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Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report

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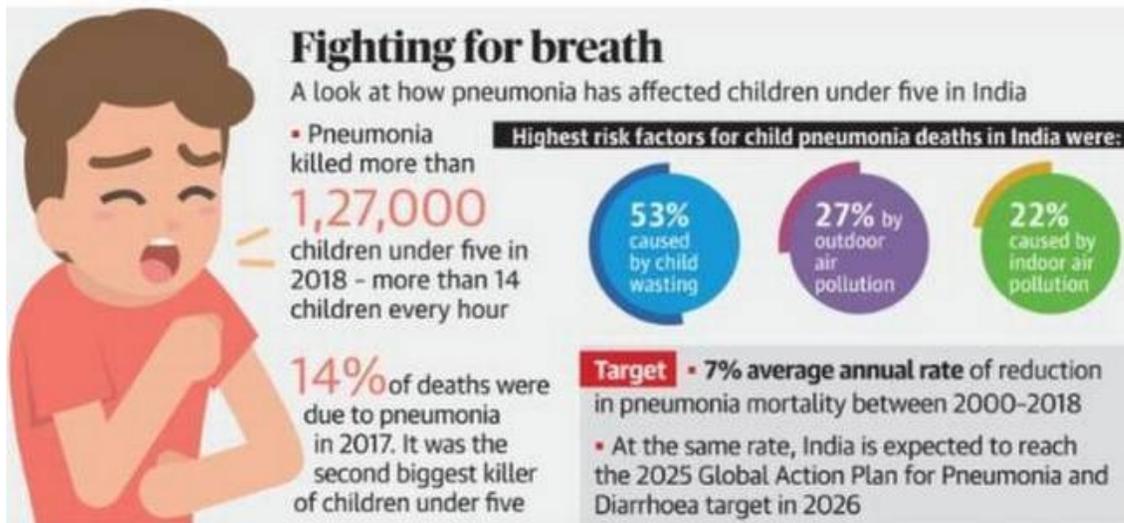
Why in News

To mark the occasion of the **World Pneumonia Day** on **November 12**, the **International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC)** released the **10th Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report**. The report describes **progress in fighting pneumonia and diarrhoea** in countries with the highest absolute number of deaths.

Key Highlights

- Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report is issued **annually**.
- **Prevalence:** The report has found that globally, pneumonia and diarrhoea led to nearly **one of every four deaths** in children under five years of age (in 2017).
- **Parameters:** The report analyses how effectively countries are delivering **10 key interventions**, including **breastfeeding, vaccination, access to care, use of antibiotics, ORS, and zinc supplementation**.
 - These measures are proven to help prevent deaths due to these illnesses and could help achieve the **UN's Sustainable Development Goal-3** target of reducing **under-five mortality** to at least as low as **25 per 1,000 live births by 2030**.
 - According to UNICEF, in India (2018) the
 - **Under 5** Mortality Rate is 39 deaths per 1000 live births.
 - **Infant** Mortality Rate (**under one year of age**) is 32 deaths per 1000 live births.
 - **Neonatal** Mortality Rate (**during the first 28 days of life**) is 24 deaths per 1000 live births.

- **India's Status:** Rollout of **rotavirus vaccines** to prevent rotavirus diarrhoea (in 2016), and **pneumococcal conjugate vaccine** for treating pneumonia (in 2017) has helped India to improve its scores.
 - India's exclusive breastfeeding rate (at 55%) is among the highest of the 23 countries. However, the proportion of children receiving important treatments, as with many other countries, remains below targets.
 - **In India, half** of the children with diarrhoea receive ORS (**Oral Rehydration Solution**) and **20%** receive **zinc supplementation** that helps to protect against, prevent and treat pneumonia and diarrhoea.



Other Reports Findings: Reports from organizations like **Save the Children** and **UNICEF** have marked that, in 2017, the **highest risk factors for child pneumonia death** in India were:

- 53% caused by **child wasting**,
- 27% by **outdoor air pollution**, and
- 22% caused by **indoor air pollution** from solid fuels.

Way Forward

The report concludes that the global community must **increase investment and support** other countries in developing **smart and sustainable strategies** that can close the gaps and accelerate progress.

Source: TH