



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# India-Africa Forum Summit Postponed Due to Ebola Outbreak

Published On: 25-05-2026



India and the African Union (AU) have decided to postpone the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV), which was scheduled to be held in New Delhi from May 28 to 31, 2026. The decision was taken in view of the Ebola virus outbreak and the evolving public health situation in some African countries. The summit was expected to witness participation from several African heads of state, ministers, and senior officials. The new dates for the summit will be announced later after consultations between India and the African Union.?

## Key Highlights

The Ebola outbreak, especially in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda, played a major role in the postponement of the summit. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" (PHEIC). India stated that the postponement was necessary to ensure the safety of delegates and to guarantee wider participation from African nations. India has also increased health screening and surveillance measures at airports for passengers arriving from affected regions.

## About India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

The India-Africa Forum Summit is the main platform for cooperation and dialogue between India and African countries. It was launched in 2008 to strengthen political, economic, and strategic ties between India and Africa. The summit focuses on areas such as trade and investment, healthcare, education, agriculture, technology, energy, and security cooperation.

## Previous summits were held in:

2008 – New Delhi, India

2011 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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2015 – New Delhi, India

The 2015 summit had also faced concerns due to the Ebola outbreak in Africa.

### **About Ebola Virus Disease**

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a highly infectious and often fatal viral disease. It spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected persons or animals. Common symptoms include fever, vomiting, weakness, bleeding, and organ failure. The recent outbreak mainly affected the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. According to reports, the current outbreak involves the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus.

### **India's Relations with Africa**

Africa is an important strategic partner for India.

#### **India cooperates with African nations in areas such as:**

Trade and commerce

Healthcare and pharmaceuticals

Defence and maritime security

Capacity building and education

Renewable energy and digital technology

India has also extended developmental assistance and scholarships to several African countries under South-South cooperation initiatives.

### **Additional Key Facts**

First IAFS: Held 2008

African Union Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Full Form of PHEIC: Public Health Emergency of International Concern

Ebola-Affected Countries Mentioned: DRC and Uganda

Current WHO Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus