

Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission
Syllabus
Nautical Science
(Degree Standard)

Code:596

Unit I: Merchant Shipping Act 2025 as amended (25 Questions)

Preliminary – Definitions, applicability, scope, Registration of Indian Ships – Vessel registration, ownership, tonnage, Safety of Navigation – Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) compliance, equipment, emergency drills, Crew and Seafarer Welfare – Recruitment, wages, repatriation, grievances, Training and Certification – Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping (STCW) standards, Certificate of Competency, Continuous Discharge Certificate issuance, Marine Environment Protection – Marine Pollution (MARPOL) compliance, pollution control, Maritime Labour Standards – Maritime Labour Convention 2006 integration, working conditions, Liabilities and Insurance – Shipowner liability, insurance mandates, Investigation and Casualty Reporting – Marine accidents, inquiry procedures, Foreign Vessels and Coastal Trade – Cabotage, foreign vessel operations in India, Port State Control and Inspections – Vessel inspections, compliance checks, Digital Records and Transparency – Electronic documentation, Clause 317 on freight disclosure, Maritime Administration – Directorate General (DG) Shipping, Mercantile Marine Departments, National Shipping Board – Governance, stakeholder representation, Penalties and Enforcement – Violations, fines, blacklisting, Miscellaneous and Transitional Provisions – Repeals, transitional clauses, rule-making powers.

Unit II: Indian Ports Act, 2025 as amended, and Major Port Authority Act 2021, as amended (20 Questions)

Indian Ports Act – Preliminary (Short title, definitions) – Maritime State Development Council – Port operations and port limits – State Maritime Boards – Dispute resolution framework – Appointment and Powers of Port Officers – Safety and Conservation of Port Infrastructure – Pollution Prevention and Response Mechanisms – Administrative Clauses and Schedules – Major Port Authority Act – Preliminary – Short Title, Date of Commencement, Scope and Key Definitions – Board of Major Port Authority – Management and Administration – Powers of Boards of Major Port Authorities in Respect of Loans and Securities – Supervision of Central Government – Constitution of Adjudicatory Board – Penalties – Miscellaneous.

Unit III: Tamil Nadu Maritime Board Act, 1995 and Tamil Nadu State Ports Development Policy, 2023 (25 Questions)

Preliminarily – Establishment of Maritime Board – Staff of the Board – Property and Contracts – Works and Services to be provided at the Ports by the Board – Imposition and Recovery of Rates at Ports – Borrowing Powers of Board – Revenue and Expenditure – Supervision and Control of Government – Penalties – Miscellaneous – Tamil Nadu State Ports Development Policy, 2023 – Short Title – Introduction – Definition – Present Status of Tamil Nadu Ports – Objectives – Policy and Operational Strategy – Development of New Ports – Industrialisation – Infrastructure Development – Adventure Water Sports – Coastal Shipping – Passenger Services – Maritime Sector Skill Development – Sustainable Maritime Development.

Unit IV: Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), Marine Pollution (MARPOL), Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping (STCW) 2010, Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 and Load line Convention (30 Questions)

SOLAS:

General Provisions, Construction – Structure, Subdivision and Stability, Machinery and Electrical, Construction – Fire Protection, Fire Detection and Fire Extinction, Life-Saving Appliances and Arrangements, Radio communications, Safety of Navigation, Carriage of Cargoes and Oil Fuels, Carriage of Dangerous Goods, Nuclear Ships, Management for the Safe Operation of Ships, Safety Measures for High-Speed Craft, Special Measures to Enhance Maritime Safety, Special Measures to Enhance Maritime Security, Additional Safety Measures for Bulk Carriers, Verification of Compliance, Safety Measures for Ships Operating in Polar Waters.

MARPOL:

Annex I: Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Oil – Annex II: Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk, Annex III: Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances in Packaged Form Annex IV: Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships, Annex V: Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships, Annex VI: Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships

Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) 2010:

General Provisions, Master and Deck Department, Engine Department, Radio Communication, Special Training Requirements, Emergency, Occupational Safety, Medical Care, and Survival Functions, Alternative Certification, Watchkeeping, STCW Code: Parts A & B

Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006:

Minimum Requirements for Seafarers to Work on a Ship, Conditions of Employment, Accommodation, Recreational Facilities, Food and Catering, Health Protection, Medical Care, Welfare and Social Security Protection, Compliance and Enforcement

Load line Convention:

General – Definitions, scope, and basic principles of assigning load lines, Conditions of Assignment of Freeboard – Structural and design requirements for assigning freeboard, Freeboards – Rules for calculating freeboards based on ship type and dimensions, Special Requirements for Ships Assigned Timber Freeboards – Additional criteria for ships carrying timber deck cargo

Unit V: Directorate General of Shipping Orders and Circulars, Port State Control (Indian Ocean Region) and Flag State Inspections (20 Questions)

Crew branch – Port State Control – International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) and Maritime Security – Nautical and Engineering Circulars – Salient inspection areas – Port State Control (PSC) inspection process – Critical deficiency areas – Legal background – Action codes – Organizational structure – Guidance on inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) instruments – Flag State Inspections – Validity of statutory and security documentation – Crew compliance, certification, work/rest, training – Navigation Functionality of critical navigational and safety systems – Availability of navigational publications and emergency manuals

Unit VI: Inland Vessels Act, 2021 as amended and Coastal Shipping Act 2025 (15 Questions)

Inland Vessels Act, 2021 – Preliminary, Declaration of Inland Water Area into Zones, Administrative Provisions, Survey of Inland Vessels, Registration, Manning, Qualification,

Training, Examination and Certification, Special Category Vessels, Navigation Safety and Signals, Prevention of Pollution Caused by Inland Vessel, Wreck and Salvage, Liability and Limitation of Liability, Insurance of Mechanically Propelled Vessels Plying in Inland Waters, Inquiry into Casualty, Accident or Wreck, Regulation of Trade Practices, Pilotage, Vessel Detention and Development Fund, Offences and Penalties, Miscellaneous (rule-making powers, repeal of 1917 Act)

Coastal Shipping Act 2025 – Preliminary – Prohibition and Licence for Coasting Trade – National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan and National Database of Coastal Shipping – Licencing of Chartered Vessels Other than for Coasting Trade – Offences and Penalties – Miscellaneous

Unit VII: Marine Aids to Navigation Act 2021 and The Indian port Health Rules 1955 (20 Questions)

Marine Aids to Navigation Act 2021 – Preliminary – Designation of General Aid to Navigation – Director General of Aids to Navigation – Management of General Aids to Navigation – Management of Vessel Traffic Services – Inspection and Management of Local Aids to Navigation – Obstruction to Functioning of Aids to Navigation – Training and Certification – Marking of Wrecks – Development of Heritage Lighthouses – Marine Aids to Navigation Dues – Finance, Accounts and Audit – Offences and Penalties – Miscellaneous – Indian Port Health Rules 1955 – Introductory — definitions and foundational provisions –Vessels arriving at Indian ports (messaging, signaling, pratique) – Procedures for infected or suspected vessels arriving at port – Rodent control measures and certification (deratting)

Unit VIII: International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and its amendments (20 Questions)

ISPS code – Application (types of ships, ports, facilities covered) – Responsibilities of Contracting Governments – Declaration of Security (DoS) – Ship Security Requirements – Ship Security Assessment (SSA) – Ship Security Plan (SSP) – Company Security Officer (CSO) – Ship Security Officer (SSO) – Records, drills, and training – Port Facility Security Requirements – Port Facility Security Assessment (PFSA) – Port Facility Security Plan (PFSP) – Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO) – Access control, monitoring, restricted areas – Security Levels (1, 2, 3) and corresponding measures – Certification – International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC)

Unit IX: Code of storm warning signals for use at Indian Ports and Notices to mariners issued by National Hydrographic Office, Dehradun (10 Questions)

Code of storm warning signals for use at Indian ports – Structure of Storm Warning Systems – Meanings of Signals – Detailed meanings of each signal – Visual signal specifications for both day (flag symbols) and night (lamp signals) – Notice to Mariners (issued by the National Hydrographic Office, Dehradun) – List of Charts Affected – Permanent Notices – Temporary and Preliminary Notices – Marine Information – NAVAREA VIII Warnings in Force – Corrections to Sailing Directions – Corrections to List of Lights – Corrections to List of Radio Signals – Corrections to Miscellaneous Nautical Publications –Reporting of Navigational Dangers

Unit X: The Right to Information Act 2005 and Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act 1998 as amended (15 Questions)

Right to Information Act, 2005 – Preliminary – extent, commencement, and definitions – Right to Information and Obligations of Public Authorities – Lays down the right to information, obligations

of public authorities, publication of information, and procedure for requesting information – The Central Information Commission – Establishment, composition, powers, and functions of the Central Information Commission – The State Information Commission – Establishment, composition, powers, and functions of the State Information Commissions – Powers and Functions of the Information Commissions, Appeal and Penalties – Complaint and appeal mechanisms, powers of the Commissions, and penalties for non-compliance – Miscellaneous – Protection of action taken in good faith, bar of jurisdiction of courts, rule-making powers, and repeal/saving provisions – Transparency in Tenders Act – Core operative provisions: definitions, tender processes, exclusions – Appeal procedure – Grounds and power to reject tenders – Government's power to seek information and records – Procedure override for internationally funded projects – Administrative/legal provisions, rule-making, overrides, indemnity, schedule

Dated:16.09.2025