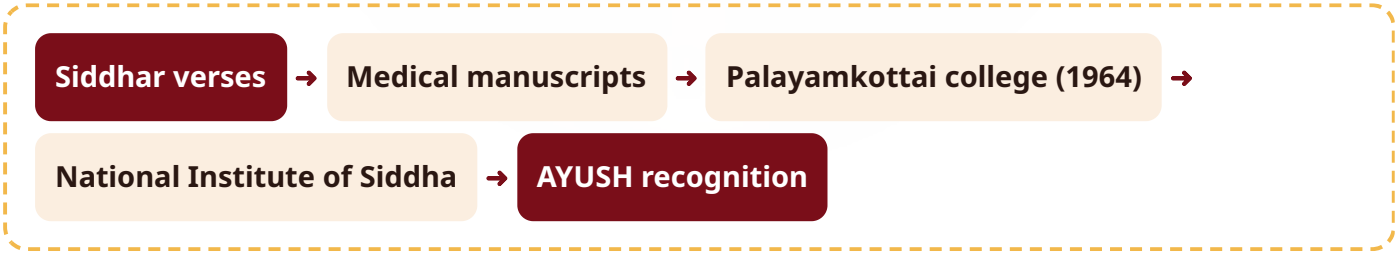
How to write

- Directive verbs "explain" and "assess" – five headings: who the Siddhars were, social thought, medical contribution (table), present status, challenges and way forward
- draw the flowchart Siddhar verses → medical manuscripts → Government Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai (1964) → National Institute of Siddha, Tambaram → AYUSH recognition
- quote Thirumoolar – "one community, one God" – and Sivavakkiyar's attack on ritual and caste
- current data: Kabasura kudineer in the COVID period, Nilavembu kudineer for dengue – distributed by the State; add in a balanced way that scientific evidence is needed

Model answer

Introduction

The **Siddhars** were Tamil mystics who rejected ritual and caste distinctions and sought truth by disciplining body and mind. The tradition of the "Eighteen Siddhars" includes Agathiyar, Thirumoolar, Bogar, Sivavakkiyar, Pambatti Siddhar and Kaduveli Siddhar. Their verses, sung in the language of ordinary people, are both **social criticism** and a **storehouse of medical and herbal knowledge**.



A) Social thought

- **Rejection of caste:** Thirumoolar (Thirumandiram – the tenth of the twelve Thirumurais) – "one community, one God" (Ondre kulamum oruvane thevanum); "Love is God" (Anbe Sivam).
- **Critique of ritual and idol worship:** Sivavakkiyar questioned outward ritual ("Natta kallai theivam endru...").
- **People's language:** simple spoken Tamil took knowledge to the unlettered – a forerunner of later rationalist and reform thought.

B) Medical contribution

Element	Explanation
Three humours (mukkuttram)	Health as the balance of vatham, pitham and kabam; eightfold examination including pulse reading (naadi).
Types of medicine	Herbal, mineral and animal sources; preparations such as parpam, chenduram, kudineer (decoction) and legiyam.
Kayakalpam	A regimen of diet, medicine and yoga for prevention and long life.
Food as medicine	Seasonal diet and herbs – preventive health thinking.

C) Place in present-day Tamil Nadu

- **Education:** Government Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai (1964); Arignar Anna Government Hospital of Indian Medicine campus, Arumbakkam (Chennai); National Institute of Siddha, Tambaram (Union Government).
- **Research:** Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS), Chennai – under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- **Public health:** AYUSH wings in government hospitals; Nilavembu kudineer during dengue outbreaks and Kabasura kudineer during COVID-19 were distributed.
- **Siddha Day:** observed every year on Margazhi Ayilyam, regarded as Agathiyar's birth star.

D) Challenges and way forward

Challenge	Way forward
Few clinical trials	Quality clinical research; joint studies with modern medical colleges
Safety and quality of metal-based drugs	Pharmacovigilance; GMP certification
Loss of manuscripts and herbs	Digitise manuscripts; herbal gardens; traditional-knowledge registers
Quacks and exaggerated advertisements	Only registered practitioners; strict action on misleading claims

Conclusion

The Siddhar tradition gave Tamil society **egalitarian thought and people's medicine**. If its medical knowledge is joined with scientific evidence, Tamil Nadu can become a global centre of traditional medicine.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Explain and assess" – both social thought and medicine are needed; leaving one out costs half the marks. One Siddhar quotation + one institution + one year (1964) give the answer credibility. Do not write that Siddha cures every disease; an evidence-based, balanced view impresses the examiner.

About 360 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- Eighteen Siddhars tradition: Agathiyar (revered as the first teacher of Siddha medicine), Thirumoolar (Thirumandiram, about 3,000 verses, the tenth Thirumurai), Sivavakkiyar, Bogar, Pambatti Siddhar, Kaduveli Siddhar.
- Core theory: three humours – vatham, pitham, kabam; eightfold examination; kayakalpam for longevity.
- Institutions: Government Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai (1964); National Institute of Siddha, Tambaram Sanatorium; Central Council for Research in Siddha, Chennai; Directorate of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Tamil Nadu.
- Siddha Day is observed on Margazhi Ayilyam, regarded as Agathiyar's birth star.

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

Question: Explain the main features of the anti-defection law (Tenth Schedule) and the court judgments that shaped it, and examine the shortcomings in its working and the reforms needed.

How to write

- Directive verbs "explain" and "examine" – four headings: features (table), judgments, shortcomings, reforms
- draw the flowchart 52nd Amendment (1985) → Kihoto Hollohan (1992) → 91st Amendment (2003) → Keisham Meghachandra (2020) → Subhash Desai (2023)
- Tamil Nadu example: 18 MLAs disqualified in 2017; upheld by the Madras High Court in 2018
- reforms: Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990) – decision by the President/Governor on the Election Commission's advice; Supreme Court suggestion of an independent tribunal

Model answer

Introduction

Frequent floor-crossing – the "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" politics – brought down many State governments after 1967. To stop it, the **52nd Constitutional Amendment (1985)** added the **Tenth Schedule**. Its aim: to protect the people's mandate and the stability of governments.



A) Main features

Feature	Details
Grounds for disqualification	A party member voluntarily giving up membership; voting or abstaining against the party whip (unless condoned within 15 days); an independent member joining a party; a nominated member joining a party after six months.
Exception – merger	No disqualification if two-thirds of the legislature party agree to a merger (Paragraph 4).
Deciding authority	The Chairman / Speaker (Paragraph 6).
91st Amendment (2003)	Removed the one-third "split" exception; barred disqualified members from remunerative political posts; capped the Council of Ministers at 15% of the House.

B) Judgments that shaped the law

- **Kihoto Hollohan (1992):** the Tenth Schedule is valid, but the Speaker's decision is subject to judicial review; Paragraph 7, which barred courts, was struck down.
- **Keisham Meghachandra Singh (2020):** disqualification petitions should ordinarily be decided within three months; Parliament may consider an independent body.
- **Subhash Desai (2023, Maharashtra):** the whip is appointed by the political party, not the legislature party; a legislative majority alone does not decide which is the real party.

C) Shortcomings

- The Speaker belongs to the ruling side – doubts about neutrality; decisions delayed.
- "Wholesale defection" continues through two-thirds mergers; members resign and re-contest by-elections.
- The whip system curbs members' freedom of opinion and the quality of debate.

D) Tamil Nadu example

In September 2017 the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly disqualified 18 members under the Tenth Schedule; in October 2018 the Madras High Court upheld it – a case where the Speaker's power and judicial review worked together.

E) Reforms

Recommendation	Benefit
Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990): decision by the President/Governor on the Election Commission's advice	Neutrality
An independent tribunal (Supreme Court, 2020)	Quick, impartial decisions
Whip only for confidence votes, money bills and similar matters (Law Commission)	Members' freedom of opinion
A time limit written into the law	No delays

Conclusion

The Tenth Schedule has helped **stable government**, but without a neutral decision-maker and a time limit the law itself becomes a tool of defection. Only a neutral authority plus inner-party democracy can protect the people's mandate.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Explain and examine" – features in a table, judgments with years; both shortcomings and reforms are compulsory. Paragraph numbers (Paragraph 4 – merger, Paragraph 6 – Speaker) lift the score. Avoid party names; write in neutral constitutional language.

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

Reference notes

Key facts

- 1985: 52nd Amendment added the Tenth Schedule. 1990: Dinesh Goswami Committee on electoral reforms.
- 1992: Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu – Speaker's decision open to judicial review; Paragraph 7 struck down.
- 2003: 91st Amendment – split exception deleted; Articles 75(1A) and 164(1A) cap ministries at 15% of the House.
- 2020: Keisham Meghachandra Singh – decide within three months ordinarily. 2023: Subhash Desai – the political party appoints the whip.
- Tamil Nadu: 18 MLAs disqualified on 18 September 2017; upheld by the Madras High Court on 25 October 2018.

3. Unit VI – Geography, Environment, Disaster Management · 15 marks · 250 words

Question: Explain why the northeast monsoon is vital for Tamil Nadu, with its mechanism, and examine its impact on the State's agriculture, water security and disaster risk, and the management measures needed.

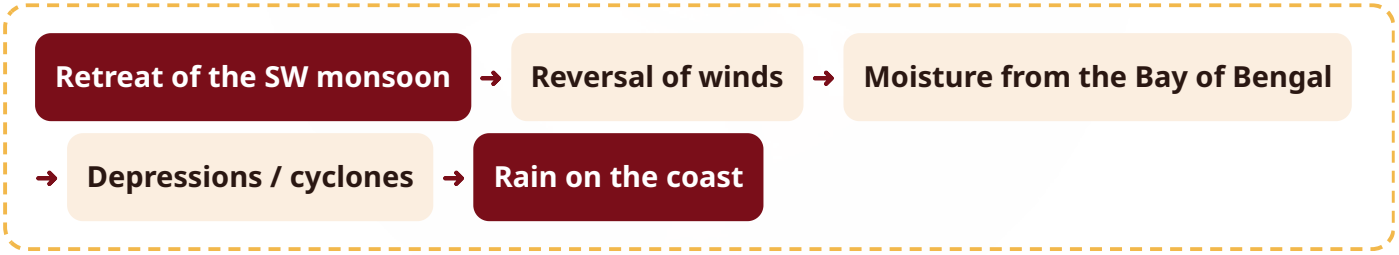
How to write

- Directive verbs "explain" and "examine" – four headings: mechanism, importance, impact (table), management
- draw the flowchart retreat of the southwest monsoon → reversal of winds → moisture from the Bay of Bengal → depressions/cyclones → rain on the Tamil Nadu coast
- data: nearly half (about 48%) of annual rainfall in October–December; Chennai floods of December 2015, Cyclone Michaung 2023; the severe deficit of 2016
- management: mandatory rainwater harvesting (2003), Kudimaramathu tank revival, impact-based forecasting

Model answer

Introduction

While most of India depends on the June–September southwest monsoon, Tamil Nadu lies in the **rain shadow** of the Western Ghats and depends mainly on the October–December **northeast monsoon**. **Nearly half (about 48%)** of the State's annual rainfall comes in this season; in coastal districts the share is even higher.



A) Mechanism

- When the southwest monsoon retreats in October, the land cools and winds blow from the northeast.
- Crossing the Bay of Bengal they pick up moisture and bring rain to the east coast.
- Depressions and cyclones that form in the Bay of Bengal bring heavy spells – which is also why the season's rainfall varies so much from year to year.

B) Impact

Sector	Positive	Risk
Agriculture	Samba paddy in the Cauvery delta; rain-fed crops (pulses, millets)	Crop loss in deficit years; damage from heavy rain at harvest
Water security	Tanks, ponds and Chennai's reservoirs (Poondi, Chembarambakkam, Puzhal) fill up; groundwater recharge	Drinking-water crisis in deficit years such as 2016
Disaster	–	Chennai floods of December 2015, Cyclone Michaung in December 2023 – urban flooding, coastal damage
Economy	Rural incomes; lower power demand	Lost livelihoods, damaged infrastructure, insurance burden

C) Management measures

- **Water:** mandatory rainwater harvesting in buildings (since 2003); revival of tanks and supply channels through Kudimaramathu; removal of encroachments on water bodies.
- **Agriculture:** short-duration varieties, crop insurance, season-wise sowing advisories.
- **Disaster:** impact-based forecasting through the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority, flood-risk mapping, better urban drainage, coastal shelters.
- **Science:** Doppler radars and automatic weather stations; planning for the rise in extreme-rainfall days under climate change.

Conclusion

The northeast monsoon is both a **boon and a challenge** for Tamil Nadu. Integrated water-and-disaster management – saving every drop while forecasting and handling floods in advance – is the lasting answer.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Explain and examine" – writing only impact without the mechanism earns half the marks; the flowchart is a must. Data such as "nearly half (about 48%)" and the years 2015, 2016 and 2023 lift the answer. Show positives and risks in one table; end with the climate-change angle.

About 320 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 1 table + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- Season: October–December (northeast monsoon / retreating monsoon season).
- Share: nearly half (about 48%) of Tamil Nadu's annual rainfall.
- Also benefits Puducherry, coastal Andhra Pradesh, south interior Karnataka and Keralam.
- Key events: Chennai floods (December 2015); severe deficit (2016); Cyclone Michaung (December 2023).

- Measures: mandatory rainwater harvesting (2003); Kudimaramathu tank revival (from 2017); TNSDMA early warnings and the TNSMART app.