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Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

- A recent study found that lower respiratory infections caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are more common in children under the age of five.
- According to the report published by Lancet, it is responsible for 100,000 child deaths in the world during the year 2019.

About respiratory syncytial virus (RSV):

- RSV is a common respiratory virus.
- It is highly infectious in nature, meaning it has a high potential to infect people.
- It has increased the risk of lung infections.
- It usually infects children under the age of 2 to 6 years.
- In most cases it shows symptoms similar to the common cold but in extreme cases it turns into pneumonia and bronchiolitis.

Conclusion:

- In the year 2019, more than 45000 infant deaths under the age of six were reported.
- Worldwide, one in five children infected with RSV die.
- Children aged six months and below are most vulnerable to this virus.
- According to research, the annual incidence rate in India is 53 per 1,000 children (5.3%), with about 61, 86, 500 cases of RSV in children under the age of five related to lower respiratory infections.
- RSV kills 97 percent of children under the age of five in low- and middle-income countries.

Treatment of respiratory syncytial virus:

- There is no reliable treatment for RSV infection.
- Scientists, governments and relevant authorities are promoting research and development in this area to find suitable drugs and vaccinations to save the lives of infants and children.

BRICS meeting on climate change

- Recently, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change participated in the virtual high-level meeting of BRICS, where they jointly addressed climate change, explored approaches to accelerate the low carbon and adaptation transition and Underlined the relevance of the Forum for sustainable development.
- The meeting was chaired by the People's Republic of China and was attended by environment ministers from BRICS countries- Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa.

Highlights of the meeting:

- India in its address underscored India's commitment to strong climate action, including promoting a sustainable lifestyle based on careful consumption and waste reduction.
- India is currently taking several important steps in the field of renewable energy, sustainable habitat, carbon sink creation through additional forest and tree cover, transition to sustainable transport, e-mobility, encouraging private sector to meet climate commitments etc.
- India continues to progressively separate economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions.
- The ambitious implementation of climate action by developing countries is dependent on an ambitious and adequate delivery of climate finance, technology transfer and other implementation support as mandated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.
- The BRICS countries have expressed their hope to move forward in line with the Glasgow Decision on Climate Finance Delivery and the COP 26 Climate Finance Delivery Plan issued by the Presidency.
- BRICS Environment Ministers committed to strengthen cooperation on climate change and to broaden and deepen the scope of cooperation.
- In addition, these countries also agreed to continue policy exchanges and cooperation in the areas of environment and climate change.

About BRICS:

- BRICS is an acronym for the group of five leading emerging economies of the world – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- British economist Jim O'Neill used the term BRIC in 2001 to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China.
- The grouping was formalized during the first meeting of the BRIC Foreign Ministers in 2006.
- South Africa was invited to join the BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- BRICS brings together the five largest developing countries in the world, representing 41% of the global population, 24% of global GDP and 16% of global trade.
- The BRICS summit is chaired annually by the Supreme Leader of the member countries in the order B-R-I-C-S.
- India was the President for 2021.
- During the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (Brazil) in 2014, the leaders signed the agreement to establish the New Development Bank (NDB – Shanghai, China). He also signed the BRICS Contingency Reserve Arrangement to provide short-term liquidity support to the members.

SCO member countries meeting under RATS

- Recently under the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) there was a meeting between the member countries of SCO. This is the first such meeting in India after Russia's encroachment on Ukraine and China's encroachment on the Line of Actual Control.
- The agenda for promoting cooperation and tackling various global and regional security challenges has been discussed in the SCO-RATS meeting.
- India is the chairman of the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure of the SCO (RATS SCO).

Key points discussed in the meeting:

- The situation in Afghanistan and the security concerns arising out of the fall of Afghanistan at the hands of the Taliban were the main agenda of this meeting.
- India has expressed strong desire to strengthen its security cooperation with the SCO and its regional counter-terrorism structure, which focuses on security and defense matters.

Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS):

- RATS is a permanent body of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- It aims at facilitating coordination and dialogue among SCO member states in the fight against terrorism, extremism and separatism.
- The main function of SCO-RATS is coordination and information sharing.
- As a member, India has actively participated in the activities of SCO-RATS.
- India's permanent membership will enable it to develop greater understanding among members for its perspective.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

- SCO was created in the year 2001.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was established as a multilateral federation to ensure security and maintain stability in the vast Eurasian region.
- It envisages joining forces to meet emerging challenges and threats and enhance trade as well as cultural and humanitarian cooperation.
- Before the establishment of the SCO in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the organization 'Shanghai-5'.
- In the year 1996, 'Shanghai-5' was formed through a series of demilitarization talks, these talks with China were done by the four former Soviet republics to maintain the situation of stability on the borders.
- After the entry of Uzbekistan into the organization in the year 2001, 'Shanghai-5' was named SCO.
- The SCO Charter was signed in the year 2002 and came into force in the year 2003. Russian and Chinese are the official languages of the SCO.

The SCO has two permanent bodies:

- SCO Secretariat in Beijing.
- Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.

Member Country:

- Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- Recently approval has been given to include Iran in this organization.

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