

An Era of Deep Fakes

Syllabus: Role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges,

In News

With increasing advances in artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and machine learning, a new **era of 'deep fakes' has emerged.**

What Is Deep Fake

- Deep fake technology **employs AI based image blending methods** to seemingly **create real fakes and deceptive videos.**
- This makes differentiating fake from real even more cumbersome and complex.
- Fake celebrity footages, propaganda videos or revenge porn are all outcomes of the deep fake technology.

What Are The Dangers Associated

- People of interest may be targeted for **public trolling** or for **gaining cheap revenge.**
- General public can be targeted for **garnering false public support**, and to achieve **cyber propaganda.**
- It has potential to **heavily influence elections** or trigger disinformation campaigns.
- Another use of deep fakes could be in **illegally unlocking smart devices** due to face detection technologies getting imbibed in these machines.

Way Forward

- Use of **live face detection methods** in order to unlock smart devices
- Closely looking at the background activities and liveliness (A real video would generate more metadata)
- **Watermarking or use of digital hologram** in the original video
- **Raising awareness of civil society** and make them more prepared and resilient to disinformation campaigns.

Exclusive Satellite to Help in Securing Pakistan, Bangladesh Borders

Syllabus: Security challenges and their management in border areas

In News

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a satellite exclusively for the home ministry
- It is aimed to help it further strengthen its frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Key Highlights

- The move is part of recommendations made by a task force on the **use of space technology in improving border management.**
- Report has identified *island development, border security, communication and navigation, Geographic Information System (GIS) and operations planning system, and border infrastructure development* as the **areas for use of space technology.**
- To execute the project in a time bound manner, a short, medium and long-term plan has been proposed for implementation in five years.

- **In short term**, immediate needs of border guarding forces will be met by procurement of high resolution imagery and hiring of bandwidth for communications.
- **In mid-term**, one satellite is being launched by the ISRO for exclusive use of the MHA.
- **Over the long term**, the MHA will develop ground segment and network infrastructure to share satellite resources by user agencies, develop a central archival facility for storing various imagery resources and dissemination of the same to user agencies.
- **The Border Security Force (BSF)** has been designated as **lead agency** for implementation of ground segment and network infrastructure, including establishment of archival facility.

Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018

Syllabus: Linkages of organized crime with terrorism

In News

- UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) has released Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018.
- The 2018 Report is the **fourth** of its kind mandated by the General Assembly through the **2010 United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons**.
- The report draws on information from 142 countries, examining trafficking trends and patterns.

Key Highlights Of The Report

- Human trafficking has taken "horrific dimensions", with sexual exploitation of victims the main driver.
- **Children** now account for **30 %** of those being trafficked, and far more girls are detected than boys.
- Armed groups and terrorists are use human trafficking **to spread fear and gain victims to offer as incentives to recruit new fighters**. This can be seen from increased numbers of child soldiers, forced labour and sexual slavery.
- The global trend has shown a **steady increase in number of reported victims** since 2010.
- As an origin area for trafficking to the rest of the world, **victims from South Asia** have been detected in more than 40 countries around the world.
- **Asia and the Americas** are the regions which have seen the **largest increase in the numbers of victims detected**.
- It may be **either due to improved methods** of detecting, recording and reporting data on trafficking – **or a real increase** in the number of victims.
- **Trafficking for sexual exploitation** is the most prevalent form in **European countries**.
- **In sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, forced labour** is the main factor driving the illicit trade.
- Women and girls **make up most trafficking victims worldwide**: almost three-quarters of them are trafficked for sexual exploitation, and **35 per cent** (women and girls) are trafficked for forced labour.
- **A new form of crime** has been cited in the report that includes the phenomenon of girls and young women in refugee camps in the Middle East being "**married off**" **without their consent** and subjected to sexual exploitation in neighbouring countries.
- There remain a **significant gap in knowledge** with many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and some parts of East Asia still lacking sufficient capacity to record and share data on trafficking in persons.

Ways Suggested To Combat Trafficking

- **Enhanced national capacity** to detect victims through strengthened institutional efforts to combat trafficking including legislative reforms
- Coordination among national actors
- Special law enforcement capacities and improved victim protection efforts
- Specific focus of the international community in **developing standards for data collection**

About UNODC

- UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime.
- It was established in **1997** through a merger between the **United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.**
- It is headquartered in Vienna.
- UNODC's work is based on **three major areas: health, justice and public safety.**
- UNODC helps member countries in different areas such as - *Organized crime and trafficking, Corruption, Crime prevention and criminal justice reform, Drug abuse prevention and health, Money Laundering and Terrorism prevention.*

Circumstances leading to trafficking:

- Armed conflict
- Mass displacement
- Weak rule of law
- Socio-economic hardship
- Social fragmentation and family breakdown
- Difficulty to speak out because of fear, lack of trust or shame.

Women Into Military Police in Non-Combat Roles

Syllabus: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate

In News

- The Centre has decided to induct **women into the personnel below officer rank role** in the **military police.**
- This is the first time women will be inducted into a **non-combat role** in the military police.
- Currently, women are allowed in select areas such as *medical, legal, educational, signals and engineering wings of the Army.*

Key Highlights

- The women will be inducted in graded manner to **eventually comprise 20 per cent** of total Corps of Military Police.
- Role:
 - Investigate offences like rape, molestation and thefts.
 - Conduct military operations in cases where the Army needs help from the police.
 - Help in controlling refugee influx, especially crowds of women and children.

- Assist the civilian police and the administration during evacuation operations in villages near the border
- Frisk female suspects during cordon and search operations, and will oversee ceremonies, police discipline and prisoner of war camps

About Military Police

The role of the military police includes policing cantonments and army establishments, preventing a breach of rules and regulations by soldiers, maintaining movement of soldiers as well as logistics during peace and war, handling prisoners of war and extending aid to civil police whenever required.

Status in India

- The **Indian Air Force**, last year, had **inducted three women as fighter pilots**.
- A decision on having women as fighter pilots will be taken **after evaluating performance of the three women** -- *Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh* who are now part of IAF's fighter squadron.
- The **Indian Navy** is currently deliberating on a policy on having women onboard the ships.
- The **Navy allows women in various other segments** including in legal, logistics, naval architecture and engineering departments.
- In **Indian Army**, women got the nod for induction into a **non-combat role** in the military police.

Women in Combat Role: A Debate

Arguments opposing the combat role

- **Physical Ability** - The standards of physical fitness have been set to suit men, and women attempting to reach them will over-stretch themselves and will suffer high injury rates.
- **Additional Burden** - integration of women through regulatory and disciplinary costs associated may not make it a worthwhile move.
- **Military readiness** - Pregnancy can affect the deployability of a unit when the unit has a disproportionate number of women or is understaffed.
- **Abuse by Enemy** - Both male and female prisoners are at risk of torture and rape, but misogynistic societies may be more willing to abuse woman prisoners.
- **Possible insubordination** – In India, most of the jawans are from rural origin, may not be ready to accept a woman as their officer.

Arguments in Support:

- **Ability vs Gender** - As long as an applicant is qualified for a position, one's gender is arbitrary.
- **Military Readiness** - Women, who choose to become active combat soldiers, are unlikely to shirk their duty by becoming pregnant after a call-up.
- **Changing Traditions** - Cultures change over time and the masculine subculture can evolve too. Many previously masculine professions have been successfully opened to women over the past century.
- **Wider base** - Having a wider personnel base allows militaries to have the best and most diplomatic soldiers working to end conflict quickly.

Conclusion:

- Many countries including Germany, Australia, Canada, the US, Britain, Denmark, Finland,

France, Norway, Sweden and Israel have allowed women in combat roles.

- India can certainly gain from their experience although there is a variance in the cultural milieu.
- There are a plethora of challenges that need to be tackled through a trial-and-error method to evolve a planned induction.

NIC Command & Control Centre Inaugurated

In News

- Indian government has inaugurated **National Informatics Center's Command & Control Centre (CCC)** and **Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (CoE in AI)** by NIC, at National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- Currently, NIC offers Data Centre and Cloud services to the Government and hosts over 10,000 e-Governance applications.
- **CCC** has been set up as a specialized facility with a nationwide view of ICT infrastructure for effective monitoring and management of the performance & availability of all these critical services.
- **CoE in AI** by NIC has been established with the motto of '**Inclusive AI**' for responsive governance, to work towards improving Govt. service delivery to citizens.
- It will be a platform for innovative new solutions in AI space, a gateway to test and develop solutions for projects undertaken by NIC at central and state level.
- **NIC** was **established in 1976** and works under the **Department of Electronics & Information Technology of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- It acts as a premier science and technology organisation of the Government of India in informatics services and information and communication technology (ICT) applications.