

TOPIC
Major News and Events: May 2020

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01 May 2020

- May Day is celebrated across the World.
- The nationwide coronavirus lockdown extended for two more weeks after May 4. Beginning May 4, the 733 districts of India are broadly divided into Red Zones, Orange Zones and Green Zones as India enters a new phase of the fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic.
- Gujarat and Maharashtra celebrated their statehood day today. Maharashtra and Gujarat were formed after the enactment of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960.
- 1988 batch IAS officer Tarun Bajaj today assumed charge as the Economic Affairs Secretary.

02 May 2020

- Supreme Court in an order passed on April 27 has asked the centre to consider the adoption of 'one nation, one ration card' scheme during the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown.

03 May 2020

- World Press Freedom Day is being celebrated across the globe today. The theme of the day is "Journalism without Fear or Favour."
- Total number of novel coronavirus cases in the country rose to 40,263 and the death toll stood at 1,306. As of now, there are 28,070 active cases and 10,886 cured/discharged/migrated cases.

04 May 2020

- Consumer Affairs Minister, Ram Vilas Paswan announced that 5 more states and UT's have been integrated with the 'one nation, one ration card' scheme. The announcement was made on May 1 through his official twitter handle.

- **Arktika-M:** Russia will be launching its first Arktika-M satellite to monitor the Arctic climate and environment later this year. The information was shared by Vladimir Kolmykov, the General Director of the Lavochkin aerospace company.

05 May 2020

- Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that Air India will operate 64 flights from May 7 to May 13 to bring back around 15,000 Indian nationals stranded abroad amid the Covid-19-induced lockdown.
- Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank today announced that Joint Entrance Examination, JEE-Mains to be held from 18th to 23rd July.
- The Pulitzer Prize 2020 winners were announced by Pulitzer Administrator Dana Canedy. This year, 15 prizes were given in journalism and seven for arts. Three photojournalists Mukhtar Khan, Yasin Dar and Channi Anand from Jammu and Kashmir are among the 2020 Pulitzer Prize winners.

06 May 2020

- Union minister Nitin Gadkari announced on May 4 that the central government has been working on an agro MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise) policy that will mainly focus on the entrepreneurship development in the tribal, rural, forest and agricultural areas.
- Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's preventive detention under Public Safety Act was extended for another three months on May 5, 2020. The detention of the PDP Chief was extended hours before it was due to expire.
- Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE) has shown data that reports the unemployment rate in India has reached 27.11% for the week ending on May 3 from the level of 6.74% in the week that ended on March 15, 2020.

07 May 2020

- At least 11 people were killed and over 1,000 are sick after gas leaked overnight at a chemical plant in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam.
- Iraq's Parliament chose former Intelligence Chief, Mustafa al-Kadhimi as the new Prime Minister today.

- Union Govt begins evacuation exercise 'Vande Bharat Mission' from today to bring home nearly 14,800 Indian nationals stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown.

08 May 2020

- The India Meteorological Department has started releasing the weather forecasts of Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad. IMD included the regions as part of its Jammu & Kashmir meteorological sub-division.
- Iran is going to change its currency from existing '**Rial**' to '**Toman**'. The Iranian lawmakers voted on May 4, 2020 to approve an amendment to Iran's Monetary and Banking Act of Iran to make the change.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on May 8 inaugurated 80km long road that will curtail the Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage time. The road link is from Dharchula (Uttarakhand) to Lipulek (China Border).
- The Jharkhand state government on May 8, 2020 issued an order banning the manufacture, storage, distribution or sale of **Pan Masala** containing **Magnesium Carbonate** in the state for a period of one year.

09 May 2020

- World Migratory Day is observed today.
- The testing capacity for COVID-19 has been scaled up to around 95,000 tests per day and a total of 15,25,631 tests have been conducted so far across 332 government and 121 private laboratories, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said today.

10 May 2020

- **Indian Coronavirus vaccine:** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has partnered with Bharat Biotech International Limited to develop **India's first fully indigenous coronavirus vaccine**. Bharat Biotech is a Hyderabad-based leading Vaccine manufacturing company.

11 May 2020

- National Technology Day is observed today in India. The day, which was first observed on May 11, 1999, aims to commemorate the scientific and technological

achievements of Indian scientists and engineers. National Technology Day was first observed on May 11, 1999.

- Total coronavirus cases in India climb to 67,152. Over 4,000 new cases recorded in last 24 hours. Also, the death toll due to Covid-19 has climbed to 2,206.

12 May 2020

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a special economic package worth over 20 lakh crore rupees and 10% of India's GDP in view of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Indian Railways has begun restoration of passenger train services today.
- International Nurses Day is celebrated today.

13 May 2020

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday announced tax reforms as part of the Covid-19 package to revive economy. The government has cut TDS (tax deduction at source) rates by 25 per cent for non-salaried section. The loans that are worth Rs 3 lakh crore are made collateral free. The due date for filing income tax returns (ITR) has been extended from July 31 to November 30 this year.
- Health and Family Welfare Ministry said that 24 thousand 386 patients have cured so far and the recovery rate reached 32.82 percent.

14 May 2020

- World Health Organisation (WHO) on May 13 had warned the countries around the world that coronavirus may never go away and the world will have to learn to live with it.
- The BRICS's New Development Bank has decided to provide **USD 1 billion emergency assistance loan** to India to support its efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic, contain its spread and reduce human, social and economic losses.
- The Indian Railways has cancelled **regular passenger train service** including Mail, Express, Passenger and Suburban Services till June 30, 2020. The Railways announced that all booked train tickets for the mentioned trains will stand cancelled and the full refund will be issued for the same.

15 May 2020

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today announced setting up of a 1 lakh crore rupees agri infrastructure fund for farm-gate infrastructure. She announced it while briefing about the third tranche of 20 lakh crore economic package.
- Slovenia becomes 1st European Country to call an end to COVID-19 Epidemic. Till now the country had reported some 1,500 coronavirus cases and 103 deaths due to corona virus.
- World Bank has approved one billion US dollar 'Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Programme' to support India.

16 May 2020

- The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on May 15 commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) sachet and two interceptor boats C-451 and (IBs) C-450 in Goa. The event took place via video conferencing from Delhi.
- United States President Donald Trump announced on May 15, 2020 through a tweet that the US will donate ventilators to India. President Trump also affirmed that the US stands with India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during this pandemic and stated that they will beat the invisible enemy together.

17 May 2020

- The central government on May 16 launched the 'National Migration Information System' to facilitate the smooth movement of migrant workers traveling across the country.
- **Lockdown extended till May 31st:** The nationwide lockdown has been extended yet again till May 31, 2020. The lockdown 4.0 will include certain relaxations and some restrictions will continue as before, especially in the containment zones.

18 May 2020

- Fourth phase of Nationwide lockdown has begun today. Union Home Ministry had yesterday extended the nationwide lockdown for fourteen more days, till 31st of this month.
- The death toll due to coronavirus in India rose to 3,029 and the number of total positive cases climbed to 96,169 as on today morning.

19 May 2020

- **Moderna Coronavirus Vaccine** becomes the first in the world to show positive results by generating immune response against the SARS-CoV-2 Virus (COVID-19). The 'mRNA-1273' vaccine has been developed by US-based Biotechnology firm Moderna Inc in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- The International Cricket Council's (ICC) cricket committee on May 18 recommended the ban on the use of saliva to shine balls during matches. The recommendation will help in mitigating the risks posed by COVID-19 and will protect the players and match officials.

20 May 2020

- The landfall process of the Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan over North West Bay of Bengal has begun. Around 4 lakh people evacuated from Seven Coastal districts of West Bengal.
- Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri today announced that domestic civil aviation operations will recommence in a calibrated manner from 25th of this month.
- The Centre has notified the reduction in statutory rate of contributions from 12 per cent to 10 per cent for wage months period from May to July, 2020 for all class of establishments covered under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

21 May 2020

- At least 84 people have died and several more injured in India and Bangladesh as Cyclone Amphan made landfall last evening.
- International Tea Day is observed today. The resolution to celebrate International Tea Day was adopted in 2019 by the United Nations food and Agriculture Organization.
- Health and Family Welfare Ministry said that a total 45,300 people affected with corona virus have cured and the recovery rate reached to 40.31 per cent in the country.

22 May 2020

- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today took charge as the chairman of the 34-member World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a Rs 1,000 crore "advance interim assistance" for West Bengal after he undertook an aerial survey of the areas ravaged by Cyclone Amphan that has killed 80 people in the state.
- The Reserve Bank of India today cut the repo rate by 40 basis points from 4.4 per cent to 4 per cent, reducing the reverse repo rate at 3.35 per cent.
- India became the second largest producer of Personal Protective Equipment in the world. China is the leading producer of PPE in the world. India is now producing 2.06 lakh PPE kits every day.

23 May 2020

- US President Donald Trump announced on May 21, 2020 that he plans to withdraw the United States from Open Skies Treaty with Russia. The 18-year-old treaty was signed to improve military transparency and confidence between the two superpowers.

25 May 2020

- Eid-ul-Fitr is being celebrated across the country today.
- Domestic flights resume in country except in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal from today.
- The Himachal Pradesh government has extended the lockdown to control coronavirus in the state for another five weeks till 30th June.
- Three-time Olympic gold medal-winning hockey legend Balbir Singh Sr died in a private hospital at Mohali, Punjab today morning. He was 95. One of the country's greatest athletes, Balbir Senior was the only Indian among 16 legends chosen by the International Olympic Committee across modern Olympic history.

26 May 2020

- Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari today inaugurated the 440 metre-long tunnel, constructed below the Chamba town as part of the Chardham Connectivity Project.

- Japan has completely lifted nationwide emergency imposed following Corona Virus pandemic.
- Karnataka becomes first state to announce opening of temples after Corona Virus pandemic. The Karnataka government has decided to open temples in the state from June 1.

27 May 2020

- In a big boost to "**Char Dham**" project to connect holy towns of Gangotri, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Badrinath, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a **440-meter-long tunnel** under the **Chamba town** on Rishikesh-Dharasu road Highway (NH 94) in **Uttarakhand** even during the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic.
- On 26th May 2020, Maruti Suzuki India Limited (**MSIL**) announced its partnership with ICICI Bank to offer retail financing schemes to its customers. ICICI bank offers a flexible EMI scheme allowing the customers to pay minimum EMI initially to support them in the liquidity stress during COVID-19 situation.

28 May 2020

- The Supreme Court on Thursday directed that no fare for travel either by train or bus be charged from the migrant workers stranded across the country. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said that the originating state shall provide meals and water at the station and during the journey the Railways would provide the same to the migrant workers.
- Karnataka has suspended incoming transport from neighbouring states to contain the spiralling coronavirus infection in the state. These states are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

29 May 2020

- India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 3.1 per cent in January-March, the slowest growth in at least eight years.
- Chhattisgarh's first Chief Minister Ajit Pramod Kumar Jogi passed away this afternoon at the age of 74 years.
- Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla passed away on Friday at a hospital in Gujarat's Gandhinagar at the age of 90.

30 May 2020

- Goa celebrated its Statehood Day today. Goa was the 25th state to join the union of India.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research, ICMR said that figure of total number of COVID-19 tests in India reached to 36,11,599 in the country. Also Covid-19 recovery rate reaches 47.40 in the country.

31 May 2020

- SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft successfully took off on 30 May 2020 from Kennedy Space Center for the International Space Station (ISS), with two NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley. The mission marks the first launch of a rocket owned by SpaceX, the commercial space company founded by Elon Musk.
- US President Donald Trump has postponed the G7 Summit till September.
- World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed every year on 31 May, globally to inform the public on the dangers of using tobacco and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.
- The Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Law and Justice and Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad launched India's national Artificial Intelligence Portal called www.ai.gov.in, on 30 May 2020, to mark the the first anniversary of the second tenure of the government