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AI CONTENT LABELLING NORMS: GOVERNMENT'S LATEST FRAMEWORK

- **Mandatory Labelling of Synthetic Content**
 - The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026 require social media platforms to prominently label “**synthetically generated**” or **AI-generated images and videos**.
 - Platforms with over five million users must obtain a user declaration for AI-generated content and conduct technical verification before publishing it.
 - According to MeitY, the measure aims to combat deepfakes, misinformation, privacy violations, and threats to national integrity.
- **Narrowed Definition and Exemptions**
 - While the earlier draft had a broader definition of “**Synthetically Generated Information**” (SGI), the final rules provide exemptions.
 - Automatically retouched smartphone photos and film special effects are excluded from mandatory labelling.
- **Prohibited Synthetic Content**
 - The rules strictly prohibit certain types of AI-generated material, including:
 - Child sexual exploitation and abuse content
 - Forged documents
 - Information on developing explosives
 - Deepfakes falsely impersonating real individuals
 - These provisions strengthen safeguards against harmful or unlawful AI use.

Detecting AI-Generated Content: Platform Responsibilities and Technical Standards

- The government has directed large social media platforms to **deploy** “reasonable and appropriate technical measures” to detect and prevent unlawful synthetically generated information (SGI), while ensuring proper labelling, provenance tracking, and identifier requirements for permissible AI-generated content.



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- According to IT Ministry officials, major platforms already possess sophisticated AI tools capable of detecting synthetic content.
- The new rules formalise and mandate the consistent use of these detection systems rather than introducing entirely new obligations.
- In addition, several AI companies and digital platforms are part of the **Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA)**, which has developed technical standards to embed invisible digital markers in AI-generated content.
- These markers can help other platforms identify such content if automated detection systems fail.
- While the amended rules refer to “**provenance/identifier requirements**,” the government has clarified that it does not intend to endorse any single technological framework.
 - Provenance and identifier requirements define the necessary, documented record of a resource’s origin, ownership, and history, ensuring authenticity and trust.
- Instead, it seeks to institutionalise the broader objective of reliable AI content detection and traceability through collaborative standards.

Stricter User Notifications and Liability Warnings

- The amended IT Rules introduce tighter obligations for platforms to inform and caution users.
 - **More Frequent Policy Reminders:** Platforms must now notify users of their terms and conditions every **three months**, instead of once a year. These notifications must clearly explain consequences of non-compliance and reporting obligations.
 - **Explicit Warnings on AI Misuse**
 - Users must be warned that posting harmful deepfakes or other illegal AI-generated content may lead to:
 - Immediate content removal
 - Suspension or termination of accounts
 - Disclosure of identity to law enforcement agencies
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URBAN CHALLENGE FUND



Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India approved the launch of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF).

- It is a new **centrally sponsored** scheme of the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
- The Fund aims to build **resilient, productive, inclusive and climate-responsive cities**, positioning those as key driver of the country's next phase of economic growth.

Features of the Urban Challenge Fund:

- A minimum of **50 per cent of project financing** have to be **mobilised from market sources**, including municipal bonds, bank loans and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). The remaining share may be contributed by **States, Union Territories (UTs)**, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) or other sources.
- Projects will be selected through a **transparent and competitive challenge mode**, ensuring support to high-impact and reform-oriented proposals.
- **Focus area:** A strong thrust on reforms across **Urban Governance**, Market & Financial systems, **Operational efficiency**, and **Urban Planning**

The Fund will cover:

- All cities with a population of **10 lakh or more** (2025 estimates);
- All State and **Union Territory capitals not covered above**; and
- Major industrial cities with a **population of 1 lakh or more**
- Additionally, **all ULBs in hilly States, North-Eastern States, and smaller ULBs with population below 1 lakh** will be eligible for support under the Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme.



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STARTUP INDIA FUND OF FUNDS 2.0



- It is launched under **the Startup India initiative**.
- It is designed to accelerate the next phase of India's startup journey by **mobilising long-term domestic capital, strengthening the venture capital ecosystem**, and supporting innovation-led entrepreneurship across the country.

Features of the Scheme: It will have a targeted, segmented funding approach to support:

- **Deep tech and tech-driven innovative manufacturing:** Prioritizing breakthroughs in high-tech areas that require patient, long-term capital.
- **Empowering early-growth stage founders:** Providing a **safety net for new and innovative ideas**, reducing early-stage failures caused by lack of funding.
- **National reach:** Encouraging **investment beyond major metros** so that, the innovation thrives in every corner of the country.
- **Designed to address high-risk capital gaps:** Directing greater capital to priority areas which are important for self-reliance and boosting economic growth.
- **Strengthen India's domestic venture capital base**, particularly smaller funds to further boost the domestic investment landscape.

PM RAHAT SCHEME



- It has **prioritized life-saving intervention, financial certainty for hospitals**, and a structured emergency response system for accident victims.
- **Features of PM RAHAT Scheme:**
 - It will be integrated with the **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)** enabling victims, Good Samaritans to locate the nearest designated hospital and **request ambulance assistance**.

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- Under the Scheme, every eligible road accident victim on any category of road will be entitled to cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh per victim.
- It is implemented through amalgamating the **Electronic Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) platform** of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways with the **Transaction Management System (TMS 2.0)** of the **National Health Authority**.
- **Reimbursement:** To hospitals will be made through the **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAf)**.
 - In cases where the **offending vehicle is insured**, payment will be drawn from contributions made by General Insurance Companies.
 - In uninsured and Hit & Run cases, payment will be made through **budgetary allocation by Government of India**.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Grievances will be addressed by a **Grievance Redressal Officer** nominated by the **District Road Safety Committee** chaired by the **District Collector / District Magistrate**.

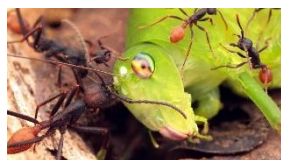
PM-DAKSH SCHEME



- The **Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana**, is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- **Aim:** To provide skills through good quality institutions so that candidates from its target group can find employment.
 - There are four types of skill development training programmes under this namely, **Up-skilling/Re-skilling, Short Term Training Programmes, Long Term Training Programmes, and Entrepreneurship Development Programme**.
- **Target Group:** **Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Castes, Economically Weaker Sections, and the De-notified Tribes in India (DNTs), 'Safai Karamcharis' or waste pickers.**

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- **Eligibility**
 - Age: 18-45 years
 - **OBC and EWS** candidates must have a **family income below Rs. 3 lakh**, while there is no income limit for SC, DNT, or Safai Mitras/Waste Pickers.
 - It has been merged with the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
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ARMY ANT SPECIES

- Army ants are **defined as a nomadic species** of ants that lack a permanent nest.
 - They belong to one of the **subfamilies of ants called the Dorylinae**.
 - **Habitat:** Army ants are highly aggressive predators **found mainly in tropical ecosystems**.
 - **Characteristics of Army Ant Species:**
 - They do **not build permanent nests**.
 - They form temporary living structures known as **'bivouacs'**, made entirely from **the bodies of worker ants**.
 - They are social insects, **form massive colonies** that conduct **coordinated raids**, consuming insects and small animals in their path.
 - They are distinguished by **their large, sharp mandibles**, stinging ability and heavy reliance on chemical pheromones to navigate and communicate.
 - These ants **are practically blind** and **rely on a pheromonal system** with which they mark their paths and by which they follow paths taken by others.
 - They have a **single queen ant** who lays all the eggs and female workers that tend the young and collect food for the colony.
 - **Ecological Role:** As **keystone predators** they play a critical role in **regulating arthropod populations** and **shaping forest biodiversity** by consuming large quantities of invertebrates on a daily basis.
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CHINCHA KINGDOM



- The 'Chincha Kingdom,' which was established in the **coastal region of modern-day Peru**, was a powerful **ancient state** that **flourished before the rise of the Inca Empire**.
- It **ruled the Chincha Valley**.
- The Chincha Kingdom and its culture were very strong between **900 CE and 1450 CE**. This time is known as the Late Intermediate Period in pre-Columbian Peru.
- It was **organised into specialist communities** such as **fisherfolk, farmers, and merchants**.
- The Chinchas **did not build enormous cities** but left **important marks in their religious and administrative constructions**. Their **temples, palaces, and fortresses** were built mainly with adobe, a technique they mastered skillfully.
- They **applied stucco to decorate walls**, shaping figures of fish heads, gannets, and seabirds.
- The **dwellings** of most of their inhabitants were **built around these enclosures**, made with mats and reeds.
- An important **old ruin** linked to the **Chincha** is **La Centinela**, found **near the city of Chincha Alta**.
- Decline:
 - **Conquered by the Inca Empire** around 1476 CE.
 - **Later affected by Spanish conquest** in the 16th century.
The **population drastically declined** due to **diseases and colonization**.
- A **new analysis** suggests that the **secret to the Chincha Kingdom's prosperity** was **seabird droppings (guano)**.
 - The analysis indicates that the nutrient-rich droppings, high in nitrogen, acted as a fertilizer, increasing corn yields and significantly contributing to the economic development of the time.



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PAPIKONDA NATIONAL PARK



- **Location:** It is located in Andhra Pradesh.
 - It lies along the **banks of the Godavari River.**
 - It has been recognized as an Important **Bird and Biodiversity Area** by BirdLife International.
 - **Vegetation:** The park is characterized by **tropical, moist deciduous forests** mixed with patches of **semi-evergreen and dry deciduous forests.**
 - **Flora:** The park is home to several types of trees, including **teak, rosewood, sandalwood, bamboo, eucalyptus, sal, mahua** etc.
 - **Fauna:** Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, sloth bear, and Indian wild dog (dhole).
 - A unique **dwarf breed of goat** known locally as the “**kanchu mekha**” originates **in this region.**
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INDIA'S POWER SECTOR - TRANSITIONING FROM COAL BACKBONE TO RENEWABLE DOMINANCE FOR NET ZERO

- A new study by NITI Aayog titled “Scenarios Towards Viksit Bharat and Net Zero” outlines possible pathways for India’s electricity transition up to 2070.
- While coal currently dominates India’s electricity generation, the report projects a long-term structural shift toward renewable energy (RE).
- This shift will be supported by nuclear expansion, storage technologies, and possible decarbonisation of coal through Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS).

Structural Constraints in Renewable Energy:

- The gap between renewable capacity and actual generation is due to following structural challenges -
 - **Low capacity utilisation factor (CUF):** Solar and wind operate below maximum potential output.

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- **Intermittency and variability:** Solar and wind are weather-dependent, leading to curtailment, dispatch challenges, and grid instability risks.
- **Grid constraints:** Limited transmission capacity, and inadequate system flexibility.
- **Storage deficit:** Lack of large-scale long-duration energy storage.
- Because of these constraints, coal continues to provide essential balancing power.

Massive Storage Expansion Required:

- A renewables-heavy grid demands unprecedented storage capacity.
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (**BESS**) to scale up from less than 50 GW in 2030 to about 1,300-1,400 GW under CPS and up to 2,500-3,000 GW under NZS by 2070.
- **Pumped Storage Plants** are also expected to play a crucial role in providing long-duration storage and grid stability, growing from 13-19 GW in 2030 to about 110 GW in CPS and 150-165 GW in NZS.
- Storage becomes central to grid **reliability**, load balancing, and round-the-clock power supply.

Challenges and Way Forward:

- **Intermittency of renewables:** Rapid scale-up of BESS and Pumped Storage. Improve market mechanisms for flexible dispatch.
 - **High storage costs:** Develop domestic manufacturing ecosystem for storage technologies. Promote CCUS research and pilot deployment.
 - **Grid infrastructure inadequacy:** Accelerate grid modernization and transmission expansion.
 - **Nuclear capital intensity:** Fast-track nuclear expansion including SMRs. Encourage industrial shift to nuclear-based captive power.
 - **Managing stranded coal assets:** Strategic planning to avoid stranded coal assets.
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