

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **amid** (preposition) – in the middle of, surrounded by; during.
2. **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.
3. **vaccination** (noun) – treatment with a vaccine to protect against a particular disease; immunization.
4. **stress** (noun) – trouble, difficulty, strain, pressure.
5. **put off** (phrasal verb) – postpone, delay, defer, hold off.
6. **much-needed** (adjective) – needed to a large extent.
7. **anxious** (adjective) – worried, concerned, distressed, bothered.
8. **on the crest of a wave** (phrase) – reach the highest point of something (generally, successful outcome); at the top level of something (generally, performance/achievement).
9. **ongoing** (adjective) – current, existing, continuing, relentless.
10. **cohort** (noun) – group of people (within a particular category/classification).
11. **wise** (adjective) – well advised, well thought out, well judged, rational, logical.
12. **move** (noun) – measure, step, action.
13. **out of harm's way** (phrase) – free from danger, sheltered, shielded, guarded, unharmed.
14. **possibility** (noun) – chance, probability.
15. **cluster** (noun) – a group (of people/things considered as a unit).
16. **onward** (adjective) – moving forwards, moving ahead, advancing, progressing.
17. **shield** (verb) – protect, save, guard.
18. **so far** (phrase) – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
19. **onus** (noun) – responsibility, duty, burden.
20. **recognise** (verb) – acknowledge, accept, admit; realize, understand, apprehend.
21. **growing** (adjective) – increasing.
22. **for instance** (phrase) – as an example.
23. **due to** (phrase) – because of, owing to, on account of, as a result of.
24. **under way** (phrase) – in progress, happening, occurring, taking place.
25. **get underway** (phrase) – get going, start/begin to happen/progress.
26. **thereafter** (adverb) – after that, afterwards, subsequently.
27. **throughout** (adverb) – all through, from beginning to end.
28. **enhancement** (noun) – increase, improvement.
29. **rollout** (noun) – official launch/introduction.
30. **vaccine** (noun) – a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease.
31. **pipeline** (noun) – supply chain.
32. **in the pipeline** (phrase) – in the process of being planned/developed.
33. **undivided** (adjective) – complete/full, consistent, thorough, concentrated, dedicated.
34. **devote** (verb) – give, dedicate, commit.
35. **enhanced** (adjective) – increased, intensified, amplified, improved.
36. **unwavering** (adjective) – steady, firm, resolute; steadfast, persistent, unflagging.
37. **pursue** (verb) – engage in, conduct, follow.
38. **normalise** (verb) – return to a normal situation.
39. **envisage** (verb) – foresee, anticipate, expect.
40. **universal** (adjective) – relating to all people; all-inclusive, all-embracing, comprehensive, general/common.
41. **front** (noun) – a particular sphere of activity.
42. **candidate vaccine BNT162b2** (noun) – mRNA-based vaccine candidate produced by Pfizer and BioNTech.
43. **trial** (noun) – test, pilot study, experiment (phase 1, 2,3, and or human/clinical trial).
44. **recipient** (noun) – beneficiary, receiver.
45. **seek** (verb) – request, ask for, appeal.
46. **regulatory** (adjective) – governmental.

47. **authorisation** (noun) – approval, sanction, permission, consent, clearance.
48. **norms** (noun) – standard, convention, guidelines, criterion.
49. **robust** (adjective) – strong, powerful.
50. **promising** (adjective) – encouraging, favourable, hopeful, optimistic, positive, heartening, reassuring.
51. **(the) way forward** (phrase) – something (a plan/action) that leads to success in the future.
52. **address** (verb) – tackle, deal with, attend to, try to sort out.
53. **freedom-constrained** (adjective) – controlled/restricted to act in a particular way (by rules & regulations).
54. **acknowledge** (verb) – admit, accept, realize.
55. **publicise** (verb) – promote, boost.
56. **talk therapy** (noun) – it involves talking to someone who is trained to help you deal with your negative feelings.
57. **call for** (phrasal verb) – require, publicly ask/necessitate, demand.
58. **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.
59. **prioritise** (verb) – make a point of, highlight, call attention to (something as very important).

Examination priorities: On annual exams amid the pandemic

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Mass vaccination ahead of public examinations can reduce stress for students

The **decision to put off the CBSE Class 12 public examination and cancel the Class 10 examination** at the end of a disrupted academic year brings much-needed relief to anxious students caught on the crest of the second COVID-19 wave. Unlike last year's first phase of the pandemic, the **ongoing wild spread** covers young people as well. The age cohort of those infected now includes even 15-year-olds, according to the Health Ministry. It is a wise move on the Centre's part to keep this risk group out of harm's way, reducing the possibility of school-based clusters and onward spread to older age groups who have shielded themselves so far. The onus is now on State governments, some of which have already initiated the examination schedule, to similarly recognise the growing crisis and display flexibility in reconsidering dates. Kerala had, for instance, postponed its SSLC and higher secondary level examinations due to the State election, but these got under way immediately thereafter. Tamil Nadu, which too conducted an Assembly poll, has scheduled school public examinations throughout May. What State governments should be focusing on is enhancement of the efficiency of vaccination rollout, using available vaccines and new ones

in the pipeline. This effort will be greatly helped if there is undivided attention devoted to covering all age groups at the earliest, using the enhanced supply.

With an unwavering focus on providing vaccine protection to its entire population, the U.S. has advanced its target dates in almost all States to include all those above age 16. University leaders are also pursuing policies to normalise campus-based education that envisage universal vaccination of all college students. Further, there is [promise on the vaccine front for school-goers](#), with Pfizer-BioNTech, after trials on younger recipients, seeking regulatory permission to cover children aged 12 to 15 in the U.S. under emergency-use authorisation norms. Two other vaccine makers are due to report on trials on young recipients. If the results prove to be robust, this is a promising way forward to reopen campuses for children without major disease worries. Yet, while they may succeed with vaccination, where many countries are failing is in addressing the mental health challenges of freedom-constrained children and youth. The problem must be acknowledged, and they must be reassured through publicised talk therapy and counselling, a task that calls for a partnership between educational institutions and the public health system. Over the next few weeks, governments should prioritise vaccinations for the general population, and the resulting control over infections would make the public examination season smooth for students.