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Daily MCQs: 05-06-2024

1. The world's largest international maritime warfare exercise, RIMPAC is hosted by which of the following countries?

- A) United States of America (USA)
- B) India
- C) Russia
- D) Japan

2. Consider the following statements about the Nipah Virus

- 1. It is a zoonotic virus.
- 2. Fruit bats are the natural host of Nipah virus.
- 3. There are currently no drugs or vaccines specific for Nipah virus infection.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A) Only one
- B) Only two
- C) All three
- D) None

3. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), consider the following statements

- 1) It provides income support to Small and Marginal Farmers only.
- 2) The responsibility of identifying the eligible beneficiary farmers lies entirely with the state governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

4. With reference to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), consider the following statements

- 1) It is a statutory organization established under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.
- 2) The recommendations given by the NHRC are binding on the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only

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- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

5. Which of the following is not a member of OPEC?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) United Arab Emirates
- C) Iran
- D) United States

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- **The Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 2024** is the 29th exercise in the series that began in 1971 and is the **world's largest international maritime exercise hosted by the United States of America (USA)**.
- It is a **biennial exercise** designed to foster and sustain cooperative relationships, critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.
- The exercise, which takes place in the waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands, is a unique training platform designed to enhance interoperability and strategic maritime partnerships.

2. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nipah virus (NiV) is a **zoonotic virus** that can be transmitted to humans from animals (such as bats or pigs) and **can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family** are the natural host of Nipah virus.
- Nipah virus was first recognized in 1999 during an outbreak among pig farmers in Malaysia.

Symptoms of Nipah virus Infection

- Human infections range from asymptomatic infection to **acute respiratory infection (mild, severe), and fatal encephalitis (inflammation in the brain)**.
- The case fatality rate is estimated at 40% to 75%. This rate can vary by outbreak depending on local capabilities for epidemiological surveillance and clinical management.

Treatment

- **Statement 3 is correct:** 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.

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- WHO Research and Development Blueprint aims to **improve coordination between scientists and global health professionals, accelerate the research and development process**, and develop new norms and standards to learn from and improve upon the global response.
- Intensive supportive care is recommended to treat severe respiratory and neurologic complications.

Why in News?

- Scientists at the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) at Thonnakkal here have developed a novel way of generating non-infectious **Nipah virus-like particles (VLPs)** in the laboratory for **developing neutralizing antibodies against the Nipah Virus**.
 - Virus-Like Particles (VLPs) are molecules that closely resemble viruses, but are non-infectious making them safe for use.
 - As they are very similar to real viral molecules, **introducing a VLP into the body will trigger an immune response**, but a person will not experience any symptoms of the virus they are being vaccinated against.
 - Once the body has had an immune response to the VLP, it will recognize the actual virus and prevent infection in the future, giving people immunity to that particular virus.

3. Answer: B

Explanation

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a **Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from Government of India**.
- **Aim:** To augment the income of the farmers by providing **income support to all landholding farmers' families** across the country.
- Launched in 2019, the Scheme initially provided income support to all Small and Marginal Farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land upto 2 hectares. Its ambit was later expanded to **cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their land holdings. Hence statement 1 is incorrect**.
- Under the Scheme an amount of **Rs. 6000/- per year** is transferred in three 4-monthly installments of Rs. 2000/- directly into the bank accounts of the farmers, subject to certain exclusion criteria relating to higher income status.
- **Excluded from the scheme**
 - Institutional land holders,
 - Farmer families holding constitutional posts,
 - Serving or retired officers and employees of state/central government as well as PSUs and government autonomous bodies.
 - Professionals like doctors, engineers and lawyers as well as retired pensioners with a monthly pension of over Rs 10,000 and those who paid income tax in the last assessment year.
- **Identification of beneficiaries:** The responsibility of identifying the eligible beneficiary farmers and uploading their data on the PM-KISAN portal lies entirely with the **state governments. Hence statement 2 is correct**.

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Why in News?

- Around 1.16 lakh farmers have voluntarily given up the benefits of the annual Rs 6,000 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme across the country from June 2023 to May 2024.
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare had introduced a module in the PM-Kisan mobile app and website last year which enables farmers to voluntarily exit the scheme.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is a **statutory organization** established in 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.
- The Act also created Human Rights Commissions at the levels of the various States.
- NHRC was established in conformity with the **Paris Principles**, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights held in Paris in 1991, and endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1993.

Functions of NHRC

- The NHRC enquires into complaints of violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant, studies treaties and international instruments on human rights and makes recommendations for their effective implementation to the Government.
- It is responsible for spreading human rights awareness amongst the masses.
- While inquiring into complaints under the Act, the Commission shall have all the powers of a **civil court**.

Composition of NHRC

- According to the **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019**, the NHRC consists of
 - A **Chairperson**, who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court
 - One member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India
 - One member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court
 - Three Members, out of which at least one shall be a woman to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights
 - In addition, the Chairpersons of National Commissions viz., National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Backward Classes, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights; and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities serve as **ex officio members**.
- The term of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission is **three years or until he attains the age of seventy years**, whichever is earlier. They shall be **eligible for re-appointment**.

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- They can be removed only on the **charges of proved misbehavior or incapacity**, if proved by an inquiry conducted by a Supreme Court Judge.

Limitations of NHRC

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** As per the Protection of Human Rights Act, the NHRC **can only recommend the government but the recommendations are non-binding**. This lack of authority gives an outright rejection of any recommendation or partial compliance.
- Under the Act, human rights commissions **cannot investigate** an event if the complaint was made more than **one year after the incident**. Therefore, a large number of genuine grievances go unaddressed.
- State human rights commissions cannot call for information from the national government, which means that they are implicitly denied the power to investigate armed forces under national control.
- Also, the National Human Rights Commission powers related to violations of human rights by the armed forces have been **largely restricted**.
- Another major problem is that it is **flooded with too many complaints**, and are finding it difficult to address the increasing number of complaints.

Why in News?

- With former Supreme Court judge Arun Mishra demitting office as chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, the Centre has appointed Vijaya Bharathi Sayani as acting chairperson.

5. Answer: D

Explanation

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a group consisting of **12 of the world's major oil-exporting nations**.
- Countries that belong to OPEC include **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela** (the five founders), plus the **United Arab Emirates, Libya, Algeria, Nigeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon**.
- OPEC was founded in **1960** to coordinate the petroleum policies of its members and to provide member states with technical and economic aid.
- OPEC is used to work as a **cartel** and fix prices in a favourable band. It could bring down prices by increasing oil production and raise prices by cutting production.

OPEC Plus

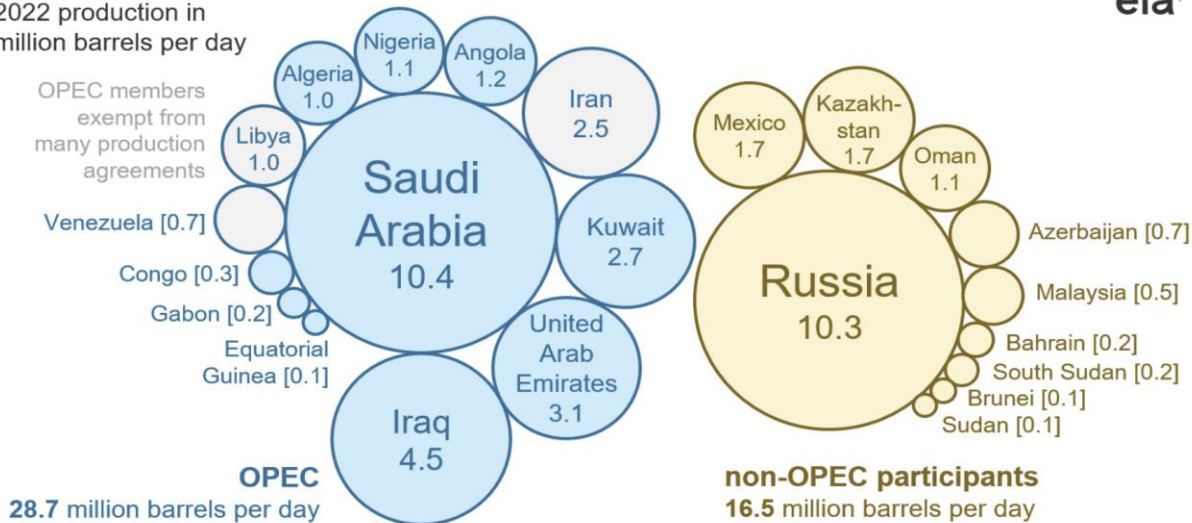
- The 2014 oil crisis, which was accentuated by oversupply of crude, brought down prices below \$30 a barrel. Since then, OPEC has been working with **non-OPEC countries** like **Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Sudan and South Sudan** to fix the global prices and supply.
- Known as the **"OPEC Plus" arrangement**, this alliance kept production lower and pumped up the prices.
- Together, these nations produce about **40% of the entire world's crude oil**.

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Total oil production from OPEC+ (OPEC and non-OPEC participants)

2022 production in million barrels per day



Why in News?

- OPEC+ members have agreed to prolong its deep oil output cuts in 2024. The grouping has made a series of deep output cuts since late 2022.
- By reducing supply, OPEC+ aims to maintain a certain price floor for oil, benefiting their member nations' economies which rely heavily on oil revenue.