Science & Technology · GS - III

Examine the ethical and regulatory challenges posed by AI-generated deepfakes, particularly non-consensual synthetic imagery.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - III	Science & Technology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Privacy and dignity, consent, algorithmic accountability, platform responsibility, child protection, content moderation, digital literacy

Model Answer

Introduction

Artificial intelligence enables the creation of highly realistic synthetic images, audio and videos. While these technologies have legitimate applications, their misuse for non-consensual intimate imagery and impersonation poses serious threats to individual rights and digital safety.

Major Ethical and Regulatory Challenges

1. **Violation of Privacy and Dignity:** Synthetic intimate imagery can exploit an individual's identity without consent, causing psychological distress, harassment and reputational damage.

2. **Threat to Vulnerable Groups:** Children and women face heightened risks of exploitation, cyberbullying and technology-facilitated abuse.

3. **Consent and Accountability:** Existing legal frameworks face challenges in addressing responsibility across content creators, AI developers and distribution platforms.

4. **Content Moderation Difficulties:** Rapid content generation, cross-platform circulation and technological sophistication make detection and removal difficult.

5. **Freedom and Innovation Concerns:** Overly broad restrictions may affect legitimate creative expression, research and technological innovation.

Measures Required

1. **Risk-based Regulation:** Establish clear obligations for AI developers and platforms regarding high-risk image-generation capabilities.

2. **Safety by Design:** Incorporate safeguards such as consent verification, restrictions on abusive prompts, provenance mechanisms and effective reporting systems.

3. **Legal Enforcement:** Strengthen implementation of applicable cybercrime, privacy and child-protection laws, supported by specialised investigation capabilities.

4. **Platform Accountability:** Ensure prompt grievance redressal, preservation of relevant evidence and effective removal of unlawful content.

5. **Public Awareness:** Promote digital literacy and accessible reporting mechanisms to help victims seek timely assistance.

Conclusion

AI innovation must remain consistent with constitutional values, human dignity and individual rights. A combination of enforceable regulation, responsible platform design and effective victim protection is essential for building a safe digital ecosystem.

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