

Factly Weekly

Compilation

2026

**For UPSC CSE Prelims
Exam**

**1st Week
March 2026**

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Arbitrage Funds

News: Arbitrage funds are gaining attention as investors notice price gaps between NSE and BSE during volatile market phases.

About Arbitrage Funds

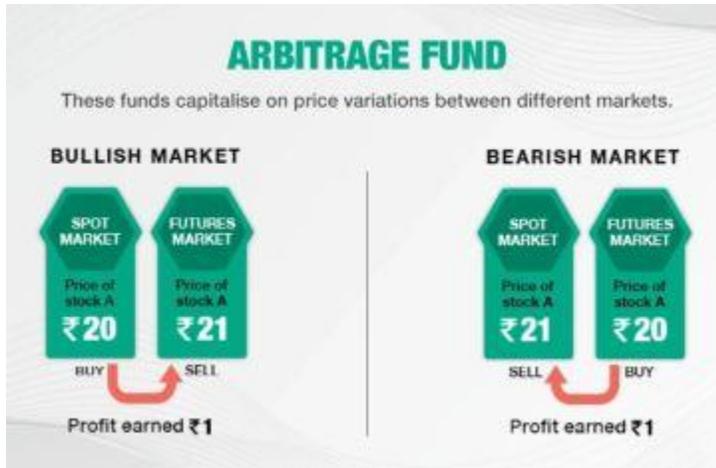


Figure 1. Source – MF

- Arbitrage funds are hybrid mutual funds that aim to earn returns by buying a stock at a lower price in one market and selling it at a higher price in another market at nearly the same time.

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) classifies arbitrage funds as equity-oriented funds and requires them to maintain at least 65 percent gross exposure to equities or equity-related securities.

- Key features

- Investment strategy: Arbitrage fund managers buy a stock at a lower price in

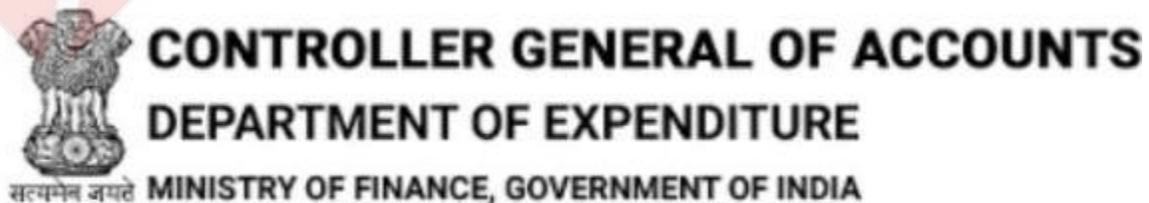
the cash market and sell its Futures contract at a higher price, or exploit price differences between NSE and BSE.

- They execute trades almost at the same time to capture price spreads without predicting market direction.
- Risk Profile: These funds use hedged positions but are not risk-free.
- Returns depend on the availability of price gaps.
- When spreads are narrow or absent, returns may be modest.
- They are considered to provide relatively stable and moderate returns.
- Taxation: They are treated as equity-oriented funds because of the required equity exposure.
- Alternative Asset Class: They offer a market-linked and flexible option with easier redemption and generally no premature-withdrawal penalties, unlike fixed deposits.

Controller General of Accounts (CGA)

News: The CGA launched the Government Bank Dashboard and Government Bank Manual to strengthen governance and efficiency in government banking transactions.

About Controller General of Accounts (CGA)



Source – FinMin

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- The Controller General of Accounts is the Principal Advisor on accounting matters to the Union Government.
- Legal Status: It is not a constitutional body.
- The Allocation of Business Rules, 1961 mention the duties and responsibilities of the CGA.
- Nodal Ministry: It works under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- Functions:
 - Management Accounting System: CGA establishes and manages a technically sound Management Accounting System.
 - Preparation of Accounts: It prepares and submits the accounts of the Union Government and produces monthly and annual analysis of expenditures, revenues, borrowings, and fiscal indicators.
 - Exchequer Control and Internal Audit: It is responsible for exchequer control and internal audits.

About Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

- Constitutional Status: The CAG is a constitutional body established under Article 148 of the Constitution of India.
- Appointment: The President appoints the CAG on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.
- Audit Functions: The CAG audits all receipts and expenditure of the Union and state governments, including bodies financed by the government.
- Institutional Role: The CAG heads the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, which is managed by officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.
- The Annual Appropriation Account (Civil) and Union Finance Accounts are submitted to Parliament under Article 150 of the Constitution on the advice of the CAG.

Football for Schools (F4S) Programme

News: Union Minister Dr. Sukanta Majumdar distributed footballs at PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Dakshin Dinajpur, under the Football for Schools initiative.

About Football for Schools (F4S) Programme



Figure 2. Source – PIB

- The Football for Schools Programme is run by FIFA in collaboration with UNESCO to promote education through football.
- Launched in: It was launched in mid-2019 with pilot projects in Puerto Rico and Lebanon.
- Initiative By: It is run by FIFA in collaboration with UNESCO.
- Implemented by: In India, it is implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, with support from the All India Football Federation and the Sports Authority of India.
- Nodal Agencies: Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan serve as

designated nodal institutions.

- Aim: The programme aims to contribute to the education, development, and empowerment of around 700 million children.

- **Objective:** It seeks to make football accessible to both boys and girls by integrating football activities into the education system.
- **Policy Alignment:** It aligns with UNESCO's Kazan Action Plan, Education 2030 Framework, and WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity.
- **Nationwide coverage:** Football for Schools (F4S) programme has achieved nationwide coverage, successfully reaching 33 States and Union Territories as of March 2026.

Ichhamati and Jalangi Rivers

News: Government of West Bengal signed an MoU with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the State Mission for Clean Ganga to develop the Ichhamati and Jalangi river basins.

About Ichhamati River



Figure 3. Source: ResearchGate

- Ichhamati river is a trans-boundary river flowing through India and Bangladesh.
- **Course of river:**
 - It originates as a distributary of the Mathabhanga River (distributary of the Padma) at Majhdia village in Nadia district of West Bengal.
 - It flows southward through Nadia and North 24 Parganas, forming part of the India–Bangladesh boundary.
 - Finally, it joins the Kalindi River near Hasnabad (West Bengal) and empties into the Bay of Bengal near Moore Island.
- It also acts as a connector with the 'Nadia Group of River' on the North and the Sundarbans Reserve forest in the south.
- It is facing issue of heavy silt deposition, which reduces its water flow during the dry season and increases the risk of flooding during the monsoon.

About Jalangi River

- Jalangi River is a distributary which branches off the main channel of the Ganga.
- It flows into Bangladesh as the Padma.
- **Course of river:** It flows through Murshidabad and Nadia districts of West Bengal to merge with the Bhagirathi-Hooghly, the main distributary of the Ganga in West Bengal.

Jiyo Parsi Scheme

News: The 2nd meeting of the Jiyo Parsi Advisory Committee was held in Mumbai under the chairmanship of Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs.

About Jiyo Parsi Scheme



Figure 4. Source – Ministry of Minority Affairs

- The Jiyo Parsi Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme to address the declining population of the Parsi community.
- Launched Year: It was launched in the financial year 2013–14.
- Objective: To reverse the downward trend in the Parsi population by adopting scientific methods and structured interventions, stabilizing their numbers and increase the population of Parsis in India.

• Components: It comprises three components:

- Medical Assistance: Under this, financial support is provided for medical treatment in accordance with standard medical protocols.
 - Health of the Community: Under this, Parsi couples are encouraged to have more children, and financial assistance is extended to help them care for their dependent elderly family members and children.
- Advocacy: This focuses on supporting Parsi couples facing infertility and family-related issues through counseling sessions, outreach programmes and advocacy films.
 - Implemented through: It is implemented through the State Governments with the support of concerned Parsi institutions.
 - Eligible Parsi couples receive financial assistance under the various components of the scheme through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMIs) Scheme

News: Recently, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs issued detailed eligibility conditions and operational guidelines for the EMI scheme.

About Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMIs) Scheme



Source – ET

- The EMI Scheme is a trust-based Customs facilitation scheme that allows deferred payment of Customs duty.
- **Launched By:** The scheme is launched by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs under Section 47(1) of the Customs Act, 1962.
- **Aim:** The scheme enables Eligible Manufacturer Importers to clear imported goods without paying Customs duty at the time of clearance and promotes compliance under the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) framework.
- **Implementation period:** The facility will remain valid from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028.
- **Eligibility criteria**
 - The importer must have strong Customs and GST compliance, sound financial standing, adequate turnover, and a clean past track record.
 - Existing Authorised Economic Operator (AEO)-T1 entities, including MSMEs, are eligible if they meet the prescribed conditions.
- **Key features**
 - **Deferred payment facility:** The scheme allows clearance of imported goods without upfront Customs duty payment, and duty is payable monthly under the Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules, 2016.
 - **Progression to higher AEO status:** Approved Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMIs) are encouraged to obtain AEO-T2 or AEO-T3 status for enhanced facilitation.
 - **Creation of new category:** The scheme creates a new category called Eligible Manufacturer Importers with duty payable on a monthly basis.

About Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Framework

- **International basis:** The AEO programme operates under the World Customs Organisation SAFE Framework of Standards, adopted in June 2005 to secure the international supply chain.
- **Nature of programme:** It is a voluntary compliance programme that builds close partnership between Customs and trade stakeholders in the international supply chain.
- **Launch and Implementation in India:** It was launched by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs as a pilot in 2011, revised in 2016, and is implemented by the Directorate of International Customs.
- **The Authorised Economic Operator framework has four categories, which are explained below:**
 - **AEO-T1 (Authorised Economic Operator – Tier 1):** This is the foundational level of certification and is granted on the basis of review of submitted documents.

- **AEO-T2 (Authorised Economic Operator – Tier 2):** This is the intermediate level of certification and requires document verification along with a physical site visit by Customs authorities.
- **AEO-T3 (Authorised Economic Operator – Tier 3):** This is the highest level of certification and is granted to businesses that have held AEO-T2 status for at least two years or have AEO-certified partners.
- **AEO-LO (Authorised Economic Operator – Logistics Operator):** This category is meant for logistics operators such as customs brokers, warehouse operators and transporters, who are part of the supply chain other than importers and exporters.

Key Facts About Qatar

News: Qatar's air force shot down two Iranian aircraft and intercepted missiles and drones targeting its energy facilities.

Key Facts About Qatar



Figure 5. Source – Britannica

- **Location:** It is located on the northeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula.
- **The Qatari peninsula** extends about 160 km into the Persian Gulf.
- **Borders:** Qatar shares a single land border with Saudi Arabia to the south.
 - It is surrounded by the Persian Gulf on all other sides.
 - The Gulf of Bahrain separates it from Bahrain.
 - **Capital:** Doha is the capital and largest city.
- **Topography**
 - Qatar has a mostly flat and barren desert landscape.
 - Sand dunes dominate the southern

region, especially in Khor al Adaid or the Inland Sea.

- The north and west have rocky terrain with low limestone formations.
- Salt flats known as sabkhas are also present.
- **Major Mountain:** The highest point is Qurayn Abu al Bawl at 103 m in Jebel Dukhan.
- **Climate:** Qatar has a dry desert climate with sunshine all year.
 - Winters are mild with an average temperature of 18.5°C in January.
 - Summers are very hot and temperatures often reach 40°C.
 - The country receives about 70 mm of rainfall annually.
- **Economy:** Qatar has a high-income economy largely dependent on oil and natural gas.
 - Income from these resources and related industries accounts for more than 90 % of annual exports.
 - It holds the third largest reserves of liquefied natural gas in the world.
- **Strategic Role:** Qatar is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
 - It hosts a major United States military base at Al Udeid.

Durand Line

News: Pakistan and Afghanistan have fought a second major clash in six months, more serious than routine Durand Line skirmishes during the U.S.A presence in Afghanistan.

About Durand Line



Source: National Geography Education

- **Location:** The Durand Line is a 2,640 km border dividing Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **History:** It is the result of an agreement between Sir Mortimer Durand, a secretary of the British Indian government, and Abdur Rahman Khan, the emir, or ruler, of Afghanistan.
- **Signed in:** The agreement was signed on November 12, 1893, in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- **Status and dispute:** After the partition of British India in 1947, Pakistan inherited the Durand agreement but Afghanistan did not recognize the Durand Line.
- This remains a dispute between the two countries.
- It stretches from the Karakoram Range in the northeast (near China) to the Registan Desert in the southwest (near Iran).
- It also passes through the Spin Ghar (White Mountains), which includes Khyber Pass.
- It cuts across 12 Afghan provinces and 3 Pakistani provinces namely Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Ruddy Shelduck

News: For over 20 years, residents of Mudh village in Ladakh have been protecting the Ruddy shelduck that visits Ladakh during breeding season.

About Ruddy Shelduck



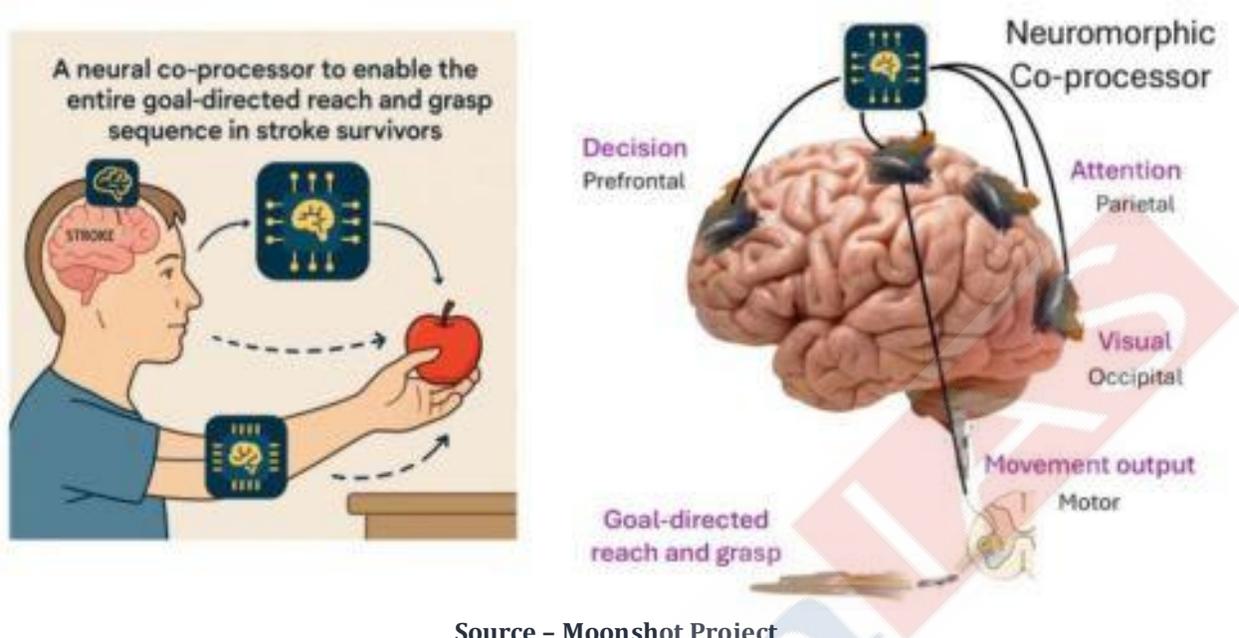
Source: DTE

- The Ruddy shelduck is a large and brightly colored waterfowl known for its orange-brown body and loud, honking call. They are also called the Brahminy duck.
- Scientific name: *Tadorna ferruginea*
- Habitat: They usually live near inland water bodies such as lakes, rivers, reservoirs, marshes, and wetlands.
- Distribution: They are widely distributed across Europe, Central Asia, and parts of North Africa.
 - Most populations are migratory and move to South Asia during the winter months.
 - Note: Ladakh is the only breeding site for Ruddy shelduck in India.
- Appearance: The male can be identified by a narrow black ring around its neck, while the female has a paler head and lacks the black collar.
- Behaviour: They are social birds and are often seen in pairs or small groups.
 - Large flocks may gather during winter or molting periods.
 - They are monogamous and form strong pair bonds that may last for life.
 - They are nocturnal and highly vocal with loud, nasal honking calls.
- Diet: They are omnivores and feed on grasses, plant shoots, grains, aquatic plants, and small invertebrates.
- Threat: Habitat loss and hunting
- Conservation status
 - IUCN Red List: Least Concern

“Moonshot” Project

News: Recently, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) launched an ambitious Moonshot Project to develop advanced brain co-processors using neuromorphic hardware and artificial intelligence.

About “Moonshot” Project



Source – Moonshot Project

- The Moonshot Project is an advanced research initiative that aims to develop brain co-processors to decode neural signals, process them using artificial intelligence, and restore lost brain functions.
- Launched by: The project is launched by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- Funded by: The project is funded by the Pratiksha Trust, founded by Senapathy 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan and Sudha Gopalakrishnan.
- Aim: The project aims to develop implantable and non-invasive brain co-processors that decode neural activity from recordings, process it using artificial intelligence, and send signals back to the brain through neural stimulation or neurofeedback.
- Key Features
 - Key focus: The project focuses on restoring sensorimotor functions such as reaching and grasping in stroke survivors through brain co-processors.
 - Technology used: The system combines neuromorphic hardware, artificial intelligence algorithms, neural recordings, and closed-loop stimulation to restore coordinated movement.
 - Dual approach: The project develops both implantable devices and non-invasive brain co-processors to support neurological rehabilitation.
 - Digital public goods: The initiative plans to develop India-specific stereo EEG and ECoG databases and create open-source AI tools, datasets, and visualization platforms.
 - Two-phase development: Phase one develops and validates a non-invasive neural co-processor, while phase two aims to build a minimally invasive embedded implant.
- Significance: The project will build indigenous neurotechnology capacity in India and support stroke rehabilitation by restoring critical functions such as goal-directed reaching and grasping.

Cassava Brown Streak Disease

News: Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) is threatening cassava, a key staple crop for millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa.

About Cassava Brown Streak Disease



Figure 6. Source: DTE

- It is a **viral disease** that causes **loss of cassava root (tuber) production and quality**.
- **Caused by:** It is caused by two types of viruses: **Cassava Brown Streak Virus (CBSV)** and **Ugandan Cassava Brown Streak Virus (UCBSV)**
- **Spread:** It was **first reported in Eastern Africa** during the 1930s and has now spread to several **eastern, central and southern African countries**.
- **Symptoms:** Symptoms can appear on **leaves, stems, and cassava roots**.
 - Typical CBSD symptoms are **leaf chlorosis, brown streaks on stems and dry hard rot in roots** which

affecting both the quality and quantity of edible storage roots.

- Its symptoms **vary from variety to variety, and from one geographical location to another**.
- **Transmission:** It **spreads through infected cassava stem cuttings and by whiteflies, transmitting the virus between plants**.
- **Management:** There are **currently no effective treatments** for plants infected with a virus.
- Management relies on **resistant varieties, virus-free planting material, good agronomic practices, disease monitoring, and controlled movement of planting materials**.

WHO's 90-70-90 Target

News: Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda reaffirmed India's commitment to eliminating cervical cancer while addressing a press briefing virtually at the World Health Organization headquarters.

About WHO's 90-70-90 Target



Source – WHO

- The WHO's 90-70-90 target is a global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem by 2030.

- **Launched in:** The WHO launched the 90-70-90 strategy in 2020.
- **Aim:** The strategy aims to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem through vaccination, screening, and treatment.
- **Three Key Targets:**
 - **90% Vaccination:** The strategy aims to ensure that 90% of girls receive the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine by the age of 15.
 - **70% Screening:** The strategy aims to ensure that 70% of women are screened with a high-performance test by the ages of 35 and 45.
 - **90% Treatment:** The strategy aims to ensure that 90% of women with pre-cancer receive treatment and women with invasive cancer are properly managed.
- **India's context**
 - **National HPV Vaccination Drive:** India has started a national HPV vaccination drive for girls aged 9–14 to prevent cervical cancer.
 - **Use of vaccines:** The programme uses indigenous Cervavac and other vaccines for the vaccination campaign.
 - **Disease Burden:** The initiative targets the high disease burden of cervical cancer in India, including over 80,000 deaths annually.

Key Facts About Finland

News: The President of Finland, Dr. Alexander Stubb, visited India on March 5, 2026, and participated as the Chief Guest at the Raisina Dialogue.

Key Facts About Finland



Figure 7. Source – Britannica

- **Location:** Finland is a Nordic country located in the northern Europe.
- **Borders:** It shares land borders with Norway in the north, Sweden in the northwest, and Russia in the east.
- **Maritime boundary:** It is also bounded by the Gulf of Finland in the south, the Gulf of Bothnia in the southwest, and the Baltic Sea.
- **Capital:** The capital city of Finland is Helsinki.
- **Climate:** The climate ranges from humid continental in the south to boreal in the north, with very cold winters.
- **Terrain:** Finland is heavily forested and contains thousands of lakes, rivers, marshlands, and boreal forests.
 - The landscape is mostly flat with hills formed due to glacial activity.
- **Important Lakes:** Lake Saimaa is the

largest lake in Finland.

- **Highest Point:** Highest point is Mount Halti at 1,328 meters.

- **Flora:** Finland is dominated by coniferous taiga forests, including pine, spruce, and birch.
- **Fauna:** Major wildlife includes brown bear, grey wolf, wolverine, elk, and the endangered Saimaa ringed seal.
- **International cooperation**
 - It is one of the eight member states of the Arctic Council, and it plays an important role in Arctic governance and climate research.
 - It is a member of the European Union (EU) and NATO, which strengthens its role in regional and global cooperation.

Karbi Anglong Ginger

News: Assam achieved a major agricultural milestone by sending its first trial export of GI-tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger to London.

About Karbi Anglong Ginger

Karbi Anglong Ginger

(Zingiber officinale Rosc.)



Figure 8. Source: AssamGov

- **About:** It is an **important cash crop** of Assam.
- It is grown in **Singhasan Hills of Karbi Anglong district** of Assam **using the age-old system of Jhum and Tila cultivation.**
- **Cultivation conditions required:** It requires **fertile soil, unique climatic conditions and dense forest cover.**
 - **Production season:** It starts with sowing in **March – April** and ends in **January.**
- It received **Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2014.**
- **Properties:**
 - It is one of the **most flavourful varieties of Ginger** in India and is **known for its strong pungent**

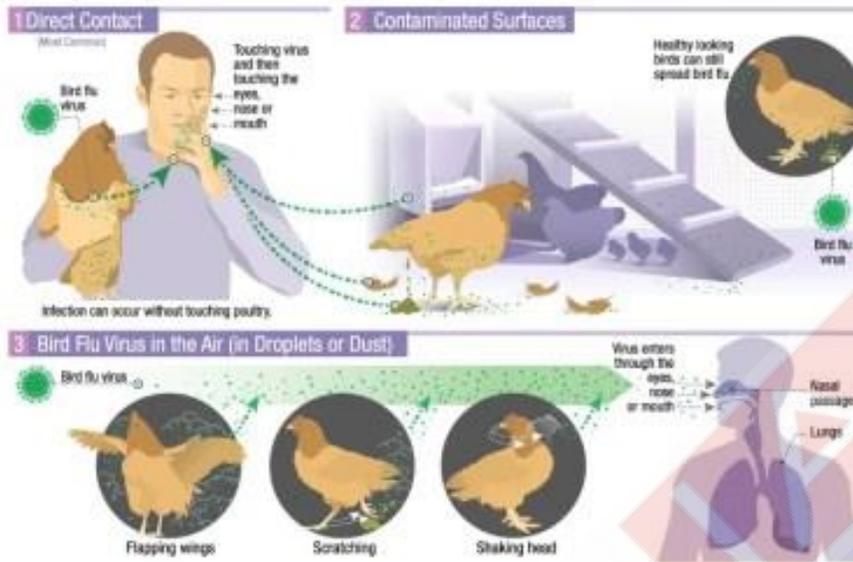
aroma.

- It is **used in traditional medicine** for its **digestive and anti-inflammatory** benefits.
- Its **dry rhizome contains high oleoresin oil and low fibre**, which increases its **market value.**
- It has a **distinct earthy taste with mild spiciness**, making it suitable for cooking.

Avian Influenza A (H5N1)

News: Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has confirmed an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza at a poultry farm in Hokkaido.

About Avian Influenza A (H5N1)



Animal-To-Human Transmission of Avian Influenza

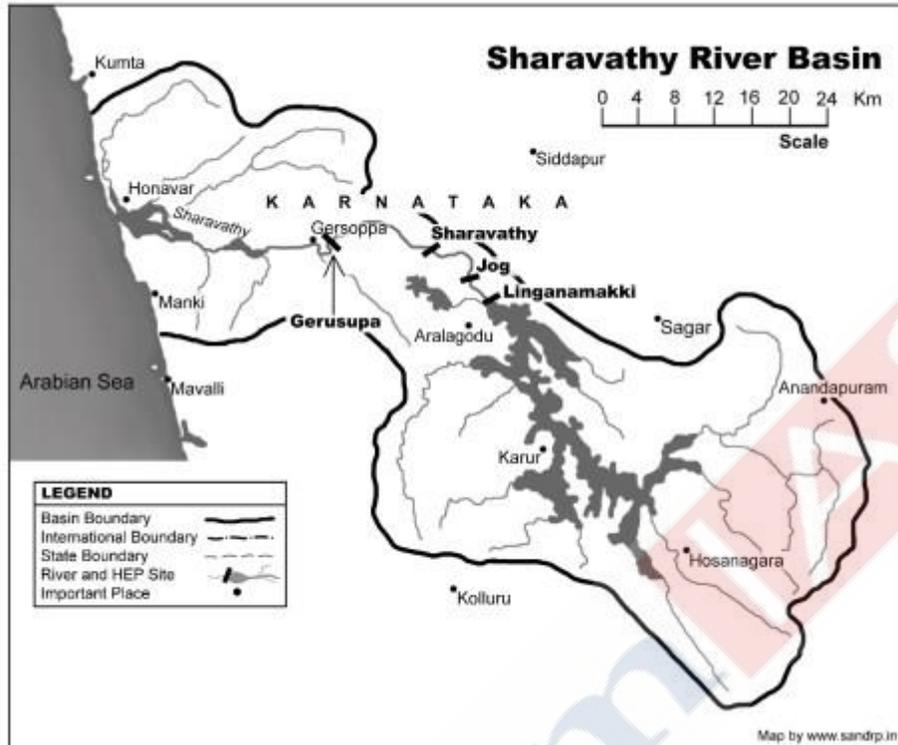
Source: CDC

- Avian influenza is a type A influenza virus of the genus *Alphainfluenzavirus* of the family *Orthomyxoviridae*.
- It is a single-stranded RNA virus with a genome consisting of eight negative-sense RNA segments.
- It is a highly infectious influenza virus that primarily infects birds but can also affect mammals, including humans in rare cases.
- Origin: It first emerged in 1996 in China and since 2020, it has been reported across Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, South America, and mainland Antarctica.
- Transmission: Humans are infected by close contact with infected birds and other animals and contaminated environments.
- The virus does not transmit easily from person to person.
- Symptoms: It infects upper respiratory tract and lungs and sometimes spreads to other parts of body.
- Symptoms may include eye redness (conjunctivitis), mild fever, cough, sore throat, runny or blocked nose, muscle aches, headache, and fatigue.
- Prevention: Infection can be prevented by avoiding direct contact with wild birds, poultry, or livestock that appear sick or dead.

Sharavathi River

News: Karnataka High Court recently issued notices to the Centre and the State government on a PIL questioning the legality of approvals granted by the State Wildlife Board and the National Board for Wildlife's Standing Committee for the Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project.

About Sharavathi River



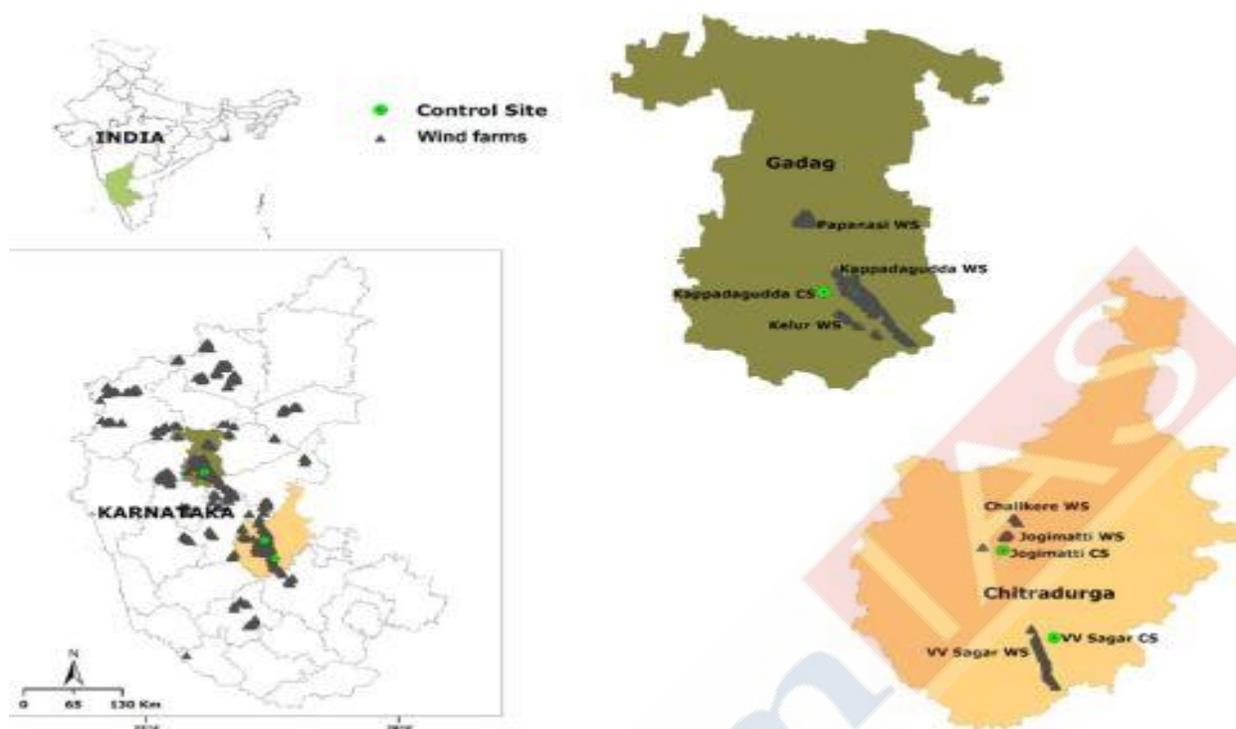
Source: SANDRP

- **Location:** It flows through the districts of Uttara Kannada and Shimoga in Karnataka.
- This river is one of west flowing river in India.
- **Origin:** It originates from Ambutirtha in the Tirthalli region.
- **Course of river:** After flowing through Tirthalli region, it finally joins the Arabian sea at Karki in Honavar district of Karnataka.
- During its course, it forms the Jog Falls which is one of India's highest waterfalls.
- **Tributaries:** Nandihole, Hilkunjihole, Sharmanavathi, Hilkunjihole, Nagodi hole, Hurlihole, Yennehole, Mavinahole, Gundalahole, Kalkattehole, and Kandodihole.
- **Catchment area:** About 3042 sq. km.
- **Dams situated on the river**
- It plays a major role in Karnataka's hydropower generation, particularly through the Linganamakki Dam and associated projects.
- Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project (PSP) is a 2,000 MW hydropower project on the Sharavathi river. It aims to utilise renewable energy sources and reduce carbon emissions.
- The project proposes a pumped storage plant between the existing Talakalale and Gerusoppa dams.
- Water will be pumped upward during off-peak hours using grid power and released during peak demand to generate electricity.

[Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

News: High Court of Karnataka has directed State government to issue a further notification to include the left-out areas of the Kappatagudda reserve forest as part of the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary.

About Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary



Source – ResearchGate

- **Location:** Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Gadag district of Karnataka.
- It is described as the “Western Ghats of North Karnataka” due to its rich biodiversity.
- **Area:** It covers an area of about 244 sq. km.
- **Established in:** 2019
- **River associated:** Tungabhadra River forms southern boundary of the sanctuary.
- **Vegetation:** Dry deciduous forests, grasslands, scrublands, and riverine ecosystems
- **Flora:** It hosts diverse flora including teak, *Butea monosperma*, acacia scrub, and native grasses, along with around 400 medicinal plant species.
- **Fauna:** The sanctuary is home to various mammals such as langurs, spotted deer, barking deer, leopards, Indian wolves, and striped hyenas, gray wolves, jungle cats, and several antelope species.
- Over 180 bird species have been recorded, with some rare sightings like the White-naped Tit.
- **Historical and cultural significance:** It features ancient temples such as Kappatagudda Jain Basadi and ruins from the Chalukya and Rashtrakuta dynasties.
- It also hosts notable monuments such as the Brahma Jinalaya Jain temple, Trikuteshwara Temple, and the 12th-century Dambala Temple built in the Western Chalukyan style.

[IMPAct4Nutrition \(I4N\) Platform](#)

News: NITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a Statement of Intent to strengthen collaborative interventions for improving maternal and child nutrition in Aspirational Districts and Blocks.

About IMPAct4Nutrition (I4N) Platform



**IMPAct^{for}
Nutrition**

**PRIVATE SECTOR
ENGAGEMENT
FOR POSHAN ABHIYAAN**

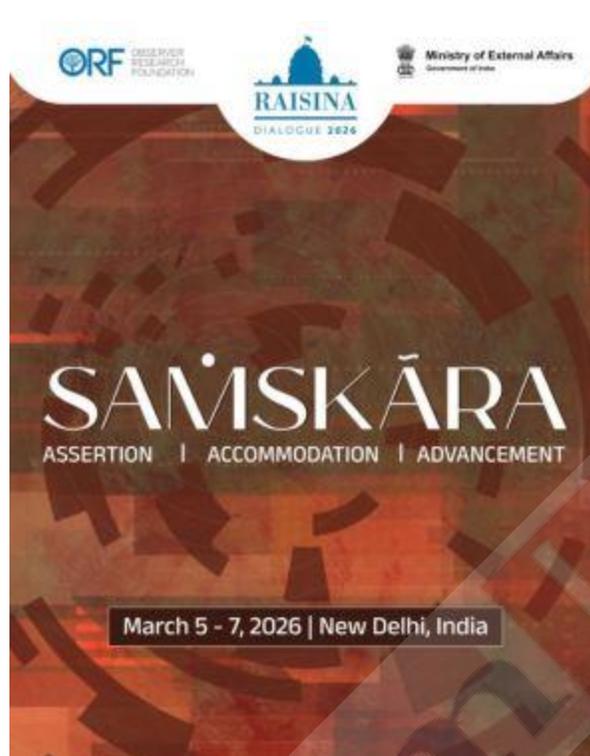
Source - I4N

- The IMPAct4Nutrition (I4N) platform is also known as the Initiative to Mobilize Private Action for Nutrition.
- It is a knowledge and resource platform on nutrition that connects businesses with the social movement around POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- **Launched in:** The platform was launched in 2019.
- **Aim:** The initiative aims to encourage businesses to actively participate in improving nutrition awareness and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- **Partners:** Incubated by UNICEF India, the platform is supported by partners including CII, NASSCOM, Tata Trusts, Sight and Life, and CSRBOX.
- **Aligned With:** The initiative supports the POSHAN Abhiyaan programme launched by India in 2018.
- **Key initiatives**
 - **Corporate engagement:** The platform mobilises businesses and CSR partners to support nutrition-focused interventions.
 - **Knowledge hub:** It acts as a central hub for sharing nutrition knowledge and best practices.
 - **ACE card strategy:** A unique framework involving Assets for nutrition, CSR/Cash for nutrition, and Employees' engagement to drive behavioral change.
 - **Workplace nutrition:** It promotes nutrition awareness among employees, families, customers, and the wider community.

Raisina Dialogue 2026

News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the inaugural session of the Raisina Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi with global leaders, policymakers and experts.

About Raisina Dialogue 2026



Source – ORF

- Raisina Dialogue 2026 is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics that addresses major issues facing the international community.
- **Organizers:** The Dialogue is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- **2026 edition:** The Raisina Dialogue 2026 is the eleventh edition of the conference.
- **Theme:** The theme of the 2026 edition is "Saṁskāra – Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement."
- **Chief Guest:** The President of Finland, Dr. Alexander Stubb, attended the inaugural session as the Chief Guest.
- **Participation:** Around 2700 participants from 110 countries will join the Dialogue in person, including ministers, former heads of state and government, members of parliament, military commanders, industry leaders, technology experts, academics, journalists, scholars and youth.
- **Thematic Pillars for 2026:** The dialogue was structured around six core pillars:
 - **Contested Frontiers: Power, Polarity, and Periphery**
 - **Repairing the Commons: New Groups, New Guardians, New Avenues**
 - **White Whale: The Pursuit of Agenda 2030**
 - **The Eleventh Hour: Climate, Conflict, and the Cost of Delay**
 - **Tomorrowland: Towards a Tech-topia**
 - **Trade in the Time of Tariffs: Recovery, Resilience, Reinvention**
- **Significance:** The Raisina Dialogue provides a global platform for leaders and experts to discuss major geopolitical and geo-economic challenges.

Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG)

News: The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced that the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games will be held in Chhattisgarh.

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About Khelo India Tribal Games



Source - PIB

- Khelo India Tribal Games is a national sporting event dedicated exclusively to tribal athletes to promote mass participation and sporting excellence.
- Inaugural edition: The inaugural edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games will be organized for the first time in India from March 25 to April 6, 2026.
- Theme: “Tribal Pride, Sporting Glory (Janajatiya Garv, Khel Samman)”
- Mascot: The official mascot is “Morveer”, which represents the spirit, pride and identity of India’s tribal communities.
- Aim: The Games aim to promote mass participation in sports and strengthen the talent base emerging from tribal areas.
- Host State: The inaugural Games will be hosted by Chhattisgarh in Raipur, Jagdalpur and Sarguja.
- Organising Bodies: The event will be jointly managed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India, Indian Olympic Association, National Sports Federations and the Chhattisgarh state organising committee.
- Sports Disciplines: The Games will include seven medal sports - athletics, football, hockey, weightlifting, archery, swimming and wrestling and two demonstration sports - mallakhamb and kabaddi.

Inspiring Women Through Action (ASMITA) Programme

News: The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized a nationwide athletics league under ASMITA programme across the nation.

About Inspiring Women Through Action (ASMITA) Programme



Source: My Gov

- ASMITA stand for Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action.
- ASMITA Programme is part of Khelo India's gender-neutral mission to promote sports among women through leagues and competitions.
- Launched in: 2021
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport
- Aim: ASMITA leagues aim to increase the participation of women in sports and to utilise the leagues as a platform for identification of new talent across the length and breadth of India.
- Participation: Since its launch, it has seen nearly three lakh women participate in 33 sports through over 2,600 leagues nationwide.
- The Khelo India ASMITA league is a core component of the 'Khelo Bharat Niti,' promoting sports for nation-building and women's empowerment.
- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) supports National Sports Federations to conduct Khelo India women's leagues across multiple age groups at both zonal and national levels.

Commission on the Status of Women

News: Minister of State for Women and Child Development will visit New York from 9-12 March 2026 to attend Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) -70.

About Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)



Figure 9. Source – CSW

- The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- Established: It was established by a resolution of the Economic and Social Council on 21 June 1946.
- Membership
 - Number of members :

Forty-five Member States of the United Nations serve as members of the Commission at any time.

- Elected by: Members are elected by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution.
- Term: Member States are elected for a period of four years.
- Functions
- Promoting Rights: The Commission promotes women's political, economic, civil, social, and educational rights.
- Monitoring Progress: It reviews progress and challenges in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- Gender Mainstreaming: It works to integrate a gender perspective in United Nations activities.
- It take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment (SHINE) App

News: Indian Railways recently launched 'SHINE' app for women employees to lodge complaints about sexual harassment at the workplace.

About SHINE App

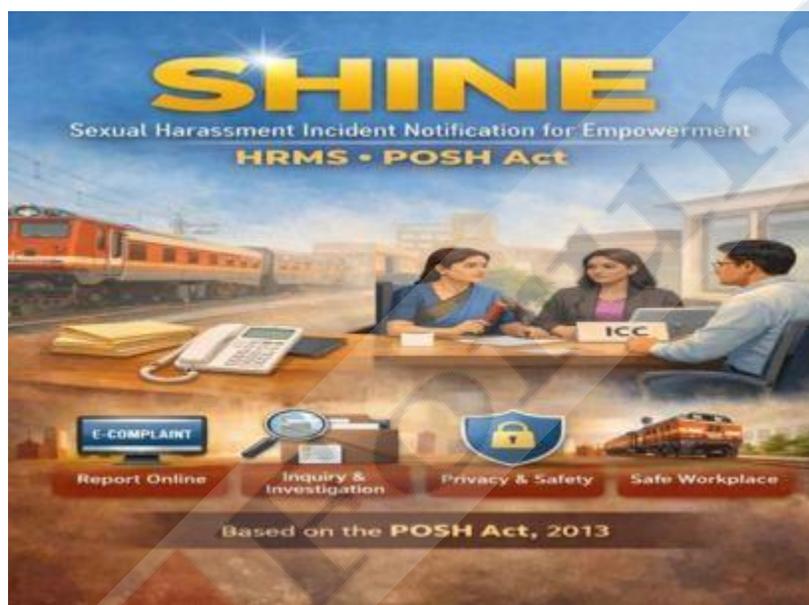


Figure 10. Source – Indian Railways

- SHINE stands for Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment.

- SHINE app is a customized application developed to enable women employees to report incidents of sexual harassment at the workplace in a secure and efficient manner.

- Launched by: Indian Railways, on the occasion of International Women's Day.

- Key features

- It operates in addition to the Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) constituted in organisations in compliance with the Vishaka Guidelines.

- Accessible to: It is accessible to all female employees of Indian Railways, allowing them to directly register complaints regarding workplace sexual harassment.
- The app also allows reporting of incidents on behalf of others including – Visitors, Contractual staff, Students and other individuals who may not have direct access to the application.
- Access through: The app can be accessed through the Employee Self Service (ESS) system and women employees can lodge complaints through the Human Resources Management System (HRMS).
- Once a complaint is filed, it is received online by the designated committee responsible for handling such cases.
- The platform ensures confidentiality of complaints and facilitates timely and effective resolution by the concerned authorities.

- It was developed to strengthen the complaint mechanism by making it more confidential, transparent, and expeditious.

Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) Satellite Systems

News: Bharat Electronics Limited and Bellatrix Aerospace signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to design, develop and manufacture next-generation satellite systems and payloads for Very Low Earth Orbit operations.

About Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) Satellite Systems

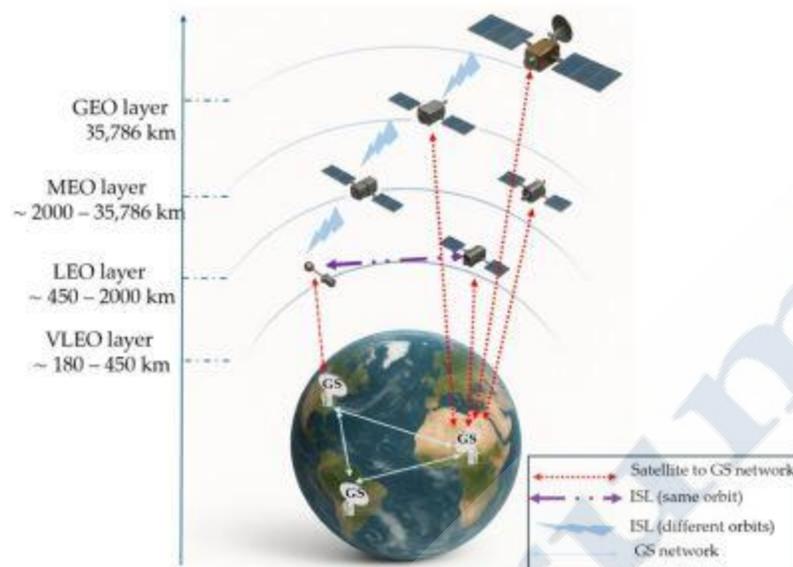


Figure 11. Source – MDPI

- The Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) refers to altitudes between 100 km and 450 km, significantly lower than traditional Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

- Key Features

- Enhanced imagery: Being closer to earth allows for ultra-high-resolution imaging (up to 10 cm per pixel) with smaller, more cost-effective optics compared to traditional satellites.
- Ultra-low latency: The shorter distance reduces signal travel time, which is critical for real-time applications like 6G networks,

autonomous vehicles, and remote surgery.

- Space sustainability: VLEO is “self-cleaning” because atmospheric drag naturally de-orbits satellites at the end of their life, preventing the buildup of long-term space debris.
- Lower launch costs: Small launch vehicles can deliver more mass to lower altitudes, and the more benign radiation environment allows the use of cheaper, commercial-grade electronics.
- Challenges
- Atmospheric drag: Residual atmosphere creates strong drag, requiring frequent or continuous propulsion to maintain orbit.
- Higher fuel consumption: Satellites closer to Earth require greater fuel to counter orbital decay.
- Material degradation: High levels of atomic oxygen can corrode spacecraft surfaces and require special protective coatings.