What has govt. laid down on AI labelling?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security

1.Context

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has amended the Information Technology Rules, 2021** to regulate AI-generated content.

- The **amendment mandates labelling of AI-generated content** and **shortens the takedown time to 2–3 hours from February 20.**

2. Regulation of AI-Generated Content

- The new rules **require social media platforms to label AI-generated ("synthetically generated") content.**

- Platforms with **over five million users must obtain user declarations and verify such content before publishing.**

- The rules expanded the **scope of the Synthetically Generated Information definition to address deepfakes and misinformation.**

> **Synthetically Generated Information** (SGI) refers to audio, video, image, or other digital content that is wholly or partly created, modified, or manipulated using artificial intelligence or automated tools, in a manner that may make it appear authentic.

- **Automatically retouched photos by phone camera and film special effects are exempted** from labelling.

- The **also ban harmful synthetic content like child sexual abuse material**, forged documents, and false deepfakes.

3.How AI-Generated Content Can Be Detected?

- Big social media platforms use special computer programmes to spot AI-made images, videos, or posts.

- Some **companies follow rules made by the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA).**

- These rules **allow AI-generated content to have hidden digital marks** that help platforms identify that it was created using AI, even if it looks real.

- **Most big platforms already detect AI content;** the new rules simply make it compulsory

4. Revised Takedown Timelines

- The **rules allow certain government and police officials to issue takedown notices under Rule 3(1)(b),** and users to file complaints about illegal content.

- The amendments significantly reduce response times:

- ➡ **Government or Court Takedown Orders**: Reduced from 24–36 hours to 2–3 hours.

- ➡ **User Complaints (Defamation, Misinformation, etc.):** Reduced from two weeks to one week.

- ➡ **Sensitive Content Reports:** Reduced from 72 hours to 36 hours.

5. Other Changes in the IT Rules Amendments

- Users **will receive reminders about platform terms and conditions more frequently** (at least once every three months instead of once a year).

- The **notices will clearly explain the consequences of breaking platform rules.**

- Platforms **must warn users about the legal risks of posting harmful deepfakes** or illegal AI content.

- **Violations can lead to content removal, account suspension/termination,** and even sharing user details with law enforcement agencies.

How is U.S.–India trade deal being tweaked?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

1. Background

- **India-U.S. Interim Trade Agreement**, announced via a joint statement on February 7, has boosted investor sentiment.

- The key attraction is the proposed **reduction of U.S. tariffs on Indian exports to 18%**.

- However, the deal's contours remain **unclear,** especially on **oil, agriculture, textiles, and import commitments.**

2. Ambiguity over tariffs and oil

- The U.S. agreed to **cut reciprocal tariffs** from 25% to 18%.

- The joint statement was silent on the **additional 25% penal tariff** imposed over India's **Russian oil imports**.

- President Trump claimed **India agreed to stop importing Russian oil**; a February 6 executive order removed the penal tariff citing this commitment.

- India has **not categorically denied these claims.**

- Government data shows **Russian oil imports fell to a 38-month low in December 2025,** but India's official position remains unclear.

3. Agriculture and Import Commitments

- India agreed to **remove tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods** and a wide range of **U.S. agricultural products**.

- Commerce Minister assured that **sensitive items and dairy are excluded.**

- **Pulses** were initially listed in the **White House fact sheet** but later removed after revision.

- India plans to purchase **$500 billion worth of U.S. goods over five years**, with the deal using the word **"intention" instead of a binding commitment**.

- The government argues this **will not over-concentrate supply chains**, as India's imports are projected to rise to **$2 trillion in five years**.

4. Textiles and Competitive Concerns

- India's textile exports to the U.S. will face **18% tariffs, down from 50%,** benefiting the sector.

- However, a parallel **U.S.-Bangladesh deal offers 19% tariffs,** and 0% duty if U.S. cotton is used.

- This raised fears of Indian textiles becoming **uncompetitive.**

- The government later clarified that **Indian exporters will get the same 0% tariff benefit** if they use U.S. cotton.

- The **formal agreement is expected by mid-March**, after which details may become clearer.

What's in store for garment exporters to U.S.?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

1. U.S.–Bangladesh Trade Agreement

- The **U.S.–Bangladesh Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (Feb 9)** allows certain **Bangladesh textile and apparel exports** to enter the **U.S. at zero reciprocal tariff**.

- This benefit **applies only if textiles are made using U.S. cotton and man-made fibre (MMF).**

- The **import volume eligible for tariff relief** will be **specified later**.

- The **Indian government stated that India may receive similar market access**.

2. India–Bangladesh Textile Trade Linkages

- Bangladesh imported **$16.1 billion worth of textile inputs in 2024**, including **$3.1 billion from India**.

- Bangladesh imports about **85 lakh bales of cotton annually**, including from **India, Brazil, and Africa**.

- India exported:
  - **12-14 lakh bales of cotton** to Bangladesh (2024-25)
  - **$1.47 billion worth of cotton yarn (570 million kg)** largest destination for Indian yarns.
- Bangladesh exported **$50.9 billion in garments globally**, including **$7.4 billion to the U.S.**
- India exports about **$16 billion in garments annually**, with **one-third going to the U.S.**

3. Likely Impact on Textile Supply Chains

- Experts believe **immediate impact may be limited**, as **63% of Bangladesh garment exports go to the European Union duty-free**.
- Bangladesh's garment industry **depends heavily on imported yarn and fabric**.
- To benefit from **zero U.S. tariffs**, Bangladesh may need to:
  - **Shift suppliers**
  - **Invest in spinning and fabric-processing capacity, which it currently lacks.**
  - **Use more U.S. cotton**
- **Bangladesh textile mills are already facing financial stress**, according to industry reports.

4. Concerns for India and Future Trade Dynamics

- The **U.S. tariff difference between India and Bangladesh has narrowed**:
  - **India: 18% tariff**
  - **Bangladesh: 19% tariff (earlier 20%)**
- Bangladesh may **replace Indian cotton with U.S. cotton**, affecting **Indian cotton and yarn exporters**.
- India currently imports about **5 lakh bales of U.S. cotton annually**, including **ELS (extra-long staple) cotton such as American PIMA cotton.**
- Key uncertainties remain:
  - Whether **India will reduce import duty on U.S. cotton (currently 11%)**
  - How the **U.S. will verify cotton origin in garments**
  - Whether **U.S. cotton will stay affordable compared to other cotton**.

- If implemented effectively, **tariff waivers on garments made using U.S. cotton or MMF could benefit Indian garment exporters**.

KEYWORDS

Sahakar Sarathi

- **Sahakar Sarathi** is a **joint initiative of the Ministry of Cooperation, NABARD, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs)**.
- Sahakar Sarathi has been **set up to enable Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) to provide modern banking services.**
- With the **approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, Sahakar Sarathi was **established and registered on 21 July 2025**.
- It has an **authorised capital of ₹1,000 crore**, with **NABARD, NCDC, and Rural Cooperative Banks each holding 33.33% shareholding**.

Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA)

- The Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA) **was founded in 2021 by Adobe, BBC, Intel, Microsoft, Sony, and Truepic.**
- Its **main goal is to fight misinformation** in digital media.
- It **helps creators, publishers, and users trace the origin of images**, videos, audio, and documents.
- **C2PA uses secure, cryptographically signed metadata** attached to files.
- This **metadata records any changes made, such as editing, resizing, or AI generation,** and cannot be easily tampered with.

Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

- The Union Cabinet recently **approved Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) to promote market-driven urban infrastructure development,** following its announcement in the Union Budget 2025–26.

- It will **provide Rs 1 lakh crore of Central assistance to projects worth Rs 4 lakh crore in total,** with the remaining amount coming from the market and the local bodies/state government's own sources.

- It **will be operational from FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31,** with a possible extension up to FY 2033–34.

- The fund **adopts a challenge-based approach to incentivise reforms and enhance cities' capacity** to generate their own revenue.

- It will focus on three key areas:
  - ➲ **Developing cities as growth hubs**
  - ➲ **Creative urban redevelopment**
  - ➲ **Strengthening water and sanitation infrastructure.**

Species in News

Pseudomonas aeruginosa

- Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a **bacterium commonly found in soil and water** and is an important cause of **hospital-acquired infections**.

- It can caus**e lung infections (pneumonia), blood infections, urinary tract infections**, and wound infections, especially after surgery or burns.

- Some strains show **high antibiotic resistance**, making treatment difficult.

- Patients on **ventilators, with catheters** (thin tubes inserted into the body to drain fluids or deliver medicines), or **open wounds** are at higher risk.

- It spreads through **contaminated surfaces, equipment, water, and unclean hands.**

- Prevention through good hygiene and infection control is crucial as **treatment options may be limited.**