



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 10-06-2026

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Indonesia

Syllabus: GS-1: World Geography – Mapping.

Context:

- Recently, India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) and Indonesian counterpart co-chaired the **8th Indonesia-India Joint Commission Meeting** in New Delhi.

About Indonesia

- **Location:** Archipelagic nation located off the Southeast Asian mainland in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- **Bordering Countries:** Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste.
- **Maritime Boundaries:** Indian Ocean in the south; Pacific Ocean (including the South China Sea region) in the north.
- **Capital City:** Jakarta.



Geographical Features of Indonesia

Terrain

- Major Indonesian islands are characterized by **densely forested volcanic mountains** in the interior, sloping downward to **coastal plains covered by thick alluvial swamps**.

Climate

- Climate is **almost everywhere equatorial**, i.e., **hot, humid, and rainy throughout the year**.

Rivers

- Major rivers include **Kapuas, Barito, Musi, and Digul.**

Highest Peak

- **Puncak Jaya** – 16,502 ft (5,030 m).

Natural Resources

- Dominated by **natural gas and crude petroleum.**
- Major mineral exports include **coal, nickel, bauxite, gold, tin, and copper.**

Significance

- Important **Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific nation.**
- Strategic partner of India under the **Act East Policy.**
- Key maritime country located near critical sea lanes connecting the **Indian and Pacific Oceans.**
- Resource-rich economy with significant reserves of **energy and mineral resources.**

Autoimmune Blistering Diseases (AIBDs)

Syllabus: GS-3, Science & Technology

Context

A joint study by Punjabi University, Patiala, and PGIMER, Chandigarh, has developed Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based methods to assist in the diagnosis of Autoimmune Blistering Diseases (AIBDs).



About Autoimmune Blistering Diseases (AIBDs)

- Autoimmune Blistering Diseases (AIBDs), also known as **autoimmune bullous disorders**, are a group of rare autoimmune skin diseases.
- They occur when the **body's immune system mistakenly attacks the skin and mucous membranes**.
- This immune attack leads to the formation of blisters and erosions on the skin and internal body linings.

Key Features

- Affect both skin and mucous membranes such as:
 - Mouth
 - Nose
 - Throat
 - Eyes
 - Genitals
- Symptoms include:
 - Painful blisters
 - Itchy lesions
 - Open sores after blister rupture
- Severe untreated cases may result in:
 - Extensive skin loss
 - Secondary infections
 - Nutritional deficiencies
 - Vision impairment due to eye involvement

Treatment

- Corticosteroids
- Immunosuppressive drugs
- Biologic therapies (e.g., Rituximab)
- Wound management and infection prevention

Bascanichthys chepakakiensis

Syllabus: GS-3; Environment & Biodiversity – Species Discovery

Context

Marine scientists have discovered a new species of snake eel named *Bascanichthys chepakakiensis*.



About Bascanichthys chepakakiensis

- Discovered at **Kakinada Fishing Harbour** in Andhra Pradesh.
- Belongs to the snake eel family (Ophichthidae).
- Only the second species of the genus *Bascanichthys* reported from Indian waters.

Naming

- "Chepa" means fish in Telugu.
- "Kaki" is a colloquial abbreviation of Kakinada.
- Hence the name ***chepakakiensis***.

Distinguishing Features

- Distinct bi-coloured body.
- Shorter snout.
- Unique jaw tooth arrangement.
- Fewer vertebrae before the anal fin.
- Tiny flap-like pectoral fins.

About Snake Eels

- Family: Ophichthidae

- Named for their snake-like appearance.
- Habitat:
 - **Sandy shallow marine environments.**
 - Some species occur up to 800 metres depth.
- Distribution:
 - **Tropical and temperate oceans worldwide.**
- Known for burrowing backward into seabed sediments using their tails.

Victim Protection Plan for survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation (CSE)

Syllabus: GS-3: Judiciary – SC judgements & Article 23

Context:

- The Supreme Court recently framed a **comprehensive Victim Protection Plan** for survivors of **human trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**.
- Bench: Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan.
- Court held that the **existing vacuum seriously impairs the fundamental rights** of trafficking victims and issued detailed directions.
- The Plan will operate until Parliament enacts a **dedicated law** on protection and rehabilitation of CSE victims.

Background: 22-Year-Long Legal Battle

- Originated from a **2004 petition** by Prajwala.
- Core argument:
 - Trafficking victims were being treated as **criminals rather than victims/survivors**.
 - Absence of a Victim Protection Plan rendered rescue and rehabilitation ineffective.
- In 2015, the Supreme Court disposed of the petition after government assurances to:
 - Establish an **Organised Crime Investigation Agency (OCIA)**.
 - Constitute an **Inter-Ministerial Committee** to draft a comprehensive anti-trafficking law.

Failure of Implementation

- OCIA was never established.

- Draft Anti-Trafficking Bills prepared in **2016, 2017, 2018 and 2021**—none became law.
- The **2018 Bill** passed the Lok Sabha but lapsed with dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.
- Instead of OCIA, the government amended the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 in 2019 to empower NIA to investigate trafficking cases.
- Prajwala approached the Supreme Court again in 2022 alleging non-compliance, resulting in the present judgment.

Court's Reasoning: Human Dignity

Dignity as the Core Principle

- Every person possesses dignity simply by virtue of being human.
- Trafficking directly violates dignity by treating victims as **objects rather than human beings**.

Dignity and Material Conditions

- Dignity is not a fixed condition; it is shaped by circumstances.
- Lack of income and independent livelihood weakens a person's ability to exercise choice.
- Material deprivation:
 - Diminishes dignity.
 - Creates conditions where dignity can be stripped away.
- Poverty and dependence make trafficking victims particularly vulnerable.

Stigma and Social Exclusion

- CSE victims face deep and pervasive stigma.
- Their identity, autonomy and suffering are fundamentally undermined.

Rehabilitation as a Constitutional Right

Constitutional Basis

- Victims of trafficking for CSE possess a **constitutional right to rehabilitation** flowing from:
 - **Article 21** – Right to life with dignity.
 - **Article 23** – Prohibition of trafficking in human beings and forced labour.

Judicial Basis

- Relied on:

- Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India
- Neerja Chaudhary v. State of Madhya Pradesh
- Principle established:
 - Mere liberation is insufficient.
 - Rehabilitation is equally essential.
- Objective:
 - Not merely punishment of perpetrators.
 - Empowerment of victims through guaranteed rights.

Issues with Section 17 of ITPA, 1956

Existing Problem

- Section 17 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 governs post-rescue procedures.
- It treats three distinct categories identically:
 - Women trafficked into prostitution.
 - Women trafficked earlier but later continuing voluntarily.
 - Women who entered sex work voluntarily.

Court's Observation

- One-size-fits-all approach risks violating rights and dignity.
- Magistrates must conduct an inquiry to identify **voluntary adult sex workers**, for whom "rescue" may not apply.
- Victim's consent must be the primary consideration in:
 - Detention in protective homes.
 - Reintegration with family.

Practical Challenge

- Distinction between voluntary and involuntary participation is often blurred.
- Long-term coercion, poverty and dependence complicate determination of genuine consent.

Victim Protection Plan

During Rescue

- Victims must not be:

- Arrested.
- Abused.
- Photographed or filmed in ways revealing identity.
- Special protection for:
 - Children.
 - Transgender persons.
 - Persons with disabilities.
 - Persons with mental illness.

Post-Rescue

- Victims cannot be:
 - Kept in lock-ups.
 - Detained overnight in police stations.
- Immediate provision of:
 - Legal aid.
 - Medical care.
 - Counselling.
- Production before appropriate authority without delay.
- Magistrates must hear victims before ordering long-term custody and determine voluntariness where necessary.

In Protective Homes

- Homes must not function like prisons.
- Each survivor to receive:
 - Dedicated case worker.
 - Individual care plan.
- Care plan to include:
 - Healthcare.
 - Counselling.
 - Education.
 - Skill development.
 - Livelihood support.

- Access to government schemes.
- Bank accounts to be created for long-term residents.
- Mechanisms to report abuse within homes to be established.

Anti-Trafficking Units (ATUs)

Institutional Framework

- Headed by officers of **Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP)** rank.
- To be notified as police stations with powers to:
 - Register trafficking cases.
 - Conduct investigations.

Functions

- Maintain databases on:
 - Traffickers.
 - Victims.
- Coordinate with:
 - Social workers.
 - Child welfare officials.

Directions to Parliament

Reforms Suggested

- Amend Sections **7, 8 and 20 of ITPA** that expose victims to prosecution.
- Reconsider mandatory fixed-period detention in protective homes.
- Recognise rights of voluntary adult sex workers.
- Clarified that:
 - **“Rights of sex workers can exist without there being a right to sex work.”**
- Enact a **comprehensive standalone anti-trafficking law.**

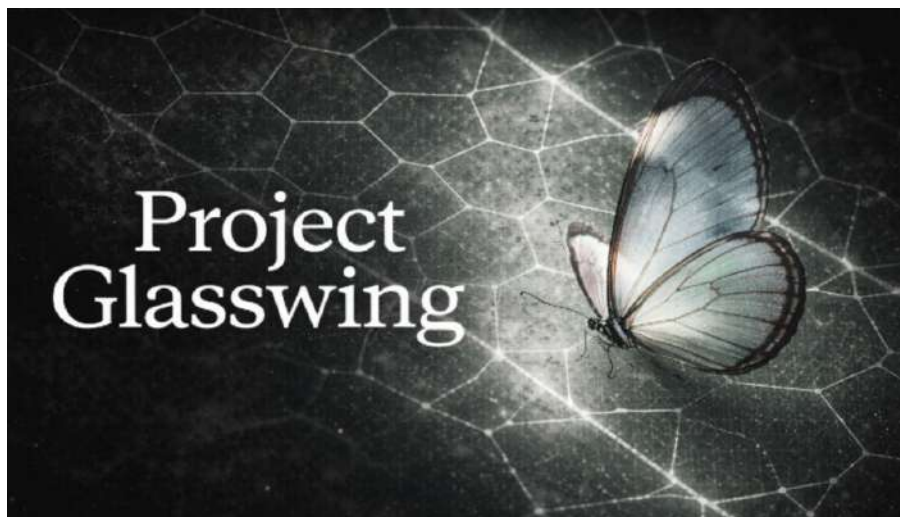
Project Glasswing

Syllabus: GS-3: Internal Security – Cyber security.

Context:

- US AI company Anthropic is extending access to its restricted cybersecurity programme **Project Glasswing** to select organisations in India, including key government agencies responsible for protecting critical infrastructure.
- Anthropic has expanded the programme from its initial US and UK participants to **more than 15 countries**, with India being a significant addition.

What is Project Glasswing?



Anthropic and Claude Mythos

- Anthropic is known for its AI model **Claude**.
- It has developed a more powerful and highly restricted frontier AI model called **Claude Mythos**.
- Claude Mythos is described as a model capable of identifying critical software vulnerabilities at a level that could **fundamentally alter the balance between cyber attackers and defenders**.
- Such capability could be transformative for cybersecurity but potentially dangerous if misused; hence Mythos has not been publicly released.

Project Glasswing

- Project Glasswing is a **controlled access programme** through which Anthropic provides access to **Mythos Preview** (testing version).
- Access is granted only to a carefully vetted group of trusted organisations.

- Participating organisations must satisfy Anthropic's security requirements before gaining access.

Indian Agencies Receiving Access

Government Agencies

- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team – Nodal agency for cybersecurity incidents in India
- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre – Functions under the National Security Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office
- Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)

Other Stakeholders

- Cybersecurity-focused research institutions.
- Discussions underway to extend access to cybersecurity and AI teams within India's major IT services companies.

Intended Use

- NCIIPC and CERT-In sought access to identify vulnerabilities in:
 - Banking infrastructure
 - Power infrastructure
- Objective: Detect and fix vulnerabilities before adversaries exploit them.

Why India is Concerned

1. Defensive Opportunity

- India's critical infrastructure, including:
 - Banking systems
 - Power grids
 - Telecom networks
- Remains a high-value target for cyberattacks.
- Mythos can help proactively identify and remediate software vulnerabilities before exploitation.

2. Offensive Threat

- Concerns exist regarding potential misuse of Mythos against Indian systems.

- In April 2026, Nirmala Sitharaman held a high-level meeting with Ashwini Vaishnaw to assess risks posed by Mythos to India's banking sector.

Key Outcomes

- Indian Banks' Association directed to develop a coordinated institutional response mechanism.
- Banks advised to engage top cybersecurity professionals.
- Continuous strengthening of defensive and monitoring capabilities emphasized.

Geopolitical Dimension: Anthropic vs US Pentagon

Reported Role in US Cyber Operations

- Reports suggest Anthropic is assisting the National Security Agency (NSA) in deploying Mythos for offensive cyber operations.
- Reported targets include networks in countries such as:
 - China
 - Iran

Strategic Contradiction

Anthropic is simultaneously:

- Providing Mythos to trusted partners, including India, for defensive cybersecurity.
- Reportedly supporting NSA-led offensive cyber operations.
- Engaged in a legal dispute with the US Department of Defense over limits on AI usage.

Legal Dispute

- Anthropic opposed the use of Claude models for:
 - Mass surveillance of US citizens
 - Lethal autonomous drones
- The Pentagon reportedly designated Anthropic as a **“supply-chain risk.”**
- Anthropic subsequently challenged this designation through legal action.

Significance for UPSC

AI as a National Security Asset

- Governments are increasingly deploying frontier AI models for defence and cybersecurity.

- Access to advanced AI capabilities is emerging as an element of geopolitical competition.

Critical Infrastructure Protection

- Banking systems, power grids, telecom networks, and communications infrastructure are software-driven.
- Cyber resilience and vulnerability management are becoming as important as physical security.

AI Governance Challenges

- AI companies face growing ethical, legal, and geopolitical pressures.
- The Anthropic–Pentagon dispute highlights tensions between:
 - National security requirements
 - Privacy concerns
 - Ethical AI deployment
 - Corporate autonomy

Prelims Pointer

NCIIPC (National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre)

- Established under Section 70A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- Functions as the national nodal agency for protection of Critical Information Infrastructure (CII).
- Operates under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).