

# PRABHA IAS IPS COACHING ACADEMY



## DAILY DOSE

### CURRENT AFFAIRS – 18/03/2026

#### 1. Maternity Leave for Adoptive Mothers:

**Recent** - Supreme Court has held that all adoptive mothers are entitled to 12 weeks of maternity leave, irrespective of the age of the adopted child.

It struck down Section 60(4) of the Code on Social Security, 2020, which limited this benefit only to mothers adopting children below 3 months of age.

The provision was held unconstitutional and violative of Articles 14 (equality) and 21 (right to life and dignity) due to arbitrary classification based on the child's age.

The Court also urged the government to introduce paternity leave as a social security measure, recognising that parenthood is a shared responsibility.

#### 2. Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) 2026:

**Recent** - Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has approved Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) 2026, replacing EPS 1995 without wide stakeholder consultation.

Introduced as part of reforms linked to the Code on Social Security, 2020.

#### Earlier EPS changes reduced benefits:

The provision to opt for a pension on higher wages has been removed, reducing flexibility.

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Pension calculation changed from 12-month to 60-month average, lowering payouts.

Higher pension option was restricted earlier and now removed entirely in EPS 2026.

No revision in wage ceiling (₹15,000) and minimum pension (₹1,000) for over a decade.

## 3. India Submits First National Report on Nagoya Protocol Implementation:

**Recent** - India submitted its 1<sup>st</sup> National Report (NR1) on Nagoya Protocol implementation to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) prepared the report in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

NR1 assesses India's progress in Access & Benefit-Sharing (ABS) implementation from 2017 to 2025.

## 4. Ancient Petroglyphs Discovered in Hyderabad:

**Recent** - Researchers discovered two ancient petroglyphs inside a rock shelter near Beerappa Gudi Temple, Manchirevula, Hyderabad.

A quartz tool dating from about 40,000 to 10,000 years ago was also recently found at the site. These discoveries indicate human activity in the region from the Upper Palaeolithic to the medieval periods.

Petroglyphs are a form of rock art created by incising, carving, picking, or abrading with harder stones.

They are carved into rock, unlike pictographs, where images are painted with pigments.

## 5. Samriddh Gram Phygital Services:

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**Recent** - Samriddh Gram Phyigital Services Pilot Initiative was recently launched from Umri village (Guna, Madhya Pradesh).

Implemented in three villages across Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh to test scalability.

To demonstrate integrated, technology-driven rural service delivery for socio-economic development.

Department of Telecommunications, with support from Digital Empowerment Foundation for field implementation.

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