

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **calibrated** (adjective) – carefully assessed/analysed.
2. **localised** (adjective) – limited/restricted to a particular place.
3. **lockdown** (noun) – an emergency protocol implemented by the authorities that prevents people from leaving from a place; An extended state of confinement/encirclement/isolation of a person by the authority.
4. **universal** (adjective) – relating to all people, applicable to all; comprehensive, all-inclusive, all-round, across the board.
5. **vaccination** (noun) – treatment with a vaccine to protect against a particular disease; immunization.
6. **universal vaccination** (noun) – vaccination for all.
7. **coronavirus** (CoV) (noun) – a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, the infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. (Courtesy: **WHO**)
8. **downward** (adjective) – moving toward a lower level; descending, falling, sinking, sliding.
9. **lack** (verb) – be without, have need of, require.
10. **strategic** (adjective) – relating to achieving long-term or overall goals.
11. **cessation** (noun) – termination, discontinuation, suspension.
12. **impose** (verb) – force, thrust, inflict (an unwelcome decision/ruling).
13. **variant** (noun) – different or form or version or mutant of something (virus).
14. **notably** (adverb) – especially, particularly, strikingly, markedly.
15. **double mutant/B.1.617** (noun) – a unique “double mutant” coronavirus variant – with a combination of mutations not seen anywhere else in the world – has been found in India. The ‘double mutant’ virus that as having a bearing on the spread of the pandemic in India, has a formal scientific classification: B.1.617. The UK Variant has a formal scientific classification: B.1.1.7. The South Africa Variant has a formal scientific classification: B.1.351. The Brazil Variant has a formal scientific classification: P.1.
16. **Variant of Concern (VOC)** (noun) – A variant for which there is evidence of an increase in transmissibility, more severe disease

(e.g., increased hospitalizations or deaths), significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination, reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures.

17. **vaccine** (noun) – a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease.
18. **road map** (noun) – plan/strategy to do something successfully.
19. **hit** (verb) – crash into, run into, bang into, collide with.
20. **roadblock** (noun) – barrier, hindrance, obstruction.
21. **hit a roadblock** (phrase) – prevent, obstruct, hamper, impede, stop, stall.
22. **vague** (adjective) – imprecise, inexact, unclear/uncertain.
23. **ramp-up** (noun) – step-up, boost, increase.
24. **unwisely** (adverb) – foolishly, injudiciously, ill-advisedly.
25. **take the foot off the pedal** (phrase) – relax, slack off, make less effort, become less active.
26. **map** (verb) – chart, plot, trace out, survey.
27. **course** (noun) – route, way, direction, trajectory.
28. **miasma** (noun) – an unpleasant atmosphere that arises from something.
29. **pervade** (verb) – fill, spread through; be present throughout.
30. **appetite** (noun) – longing, yearning, strong desire/liking.
31. **shun** (verb) – avoid, ignore, reject, eschew.
32. **tool** (noun) – mechanism, apparatus, way, means (to perform an activity).
33. **point out** (phrasal verb) – identify, mention, indicate, draw attention to.
34. **come with** (phrasal verb) – to be given/granted together with something.
35. **hit** (verb) – affect badly, damage, have a negative impact on.
36. **pandemic** (noun) – the worldwide spread of a new disease; The illness spreads around the world and typically affects a large number of people across a wide area.
37. **reset** (noun) – re-establishment.
38. **reflect** (verb) – indicate, show, reveal, exhibit.
39. **insight** (noun) – deep understanding, recognition, realization, revelation.
40. **public behaviour (change)** (noun) – (in public health) it refers to efforts put in place to change people's personal habits and attitudes, to prevent disease.

41. **persuasive** (adjective) – convincing, effective, compelling, forceful, powerful, influential.
42. **(medical) intervention** (noun) – an activity directed at or performed on an individual with the object of improving health, treating disease or injury, or making a diagnosis.
43. **of scale** (phrase) – of large magnitude/extent of something.
44. **outlook** (noun) – prospects, expectations, expectancy, chances, hopes.
45. **point to** (verb) – indicate, suggest, denote.
46. **steep** (adjective) – sudden, sharp, rapid.
47. **imperative** (adjective) – vitally important, necessary, essential, crucial/critical.
48. **potential** (adjective) – possible, probable, likely.
49. **surge** (noun) – sudden increase or rise of something.
50. **immunisation** (noun) – the process whereby a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine. Vaccines stimulate the body's own immune system to protect the person against subsequent infection or disease.
51. **finding** (noun) – decision, conclusion, result.
52. **dose** (noun) – an amount/quantity of something.
53. **Oxford vaccine/Covishield** (noun) – (ChAdOx1 nCoV-19) or (AZD1222) is a COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca, UK Ltd. (named Covishield in India). Serum Institute of India (SII), a biotechnology company has partnered with global pharma giant AstraZeneca and Oxford University for this vaccine candidate 'Covidshield'.
54. **dominant** (adjective) – most powerful, key, crucial.
55. **administer** (verb) – dispense, provide, give, apply (a drug/vaccine).
56. **protocol** (noun) – procedure, convention, system.
57. **spare** (verb) – leave undamaged/unhurt.
58. **shock** (noun) – blow, upset, disturbance.
59. **inexplicably** (adverb) – in a way something can not be accountable/explainable/understandable.
60. **lead to** (verb) – result in, cause, bring about, call forth, give rise to, produce.
61. **trigger** (verb) – cause, prompt, bring about.
62. **induced demand** (noun) – generated demand; increasing the supply of something makes people want that thing even more. This concept is called induced demand.
63. **measure** (noun) – action, step, procedure.

64. **shut down** (phrasal verb) – cease activity, close down, cease operation.
65. **affluent** (adjective) – wealthy, well off, rich.
66. **less affluent** (adjective) – less wealthy, less well-off, poor.
67. **migrant** (noun as modifier) – a person who moves from one region to another – either within a country or across national borders in order to find work or better living conditions.
68. **cope** (verb) – deal with, grapple with, handle/manage.
69. **golden mean** (noun) – middle way, middle course; norm, standard.
70. **compliance** (noun) – conformity, observance, observation, accordance, adherence.
71. **vaccinate** (verb) – inoculate, administer, introduce (with a vaccine to provide immunity against a disease).

Calibrated closures: On localised lockdowns

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With no short road to universal vaccination, lockdowns should be precise and painless

Several States have extended the coronavirus lockdowns beyond May 31, while fresh cases **appear to show a downward trend**, but India's COVID-19 battle lacks strategic focus. Although a cessation of activity has been imposed, there is not much clarity on the future threat from virus variants, notably **B.1.617** that now has three sub-types and the dominant one, **B.1.617.2**, is estimated to be 50% more transmissible than another variant of concern, **B.1.1.7**. Neither is there a road map for vaccine availability ahead, with direct imports by States hitting a roadblock and vague assurances of a domestic ramp-up from July substituting for firm commitments. Some States are unwisely taking the foot off the testing pedal, making it that much harder to map the course of transmission. A miasma of confusion has come to pervade COVID-19 policy, where the Centre no longer has an appetite for leadership, even if it means shunning responsibility for universal vaccination, and the only tool available with States is a lockdown. But as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has pointed out, a lockdown does not provide a solution, and comes with its own

economic side-effects that hit the working class poor the hardest. The time has come for a pandemic policy reset that reflects scientific insight, encourages safe public behaviour through persuasive communication, monitoring, and, importantly, incorporates medical interventions of scale.

The medium-term outlook does not point to a steep rise in vaccination by the end of the year to cover most of the population, making it imperative for States to prepare for potential future surges. Although claims have been made of a large volume of three vaccines becoming available between August-December, the road to universal immunisation is going to be long. The process is complicated by the finding in Britain that it takes two doses of Covishield for 60% protection against the dominant virus variant that is also found in India; the second dose, therefore, should be administered after eight weeks, not 12 or 16. What States can do immediately is to arrive at a good lockdown protocol, sparing people frequent shocks. Tamil Nadu's recent move to intensify the lockdown, and, inexplicably, allow even jewellery and clothing shops to open for a day before that, led to massive crowding triggered by induced demand. Clearly, measures to shut down everyday activity lead to fear and panic, and leave less affluent sections, the disabled, migrant workers and many single individuals unable to cope. The golden mean would be to shut all non-essential shops, encourage remote transactions, open street sales and home deliveries, actively monitor compliance with COVID-19 protocols in public places and vaccinate workers in services, including domestic workers, on priority. Free food distribution must be a central feature of lockdowns.