

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 06 March 2026



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Rajasthan Public Trust (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026

Why in News?

- The Rajasthan Public Trust (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 was passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on March 5, 2026, by voice vote.

Key Points:

- **Main objective:** To eliminate the provision of jail sentences for minor and technical offenses in various state laws and limit them to mere fines. Additionally, this bill will promote ease of living and ease of doing business in the state.
- This bill eliminates the provision of jail sentences for minor and technical violations under 11 state acts.
- **For example,** under the Rajasthan Warehousing Act, 1958, storage without a license was previously punishable by up to one year of imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹1,000, or both. By amending this, the imprisonment clause has been removed and the penalty (fine) amount has been increased to ₹50,000.
- Also, the earlier provision of imprisonment up to one year for non-domestic use of domestic drinking water connection has now been removed and a provision of fine ranging from a minimum of ₹200 to a maximum of ₹1,000 per day has been made.
- Section 26 (1) (A) of the Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953, provided for imprisonment up to six months or a fine of up to ₹500, or both, for grazing cattle in forest land. After the amendment, there will be a provision for imposing only a fine for violation.

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Acts to be amended through the Bill:

S.N.	Act Name (English)
1	Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953
2	Rajasthan Tenancy Act, 1955
3	Rajasthan Navigation Regulation Act, 1956
4	Rajasthan Warehouses Act, 1958
5	Rajasthan State Aid to Industries Act, 1961
6	Rajasthan Electricity (Duty) Act, 1962
7	Rajasthan Money-Lenders Act, 1963
8	Rajasthan Non-Government Educational Institutions Act, 1989
9	Rajasthan Stamp Act, 1998
10	Rajasthan Municipalities Act, 2009
11	Jaipur Water Supply and Sewerage Board Act, 2018

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Rajasthan Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Why in News?

- The Rajasthan Legislative Assembly passed the Rajasthan Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2026 by voice vote on March 5, 2026.

Key Points:

- This bill primarily makes major changes to the rules related to workers' working hours, overtime, and the prohibition of child labor.
- **Objective of the amendment:** To promote business activities in the state and ensure the welfare and safety of workers.

Provisions:

- According to the amendments made to the ordinance, underage children will no longer be employed in shops and commercial establishments. The minimum age for apprenticeship has been raised to 14, which was previously 12 years old.
- Adolescents between the ages of 14 and 18 will not be allowed to work at night, whereas previously this limit was 12 to 15 years old.
- The ordinance sets the maximum daily working hours for workers at 10 hours instead of 9. The maximum overtime limit has also been increased to 144 hours per quarter.
- The weekly working hours have been kept at 48 hours, and the minimum working hours before a half-hour break have been increased from five to six hours.

Rajasthan Education Department's District Academic Rankings (February 2026)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan School Education Department released the District Academic Rankings for February 2026.

Key Points:

Top three districts in the District Academic Rankings:

Rank	District Name
1st	Karauli
2nd	Jhunjhunu
3rd	Hanumangarh

- Baran, Udaipur, and Jodhpur ranked last in the rankings.
- This ranking is based on an assessment of the performance of all districts in Rajasthan across indicators such as academic outcomes, daily school operations, and governance.
- Objective:** To conduct regular, data-driven reviews of district performance and strengthen accountability in the school education system.
- The rankings include key parameters such as regular student attendance, quality of classroom teaching, monitoring through field visits, and student performance in academic evaluations.

Facts for Prelims:

Rajasthan's literacy rate:

- Total literacy rate:** 66.11 percent.
- Male literacy:** 79.19 percent.
- Female literacy:** 52.12 percent.
- Rural literacy:** 61.4 percent.
- Urban literacy:** 79.7 percent.

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Districts with the highest literacy rates:

S. No.	District	Literacy Rate (in %)
1	Kota	76.6
2	Jaipur	75.5
3	Jhunjhunu	74.1
4	Sikar	71.9
5	Alwar	70.7

Districts with lowest literacy rates:

S. No.	District	Literacy Rate (in %)
1	Jalore	54.9
2	Sirohi	55.3
3	Pratapgarh	56.0
4	Banswara	56.3
5	Barmer	56.5

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NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>5,720 innovative ideas from Rajasthan selected under the Inspire Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Under the Inspire Award Standard Scheme, run by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, innovative ideas from 5,720 young scientists from Rajasthan have been selected.■ For the 2025-26 academic year, approximately 1.42 lakh candidates from the state had updated their innovative ideas online, of which 5,720 were selected. The highest number of selected students were from Jaipur (557).■ Each selected student receives financial assistance of ₹10,000 directly into their bank account (DBT) to develop their model or prototype.■ This scheme is for students from classes 6 to 12 and aims to promote scientific attitude and creativity in them.
2.	<p>Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in Rajasthan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project will provide direct high-speed rail connectivity to Rajasthan's industrial areas of Shahjahanpur, Ghiloth, Neemrana, and Behror, as well as the proposed KBNIR (Khushkhera-Bhiwadi-Neemrana Investment Region) township, with Delhi and Gurugram, revolutionizing the region's economic development and mobility.

3.

55th National Safety Day State-Level Celebration

- The state-level celebration of the 55th National Safety Day (March 4) was held at the B.S. Mehta Auditorium at the Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration (HCM-RIPA) in Jaipur.
- **Chief Guest:** Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Premchand Bairwa.
- **Organized** jointly by the Department of Factory and Boilers Inspection and the National Safety Council (Rajasthan State Chapter).
- **Theme:** "Engaging, Educating, and Empowering People to Enhance Safety."
- **Awards:** At the event, 15 industrial units that demonstrated outstanding work in the field of industrial safety were presented with the "Factory Safety Awards." These awards were given in large, medium, and small categories.

4.

Rajasthan at ITB Berlin 2025

- Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Indian Ambassador to Germany Ajit Gupte inaugurated the Rajasthan Tourism Department pavilion at ITB Berlin 2025.
- **Key Attractions:** The new Film Tourism Promotion Policy-2025 was showcased at the Rajasthan Pavilion (Hall 5.2, Stand 200).
- ITB Berlin, the world's largest tourism trade fair, was held in Germany from March 3 to 5, 2026.
- This international event, held since 1966, is considered a leading platform for the global tourism industry.

NATIONAL

C. V. Raman (1888–1970)

Why in News?

- National Science Day is celebrated in India every year on February 28. This day commemorates the discovery of the Raman Effect in 1928 by the renowned physicist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.



Key Points:

C. V. Raman

- Born: Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu)
- **Scientific Contributions**
Discovery of the Raman Effect (1928):
 - The Raman Effect is a phenomenon of light scattering in which light rays are scattered by the molecules of a substance when passing through a transparent material, causing their wavelength (color) to change. This provides information about the structure and vibrations of molecules.
- **Other major contributions:** Contributions to optics and spectroscopy, research on the acoustics of Indian musical instruments, and research in crystallography and solid-state physics.
- **Awards and Honors:**
 - Nobel Prize in Physics (1930) for the Raman Effect, Bharat Ratna (1954), Fellow of the Royal Society, Franklin Medal, Lenin Peace Prize.

Inauguration of India's First Semiconductor Plant

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister inaugurated India's first semiconductor plant in Sanand, Gujarat. The plant was developed by the US private firm Micron. It will provide facilities for the assembly, testing, marking, and packaging of semiconductor chips.



Key Points:

Importance for India

- **Self-reliance in the supply chain:** This will reduce heavy import dependence, especially from China, for chips. It will also provide resilience against global disruptions (such as trade wars).
- **Strategic importance:** This will be crucial for defense, telecommunications (5G/6G), AI, space, and digital infrastructure. This will strengthen national security.
- **Economic and export growth:** This will boost electronics manufacturing and attract foreign direct investment (FDI). This will help India capture a significant share of the \$1 trillion semiconductor market by 2030.

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- **Others:** It will create high-skilled jobs, support the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign, etc.

Initiatives launched for the semiconductor industry in India

- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 1.0 and 2.0:** Umbrella programs to build a comprehensive semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem.
- **ISM 2.0 (Budget 2026-27):** It focuses on strengthening equipment, materials, full-stack Indian intellectual property design, supply chain resilience, and skills development.
- **Semiconductor and Display Fabs Schemes:** Fiscal support for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication and display manufacturing units in India.
- **Compound Semiconductor and ATMP/OSAT Schemes:** Support for chip assembly, testing, packaging, and specialized semiconductor segments to strengthen the domestic value chain.
- **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme:** Incentives to start-ups and MSMEs to promote indigenous chip design and innovation.
- **Global Partnerships and Skilling Initiatives:** Programs such as the India-US iCET collaboration, the Semicon India platform, and C2S and VLSI curriculum reforms to create a skilled workforce and attract investment.

Geography and Geology

Major Straits in the Indian Ocean

Why in News?

- Iran has warned that it will attack any ship attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz.



Key Points:

Straits:

- Meaning:** A naturally occurring narrow waterway connecting two large bodies of water (seas or oceans).

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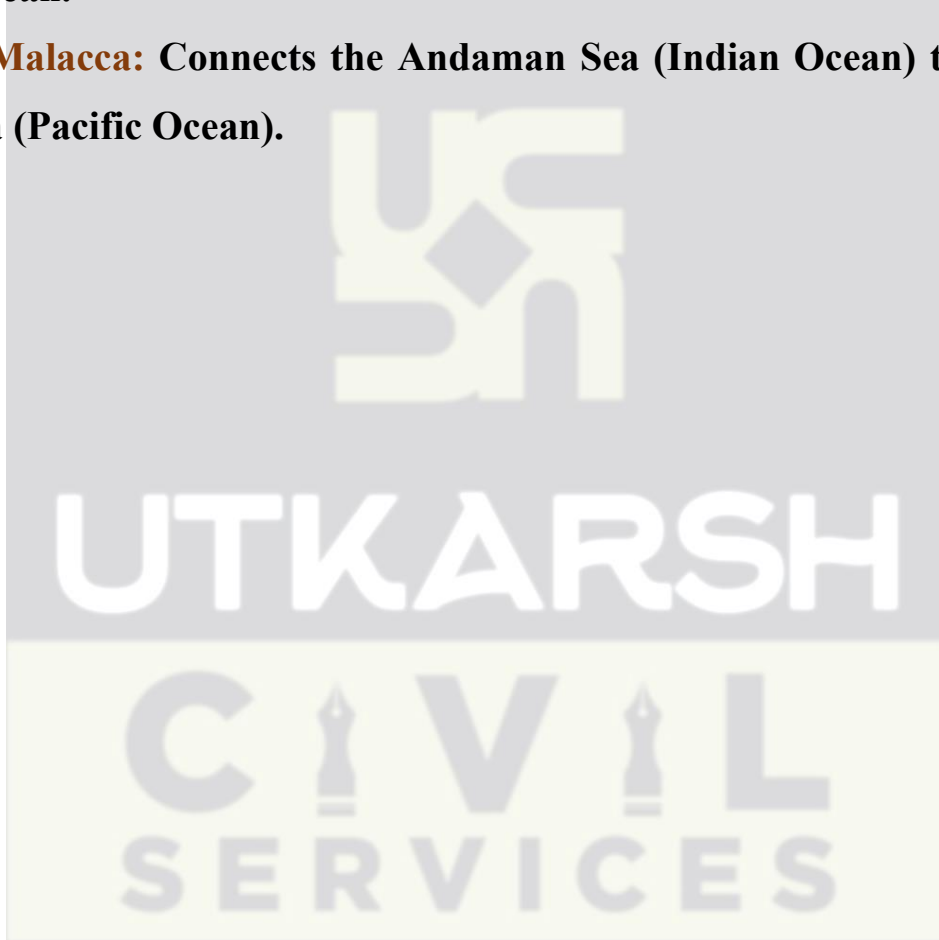
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Major Straits in the Indian Ocean Region:

- **Strait of Hormuz:** Connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb:** Connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.
- **Strait of Malacca:** Connects the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) to the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean).



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Economic Developments



Current Account Deficit



Why in News?

- The current account deficit (CAD) narrowed to \$30.1 billion during the April-December 2025 period. It was \$36.6 billion in the same period a year earlier.



Key Points:

CAD

- A current account deficit is a situation when a country's total imports of goods, services, and remittances exceed its total exports and income earned from abroad.
- This includes goods and services, income from investments abroad, and unilateral transfers such as remittances from expatriates and foreign aid.
- The current account deficit is part of the broader balance of payments.
- The balance of payments reflects all financial transactions a country has with the rest of the world.



Durand Line



Why in News?

- Pakistan launched a major military operation in the Afghan areas adjacent to the Durand Line under Operation Ghazb-ul-Haq.



Key Points:

Durand Line

- It serves as the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan for approximately 2,600 km. Afghanistan does not recognize this border as legitimate.
- The Durand Line was proposed by the British in 1893 to clearly demarcate the boundary between then-British-controlled India and Afghanistan.
- The border line is named after Sir Mortimer Durand, a British civil servant.

Most Favoured Nation (MFN)

Why in News?

- The European Union and India have agreed to grant each other 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) status for a period of five years.



Key Points:

Most Favoured Nation (MFN)

- The MFN principle is a fundamental rule of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- According to this, if a WTO member provides favorable trade conditions, such as lower tariffs, to one country, it must extend the same benefits to all other WTO members.
- However, exceptions exist for regional trade agreements, free trade agreements, and developing countries.

Canadian Prime Minister's Visit to India Concludes

Why in News?

- India-Canada relations were formally elevated to "Strategic Partnership" status in 2018.
- This was the first bilateral visit by a Canadian Prime Minister to India since 2018.



Key Points:

Key Outcomes of the Visit

- **Trade Agreement:** The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) were signed.
- **Bilateral Trade:** Merchandise trade between the two countries currently stands at approximately US\$8–9 billion annually, which is well below potential given the size of both economies.

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- **Nuclear Energy:** A long-term commercial contract for the supply of uranium ore concentrates was finalized with the Canadian company Cameco.
- **Critical Minerals Cooperation:** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed to develop a secure and resilient mineral supply chain.
- **Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence:** A declaration of intent was made for a 'Joint Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence' between India and Canada.

Announcements

- **Trade Target:** A target was set to reach US\$50 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.
- **Global Alliances:** Canada announced its joining the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) and the International Solar Energy Alliance (ISA).
- **Parliamentary Groups:** An India-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group will be formed.
- **Defence Dialogue:** An India-Canada Defence Dialogue will be established.

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Impact of the War in West Asia on India



Why in News?

- The government is assessing the impact of the war in West Asia on India. The government has held inter-ministerial discussions with exporters and logistics sector actors to assess its economic consequences.



Key Points:

Impacts on India

- **Threat to energy security:** The potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz is a serious concern, as approximately 20% of the world's crude oil trade passes through it.
- 85% of India's LPG and 55% of LNG come through the Strait of Hormuz.
- India imports over 85% of its crude oil needs, a large portion of which comes from West Asia.
- **Impact on trade:** Uncertainty poses a threat to approximately 56% of India's commodity exports. This region is not only a major market for India but also an important transit corridor for regions such as Europe and Africa.
- **Supply chain disruptions:** Disruptions to shipping routes are increasing insurance costs and transit times. This is directly impacting major transshipment hubs in Gulf countries, such as Jebel Ali Port (UAE) and Salalah Port (Oman).
- **Migrants:** Indians constitute approximately 30% of the total migrant workers in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
- **Remittances:** According to the RBI Remittance Survey 2023-24, approximately 19% of total remittances to India come from the UAE alone, and 7% from Saudi Arabia. Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar also contribute significantly.
- **Connectivity projects:** The crisis could impact the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), and the development of the India-operated Chabahar port.

India-Japan Bilateral Swap Arrangement

Why in News?

- India has renewed its bilateral swap arrangement (currency swap agreement) with Japan.



Key Points:

- A bilateral swap arrangement is a two-way arrangement. In this arrangement, two countries can exchange their local currencies for the US dollar.
- A currency swap is an agreement between the central banks of two countries to exchange one currency for another under agreed terms.
- The volume of the India-Japan Bilateral Swap Arrangement remains the same at US\$75 billion.
- Other Currency Swap Agreements (CSAs) entered into by India:** SAARC Currency Swap Agreement (2024–27), India-UAE Currency Swap Agreement, India-Sri Lanka Currency Swap Agreement, etc.

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International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)



Why in News?

- The International Atomic Energy Agency held an emergency meeting in Vienna to discuss the effects of the US-Israeli military strikes on Iran.



Key Points:

International Atomic Energy Agency:

- **Established:** 1957
- **Introduction:** It is the world's leading intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field.
- **Function:** To promote the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear science and technology, thereby promoting international peace, security, and the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Headquarters:** Vienna (Austria)
- **Awards:** Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Food Fortification

Why in News?

- The government has temporarily suspended the fortification of rice under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).



Key Points:

- This decision was taken following a study by IIT Kharagpur. The study highlighted that factors such as moisture, storage conditions, temperature, relative humidity, and packaging material significantly impact the stability and shelf-life of fortified rice kernels (FRK) and fortified rice (FR).

Food Fortification

- It is the process of deliberately increasing the amount of micronutrients (such as vitamins and minerals) in food to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply.
- **Regulation:** Regulated under the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018 of the FSSAI.
- All custom-milled rice distributed under PMGKAY and other security programs was replaced by fortified rice (FR) by March 2024, to be distributed by December 2028.

Fortified foods:

- **Wheat flour and rice:** With iron, vitamin B12, and folic acid.
- **Milk and edible oil:** With vitamins A and D.
- **Double fortified salt:** With iodine and iron.

Very Short Range Air Defense System (VSHORADS)

Why in News?

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted flight tests of a very short-range air defense system.



Key Points:

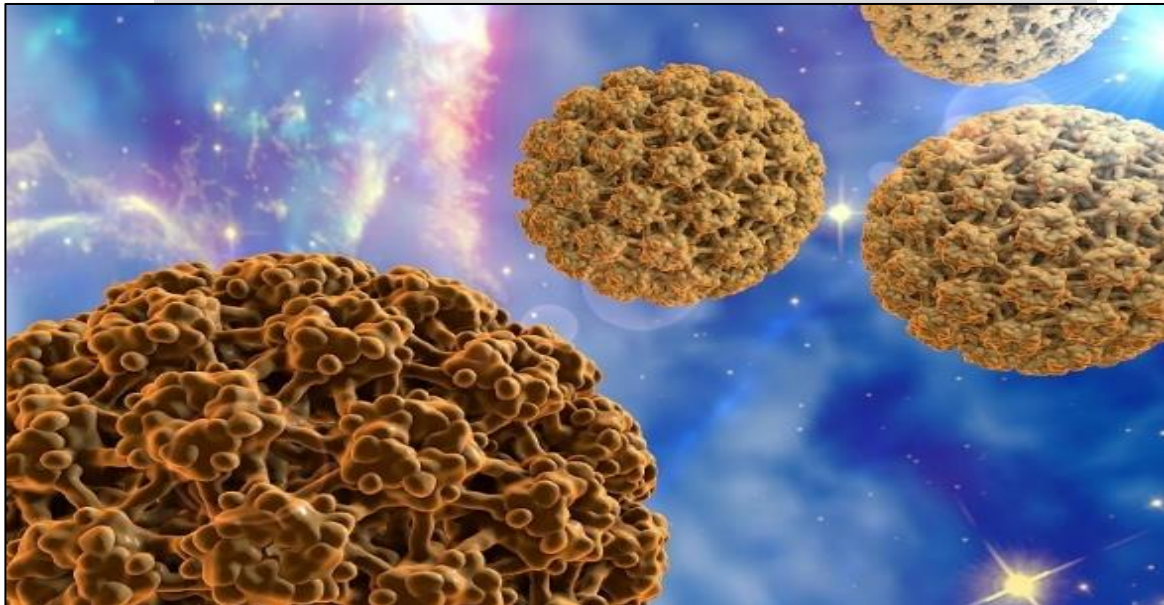
Very Short Range Air Defense System

- VSHORADS is a Man-Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS).
- **Developer:** Indigenously developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat.
- **Capability:** Capable of intercepting and destroying high-speed aerial threats at various ranges and altitudes.
- **Operational Use:** To be inducted into the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. Will strengthen the layered air defense system.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister launched a nationwide HPV vaccination campaign for 14-year-old girls.



Key Points:

- The program uses Gardasil-4, a quadrivalent single-dose vaccine to prevent cervical cancer.
- Gardasil-4 provides 93–100% effectiveness against targeted HPV types.
- A 'quadrivalent' vaccine works by generating an immune response against four different antigens (e.g., four different viruses or microorganisms).

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- **Definition:** HPV is the name of a group of 200 known viruses.
- **Prevalence:** It is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI).
- **Effects:** It doesn't cause any problems in most people, but persistent infection with high-risk HPV types can cause cervical cancer.
- In 90% of people, the body clears the infection on its own.

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Artemis Program

Why in News?

- NASA is restructuring the Artemis lunar program due to repeated delays.



Key Points:

Artemis Program:

- Under this program, NASA will send more challenging human missions to the Moon. Its goal is to further study the Moon for scientific discovery and economic benefit.
- Artemis I was launched in 2022.
- Artemis II, Artemis III, and Artemis IV are planned for future launches.