Bundibugo Strain (Ebola Outbreak)

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Health & Governance

Why in News?

Recently, WHO has officially declared Ebola outbreak in Uganda & Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as Public Health Emergency of International Concern. (PHEIC)

> *Under **International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)**, PHEIC is defined as a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease & requires a coordinated international response.*

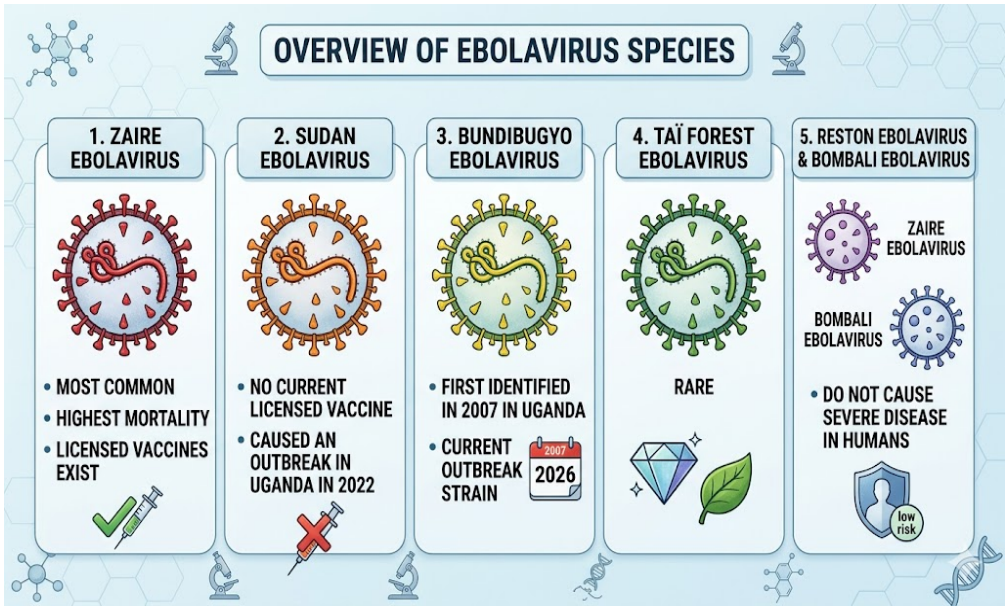
- **Reason for such move** – Due to Cross- Border Transmission.
- **Epicenter of Outbreak** - Ituri Province (DRC) bordering Uganda & South Sudan

2026 Outbreak

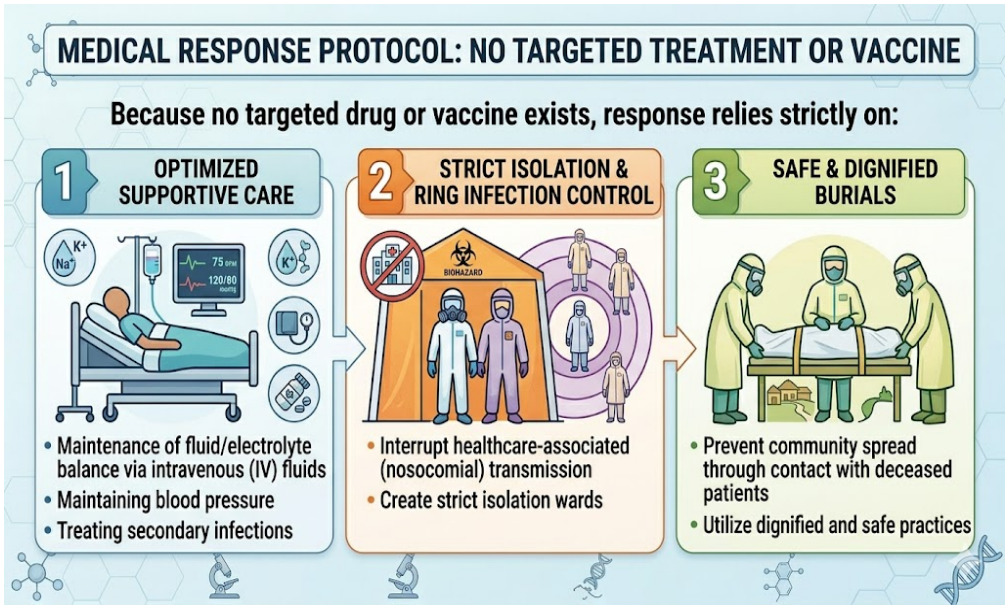
- **Responsible variant –** Unlike Zaire ebolavirus, this outbreak is caused by rarer Bundibugyo Ebolavirus (BDBV) Strain.
- **No Licensed Vaccines or specific therapeutics like** - Monoclonal antibodies are available. Existing vaccines like Ervebo can target only Zaire Strain.
- **Death rate** – BDBV exhibits less fatality rate than Zaire variant.

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

- Also known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever,is a fatal illness in human caused by Orthoebalvirus.
- **Cause of Transmission –** Fruit bats (Pteropodidae Family) Hosts of the virus.
- **Transmission –**Through human to human close contact with blood, secretions, organs, broken skin, Sweat, saliva, Vomit, urine, semen, needles, Beddings & traditional burial practices of deceased Ebola victim.
- **Infected animal's fluids** - like fruit bats, Monkeys, Gorillas & Chimpanzees.
- **Nature** – Infected people are not contagious until they develop symptoms & incubation period ranges from 2 to 21 days.
- **Symptoms** – Fever, muscle pain, headache, fatigue & sore throat, Vomiting, diarrhea, rash & malfunctioning of kidney & Liver function.



Treatment Protocol for Bundibugyo Strain



Quick Facts
• PHEIC is the 2nd -highest level of global health alert. It sits just below a "Pandemic Emergency," which is the highest tier level introduced during structural IHR updates.

For Reference : **The Hindu | IAS Parliament**

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