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Editor's Note

As we enter November, today's edition of Pala Civil Times is in a celebratory mood. Our home state, Keralam, has completed 70 years of statehood. This seven-decade journey has witnessed remarkable developments in the state's political, social, economic and demographic landscape. We begin this edition by tracing Keralam's evolution from the pre-Independence era to the present.

Our trusted Editorials Decoded section turns to two important themes: ISRO's achievements, the challenges it faces and the road ahead; and the lessons emerging from recent trends in fertiliser sales amid agricultural uncertainties and global supply-chain disruptions caused by geopolitical conflicts.

On the economics page, we explore India's cruise tourism ambitions and examine how the sector could contribute to the country's broader development agenda towards 2047.

We hope these diverse yet interconnected themes of national importance offer readers meaningful insights and a clearer understanding of the issues shaping our state and country.

Happy reading!

P7. ECONOMICS



Cruise Tourism in India: Expanding Opportunities in Coastal and Inland Waterways

Exploring India's cruise tourism potential and its contribution to the country's long-term development agenda.

Editorials Decoded

THE HINDU

The Indian EXPRESS



Slow recovery

Examining ISRO's recent progress, operational challenges and the measures needed to strengthen India's space programme.



In fertiliser sales dip, a lesson for policymakers

Understanding the decline in fertiliser sales amid deficient rainfall, agricultural uncertainties and global supply-chain disruptions.

Formation and Evolution of Kerala: Historical Background and Development

Kerala's formation on 1 November 1956 was the culmination of a prolonged linguistic and cultural integration movement. Its subsequent development was shaped by social reform movements, land and educational reforms, migration, decentralised governance and women's empowerment. As Kerala enters its 70th year, its major challenge is to sustain its social development achievements while addressing youth migration, population ageing, employment generation and environmental sustainability.

Formation of Kerala and the Aikya Kerala Movement

Historical background: Before 1 November 1956, Malayalam-speaking people were politically divided among three administrative regions:

- Malabar, under British rule as part of the Madras Presidency.
- Travancore, a princely State.
- Cochin, a princely State.

Aikya Kerala Movement: The movement emerged as a demand for the political integration of all Malayalam-speaking regions into a single State.

Basis of integration: Common language, literary heritage, cultural traditions, history, rituals and customs strengthened the sense of a shared Malayali identity.

Role of the Indian National Movement: It popularised the idea of reorganising administrative units along linguistic lines and strengthened the demand for a unified Kerala.

Role of the Indian National Congress in Linguistic Reorganisation

Kerala Provincial Congress Committee (1921): Established on a linguistic basis, it included Malabar, Travancore and Cochin, indicating early political support for a unified Kerala.

Ottappalam Conference (1921): The first All-Kerala Provincial Conference brought together representatives from all three regions and strengthened Kerala's regional identity.

Indian National Congress (1927): Expressed support for the linguistic reorganisation of provinces in India.

Nehru Committee (1928): Favoured linguistic States, arguing that they would promote cultural well-being, educational advancement and public participation.

Major Developments in the Aikya Kerala Movement (1928–1956)

1928 – Ernakulam Conferences: The States People's Conference and All-Kerala Kudiyan Conference highlighted the need for a separate Kerala Province.

1938 – Travancore Political Conference: A resolution supported a sub-federation comprising Malabar, Travancore and Cochin.

1945 – Support from Cochin: The Maharaja of Cochin expressed support for a united Kerala in his message to the Cochin Legislative Council on 29 July 1945. The Cochin State Praja Mandal also supported the demand.

1946 – Aikya Kerala Sub-Committee: The Kerala Provincial Congress Committee established a sub-committee to intensify the movement under K.P. Kesava Menon.

April 1947 – Aikya Kerala Conference, Thrissur: Held under the chairmanship of K. Kelappan, it brought together political and cultural representatives. The Maharaja of Cochin also expressed support for a united Kerala.

1947 – Aikya Kerala Council: A 100-member council was formed to pursue the demand for a unified State.

1948 – Aluva Convention: The Aikya Kerala Council appointed a 15-member Action Committee with K. Kelappan as President and K.A. Damodara Menon as Secretary.

Dhar Commission: The Aikya Kerala Council submitted a memorandum demanding a Malayalam-speaking State comprising Malabar, Travancore, Cochin and several adjoining regions, including Coorg, Nilgiris, Gudalur, South Canara, Mahe and Lakshadweep.

1948 – JVP Committee: The Congress appointed a committee comprising Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramayya to examine linguistic reorganisation. It advised caution and stated that Kerala and Karnataka's formation would have to wait until the integration of princely States was resolved.

Formation of the current state

1 July 1949 – Formation of Travancore-Cochin: Travancore and Cochin were integrated into a single State, marking an important step towards Kerala's formation.

States Reorganisation Commission (1953): Headed by Syed Fazl Ali, it recommended the formation of Kerala by integrating Malabar district and Kasaragod taluk with Travancore-Cochin. It also recommended transferring four southern Travancore taluks and parts of Shenkottai to Madras State.

1 November 1956 – Formation of Kerala: The State of Kerala officially came into existence, fulfilling the long-standing demand for the political unification of Malayalam-speaking regions.

Social reforms and land reforms

Social reform movements: Challenged caste discrimination, feudal oppression and social inequalities, laying the foundation for a more equitable society.

First elected government (1957): The first Communist government introduced land and educational reforms, which were subsequently carried forward by successive Left and Congress governments.

Social empowerment: These reforms helped empower sections of society that had experienced generations of oppression.

Achievements in human development

Kerala achieved significant progress in health, literacy, education and living standards during its first few decades. The State continued to build on these achievements and maintained relatively high social development indicators. In 2025, Kerala became the first Indian State to declare itself free from extreme poverty.

Migration and economic transformation

Outward migration: Limited industrialisation and employment opportunities encouraged large-scale migration to West Asian countries.

Role of remittances: Money sent by migrants improved household incomes, encouraged investments and contributed to Kerala's transformation into a largely middle-class, consumer-oriented society.

Inward migration: The growing educated population's preference for white-collar employment created demand for workers in blue-collar occupations.

Migrant workers: Workers from northeastern States increasingly migrated to Kerala from the late 1990s. Their population has grown to over 3.5 million, with many becoming integrated into Kerala society.

Labour welfare: Trade union movements and labour activism contributed to Kerala having the highest daily wages among Indian States.

Industrial development

Industrialisation challenge: Limited industrial growth has remained a persistent concern because of population pressure and geographical constraints.

Ease of doing business: Kerala secured the top position in the Union Commerce Ministry's ease of doing business rankings in 2024, improving from 28th position a few years earlier.

Emerging sectors: The State is encouraging environmentally friendly and relatively low-polluting industries, particularly IT, hospitality, semiconductors, biotechnology, life sciences and medical devices.

Environmental concerns: Industrial expansion must be balanced with environmental protection, particularly given the increasing frequency of natural calamities.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Linguistic reorganization of Indian States was driven by popular pressure from below. Comment. (GS II - 2026)
Q. The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has heen a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples. (GS II - 2022)

Slow Recovery

The successful launch of the GSLV-F18 mission carrying the NVS-03 satellite marks an important development for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It offers relief after two recent launch failures involving Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs) and provides an opportunity to restore the operational capabilities of the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC). However, recurring launch failures, procurement bottlenecks, inadequate funding and workforce constraints highlight the need for structural reforms to strengthen India's space programme.

GSLV-F18 Mission and the NavIC Programme

Successful launch: ISRO successfully launched the GSLV-F18 mission carrying the NVS-03 satellite.

Launch performance: The F18 mission was only the second successful launch of 2026, highlighting concerns about ISRO's recent launch performance.

NavIC requirements: NavIC had remained at least one functional satellite short for six months, affecting its ability to provide standalone positioning services over the Indian subcontinent.

NVS-03's significance: Successful commissioning of NVS-03 in its intended orbital position would help restore the operational capabilities of NavIC.

Operational qualification: The satellite must be successfully manoeuvred into its final intended orbital slot and commissioned before its full operational contribution can be established.

NavIC and Indigenous Technological Capabilities

NavIC: Navigation with Indian Constellation is India's indigenous satellite-based navigation system intended to provide positioning services over the Indian subcontinent.

First-generation satellites: The original Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) satellites relied on imported atomic clocks.

Latest NVS satellites: The newer satellites, including NVS-03, carry at least one indigenously developed atomic clock onboard.

Importance of atomic clocks: They provide precise timekeeping, which is essential for accurate satellite-based navigation and positioning services.

Technological self-reliance: Indigenous atomic clocks reduce dependence on imported components.

Parliamentary intervention: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology recommended greater indigenous capability in atomic clocks and highlighted the need to address procurement bottlenecks affecting ISRO.

What are the major challenges facing ISRO?

Launch reliability: Recent PSLV launch failures have raised concerns about launch reliability and affected the operational continuity of India's space programme.

Procurement and manufacturing bottlenecks: ISRO faces difficulties in procuring specialised components required for satellite and launch vehicle manufacturing. ***ISRO Space Applications Centre's 2025 request for proposals indicated a lead time of nearly two years between the commencement of a contract and the availability of the first two flight models. These constraints can delay satellite replacement and affect the continuity of navigation services.***

Inadequate financial resources: Limited budgetary allocations constrain the manufacturing of launch vehicles, replacement of ageing satellites and expansion of ISRO's operational capabilities.

Workforce shortages: An inadequate workforce places additional pressure on existing personnel and affects the timely execution of multiple missions. Funding and manpower constraints could delay India's ambitious future space programmes.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. What is the main task of India's third moon mission which could not be achieved in its earlier mission? List the countries that have achieved this task. Introduce the subsystems in the spacecraft launched and explain the role of the Virtual Launch Control Centre' at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre which contributed to the successful launch from Sriharikota. (GS III - 2023)

In fertiliser sales dip, a lesson for policymakers

The strengthening El Niño event is beginning to affect Indian agriculture through deficient rainfall, reduced fertiliser consumption and concerns over crop productivity. Despite higher fertiliser production and imports, domestic sales have declined, indicating subdued farmer demand. The emerging situation also raises concerns about the upcoming rabi season, food inflation and agricultural resilience.

How is El Niño affecting fertiliser consumption?

Declining fertiliser sales: Domestic sales of all major fertilisers declined during April–September 2026 compared with the corresponding period in 2025. *Sales of complex fertilisers containing nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur (NPKS) recorded the sharpest decline of 22.2%.*

Other fertilisers: Muriate of Potash (MOP) sales declined by 11.7%, while Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Single Super Phosphate (SSP) sales fell by 0.6% and 1.4%, respectively.

Urea consumption: Urea sales declined by 4.1%, marking the first fall since 2021–22, despite record sales of 39.6 million tonnes in 2025–26.

Subdued farmer demand: Inadequate rainfall has reduced the need and ability of farmers to purchase and apply fertilisers, resulting in lower nutrient consumption.

What factors explain the decline in fertiliser consumption?

Deficient rainfall: All-India southwest monsoon rainfall was 12.6% below the long-period average during June–September 2026. Inadequate soil moisture has discouraged farmers from purchasing and applying fertilisers, even where overall kharif acreage has not declined substantially.

Uneven fertiliser prices: DAP is available at its controlled MRP of around ₹1,350 per 50-kg bag, while complex NPKS fertilisers cost approximately ₹2,100–2,400 per bag, affecting their relative demand.

Higher urea availability: Urea production and imports increased by 4.3% and 40.5% during April–September 2026, supported by increased LNG sourcing. However, this has not translated into higher sales because of subdued farmer demand.

Geopolitical supply disruptions: Damage to facilities in West Asia following missile and drone attacks has disrupted sulphur supplies.

What are the implications for Indian agriculture and the economy?

Lower crop productivity: Reduced fertiliser application can affect crop yields even if the total area cultivated under kharif crops remains relatively stable.

Rabi season vulnerability: The strengthening El Niño, deficient winter precipitation and warmer-than-usual temperatures could affect rabi sowing, crop acreage and yields.

Food inflation: Reduced agricultural production could intensify food price pressures. Consumer food inflation reportedly increased from 4.2% in April to over 7.7% in September.

Historical concern: The previous major episode of food inflation, averaging over 8.5% between July 2023 and December 2024, also coincided with a prolonged and strong El Niño.

Agricultural investment concerns: Lower farm incomes and uncertainty over crop performance could affect farmers' purchasing decisions and demand for agricultural inputs.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements: (2017) The nation-wide 'Soil Health Card Scheme' aims at

1. expanding the cultivable area under irrigation.
2. enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality.
3. checking the overuse of fertilizers in farmlands.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

What does the trend in tractor sales indicate?

September decline: Domestic tractor dispatches declined by 18.1% in September 2026 compared with September 2025.

Possible seasonal factors: The industry attributed part of the decline to a shift in the festival calendar and a high base created by the previous year's 45.4% growth in September dispatches.

GST rate reduction: The reduction in the GST rate on tractors from 12% to 5% in September 2025 had also contributed to higher dispatches during the previous year.

Drought-related uncertainty: Despite an 8% cumulative growth in tractor dispatches during April–September 2026, deficient rainfall remains a concern for agricultural demand in the remaining months.

What measures are needed to address the emerging challenges?

Ensure food availability: Permit duty-free imports of pulses such as masoor, chana and yellow peas, raw sugar and cotton until 31 March to compensate for possible domestic production shortages. Consider removing basic customs duty on crude palm oil and soybean oil to facilitate imports and moderate domestic prices.

Maintain fertiliser security: Ensure adequate supplies of essential fertilisers, particularly urea and DAP, while addressing raw material shortages affecting complex fertiliser production.

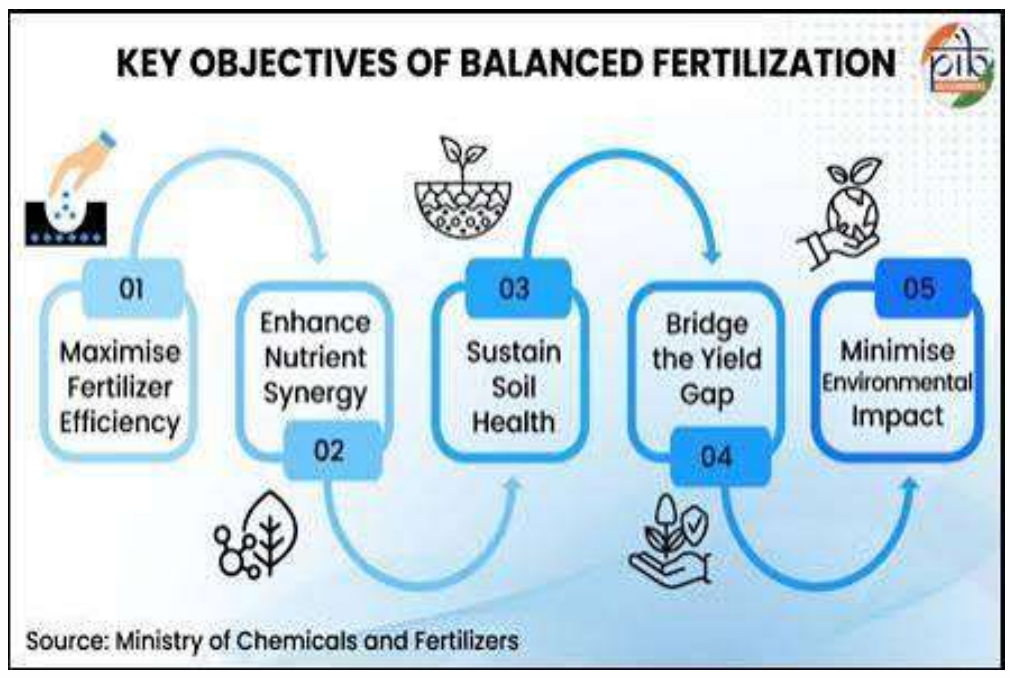
Promote climate-smart agriculture: Invest in climate-resilient crop varieties and breeding technologies to withstand heat and rainfall variability.

Improve resource efficiency: Encourage farmers to use water, fertilisers, energy and other scarce agricultural resources more efficiently.

Reform fertiliser subsidies: Reassess the existing subsidy structure to reduce distortions in fertiliser consumption and promote balanced nutrient application.

Strengthen long-term preparedness: Treat climate change and geopolitical disruptions as persistent structural challenges rather than temporary risks while planning agricultural, economic and fiscal policies.





PYQ COMPASS

Q. With reference to the international trade of India at present, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2020)

1. India's merchandise exports are less than its merchandise imports.
2. India's imports of iron and steel, chemicals, fertilisers and machinery have decreased in recent years.
3. India's exports of services are more than its imports of services.
4. India suffers from an overall trade/current account deficit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Cruise Tourism in India: Expanding Opportunities in Coastal and Inland Waterways

India's cruise tourism sector is witnessing growing opportunities, supported by rising domestic demand, expansion of port infrastructure and government initiatives. The Centre aims to double annual cruise passenger traffic to one million by FY 2029 under the Cruise Bharat Mission. The sector also offers opportunities for employment, tourism diversification and regional economic development.

Why does India have significant potential for cruise tourism?

Extensive coastline: India has a coastline of about 7,500 km, with 12 major ports and 200 minor ports, providing opportunities for coastal and ocean cruises.

Inland waterways: More than 20,000 km of navigable waterways, covering 111 national waterways and connecting around 400 rivers, offer scope for river cruise tourism.

Geographical diversity: Coastal States, Union Territories and around 1,300 islands provide opportunities to develop diverse cruise destinations.

Tourism potential: Cruise tourism connects natural landscapes, heritage sites and cultural attractions while generating employment in hospitality, entertainment and local services

What are the emerging opportunities in India's cruise sector?

Rising passenger demand: In FY 2026, nine Indian ports handled 212 cruise ship calls and 4.62 lakh passengers. Domestic cruises accounted for 78% of ship calls and over 90% of passenger traffic.

Goa cruise terminal: The ₹185-crore project will include check-in facilities, lounges, retail stores and food courts. It is designed to berth four vessels simultaneously.

Cochin Port: Plans are underway to develop a mega cruise terminal, with a consultant appointed to prepare the Detailed Project Report.

New passenger experiences: Mumbai's cruise terminal is developing an experience centre with dining, shopping, lifestyle and entertainment facilities to attract both passengers and local visitors.

Development of international cruise circuits

Tourist circuits: Linking cruise terminals with major tourist destinations can attract more international visitors.

Regional connectivity: Itineraries connecting South India with Southeast Asia and India with West Asia offer opportunities to expand international cruise traffic.

Global operators: International cruise companies recognise the potential of the Indian market, particularly for Asian itineraries, although deployment of their vessels in India remains limited.

Growth of river cruise tourism

Ganga and Brahmaputra: These rivers offer opportunities to combine river navigation with heritage, cultural and nature-based tourism.

MV Ganga Vilas: Launched in January 2023, it undertook a 3,200-km journey from Varanasi to Dibrugarh across 27 river systems in India and Bangladesh.

Kerala backwaters: Houseboat tourism in Alappuzha demonstrates the potential of inland waterways for leisure and tourism.

New regional routes: Initiatives involving the Yamuna in Delhi, the Chenab, Jhelum and Ravi in Jammu and Kashmir, and the Kukshi–Sardar Sarovar route in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are expanding the geographical reach of river tourism.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2023)
Port Well Known for
1. Kamarajar Port - First port in India registered as a company
2. Mundra Port - Largest privately owned port in India
3. Visakhapatnam - Largest container port in India
How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
a) Only one pair
b) Only two pairs
c) All three pairs
d) None of the pairs

Cruise Bharat Mission (2024)

Launch and objective: Launched on 30 September 2024 at Mumbai Port, the mission aims to double cruise passenger traffic by 2029 and position India as a global cruise tourism destination.

Institutional coordination: It provides a framework for coordination among Customs, Immigration, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), State Tourism Departments, maritime agencies, district administrations and local police.

River cruise target: The mission also envisages attracting over 1.5 million river cruise passengers across more than 5,000 km of operational waterways.

Implementation: The mission is being implemented in three phases from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2029.

Maritime India Vision 2030

Long-term objective: It seeks to make India a significant player in the global ocean and river cruise markets, with the Indian cruise market having the potential to grow eightfold over the next decade.

Three focus areas: Oceanic and Coastal Cruise; Island and Infrastructure Development; and River and Inland Cruise.

Regulatory and operational reforms

Priority berthing: Cruise vessels receive berthing priority over cargo ships.

Rationalised charges: Standardised port charges, nominal passenger taxes and volume-based discounts of 10–30% have been introduced.

Cabotage relaxation: Foreign cruise ships have been permitted to carry Indian nationals between domestic ports.

Simplified travel procedures: E-visas, visa-on-arrival facilities and a uniform Standard Operating Procedure have been introduced.

Digital clearance: A single e-Landing Card is valid across all ports on a cruise itinerary.

Tax relief: Conditional Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) exemption is available to foreign vessels converting to coastal operations, subject to reconversion within six months.

What are the major challenges?

Geopolitical disruptions: Red Sea tensions have increased fuel and insurance costs, reducing foreign cruise ship calls at Indian ports.

Taxation concerns: International operators seek a competitive tax framework comparable to international cruise markets and other tourism and transport sectors.

Infrastructure gaps: More modern terminals, berthing facilities and supporting tourism infrastructure are needed to attract international operators.

Limited international deployment: Despite interest in the Indian market, some global operators have not yet committed to homeporting vessels in India.

Insufficient tourist circuits: Cruise itineraries need better integration with inland destinations, heritage sites and local tourism services.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sagarmala Programme of the Government of India:

I. The Sagarmala Programme seeks to achieve port-led economic growth through cost-effective and sustainable coastal infrastructure.

II. The success of the Sagarmala Programme is reflected in significant growth in coastal and inland waterway shipping, along with improved global port rankings.

III. Sagarmala 2.0 aims to position India as a global maritime innovation hub aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047 visions.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

1. Statement II validates the effectiveness of the strategies envisioned in statement I.
2. Statement III extends the objectives of statement I by embedding them into a future-oriented innovation framework.
3. Statement I contradicts statement III by focusing only on traditional infrastructure instead of modern innovation.

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 only

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sagarmala Programme of the Government of India: (2026)
I. The Sagarmala Programme seeks to achieve port-led economic growth through cost-effective and sustainable coastal infrastructure.
II. The success of the Sagarmala Programme is reflected in significant growth in coastal and inland waterway shipping, along with improved global port rankings.
III. Sagarmala 2.0 aims to position India as a global maritime innovation hub aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047 visions.
Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?
1. Statement II validates the effectiveness of the strategies envisioned in statement I.
2. Statement III extends the objectives of statement I by embedding them into a future-oriented innovation framework.
3. Statement I contradicts statement III by focusing only on traditional infrastructure instead of modern innovation.
Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 only

Ans : b
All three statements – I, II and III are correct.
Statement II validates the effectiveness of Statement I Valid.
Statement III extends the objectives of Statement I through a future-oriented innovation.
Statement I contradicts Statement III Invalid. So answer is B

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2023)
Port Well Known for
1. Kamarajar Port – First port in India registered as a company
2. Mundra Port – Largest privately owned port in India
3. Visakhapatnam – Largest container port
in India
How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
a) Only one pair
b) Only two pairs
c) All three pairs
d) None of the pairs

Ans : b
Kamarajar Port (Ennore Port) was the first in India to be registered as a company.
Mundra Port is indeed the largest privately-owned port in India.
Visakhapatnam Port is not the largest container port; that distinction belongs to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT). Thus, only two pairs are correctly matched.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements: (2017) The nation-wide 'Soil Health Card Scheme' aims at
1. expanding the cultivable area under irrigation.
2. enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality.
3. checking the overuse of fertilizers in farmlands.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans : b
Statement 3: Soil Health card (SHC) is a printed report card issued to farmers in once in three years indicating the status of his soil in terms of 12 parameters. It is also accompanied by an advice on the various fertilizers and other soil amendments he is suppose to make. So, only 3 is correct. Statement 2: This can be an outcome of the scheme and complement it, but it is not an aim or a central feature of the scheme.

Q. With reference to the international trade of India at present, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2020)
1. India's merchandise exports are less than its merchandise imports.
2. India's imports of iron and steel, chemicals, fertilisers and machinery have decreased in recent years.
3. India's exports of services are more than its imports of services.
4. India suffers from an overall trade/current account deficit.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans : d
India's imports of iron and steel, chemicals, fertilisers and machinery have decreased in recent years: While certain imports may vary year to year, overall, the import trends for these categories have not consistently decreased in recent years. In fact, India remains dependent on imports of items like fertilizers and machinery. ***This statement is incorrect.***

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to the initiatives taken by the Government of India to promote cruise tourism, consider the following statements:
1. The Cruise Bharat Mission aims to double cruise passenger traffic by 2029 and also envisages attracting over 1.5 million river cruise passengers across operational waterways.
2. Under the Maritime India Vision 2030, the development of cruise tourism is limited to oceanic and coastal cruises, with river and inland cruises excluded from its focus areas.
3. The relaxation of cabotage laws for foreign cruise ships allows them to carry Indian passengers between domestic ports.
4. The River Cruise Tourism Roadmap 2047 identifies infrastructure, integration, accessibility and policy as its four focus areas.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
Statement 2 – Incorrect: Maritime India Vision 2030 covers three areas: Oceanic and Coastal Cruise; Island and Infrastructure Development; and River and Inland Cruise.

Q. With reference to the measures proposed to strengthen India's space programme, consider the following statements:
1. The Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme can be adapted to support the domestic production of specialised electronic components required by ISRO.
2. Modernising the Semiconductor Laboratory can strengthen India's domestic semiconductor manufacturing capabilities.
3. Establishing a dedicated NavIC operator would enable ISRO to focus more on research, development and space missions.
4. A comprehensive national space law is primarily intended to restrict private-sector participation in India's space activities.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- Statement 1 is correct: The scheme can support domestic manufacturing of specialised electronic components required by ISRO.
- Statement 2 is correct: Modernising the Semiconductor Laboratory can strengthen domestic semiconductor manufacturing capabilities.
- Statement 3 is correct: A dedicated NavIC operator can manage its services and operations, allowing ISRO to concentrate on its core responsibilities.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: A national space law is intended to provide a clear framework for private-sector participation, regulatory responsibilities and liability, thereby facilitating private investment.