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1 Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) (Source: *The Hindu*)

- A regulatory body in the field of civil aviation primarily dealing with safety issues.
- Functions under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)
- **Became a statutory body in 2020 under the Aircraft (Amendment) Act.**
- **Key Functions of DGCA:** Safety Oversight & Regulations + Aircraft & Airport Certification+ Licensing +Accident & Incident Investigation + ICAO Coordination Training Oversight



2 Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) (Source: *The Hindu*)

- It is a **Centrally sponsored scheme** focusing on border villages.
- **Aim:** Comprehensive development of the 2,967 villages in 46 blocks in 19 districts abutting the northern border in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and the UT of Ladakh
- Implemented by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**
- There will be no overlap with the Border Area Development Programme

Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II)

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% Centre funding) approved by the Union Cabinet during April 2025
- Coverage: Strategic villages along international land borders (ILBs) across 17 states/UTs (excluding northern border blocks covered under VVP-I)



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3 Biopesticides (Source: *Down To Earth*)

Biopesticides are pest-control agents derived from natural biological sources such as microorganisms, plants, animals, or certain minerals.

Types of Biopesticides

- 1. Microbial Biopesticides** – Contain microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, viruses, protozoa).
 - *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt)- Controls caterpillars
 - *Trichoderma viride* – Controls soil-borne fungal diseases
 - *Beauveria bassiana* – Controls whiteflies, aphids, borers.
- 2. Botanical Biopesticides** – Derived from plants.
 - Eg: Neem-based pesticides from *Azadirachta indica*
 - Pyrethrum (from chrysanthemum flowers)
- 3. Biochemical Biopesticides** – Naturally occurring substances that control pests by non-toxic mechanisms.
 - Eg: Pheromone traps (used for monitoring and mass trapping of insects)





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4 Parliamentary Committees (Source: *The Indian Express*)

- A *Parliamentary Committee* is a body constituted by the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman, to carry out functions delegated by Parliament.
- **Derive their authority from the Constitution under Article 105 (powers and privileges) and Article 118 (regulation of business)**
- The Constitution does not mention details of parliamentary committees .
- **Origin – British Parliament**



Privilege Committee

- **Under committees to Inquire**
- The functions of this committee are **semi-judicial in nature**. It examines the cases of breach of privileges of the House and its members and recommends appropriate action.
- Consists of 15 members in Lok Sabha (10 in case of Rajya Sabha) nominated by the Speaker (Chairman in case of Rajya Sabha)



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5 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (Source: PIB)

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was the founder of Maratha empire. He was born in Pune.

What you need to know?

- He was born to Shahaji Bhonsle, a Maratha general, and Jijabai.
- He established a robust naval force.
- The Council of Eight Ministers, or Ashta Pradhan Mandal, was an administrative and advisory council set up by Shivaji.
- Marathi was used as the court language by Shivaji instead of Persian.
- Shivaji was a contemporary of Samarth Ramdas.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak organised Shivaji festival during the freedom struggle.
- M. G. Ranade, wrote Rise of the Maratha Power which declared Shivaji's achievements as the beginning of modern nation-building.



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6 Internet Shutdown (Source: *The Hindu*)

Internet shutdowns are ordered under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 earlier was telegraph act 1885.

Who can order it?

- **Central Level:** The Union Home Secretary.
- **State Level:** The State Home Secretary.
- **Maximum Duration:** A single shutdown order cannot exceed 15 days. (However, authorities often issue "successive orders" to extend this).



What more needs to be known?

- **Anuradha Bhasin vs. Union of India (2020) case.** SC ruled that: Shutdowns must be a "measure of last resort"
- **Fundamental Right:** Freedom of speech and trade over the internet is protected under **Article 19.**
- Every order must be reviewed by a committee (Cabinet Secretary at the Centre / Chief Secretary at the State).
- IT Act, 2000 (Section 69A) Powers to block specific websites/content (used for URL blocking).