

75th. ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION POLO

Why in news?

- India celebrated the 75th anniversary of Operation Polo on September 13, 2023.
- On this day in 1948, Indian Army launched military action to integrate the princely state of Hyderabad.

What was the background against which Operation Polo was launched?

- **Intentions of Nizam of Hyderabad state**
 - The Nizam of Hyderabad state, Mir Osman Ali Shah, had the intention of keeping his state as an independent entity and did not join India or Pakistan after Independence.
 - The Nizam took advantage of the fact that the Indian government got preoccupied with the Kashmir war soon after Independence.
- **Standstill agreement with India**
 - The Nizam signed a standstill agreement with India in November 1947.
 - This essentially meant that a status quo would be maintained between the Indian dominion and the Hyderabad state till a solution was found.
 - The agreement was signed for a period of one year during which the Indian government would not exercise any authority over Hyderabad.

Why was Operation Polo launched?

- **Location of Hyderabad**
 - Situated in the Deccan, Hyderabad was one of the most populous and richest states.
 - It had 17 districts including Aurangabad (now in Maharashtra) and Gulbarga (now in Karnataka).
- **Intention to have fraternal relations with Pakistan**
 - The landlocked state had a majority Hindu population with the state administration almost entirely run by its Muslim rulers.
 - There was no common border with Pakistan but the Nizam had every intention to have fraternal relations with that country.
- **Excesses of the Razakars**

- During this period, the Nizam's administration had taken advantage of the standstill agreement signed with India.
- It started to increase the number of its irregular force called Razakars which was led by Maj Gen SA El Edroos, the Arab commander in chief of the Hyderabad state forces.
- The Razakars were a paramilitary force in the Hyderabad State. It was created to support the Nizam's rule.
- It also resisted the integration of Hyderabad into the newly independent India.
- The Razakars primarily consisted of local radical Muslim volunteers who were loyal to the Nizam's regime.
- The Razakars persecuted Hindus and forced them to become Muslims.
- They killed many Hindus and Hindu sympathizers, forcing them to flee the state. They also raped women.

Operation Polo on the ground

- The Indian forces were led by Maj Gen Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri, the General Officer Commanding of 1 Armoured Division.
- The Nizam of Hyderabad announced a ceasefire on September 17.
- On September 18, Maj Gen Chaudhuri entered Hyderabad city with his forces and Maj Gen El Edroos surrendered to him.
- Maj Gen Chaudhuri was later appointed the Military Governor of Hyderabad.

WHAT IS NIFTY?

The NSE Nifty 50 recently managed to cross the 20,000 mark for the first time.



About Nifty:

- NIFTY is a market index introduced by the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- It is a blended word – National Stock Exchange and Fifty coined by NSE.

- Nifty was established in 1996 under the name CNX Nifty. Further, in 2015, it was renamed Nifty 50.
- NIFTY 50 is a benchmark-based index and the flagship of NSE.
- It represents the performance of the 50 largest and most actively traded stocks listed on the NSE.
- These 50 largest companies are from different industrial sectors and collectively represent the Stock Market and Economic Trends of India.
- It is one of the two main stock market indices in India, the other being SENSEX, a product of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

What is a Stock Index?

- A stock index is a measurement of the changes that take place in the stock market.
- It measures price movement and market performance.
- To create an index, one has to group some stocks from a list of stocks with similar characteristics.
- This grouping of stocks can be based on the type of industry, total market capitalization, or size of the company.
- Calculation:
 - To calculate the value of the stock market index, one can use the values of the underlying group of stocks.
 - Any change in the value of the underlying stock also leads to a change in the stock index value.
 - If the price of most of the stocks rises, the index will again rise and vice-versa.
- Thus, an index is indicative of changes in the market.
- It reflects the overall market's investment sentiment and price movements.

WHAT IS SECTION 124A OF THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (IPC)?

The Supreme Court recently referred petitions challenging Section 124A, the provision for sedition in the Indian Penal Code, to a Constitution Bench.



About Section 124A of the IPC:

- Section 124A of the IPC deals with sedition.

• History of Sedition Law:

- Section 124A was drafted by Thomas Babington Macaulay and included in the IPC in 1870.
- The section was first included to address the growth of Wahabi activity between 1863 and 1870. The colonial authorities faced difficulty as a result of these actions.
- Indian nationalist leaders were involved in some of the most well-known sedition cases of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- The earliest of these was Jogendra Chandra Bose's trial in 1891. He served as the newspaper Bangobasi's editor. He published a piece denouncing the Age of Consent Bill for endangering the faith and its coercive treatment of Native Americans.
- In 1897, Bal Gangadhar Tilak's articles in Kesari were the subject of legal action.

Post-Independence:

- After independence, the term “sedition” was removed from the Constitution in 1948 after debate in the Constituent Assembly.
- Jawaharlal Nehru proposed the first amendment to the Constitution in 1951, which limited freedom under Article 19 (1) (a) and gave the state the authority to impose “reasonable restrictions” on the right to free expression.
- Indira Gandhi’s government made Section 124A a criminal offence for the first time in Indian history. The new Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which came into effect in 1974 and repealed the 1898 Colonial-Era Code of Criminal Procedure, made sedition a knowable crime.

What does Section 124A state?

- It states, "Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in

India shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, , or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, which fine may be added, or with fine."

- In simple words, this means anyone who attempts to create hatred, contempt, or disaffection towards the government can be punished under the sedition law.
 - **Punishment:**
 - Sedition is a **non-bailable offence**.
 - Punishment under the law varies from **imprisonment for up to three years to a life term and fine**.
 - A person charged under this law **can't apply for a government job**. They have to live without their passport and must present themselves in court as and when required.
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NEW DELHI DECLARATION & CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

Why in News?

- The G20 Leaders' Summit, held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10, adopted the **New Delhi Leaders' Declaration**, where climate change took a prominent position on the global geopolitical agenda.

Key Outcomes w.r.t. Climate Change:

- External Affairs Minister **Jaishankar**, in a statement, highlighted key outcomes of the Summit. These include –
 - Green Development Pact
 - Action Plan on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - Reforms of multilateral development banks
- He also listed the **Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)** as one of the landmark initiatives launched during the Summit in New Delhi.
 - The India-proposed GBA is an initiative to develop an alliance of governments, international organisations and industry to facilitate the **adoption of biofuels**.
 - Nineteen countries and 12 international organisations have joined the GBA.
- Other priorities include –

- Promoting an inclusive and accessible transition to sustainable energy,
- Accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- Fostering resilience and sustainability in urban development,
- Mitigating disaster risks and bolstering infrastructure resilience.
- The New Delhi Declaration also underscores inadequacies in addressing climate change, expressing concern that **global ambition and implementation of the Paris Agreement commitments to address climate change, remain insufficient.**
- It, however, reiterates the G20's commitment to **“achieving global net-zero greenhouse gas emissions/carbon neutrality by or around mid-century.”**

Climate Finance:

- The New Delhi Declaration represents a significant shift in the financial dialogue as higher figures are being quoted and the discourse has moved from finance for mitigation to that for resilience and adaptation.
- The Declaration says that **\$5.8-5.9 trillion is needed before 2030** for developing countries to achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Additionally, it estimates **an annual expenditure of \$4 trillion for developing countries** to attain net zero emissions by 2050.

Reforms for Multilateral Development Banks:

- The New Delhi Declaration endorses reforms for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), including the **Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG)** recommendations to expand blended finance and risk-sharing mechanisms.
- The SFWG's recommendations emphasise the increased role of MDBs in mobilising climate finance, particularly through concessional resources.
- The Declaration also supports SFWG's recommendations on mechanisms for timely and sufficient mobilisation of climate finance while ensuring assistance for transitional activities aligned with each country's circumstances.

Sustainable Cities & Resilient Infrastructure:

- The New Delhi Declaration emphasises the need for improved financial mobilisation and efficient utilisation of existing resources to create inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities.
- Additionally, the Declaration encourages Development Financial Institutions and MDBs to investigate opportunities for financing urban infrastructure.
- Regarding building resilient infrastructure, the New Delhi Declaration calls for the expedited advancement of early warning and early action initiatives.
- These include reinforcing national and local capabilities, utilising innovative financial mechanisms, attracting private sector investments and facilitating the exchange of knowledge.

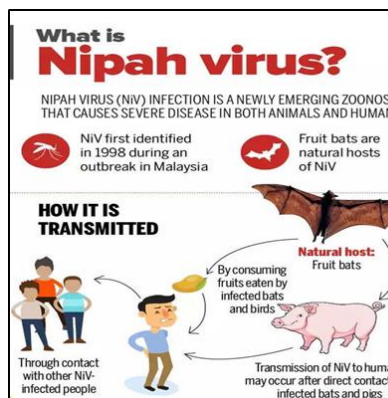
Conclusion:

- The New Delhi Declaration recognises the need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 43% by 2030 (relative to 2019 levels) and notes that global peaking must occur before 2025.
- However, the Declaration skipped most of the contentious issues — greater emission cuts, phase-out of fossil fuels, massive mobilisation of financial resources — and stuck to previously stated positions.

NIPAH KILLS TWO IN KERALA

Why in news?

- Two people have died and four others are under treatment after contracting Nipah virus in Kerala's Kozhikode district.



- While the Nipah virus does not spread as quickly as the Covid-19 virus, it is more deadly.

About

- Nipah is a **zoonotic disease**, which means it is transmitted to humans through infected animals or via contaminated food.
- First identified during an outbreak in Malaysia and Singapore, primarily affecting pigs and the people who worked closely

with them.

- The virus is named after the Malaysian village of Sungai Nipah, where the outbreak occurred. No new outbreaks have been reported in Malaysia since 1999.
- **Family & Natural hosts**
 - Nipah virus is part of the Paramyxoviridae family and is closely related to the Hendra virus.
 - The Paramyxoviridae family is a group of single-stranded RNA viruses that cause infections in vertebrates.
 - Fruit bats are the natural hosts for Nipah virus. There is no apparent disease in fruit bats.
- **Transmission**
 - It is primarily transmitted to humans through contact with infected animals, particularly fruit bats (flying foxes).
 - Fruit bats are known to transmit this virus to other animals like pigs, and also dogs, cats, goats, horses and sheep.
 - The transmission from animals happens mainly through consumption of contaminated food.
 - Human-to-human transmission can also occur, mainly through close contact with the bodily fluids of infected individuals.

How fast does the Nipah virus spread?

- The Nipah virus is known to spread far more slowly than SARS-CoV-2. However, it is its ability to kill that is the biggest concern.
- According to WHO, the overall global case fatality rate of Nipah is estimated at 40% to 75% .
- However, so far, all outbreaks of the Nipah virus have been localised and contained relatively quickly.
- One of the main reasons for a relatively quick end to an outbreak is the fact that Nipah virus is not very infectious and human-to-human transmission is not very easy.
- Further, the very high death rates also contribute to low transmission.
- **Signs and symptoms**
 - Human infections range from asymptomatic infection to acute respiratory infection (mild, severe), and fatal encephalitis.

- Infected people initially develop symptoms including fever, headaches, myalgia (muscle pain), vomiting and sore throat.
 - The incubation period (interval from infection to the onset of symptoms) is believed to range from 4 to 14 days.
 - **Diagnosis**
 - Initial signs and symptoms of Nipah virus infection are nonspecific, and the diagnosis is often not suspected at the time of presentation.
 - Nipah virus infection can be diagnosed with clinical history during the acute and convalescent phase of the disease.
 - The main tests used are real time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) from bodily fluids and antibody detection via enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).
 - **Treatment**
 - There are currently no drugs or vaccines specific for Nipah virus infection although WHO has identified Nipah as a priority disease for the **WHO Research and Development Blueprint**.
 - Intensive supportive care is recommended to treat severe respiratory and neurologic complications.
 - **Past Outbreaks**
 - It was also recognized in Bangladesh in 2001, and nearly annual outbreaks have occurred in that country since.
 - The disease has also been identified periodically in eastern India.
 - Evidence of the virus has been found in the known natural reservoir and several other bat species in a number of countries, including Cambodia, Ghana, Indonesia, Madagascar, the Philippines, and Thailand.
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