

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **upheaval** (noun) – disruption, turmoil, disorder, chaos, mayhem.
2. **universal** (adjective) – relating to all people; all-inclusive, all-embracing, comprehensive, general/common.
3. **vaccination** (noun) – treatment with a vaccine to protect against a particular disease; immunization.
4. **nowhere near** (phrase) – not at all.
5. **comprehension** (noun) – understanding, apprehension, awareness, perception, discernment.
6. **magnitude** (noun) – intensity, importance of something; extent.
7. **prompt** (verb) – induce, cause, motivate, persuade, encourage, impel, urge.
8. **authorise** (verb) – approve, endorse, permit/allow.
9. **vaccine** (noun) – a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease.
10. **procurement** (noun) – the action of procuring/purchasing something.
11. **scale up** (phrasal verb) – increase, expand, augment; step up.
12. **amid** (preposition) – in the middle of, surrounded by; during.
13. **surge** (noun) – sudden increase or rise/jump of something.
14. **for one** (phrase) – used for highlighting that someone is thinking in a particular way, even if other people are not.
15. **assumption** (noun) – premise, belief, thought, notion.
16. **open up** (phrasal verb) – make something available/accessible.
17. **inoculate** (verb) – to inject/introduce a vaccine into the body of someone to produce immunity to a particular disease; immunize, vaccinate.
18. **vulnerable** (adjective) – relating to a weak/neglected person who is in need of special care/support/protection; ill-protected, easily affected by, prone to, at risk of.
19. **given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind.
20. **dose** (noun) – the recommended amount/quantity of something (drug/medicine) to be taken.
21. **administer** (verb) – dispense, provide, give, apply (a drug/vaccine).
22. **section** (noun) – group.

23. **underlying** (adjective) – critical; suppressed, unrevealed, undisclosed, concealed (underlying health conditions include diabetes, heart disease, obesity, cancer, kidney disease & etc.).
24. **intended** (adjective) – planned, considered, calculated.
25. **beneficiary** (noun) – recipient, receiver.
26. **optimistic** (adjective) – reassuring, favourable, encouraging, promising (but, unrealistically high rate).
27. **to the extent that** (phrase) – used to emphasize that a situation has reached a difficult stage.
28. **go by** (phrase) – observe, conform to, follow, be guided by.
29. **devastating** (adjective) – destructive, ruinous, disastrous.
30. **unlikely** (adjective) – unexpected, not likely to occur; doubtful, implausible, improbable.
31. **tie up** (phrasal verb) – finalize, conclude, complete, settle, secure something (a business deal).
32. **waive** (verb) – drop, disregard, ignore, set aside, forgo.
33. **trial** (noun) – test, pilot study, experiment (phase 1, 2,3, and or human/clinical trial).
34. **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).
35. **stringent** (adjective) – strict, severe, extreme, rigorous.
36. **hospitalisation** (noun) – the act of taking (or) admitting someone to (or) in hospital for treatment.
37. **derail** (verb) – obstruct, interrupt, impede/thwart.
38. **lay out** (phrasal verb) – outline, frame, draft, draw up, formulate.
39. **laid out** (adjective) – outlined, framed, formulated.
40. **sound** (verb) – look like, seem, appear.
41. **background** (noun) – circumstances, context, conditions, situation.
42. **constraint** (noun) – restriction, limitation, restraint.
43. **likelihood** (noun) – probability, chance, possibility.
44. **surface** (verb) – emerge, appear, come to light, become visible.
45. **acutely** (adverb) – extremely, seriously.
46. **vaccinator** (noun) – a person/agent who administers vaccines.
47. **candidate vaccine BNT162b2** (noun) – mRNA-based vaccine candidate produced by Pfizer and BioNTech.
48. **candidate vaccine mRNA-1273** (noun) – mRNA-1273 is an mRNA vaccine candidate which was co-developed by Moderna and investigators from NIAID's Vaccine Research Center.

49. **liberalise** (verb) – to make something (regulations/norms) less strict.
50. **procure** (verb) – buy, purchase.
51. **moreover** (adverb) – besides, furthermore, in addition.
52. **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.
53. **resurface** (verb) – reappear, reemerge, return, recur, come out again, arise again.
54. **in sight** (phrase) – near at hand, close to being realized; visible, noticeable.
55. **logistics** (noun) – the process of planning & executing a complex operation; organization, planning, management, arrangement.
56. **chaos** (noun) – disorder, disarray, turmoil, disorganization, disruption.
57. **inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, unpreventable, certain.
58. **avert** (verb) – prevent, stop, avoid.
59. **foresight** (noun) – anticipation, planning, forethought, forward planning.
60. **pragmatism** (noun) – common sense, realism, matter-of-factness.
61. **preparedness** (noun) – readiness.
62. **run on** (phrasal verb) – be preoccupied with, be concerned with, dwell on, focus on, revolve around, centre around, be dominated by.
63. **hype** (noun) – publicity, advertising, promotion, propaganda.

Managing an upheaval: On universal vaccination

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Universal vaccination is a necessary goal, but India is nowhere near achieving it

A combination of panic, public pressure and comprehension of the magnitude of the crisis that India is in seems to have prompted the **Centre to authorise vaccines to anyone above 18** and give States more control over procurement. This is despite the problems in scaling up production, and in the supply and management of vaccines amid the surge in cases. The

step could not have been easy to take. For one, the processes initiated by the government in early January to expand India's manufacturing capacity were under the assumption that it would be at least August before vaccines could be fully opened up for all. In December, it was announced that India's priority would be to fully inoculate 300 million of the most vulnerable. Given that about 127 million doses have been administered, including a section of those above 45 without underlying health conditions, around 17 million have been fully inoculated — or about 5% of the intended beneficiaries. At the optimistic rate of three million doses a day, it would take at least 260 days from today for every adult to get at least a single shot.

Eight months ago, India had begun a decline in daily infections to the extent that by January, India's leadership itself — going by its own policy actions — believed that a devastating second wave was unlikely. There is no other explanation why India, following the example of the U.S. and the U.K., did not tie up orders to inoculate most of its adults within this year. India also applied different standards: waiving critical trials for Covaxin, but having stringent requirements for foreign companies. The supply lines are thus inadequate. The second wave, the hospitalisation and medical-oxygen crisis, have derailed all previously laid out plans. Opening up vaccines for all on May 1 and letting States negotiate deals with manufacturers does sound like the government is 'listening to the people', but given the background of supply constraints until June, there is a likelihood that the story of 'vaccine shortage' will surface more acutely. Leading international vaccinators such as Pfizer and Moderna have supply commitments already tied up and it is unclear if merely the policy move of liberalising vaccine supply will leave States in India with the finances and negotiating power to procure enough stocks of vaccines. Moreover, given that this is the hottest month in India, lockdowns are resurfacing in cities, and no end is in sight for the second wave, the logistics of administration will continue to be challenging. It was always going to be impossible to rapidly inoculate a nation of a billion. But chaos and confusion, which now seem inevitable, could have been averted with some foresight and planning. Pragmatism and preparedness should replace hope that runs on nothing more than hype.

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