Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)

***Prelims**: Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

The Centre has recently constituted the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS).

- **Aim -** To oversee the ***security of ships and port facilities*** across the country.
- Modelled after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), it serves as the apex regulatory authority for maritime security.
- **Statutory Status -** BoPS is established under Section 13 of the ***Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.***
- **Jurisdiction -** It functions under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).
- **Scope** - The bureau provides a unified institutional framework for security oversight at all 12 major ports and over 200 non-major (state-owned and private) ports in India.
- **International Compliance -** It has the legal authority to enforce the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.
- **Organizational Structure - Leadership -** The BoPS will be headed by a Director General, who must be a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer (Pay Level-15).
- **Transition Period -** During the initial one-year transition phase (2025–2026), the Director General of Shipping (DGS) will hold additional charge as the DG of BoPS.
- **Core Functions – Cybersecurity -** A dedicated division will be created within BoPS to protect port IT and digital infrastructure from emerging threats.
- **Risk-Based Security -** Implementation of security measures in a graded manner, factoring in a port's location, trade volume, and vulnerability.
- **Intelligence Sharing -** BoPS ensures the timely collection, analysis, and exchange of security-related information among various stakeholders.
- **Training & Certification -** BoPS oversees the certification and licensing

of **Private Security Agencies (PSAs)** engaged in port security.

Reference

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