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Q92

H1N1 virus is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to which one of the following diseases? (a) AIDS (b) Bird flu (c) Dengue (d) Swine flu Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK

Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

AIDS is caused by **HIV**, a retrovirus, not by H1N1. This option is not the key.

(b)

Bird flu is typically associated with avian influenza strains such as **H5N1**, not H1N1 as 'bird flu'. This option is therefore wrong.

(c)

Dengue is a flavivirus transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, not an influenza H1N1 disease. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

H1N1 influenza virus is the agent of swine flu (the **2009 pandemic** strain was influenza A(H1N1)pdm09). This option is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) Swine flu. H1N1 is an influenza A subtype circulating in pigs and in humans after zoonotic events; the **2009 pandemic** popularised the 'swine flu' name. **HIV**, **H5N1**-type bird flu and **dengue** viruses are different pathogens. Haemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N) numbering identifies influenza subtypes. Only (d) matches H1N1.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Influenza A subtypes

Named by HA and NA surface proteins (H1N1, H3N2, H5N1, ...)

2009 pandemic

Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09

H5N1

Highly pathogenic avian influenza; 'bird flu' in exam pairing

HIV

Lentivirus causing AIDS

Dengue

Aedes-borne flavivirus; four serotypes

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