DAYS OF DESPAIR

January 30, 2020
A Kerala medical student returning from Wuhan becomes India's first confirmed COVID-19 case.

March 15, 2020
An elderly Karnataka man is the first to die of the novel coronavirus.

March 25, 2020
A nationwide lockdown leads to a migrant-labor crisis and a mass exodus from major cities.

June 1, 2020
Phased reopening begins as India becomes one of the worst-hit countries.

August 31, 2020
India's GDP contracts by 23.9% in the second quarter of 2020.

December 18, 2020
India reaches 10 million COVID-19 cases, remaining No. 2 in global infection rankings.

January 16, 2021
India launches its vaccination program, starting with healthcare and frontline workers.

March 11, 2021
Millions celebrate a Hindu festival, turning the sacred event into a super-spreader event.

April 9, 2021
The second wave hits, with the highly contagious delta variant spreading far faster than previous strains.

April 20, 2021
Prime Minister Narendra Modi declares an emergency but resists another national lockdown, leaving it to state discretion. There is a deadly shortage of oxygen tanks.

May 1, 2021
Vaccinations open to all adults, but a shortage slows immunization efforts.

July 2021
New infections and deaths slow, though experts question the accuracy of some figures.