



Date: 23/06/2026

Disaster Management Act 2005

Context: The Lucknow coaching-centre fire highlights poor fire safety compliance, unsafe mixed-use commercial buildings, and weak urban regulatory enforcement.

Disaster Management Act, 2005

- The Disaster Management Act, 2005 provides a legal framework for disaster management in India.
- It covers both natural and man-made disasters.
- It aims at effective prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, relief and rehabilitation.
- Though passed in 2005, it came into force in January 2006.

Definition of Disaster

- Section 2(d) defines disaster as a: Catastrophe, Mishap, Calamity and Grave occurrence. It may arise from:
 - Natural causes
 - Man-made causes
- Examples:
 - Floods, Earthquakes, Industrial accidents, Epidemics, Fires

3. Background

- The Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2004 exposed India's weak disaster response system.
- It affected States like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- It caused heavy loss of life and property.
- It showed gaps in:
 - Early warning systems
 - Coordination among agencies

- Preparedness
- Relief and rescue operations

Disaster Management Act, 2005

1. Objectives

- Ensure **effective management** of natural and man-made disasters.
- Shift focus from **relief-based response to preparedness and mitigation**.
- Promote **risk assessment, planning and capacity-building**.
- Ensure coordination among **Centre, States, districts, NGOs and civil society**.
- Provide financial support through funds like **National Disaster Response Fund**.

Major Provisions

National Disaster Management Authority ((NDMA))

- Apex body for disaster management in India.
- Headed by the **Prime Minister**.
- Lays down national policies, plans and guidelines.
- Approves the **National Disaster Management Plan**.
- Coordinates disaster preparedness, mitigation and response at national level.

National Executive Committee NEC

- Assists the NDMA in performing its functions.
- Headed by the **Union Home Secretary**.
- Prepares the **National Disaster Management Plan**.
- Monitors implementation of disaster policies and plans.
- Coordinates with central ministries and State governments during disasters.

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State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)

- Established at the State level.
- Headed by the **Chief Minister**.
- Prepares and approves the **State Disaster Management Plan**.
- Coordinates disaster management activities within the State.
- Reviews preparedness of State departments.

District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)

- Established in every district.
- Headed by the **District Collector/District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner**.
- Prepares the **District Disaster Management Plan**.
- Coordinates local-level preparedness, rescue and relief.
- Ensures implementation of disaster safety measures at ground level.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

- Created under **Section 44** of the Act.
- Specialized force for **rescue and relief operations**.
- Trained for disasters like floods, earthquakes, cyclones, chemical accidents, etc.
- Works under the overall control of the **NDMA**.
- Headed by a **Director General appointed by the Central Government**.

Source: 15 dies in U.P. building fire, victims mostly students (*The Hindu*)

Terms in News**Index of Eight Core Industries****Eight Core Industries (Weightage)**

- Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) measures combined and individual performance of production of **eight core sectors in India**, comprising- coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.
- These eight core industries constitute 40.27% of the **total index of industrial production (IIP)**.
- This index is prepared by the **Office of the Economic Advisor, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- It is **published monthly** with the base year as 2011-12.

Weightage of different sectors in the Index

Sector	Coal	Crude Oil	Natural Gas	Refinery Products	Fertilizers	Steel	Cement	Electricity	Overall Index
Weight	10.33	8.98	6.88	28.04	2.63	17.92	5.37	19.85	100.00

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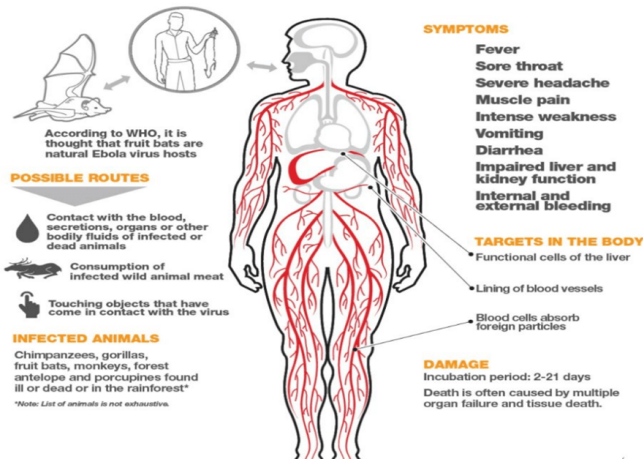
Ebola Virus

Ebola Virus Disease

Ebola is most feared for the internal and external bleeding it can cause in victims owing to damage done to blood vessels.

It was discovered in 1976, and since then the majority of the outbreaks have appeared in parts of Africa.

At least 12,800 deaths have occurred globally since 1976.



Nature of Disease

- Ebola is a **viral haemorrhagic fever**.
- It is caused by viruses of the **Ebolavirus/Orthoebolavirus group**.
- It is often severe and can have a **high fatality rate**.

Transmission

- Transmitted to humans from **wild animals** like fruit bats, porcupines and non-human primates.
- Human-to-human spread occurs through direct contact with: Blood, Secretions, Organs, Other bodily fluids and Contaminated surfaces/materials
- Ebola is **not an airborne disease**.

Infectious Period

- Infected persons are **not contagious during the incubation period**.
- They become infectious **after symptoms begin**.
- They remain infectious as long as the virus is present in blood/body fluids.

Symptoms

- Incubation period: **2 to 21 days**.
- Average symptom onset: around **8-10 days** after exposure.
- Early symptoms: fever, fatigue, body pain and headache.
- Later symptoms: vomiting, diarrhoea and unexplained bleeding.

Fatality

- Average case fatality rate is around **50%**.
- Past outbreaks have shown fatality rates ranging from **25% to 90%**.

Treatment and Vaccine

- Supportive care like **fluids, electrolytes and treatment of symptoms** improves survival.
- Unlike older notes, vaccines and therapeutics now exist for **Zaire Ebola virus disease**.
- However, approved vaccines/treatments are **not available for all Ebola virus species**.

Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)

Archaeological Survey of India handing over Rakhigarhi skeletal remains to AnSI highlights the role of anthropology in studying Harappan society, biological history and India's ancient population diversity.

Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)

- AnSI is a government research organisation under the **Ministry of Culture**.
- It studies India's people from **biological and cultural perspectives**.
- It was established in **1945**.
- Headquarters: **Kolkata**.

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Important Correction

- For prelims, remember **Dr. B. S. Guha** as the founding Director, not S. C. Roy.
- AnSI's head office shifted from **Benaras to Kolkata in 1948**.

Main Areas of Work

- Cultural anthropology
- Physical/biological anthropology
- Human ecology
- Tribal and community studies
- Bio-cultural data collection

Key Objectives

- Study tribes and other communities of India.
- Study and preserve **human skeletal remains** from modern and archaeological contexts.
- Collect samples of tribal arts and crafts.
- Train advanced students and administrators in anthropology.
- Publish anthropological research findings.

Rakhigarhi Link

- Rakhigarhi is an important **Harappan/Indus Valley Civilisation site** in Hisar, Haryana.
- It has Early, Mature and Late Harappan phases.
- Skeletal remains from such sites help understand ancient health, diet, migration, ancestry and burial practices.

Places in News**Qatar**

- Qatar, officially the State of Qatar, is a country located in Western Asia.
- It is located on **the northeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula**.
- It has a total area of 11,586 sq.km.
- It shares a **sole land border with Saudi Arabia to the south** and is surrounded by the Persian Gulf on all other sides.
- The **Gulf of Bahrain** separates Qatar from the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- **Doha** is its capital and largest city.
- **Languages:** Arabic is the official and English is the common language in the country.
- **Official Currency:** Riyal (QAR)
- Qatar has been ruled by the House of Thani family since 1868.
- It was a British protectorate from 1916 and became fully independent in 1971.

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Species in News

Blue Swimmer Crab

ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA), Chennai, has successfully demonstrated Blue Swimmer Crab (*Portunus reticulatus*) farming technology for the first time



- It is a brachyuran crab in the Portunidae family.
- It is also known as the blue crab, blue swimmer crab, blue manna crab and flower crab.
- **Appearance:** It is usually recognized by flat, disc-shaped hind legs, used as paddles for swimming, and by the nine spikes or horns along their carapace, on either side of their eyes.
- **Distribution:** It is found in Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, China, Japan, Malaysia, Australia, India, Sweden, Singapore
- In India it is distributed **all along the east and west coasts** with a dominant fishery at Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar.

Characteristics

- They stay buried under sand or mud most of the time, particularly during the daytime and winter, which may explain their high tolerance to ammonium (NH_4^+) and ammonia (NH_3).
- **Diet:** They come out to feed during high tide on various organisms such as bivalves, fish and, to a lesser extent, macroalgae

Practice Questions

Q1. With reference to the Disaster Management Act, 2005, consider the following statements:

1. The National Disaster Management Authority is headed by the Prime Minister.
2. The State Disaster Management Authority is headed by the Governor of the State.
3. The National Disaster Response Force was created under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. With reference to the Index of Eight Core Industries, consider the following statements:

1. It measures the performance of eight core sectors including coal, crude oil, natural gas, steel and electricity.
2. It is prepared by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. The eight core industries together constitute more than 50% of the Index of Industrial Production.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q3. With reference to Ebola Virus Disease, consider the following statements:

1. Ebola can spread through direct contact with infected body fluids.
2. Ebola is primarily an airborne disease.
3. Infected persons usually become contagious only after symptoms begin.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q4. Identify the country based on the following statements:

It is located in Western Asia on the northeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. It shares its only land border with Saudi Arabia. It is surrounded by the Persian Gulf on most sides. The Gulf of Bahrain separates it from Bahrain. Its capital is Doha.

Which of the following countries is described above?

- a) Kuwait
- b) Bahrain
- c) Qatar
- d) Oman

Q5. Consider the following pairs:

Indus Valley Site Present Location

Rakhigarhi	Haryana
Dholavira	Gujarat
Kalibangan	Punjab

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answers

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. A

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