## **High-Velocity Air Fuel Spraying**

In the quest for eco-friendly alternatives to hard chrome plating (HCP), scientists from the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous institution of the <u>Department of Science and Technology (DST)</u> affiliated institution, have pioneered a technique called high-velocity air fuel spraying (HVAF).

- This method holds the potential to transform the landscape of surface coatings, offering a safer and more efficient solution for car parts, tools, and kitchen utensils.
  - HCP is an **electroplating process** in which a layer of chromium is applied to a surface to **improve corrosion and wear resistance, reduce friction, and extend the life of parts** used in extreme working environments.
- HCP contains <u>carcinogenic substances</u> prompting the search for a safer alternative.
  HVAF spraying involves low temperatures and high particle velocities, allowing the deposition of coatings using finer-sized powders (5-15 μm).
  - Scientists synthesized thin hard coatings of a composite alloy of <u>Tungsten</u>, <u>cobalt</u>, <u>and</u> <u>chromium</u> by high-velocity air fuel spraying.
- HVAF-sprayed coatings have shown superior sliding wear performance and corrosion resistance compared to conventional HCP.
  - The technique **reduces the need for grinding and polishing operations**, leading to **cost savings** in processing and raw materials.
- The new technique can be a better alternative to HCP for heavy-load applications like hydraulic shafts, valves, piston rods, and balls.

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