

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **salvage** (verb) – recover, regain, restore, reclaim, get back, retrieve.
2. **strategy** (noun) – plan of action (in order to achieve a more expansive set of political, economic, and security interests).
3. **scale up** (phrasal verb) – increase, expand, augment; step up.
4. **vaccination** (noun) – treatment with a vaccine to protect against a particular disease; immunization.
5. **rational** (adjective) – logical, well reasoned, sensible, reasonable.
6. **measure** (noun) – action, step, procedure.
7. **rein in** (phrasal verb) -control, restrain, restrict, limit someone/something.
8. **aggressive** (adjective) – assertive, forceful, insistent, vigorous.
9. **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, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. (Courtesy: **WHO**)
10. **mark** (verb) – indicate, represent, signify.
11. **irrational** (adjective) – unreasonable, illogical, groundless, baseless, unjustifiable, unfounded.
12. **exuberance** (noun) – excitement, elation, enthusiasm, cheerfulness, buoyancy.
13. **prematurely** (adverb) – too soon, too early, before the usual time.
14. **virtually** (adverb) – practically, almost, nearly.
15. **rash** (adjective) – reckless, hasty, incautious, careless.
16. **campaign** (noun) – an organized effort which seeks to influence the decision making progress within a specific group.
17. **regard** (noun) – consideration, care, concern, thought, heed, attention.
18. **lapse** (noun) – failure, mistake, blunder/oversight.
19. **nascent** (adjective) – just beginning, developing, emerging, rising, burgeoning.
20. **rather than** (phrase) – instead of.
21. **setback** (noun) – problem, difficulty, issue.
22. **mitigation** (noun) – alleviation, reduction; lessening.

23. **hobble** (verb) – restrict/control/limit the activity or development of something.
24. **wildfire spread/spread like wildfire** (phrase) – spread with great speed (like a large destructive fire which breaks out in a forest).
25. **intervention** (noun) – the process of intervening in something; involvement, interference.
26. **opt** (verb) – choose, select, decide on.
27. **stagger** (verb) – phase; carry out/perform/pursue something in stages; time at intervals (of something as they don't happen at the same time).
28. **protocol** (noun) – procedure, method, system.
29. **inscrutable** (adjective) – mysterious, enigmatic, cryptic, difficult to interpret, hard to understand.
30. **non-transparent** (adjective) – obscure, unclear, ambiguous, uncertain.
31. **vaccine** (noun) – a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease.
32. **cold chain** (noun) – a temperature-controlled supply chain. It is a kind of supply chain that specializes in the storage, transport, and preservation of cargo that needs to be maintained at a specific temperature or within an acceptable temperature range.
33. **acquisition** (noun) – obtaining, acquiring, procuring.
34. **dose** (noun) – an amount/quantity of something.
35. **m-RNA technology** (noun) – messenger RNA technology; the set of instructions by which cells make all proteins and send them to various parts of the body. mRNA medicines take advantage of normal biological processes to express proteins and create a desired therapeutic effect.
36. **mRNA vaccine** (noun) – The vaccine is a messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine, which stands for “messenger ribonucleic acid”. Messenger RNA is essentially the blueprint that living cells use to turn gene sequences into the proteins that form their fundamental structures. Once injected, the mRNA in the vaccine is translated into a viral protein, which our immune systems detect. The body generates an immune response in reaction to these viral proteins, which can't by themselves cause disease, and this provides protection against developing Covid-19.
37. **public health** (noun) – the branch of medicine handling public health; public health is also the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities through education, policy making and research for disease and injury prevention.

38. 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'.
39. Covaxin (noun) – India's first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine candidate (COVAXIN) developed by a Hyderabad-based company (Bharat Biotech) in collaboration with the ICMR (The Indian Council of Medical Research).
40. recipient (noun) – beneficiary, receiver.
41. silver bullet (noun) – a simple solution to a complex problem.
42. given (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind.
43. variant (noun) – different or form or version or mutant of something (virus).
44. symptomatic (adjective) – relating to a condition/person with symptoms.
45. asymptomatic (adjective) – relating to a condition/person with no symptoms.
46. pre-symptomatic (adjective) – relating to a condition/person with mild illness/symptoms.
47. social vaccine (noun) – a metaphor (symbolic thing) for a series of social and behavioural measures that governments can use to raise public consciousness about unhealthy situations through social mobilisation- masking, healthy distancing and public etiquette.
48. social/physical distancing (noun) – a term means actively avoiding crowded public places, is a key element in decreasing the rapid spread of COVID-19. This is an effort intended to limit exposure by reducing face-to-face contact and preventing spread among people in community settings.
49. etiquette (noun) – proper behaviour, good manners, rules of conduct/protocol.
50. more so (phrase) – it means that to a greater degree.
51. equip (verb) – prepare (for a particular task/situation).
52. 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.
53. fatigue (noun) – tiredness, weariness, exhaustion.

54. pandemic fatigue (noun) – it can happen when people get tired of the pandemic measures and become less likely to follow public health practices.
55. opportunity cost (noun) – It refers to the price/cost/value of the next best thing you could have done had you not made your first choice.
56. prolonged (adjective) – lengthy, extended, protracted, unending, unrelenting.
57. adherence (noun) – compliance, observance, conformity.
58. demanding (adjective) – difficult, challenging, taxing, tough, burdensome, stressful.
59. ritual (noun) – ceremony, rite, custom, observance.
60. confine (verb) – limit, restrict.
61. universal (adjective) – relating to all people; all-inclusive, all-embracing, comprehensive, general/common.
62. deficit (noun) – shortfall, deficiency, shortage, lack.
63. mobility (noun) – transportability.
64. come up with (phrasal verb) – produce, put forward, present/submit.
65. curb (noun) – control, restriction, limitation.
66. incentivise (verb) – encourage, motivate, galvanize.
67. perception (noun) – understanding, discernment, recognition/realization; interpretation.
68. compensate (verb) – recompense, repay, reimburse, remunerate.
69. hospitality (services) (noun) – customer services provided at hotels, restaurants, events, and other areas of the tourism industry.
70. road map (noun) – schedule of a (complex) program.
71. carefree (adjective) – unworried, untroubled, easy-going.
72. way off (adverb) – far away.
73. lack (verb) – be without, be deprived of, be low on, be short of.
74. avert (verb) – prevent, stop, avoid.
75. costly (adjective) – ruinous, disastrous, devastating, damaging, woeful/awful, terrible, unfortunate.
76. 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.
77. call for (phrasal verb) – require, publicly ask/necessitate, demand.
78. credibility (noun) – trustworthiness, reliability, integrity.

Salvaging strategy: On scaling up COVID-19 vaccinations

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Rational safety measures and scaled up vaccinations can rein in COVID-19

India's aggressive second wave of coronavirus infections marked by over 1,50,000 cases a day and many deaths is clearly the result of irrational exuberance early in the new year. After prematurely assuming that COVID-19 was virtually over, governments made rash decisions to allow large religious gatherings and political campaigns with little regard for disease control. The lapse is now threatening a nascent economic recovery. Rather than view the crisis as a political setback, the government should focus on a mitigation strategy that will not hobble the economy, while stopping the wildfire spread of the virus. A key intervention would be to protect the labour force through a scaling up of vaccinations in industry and workplaces. Employers must also be encouraged to retain or opt for staggered working hours and work-from-home protocols. The national vaccination strategy, however, remains inscrutable and non-transparent, since more vaccines, including WHO-approved ones, remain unavailable to Indians for unspecified reasons. Allowing all proven vaccines to be offered in cities with suitable cold chain capacity at prices comparable to European or U.S. acquisitions — typically under \$20 a dose for m-RNA vaccines — would be as much a decision on the economy as on public health, making more Covishield and Covaxin doses available to priority recipients. This cannot, of course, be a silver bullet, given the big population that remains to be covered, the fast pace of virus spread enabled in part by variants and younger age groups showing symptomatic disease. At present, the social vaccine — masking,

healthy distancing and public etiquette — is vitally important, more so because the health system is not equipped to handle severe disease countrywide.

The scientific view of pandemic fatigue is that people see the opportunity cost of prolonged adherence to demanding restrictions as too high, considering the value of things lost. That includes access to education, meeting with loved ones, performing life rituals, and the conflict of both work and home confined to the same space. This universal experience is made worse in India by deficits in housing, mobility options and good living conditions. It is important for the government, therefore, to come up with rational activity curbs, keep them stable and incentivise people, including through financial rewards. These initiatives can lower the perception of lost opportunities and compensate workers in the affected sectors such as the travel, food and hospitality industries. This road map can be reviewed when vaccines become widely available and cases decline, although a return to a carefree past is a long way off. Political communication on the state of the pandemic lacked a clear sense of purpose during festivals and poll campaigns. Now, the COVID-19 strategy can avert costly partial or full lockdowns only with public cooperation, and that calls for building credibility and trust.