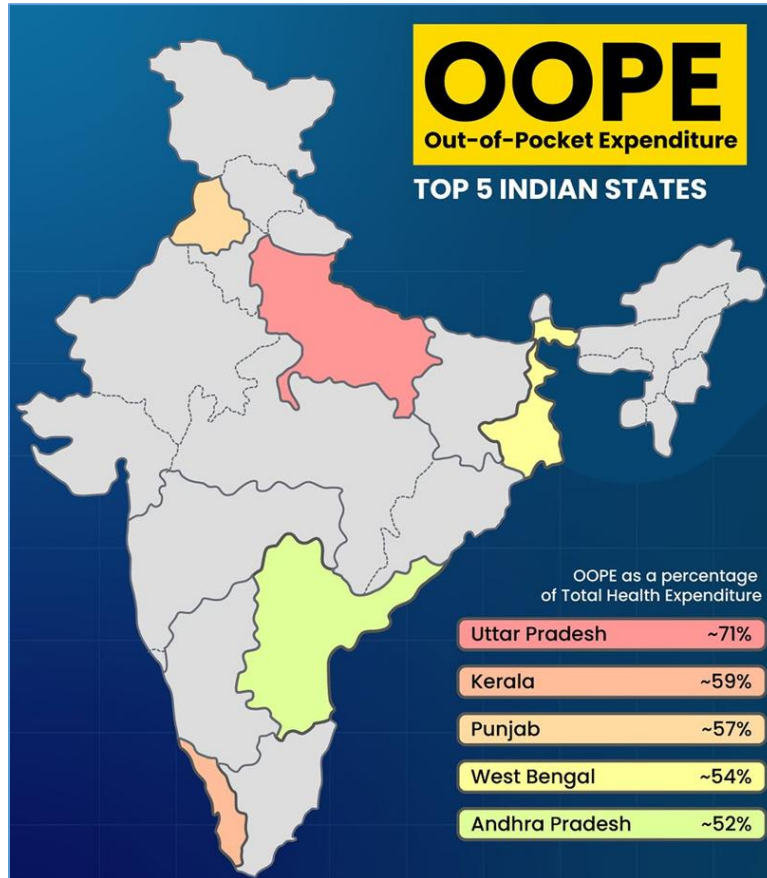


May - 30

NATIONAL NEWS

High Out-of-Pocket Health Spending in India



- ❖ The latest National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates 2022-23 showed that people in India still spend a very high amount from their own pockets for healthcare.
- ❖ Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) forms nearly 50% of the Current Health Expenditure (CHE) in India.
- ❖ Government Health Expenditure (GHE) increased from 1.15% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2013-14 to about 1.48% in 2022-23.
- ❖ India's public health spending is still below the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation of 5% of GDP and below the National Health Policy target of 2.5% of GDP.
- ❖ Private hospitals accounted for the largest share of healthcare spending at 30.83%, while preventive healthcare spending was only 8.88% of CHE.

- ❖ State governments contributed more than 63% of total government health spending, while private health insurance spending was higher than government-funded insurance schemes.

New Judges of the Supreme Court

- ❖ The Supreme Court Collegium recommended four High Court Chief Justices and one-woman senior advocate for appointment as judges of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The Collegium proposed the name of senior advocate V. Mohana, a lawyer practising in the Supreme Court, as a judge of the apex court.
- ❖ Currently, Justice B.V. Nagarathna is the only woman judge in the Supreme Court, and she is also a member of the Supreme Court Collegium.
- ❖ The last woman judge was appointed to the Supreme Court in August 2021, and V. Mohana would become the first woman judge appointed after a gap of over five years if approved.
- ❖ The recommendations were made after the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges, including the Chief Justice of India (CJI), was increased from 32 to 38.
- ❖ The four High Court Chief Justices recommended were Sheel Nagu, Shree Chandrashekhar, Sanjeev Sachdeva and Arun Palli.



First BRICS Tourism Meeting

- ❖ India chaired the first BRICS Tourism Working Group (TWG) Meeting under its BRICS 2026 Chairship in virtual mode.

- ❖ The meeting focused on tourism cooperation among BRICS nations.
- ❖ India's tourism agenda theme was "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- ❖ India highlighted four key priorities — use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in tourism, sustainable tourism, tourism skill development and seamless travel cooperation.
- ❖ India stressed the use of AI for personalised travel services, tourism forecasting and smart destination management.
- ❖ The 2nd BRICS Tourism Working Group Meeting and BRICS Tourism Ministers' Meeting will be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, in August 2026.



PM-AJAY Portal and Mobile App



- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the PM-AJAY Portal and AJAY Mobile App in New Delhi to strengthen Scheduled Caste (SC) welfare scheme implementation.
- ❖ PM-AJAY stands for Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana.
- ❖ The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The portal and mobile app aim to shift the scheme from paper-based work to a fully digital workflow and real-time processing system.
- ❖ The AJAY Mobile App will support village-level planning, field monitoring, geo-tagging, photo uploads, dashboard reporting and transparent digital governance.
- ❖ The platform has been developed to improve service delivery, transparency and implementation of welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes (SCs).

National Sports Governance Rules 2026

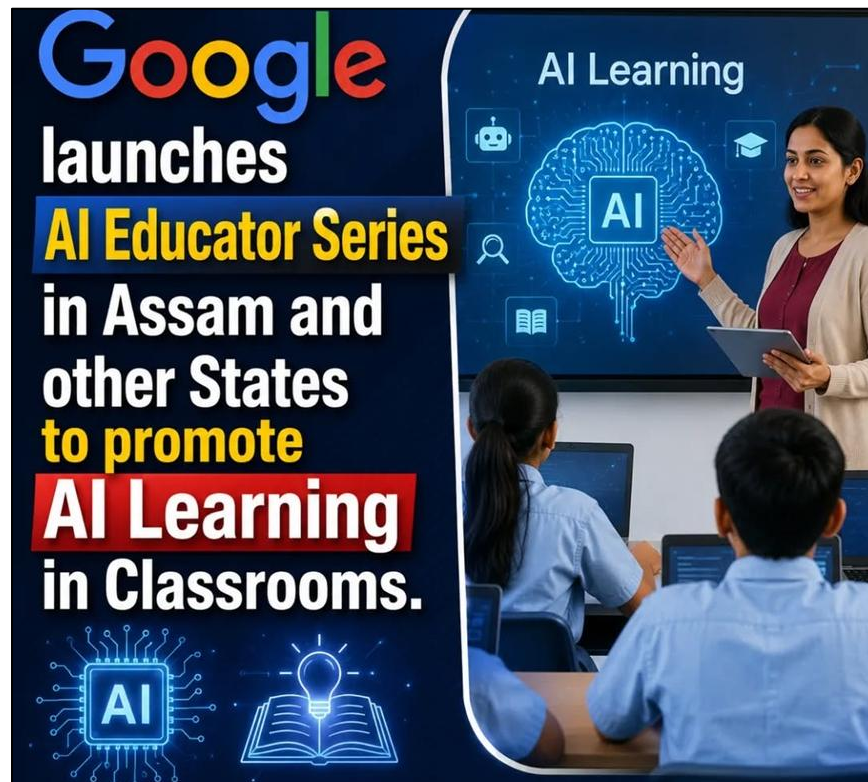


- ❖ The Central Government notified the National Sports Governance Board Rules and National Sports Tribunal Rules, 2026, under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.
- ❖ The Act aims to promote sports, ensure athlete welfare, strengthen good governance and provide fair dispute resolution in sports.
- ❖ The National Sports Board (NSB) will function as the apex regulatory body for the recognition and governance of National Sports Bodies.
- ❖ The National Sports Tribunal (NST) was created for the speedy and cost-effective resolution of sports-related disputes.

- ❖ The Chairperson of the NST can be a current or former Supreme Court judge or a former Chief Justice of a High Court.
- ❖ Appeals against the orders of the National Sports Tribunal can be filed in the Supreme Court within 30 days.

Google AI Learning Program

- ❖ Google announced “Google AI Educator Series (GES)”, a free Artificial Intelligence (AI) training programme for school and higher education teachers in India.
- ❖ The programme will provide AI training to teachers in Maharashtra, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Ladakh, Punjab, and other regions.
- ❖ Google launched the initiative at the Education World Forum 2026 held in London.
- ❖ The training will focus on the responsible use of AI tools such as Gemini in classrooms and academic activities.
- ❖ The programme will initially be available in six Indian languages — Assamese, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Odia, and Punjabi.



High-Level Committee on Demographic Change

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) formed a High-Level Committee to study demographic changes caused by illegal immigration and abnormal migration patterns in India.
- ❖ The committee is headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar.
- ❖ The panel will study population changes, border security issues, and their impact on tribal and local communities.
- ❖ It will recommend measures for the identification, detention, and deportation of undocumented immigrants under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.
- ❖ The committee will also suggest stronger border management, identity verification, and monitoring systems using technology.

GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTES HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

KEY POINTS	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 To examine unusual population trends caused by infiltration and other factors	 Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd) - Chairman
 Will study demographic shifts and identify areas with abnormal changes	 Census Commissioner
 Panel to submit time-bound recommendations	 Durga Shankar Mishra (Retd IAS)
 Aim: Protect national security, social harmony and tribal interests	 Balaji Srivastava (Retd IPS)
	 Dr Shamika Ravi
	 Member Secretary: Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I), Ministry of Home Affairs

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

5 Major Indo-Pacific Initiatives by QUAD

- ❖ The QUAD Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi announced new initiatives to strengthen security, connectivity, and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ The Quad includes India, the United States, Japan, and Australia.
- ❖ QUAD launched the Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Cooperation Initiative to improve maritime monitoring and information sharing.
- ❖ The Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative was expanded to strengthen regional maritime security.

- ❖ QUAD announced the “Ports of the Future” initiative to improve port infrastructure in Pacific Island countries.
- ❖ India and the United States signed the Critical Minerals Framework for cooperation in mining, processing, and recycling of critical minerals and rare earths.
- ❖ QUAD launched a new Indo-Pacific Energy Security Initiative to support regional energy resilience, technology cooperation, and emergency response systems.



ECONOMY NEWS

Q-SAFE Committee



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) formed an 8-member expert committee called Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE).
- ❖ The committee will study the impact of quantum technology on India’s banking and financial system and submit its report within six months.

- ❖ It will examine risks to cybersecurity, digital payments, and existing cryptographic systems from quantum computing.
- ❖ The panel will also recommend a roadmap for adopting quantum-safe cryptography and improving financial system resilience.
- ❖ The committee is headed by Professor Anil Prabhakar of IIT Madras, with members from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), State Bank of India (SBI), and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Sri Lanka's 2nd Largest Export Market -India



- ❖ India surpassed the United Kingdom (UK) to become Sri Lanka's second-largest export destination during January–April 2026.
- ❖ The United States (US) remained Sri Lanka's largest export market during the period.
- ❖ Sri Lanka's exports to India increased by 8.9% and reached 364.15 million United States Dollars (USD) in January–April 2026.
- ❖ Sri Lanka's total exports, including merchandise and services, reached 1.38 billion USD in April 2026, recording a 6% year-on-year growth.
- ❖ Coconut-based products showed strong growth, while apparel, textile and tea exports recorded a decline in April 2026.
- ❖ Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Business Process Management (BPM) service exports reached 146.09 million USD during the month.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

191 Cockroach Species

- ❖ India has recorded 191 species of cockroaches, with over 60% endemic to the country.
- ❖ A study by the Zoological Survey of India published in the journal Zootaxa created India's first and largest DNA barcode reference library for cockroaches.
- ❖ Scientists generated over 100 high-quality DNA barcodes to help identify and classify cockroach species.
- ❖ DNA barcoding uses a short genetic sequence from the mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase I gene for species identification.
- ❖ Cockroaches belong to the order Blattodea, which also includes termites in modern classification.
- ❖ In March 2026, scientists identified a new endemic species named *Neoloboptera peninsularis* from the Deccan Peninsula near Pune.

