Twitter's Hateful Conduct Policy and Deadnaming

Why in News?

Twitter recently changed its hateful conduct policy that **once prohibited misgendering and deadnaming of** transgender **individuals on its platform.**

- This has sparked controversy among many who believe that the social media **platform's safety standards for marginalized groups are being compromised** under the leadership of **Elon Musk.**

What are the Changes in the Twitter's Policy?

- The policy once read, "We prohibit targeting others with repeated slurs, tropes, or other content that intends to **dehumanize, degrade or reinforce negative or harmful stereotypes about a protected category.** This includes **targeted misgendering or deadnaming of transgender individuals".**
    - Twitter has removed this protection for transgenders.
- In addition to changing its "hateful conduct policy," Twitter has announced that it will **only put warning labels on some tweets** that might violate its rules against hateful conduct. Previously, tweets that **violated these rules were removed** from the platform entirely.
    - This change could lead to an **increase in harmful content on the platform,** which could negatively impact the safety of marginalized groups.
- **Critic's Views:**
    - Concerns about the safety of marginalized groups on Twitter have surfaced several times, with many critics arguing that the **platform has become less safe under the leadership of Elon Musk.**
    - Critics believe that the platform can no longer protect users from **"trolling, state-coordinated disinformation, and child sexual exploitation".**

What is Deadnaming?

- Deadnaming is the **act of calling a trans, non-binary, and/or gender-expansive person by their birth name or the name they used before they adopted their chosen name**.
    - This practice is harmful because it **invalidates a person's identity** and may reveal personal information that the person does not want to be disclosed.
- Deadnaming is harmful because refusing to use a person's chosen name or pronouns is a form of **transphobia or cis-sexism** which may result in harassment, discrimination, and assault, and **contributes to mental health conditions such as depression and suicidality.**

Source: IE