



## Current Affairs of the Day

### Strontium: a cyber-espionage group

1. Strontium, also known as Fancy Bear, Tsar Team, Pawn Storm, Sofacy, Sednit or Advanced Persistent Threat 28 (APT28) group, is a highly active and prolific cyber-espionage group.



2. The group is said to be connected to the GRU, the Russian Armed Forces' main military intelligence wing. The GRU's unit 26165 is identified as Fancy Bear.
3. It is one of the most active APT groups and has been operating since at least the mid-2000s, making it one of the world's oldest cyber-spy groups.
4. It has access to highly sophisticated tools to conduct spy operations and has been attacking targets in the U.S., Europe, Central Asia and West Asia.

### Palli in Jammu becomes India's first carbon-neutral panchayat

1. Palli village in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first panchayat in the country to become carbon-neutral, fully powered by solar energy. All its records have been digitised and the benefits of all the Central schemes are available in this village around 17 km from Jammu.
2. Inaugurating a 500-kilowatt solar plant in Palli, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that it would take three weeks to move a Sarkari file from Delhi to



Jammu and Kashmir, this project, with the help of villagers, was completed in a record time of three weeks.

3. "It's India that has come up with a living example in the form of Palli village to the Glasgow pledge. Palli village, with its enthusiastic and dedicated elected representatives full of dreams, has shown how to implement the Glasgow pledge," Mr Modi said.
4. PM described Palli as a model panchayat, which is bound to motivate other panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir and the country to become carbon-neutral.
5. He asked panchayats to participate in the movement "to segregate waste at the doorstep and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers".

**Inauguration of**

## 500 KW Solar Power Plant at Palli village Samba

- An initiative towards making Palli a carbon neutral panchayat.
- 500 KW Solar Power Plant (Ground mounted) worth Rs.2.75 crore
- Will generate 2000-2050 units of energy on an average per day.
- More than 1500 solar panels of 330 Watt each have been installed.
- Five string inverters of 100 KW capacity each used to generate energy equivalent to 500 KW evacuated to grid through 630 kVA transformer.

by  
**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

**April 24, 2022**  
Palli Gram Panchayat, Samba, J&K



## This calendar year will see 3 CJIs in 3 months

1. The Supreme Court has had a handful of instances when more than one Chief Justice of India (CJI) took the highest chair in the judiciary in a



year. But the year 2022 will become only the second such year since the top court's inception in 1950 when it will have three different CJIs in under three months.

2. The incumbent, justice NV Ramana, will retire in August after a tenure of 16 months. Justice Ramana will pass the baton to justice Uday U Lalit, who will get just a little over two months as the head of the judiciary before he demits office in November. Justice Lalit's retirement will pave the way for justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud to take over as the CJI for a term of two years.
3. Supreme Court judges take over as the CJI on the basis of their seniority. While there is no tenure fixed for a CJI, the retirement age of the judges in the apex court has been ascertained at 65 under the Constitution.

### Minimum Three Years Tenure:

1. Experts believe every CJI should have a minimum tenure of three years. There are several important issues such as judicial and administrative reforms coupled with the problem of huge arrears of cases that need to be tackled.
2. A CJI should get sufficient time to execute his or her vision and usher in reforms as planned. The issue of the minimum tenure of a CJI should be considered by the central government as well as by the judges of the Supreme Court.





3. One way of ensuring a minimum tenure of three years for a CJI could be through an inbuilt mechanism by the collegium.
4. At the time of recommending a judge for his or her appointment in the Supreme Court, the collegium is aware of the tenure of each and every judge, as also who would go on to become a CJI and for how long.
5. The collegium can make sure that the appointee to the Supreme Court gets at least three years as a CJI. This can be done without any requirement of governmental interference or amending any constitutional provision.

**Increase retirement age:**


1. According to Attorney-General for India, increasing the retirement age of Supreme Court judges could go a long way in assisting the cause. We have lawyers practising till they are 75 or 80.
2. Also, the retirement age of the judges of the constitutional courts was fixed long back based on the average life of that time. It needs a revision now.
3. High court judges should retire at 67 (they currently retire at 62) and the Supreme Court judges should retire at 70.

**India's plan for fortified rice needs an infra overhaul as the deadline looms**

1. India aims to provide fortified rice under all state-run food schemes in three stages by 2024 to improve nutritional outcomes, a plan that will need a massive upgrade of the country's food infrastructure to deliver a programme that some experts say is no magic bullet.
2. In his Independence Day speech in 2021, Prime

### WHAT IS FORTIFIED RICE?

Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in food to improve its nutritional quality and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health



➤ The fortification factor does not last for more than **45 days**, so it isn't advisable to store fortified rice for long

➤ According to National Family Health Survey, **78.7%** children and **75%** in the district are anaemic and suffer from malnutrition

➤ In the first phase, fortified rice will be distributed in Badangi, Bobbili, Ramabhadrapuram and Terlam mandals



Minister Narendra Modi announced that his government would distribute fortified rice by 2024 under all schemes, leading up to the Cabinet's approval.

3. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), the Centre's grain-handling agency, has already amassed 8.8 million tonnes of rice fortified with iron for distribution and supply in specific schemes.

### Fortification of rice scheme:

1. During stage 1, the programme will cover the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and PM POSHAN by March 2022. Both the

## FORTIFIED RICE

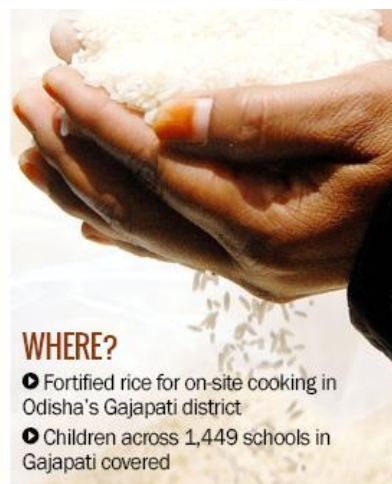
### ODISHA MODEL TO BOOST MIDDAY MEALS

#### WHAT?

- Fortified kernels blended at ratio 1:100 with ordinary rice
- 100g of fortified rice has 10mg iron

#### HOW?

- Manufactured by combining rice powder with iron
- Powder converted into rice-like kernels
- Micronutrient fortified kernels resemble regular rice



#### WHERE?

- Fortified rice for on-site cooking in Odisha's Gajapati district
- Children across 1,449 schools in Gajapati covered

Source: UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME // TIMES INTERNET

schemes target schoolchildren and women with nutritional interventions, comprising at least one hot, cooked school meal.

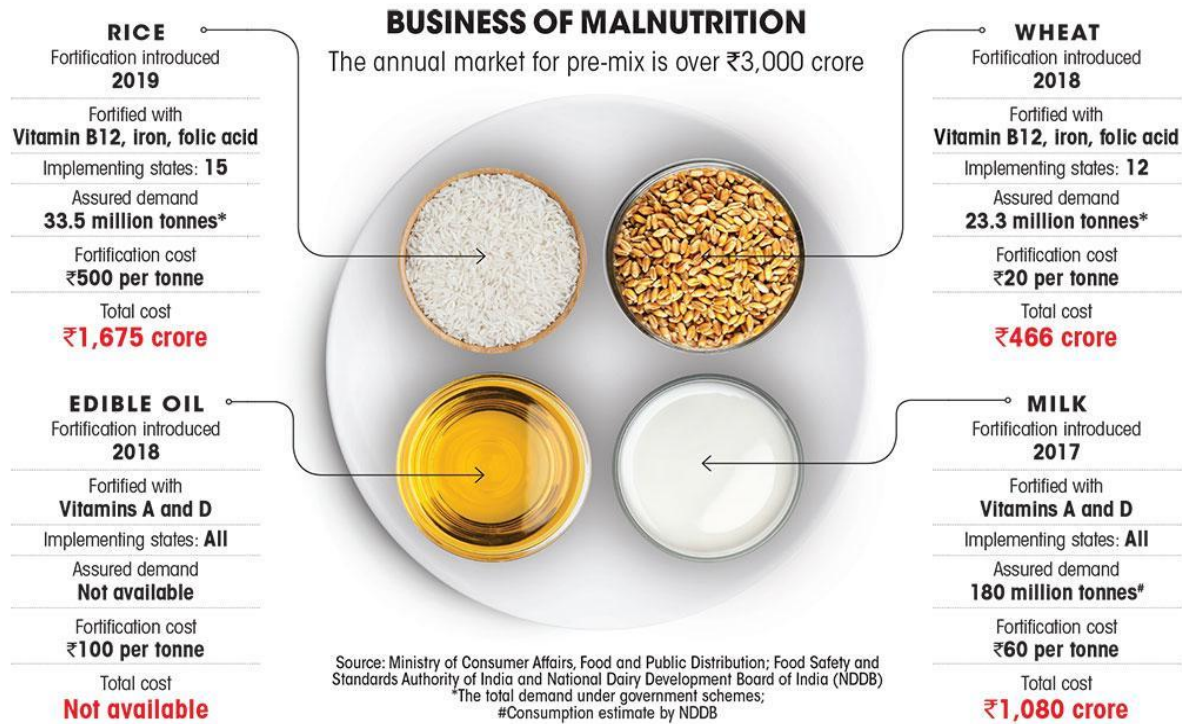
2. In stage 2, the programme will cover the public distribution network in all of India's so-called aspirational districts and 291 districts with the highest levels of stunting by March 2023. The third stage will expand the programme to all remaining districts by March 2024.

### Rapid economic growth and persistent Malnutrition:

1. Despite the country's rapid economic growth, a large number of children and women still suffer from significant levels of hunger and malnutrition.
2. According to the 2016 National Family Health Survey-4, which provides some latest data on health and nutrition, 38.4% of children in the country are stunted (low height for age) and 21% were wasted (low weight for height).
3. Children's poor health often begins in their mothers' wombs. The survey showed that the prevalence of anaemia among Indian women had seen only a small decline from 55% in 2005-06 to 53% in 2015-16.



4. In 1962, India's plan to fortify table salt with iodine was crucial to addressing widespread deficiency and syndromes, such as goitre.



<b>MAINS DAWP</b>	<p>Q1. What is food fortification? Discuss its effectiveness in eliminating malnutrition.</p> <p>Q2. In any future conflict with China, India and Russia will likely be on opposing sides. Critically discuss.</p>
<b>MCQs</b>	<p>Q1. Which of the following States/UTs has India's first carbon-neutral Panchayat?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jammu and Kashmir</li> <li>Ladakh</li> <li>Punjab</li> <li>Haryana</li> </ol>