

EBOLA OUTBREAK - 2026: KEY EXAM POINTS

1. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL DECLARATIONS

- **WHO Declaration:** Under the **International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005**, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)** on May 17, 2026.
- **Africa CDC Declaration:** The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention officially declared it a **Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS)**.

2. VIRUS STRAIN AND SEVERITY

- **Viral Strain:** The ongoing outbreak is caused specifically by the **Bundibugyo strain** of the Ebola Virus.
- **Nature of Disease:** It is a severe viral haemorrhagic fever with a high mortality (fatality) rate.
- **Treatment Availability:** Currently, **no approved vaccines or specific treatments** exist to prevent or treat Ebola disease caused by the Bundibugyo virus strain.

3. GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS (AFFECTED REGIONS)

- **Epicentres:** Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda.
- **High-Risk Zones:** Neighbouring countries bordering DRC and Uganda, including **South Sudan**, are assessed to be at high risk of transmission.

4. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S ADVISORY & STATUS

- **Travel Advisory:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has advised Indian citizens to **avoid non-essential travel** to the DRC, Uganda, and South Sudan until further notice.
- **Current Status in India:** India has **not reported any cases** of Ebola Disease caused by the Bundibugyo strain.
- **Surveillance at Points of Entry (PoE):** In line with WHO temporary recommendations, surveillance is being strengthened at entry points to detect, assess, and manage travellers arriving with unexplained febrile illness (fever) from the affected areas.

Quick Revision Terminologies for Prelims/Mains:

- **IHR (2005):** A legally binding international instrument to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks.
- **PHEIC:** Public Health Emergency of International Concern (Highest level of alert by WHO).
- **PHECS:** Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (Declared by Africa CDC).
- **Bundibugyo Virus:** One of the species of Ebola virus (Important for Science & Tech/Disease sections as it currently lacks a specific vaccine, unlike the Zaire strain).

JANJATI SANSKRITIK SAMAGAM - 2026: KEY EXAM POINTS

1. BACKGROUND AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- **Context:** The 'Janjati Sanskritik Samagam' (Tribal Cultural Conclave) was organized in New Delhi to commemorate the **150th birth anniversary year of Bhagwan Birsa Munda**.
- **Historical Movement:** The '**Ulgulan' (Great Tumult) movement** led by Bhagwan Birsa Munda was geared against British colonial exploitation. It centered around the protection of 'Jal-Jangal-Jameen' (Water, Forest, Land) and tribal identity. This modern conclave was hailed as the "Mahakumbh" of tribal communities.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS & UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC)

- **UCC Exemption:** The Central Government clarified that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will not infringe upon the culture, customs, or traditional rights of tribal communities.
- **Current Status:** In states where the UCC model has been introduced (such as Gujarat and Uttarakhand), special provisions have been made to **keep all tribal communities outside its purview**.
- **Religious Conversions:** In alignment with constitutional rights to live with dignity, the government reiterated that forced, lured, or coerced religious conversions are illegal.

3. PESA ACT IMPLEMENTATION AND DIGITAL INITIATIVES

- **PESA Act:** The Provisions on the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, which extends Part IX of the Constitution to Fifth Schedule areas.
- **Key Administrative Actions:**
 - A dedicated '**PESA Cell**' has been established by the Government of India, training over 1 lakh master trainers.
 - To ensure grass-roots understanding, PESA rules have been translated into several tribal languages, including **Santhali, Gondi, Bhili, and Mundari**.
 - The '**PESA Gram Panchayat Development Plan' (PESA GPDP) portal** has been launched for real-time monitoring of rural development plans.
 - The **Madhya Pradesh PESA law model** was highlighted as an ideal benchmark for other states.

4. INTERNAL SECURITY & DE-ESCALATION OF NAXALISM

- **Naxalism Mitigation:** The five-decade-old issue of Naxalism, which historically impacted tribal development, has been severely curbed and largely eliminated.
- **Infrastructure Transformation:** 70 security forces' camps previously set up to combat Naxal operations have now been converted into '**Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera**' public service centres to drive civil development.

5. FINANCIAL, GOVERNANCE & WELFARE INDICATORS (EXAM DATA)

- **Budgetary Allocation:** The tribal welfare budget has seen a fivefold increase, rising from the previous regime's ₹28,000 crore to **₹1.5 lakh crore**.
- **Education (EMRS):** **722 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** have been implemented to provide quality education to tribal students in remote areas.
- **Socio-Economic Schemes:** Universal coverage is being targeted for tribal families regarding housing, electricity, tap water (Jal Jeevan Mission), ₹5 lakh health insurance (Ayushman Bharat), and monthly food rations.

- **Political Representation:** The elevation of Smt. Droupadi Murmu (belonging to the Santhal tribe) as the first tribal President of India, alongside the appointment of tribal Chief Ministers in states like Odisha and Chhattisgarh, signifies a shift towards inclusive governance.

Quick Revision Terminologies for Prelims/Mains:

- **Ulgulan Movement / Birsa Munda:** A vital topic in Modern Indian History (Tribal Revolts against colonial/diku exploitation).
- **PESA Act, 1996:** A core Polity topic regarding local self-governance and tribal empowerment in Fifth Schedule areas.
- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):** A flagship scheme under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for middle and high-level education in ST-dominated blocks.
- **Target 2047:** Integrating tribal welfare into the broader long-term goal of building a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047.

NMDC SUMMER CAMP 2026 - KEY POINTS

- **Organizing Body:** NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the **Ministry of Steel**.
- **Partner Organization:** Executed in partnership with **WOSCA** (Women's Organization for Socio-Cultural Awareness), an NGO working in education and community development.
- **Target Location:** 17 villages in **Dantewada district**, Dakshin Bastar region, Chhattisgarh.
- **Duration:** 20 May to 15 June 2026.
- **Objective:** To bridge the gap in structured creative learning for rural/tribal children by nurturing experiential learning, creativity, sports, and lateral/social skills.
- **Beneficiaries:** Around **1,700 children** from tribal communities.
- **Core Activities:** Reading, craftwork, music workshops, and sports (Frisbee, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho).

Exam Relevance:

- **UPSC / State PSC (GS Paper - Social Justice / Tribal Welfare / CSR):** This initiative serves as an excellent case study or example of how Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) utilize grassroots interventions and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to empower underserved tribal youth.
- **SSC / Banking (Current Affairs):** Directly useful for factual questions.
 - *Example:* Which Ministry/PSU recently launched a massive grassroots summer camp for tribal children in Dantewada? (**Answer: Ministry of Steel / NMDC**)

KHELO INDIA STATE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (KISCE) ASSAM VISIT - KEY POINTS

- **Visiting Dignitary:** Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Khadse.
- **Location Visited:** Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) and High Performance Centre in Guwahati, Assam.
- **Core Objective:** To review the development of sports infrastructure in Northeast India and inspect the Sports Science facilities available to athletes.
- **Central Government's Priority:**
 - Integrating technology into sports through data-driven training, sports science laboratories, and biomechanical assessment.

- Smoothing the pathways for young athletes from the Northeast to excel in national and international sports events (e.g., Commonwealth Games 2030 and beyond).

EXAM RELEVANCE

- **UPSC / State PSC (GS Paper - Social Infrastructure / Human Resource Development):** This initiative serves as an excellent case study or example of how the government is blending "Sports + Science & Technology" and tapping into regional athletic talent to transform India into a global sporting powerhouse.
- **SSC / Banking / Railway (Current Affairs):** Directly useful for factual, direct-choice questions.
- **Question:** Which northeastern state's 'Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE)' was recently visited by the Union Minister of State for Sports, Raksha Khadse?
- **Answer:** Assam (Guwahati)

CWG DAY & 75TH FIT INDIA SUNDAYS ON CYCLE - KEY POINTS

- **Main Event:** The **75th edition** of "Fit India Sundays on Cycle" was organized nationwide to commemorate Commonwealth Games Day (CWG Day).
- **Flagship Venue:** Sabarmati Riverfront, **Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**. Celebrations were held simultaneously across more than 8,000 locations nationwide.
- **Ahmedabad Edition Theme:** "A New Icon for a Fitter India – Pedalling to 2030".
- **Key Dignitaries:** Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Gujarat Deputy CM Harsh Sanghvi, and Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana.
- **Major Inauguration:** A special **Commonwealth Games-themed Exhibition** was inaugurated by the Union Sports Minister to showcase India's sporting growth ahead of the 2030 Games.
- **Partner Organizations:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) in collaboration with the Cycling Federation of India (CFI), Yogasana Bharat, Raahgiri Foundation, and MY Bharat.

EXAM-SPECIFIC FOCUS POINTS

1. **2030 Commonwealth Games Host: Ahmedabad, Gujarat** will host the historic centenary (100th anniversary) Commonwealth Games in 2030.
2. **Fit India Sundays on Cycle Background:** Launched in **December 2024** under the Fit India Movement, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of "Fitness Ka Dose, Aadha Ghanta Roz".
3. **Sports Jan Bhagidari (Public Participation):** Prominent sports icons led the movement across different cities – Union Minister of State Raksha Khadse in Guwahati, former wrestler Babita Phogat in Dharamshala, and former hockey player Saba Anjum in Mumbai.

EXAM RELEVANCE

- **UPSC / State PSC (GS Paper - Social Infrastructure / Health / Environment & Sustainability):** This initiative serves as an excellent case study on promoting sustainable urban mobility (reducing carbon footprint/fuel consumption) and fostering a national sports culture through grassroots community participation (*Jan Bhagidari*).
- **SSC / Banking / Railway (Current Affairs):** Highly useful for direct, factual questions.
- **Question:** Which Indian city is slated to host the historic centenary Commonwealth Games in 2030?
- **Answer:** Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- **Question:** Which edition of the 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' was celebrated alongside Commonwealth Games Day in May 2026?
- **Answer:** 75th Edition.

TEXPROCIL EXPORT AWARDS 2023-24 - KEY POINTS

- **Main Event:** The Export Awards ceremony organized by The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL).
- **Venue & Date:** Mumbai, May 25, 2026.
- **Presided By:** Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- **Key Launch:** The Finance Minister launched the "**Advanced Certificate Program in International Trade**" (ACPIT) to strengthen India's export ecosystem and enhance global trade competitiveness.
- **5F Formula:** The Minister emphasized reinforcing the entire textile value chain using the "**From Farm to Fiber, Factory, Fashion, and Foreign Markets**" (5F) vision.

TEXTILE SECTOR - CORE STATISTICAL DATA

- **Targets for 2030:** Aligned with the Viksit Bharat vision, India aims to achieve **\$100 billion in textile exports** and **\$250 billion in textile production** by 2030.
- **Global Standing:** India is currently the **6th largest** textile exporter in the world.
- **Silk Production:** India stands as the world's **second-largest** producer of silk.
- **Economic Contribution:**
 - The sector supports nearly **6 crore (60 million) livelihoods** directly and indirectly.
 - Contributes around **2.3% to India's GDP**.
 - Accounts for nearly **12% of India's total export earnings**.
 - Textile exports reached approximately **\$33.5 billion** in the fiscal year 2025-26.
- **Kasturi Cotton:** TEXPROCIL is driving the branding, certification, and traceability of 'Kasturi Cotton' to position Indian cotton as a global brand in sustainable textiles.

KEY GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES & REFORMS

1. **PM MITRA Scheme:** Seven world-class Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks are being developed across the country. Investment MoUs worth over ₹27,000 crore have already been signed.
2. **ATUFS (2016):** Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme – provides capital and interest subsidies to promote technological modernization across the textile sector.
3. **Samarth Scheme:** Focused on skilling, capacity building, and placement in the textile sector. (The Union Budget recently introduced its next phase, **Samarth 2.0**).
4. **Recent Budgetary Initiatives:** Textile Expansion and Employment Scheme (TEEM), National Fibre Scheme, and the Tex-Eco Initiative.

EXAM RELEVANCE

- **UPSC / State PSC (GS Paper - Indian Economy / Industrial Growth / Employment):** This data serves as highly authentic value-addition for Mains answers regarding the textile industry – which is the second-

largest employer after agriculture. It highlights infrastructural support (PM MITRA) and the structural shifts needed to hit the 2030 export milestones.

- **SSC/ Banking/ Railway (Current Affairs):**

- **Question:** What is the targeted value for India's textile exports by the year 2030 as stated under the Viksit Bharat vision?
- **Answer:** USD 100 Billion.
- **Question:** Which advanced certificate program was recently launched by TEXPROCIL to enhance India's global trade competitiveness?
- **Answer:** ACPIT (Advanced Certificate Program in International Trade).

