

# PRABHA IAS IPS COACHING ACADEMY



## DAILY DOSE

### CURRENT AFFAIRS – 17/03/2026

#### 1. New Chemical Reaction Opens Pathways for Drug Development:

**Recent** - An international team of scientists discovered the ‘Trisulfide Metathesis Reaction’, a new chemical process that can advance drug development.

In this process, organic trisulfides (molecules containing three sulfur atoms) spontaneously break sulfur-sulfur bonds and exchange molecular parts.

The sulphur–sulphur (S–S) bonds break and recombine when molecules are immersed in specific solvents at room temperature.

Conventional sulphur-bond modification requires heat, light, or catalysts, but this reaction occurs naturally and rapidly.

#### 2. Bhutan’s “Pay-to-Protect” Approach for Sustainable Tourism in the Himalayas:

**Recent** - Bhutan’s “pay-to-protect” model offers a policy template to address ecological stress from mass tourism in the Himalayan Region.

This model treats access to the Himalayas as a priced privilege to prevent Tragedy of the Commons and prioritise ecological protection.

**Sustainable Development Fee:** Bhutan imposes an SDF (\$100 per person per night) on most international visitors to encourage ecological responsibility.

**High Value, Low Volume:** The fee limits the number of tourists while increasing revenue per visitor.

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Revenue Use: SDF revenue is mandated for reinvestment into conservation programmes and providing free healthcare to citizens.

Carbon Control: Tourist caps via high prices limit vehicle emissions, helping Bhutan remain one of the world's few carbon-negative countries.

### 3. Dual-Sex Biological Traits Recorded in *Vela carli* Crabs:

**Recent** - Scientists recorded gynandromorphy in the *Vela carli* crab at Silent Valley National Park, Kerala, where an individual exhibits both male and female traits.

This is the first instance of gynandromorphy reported in the freshwater crab family Gecarcinucidae.

*Vela carli* is a tiny nocturnal freshwater crab belonging to the family Gecarcinucidae.

It is strictly endemic to the Central Western Ghats, with major populations in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The crab acts as a bioindicator of unpolluted freshwater ecosystems and supports local benthic nutrient recycling.

### 4. Gajapati Empire Inscription Discovered in Guntur:

**Recent** - A 15<sup>th</sup>-century Telugu inscription associated with the Gajapati rulers of Odisha was recently discovered in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

Gajapati Empire (c. 1434–1541 CE) was a medieval Hindu monarchy founded by Kapilendra Deva in Odisha. The name “Gajapati” literally means “Lord of the Elephants.”

At its peak in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, it extended from the Ganges in the north to the Kaveri in the south.

They patronised the Odia language; Sarala Das wrote the first Odia Mahabharata during this era.

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## 5. Samarth Incubation Programme:

**Recent** - Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) organised a Demo Day in New Delhi for 18 startups under the Samarth Incubation Programme.

The Programme, launched by C-DOT in 2025, offers financial aid and infrastructure support to DPIIT-recognised startups.

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) assist in programme execution.

To promote indigenous innovation and support early-stage startups in transitioning from ideation to commercialisation.