

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. vaccination (noun) – treatment with a vaccine to protect against a particular disease; immunization.
2. 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.
3. address (noun) – speech, talk, discourse.
4. amid (preposition) – in the middle of, surrounded by; during.
5. raging (adjective) – wild, severe, extreme, excessive, inordinate.
6. storm (noun) – outburst, outbreak, eruption, surge.
7. avert (verb) – prevent, stop, avoid.
8. ramp up (phrasal verb) – increase (in amount or number).
9. insight (noun) – deep understanding, recognition, realization, revelation.
10. measure (noun) – action, step, procedure.
11. pace (noun) – speed.
12. sensible (adjective) – practical, realistic, responsible, reasonable, rational, logical.
13. course (noun) – plan of action, course of action, method of working, procedure/process.
14. open (adjective) – available, accessible, on hand.
15. enable (verb) – permit, allow, facilitate.
16. scale up (phrasal verb) – increase, expand, augment; step up, boost.
17. last resort (phrase) – a final course of action when all else has failed; ultimate, final, eventual action.
18. virtually (adverb) – practically, almost, nearly.
19. acknowledged (adjective) – true, valid, accepted/recognized (as important).
20. hindsight (noun) – understanding/realizing a situation/event after it has happened.
21. blow (noun) – shock, surprise; setback/misfortune.
22. unorganised sector/workforce/labour (noun) – unorganized sector means an enterprise owned by individuals or self-employed workers and engaged in the production or sale of goods or providing service of any kind whatsoever, and where the enterprise employs workers, the number of such workers is less than ten.

23. **workforce** (noun) – workers, employees.
24. **vaccinate** (verb) – inoculate, administer, introduce (with a vaccine to provide immunity against a disease).
25. **containment** (noun) – an act of keeping something (harmful) under control (it means quickly identifying cases of coronavirus through testing, placing infected individuals in isolation, tracking who infected persons might have been in contact with and potentially quarantining those who came into contact with infection so that the disease doesn't continue to spread).
26. **universalise** (verb) – make (something) available for all.
27. **effectively** (adverb) – practically, virtually, in effect, almost.
28. **floodgate** (noun) – something which is restraining/holding back/stifling an outflow of something else.
29. **open the floodgates** (phrase) – to make something easier for a lot of things to happen (or) to make it possible for a lot of people to start doing something that was not permitted previously.
30. **unregulated** (adjective) – unrestricted, unchecked, uncontrollable.
31. **vaccine** (noun) – a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease.
32. **rather than** (phrase) – instead of.
33. **monopsonist** (noun as modifier) – a market condition in which there is only one buyer.
34. **procure** (verb) – buy, purchase.
35. **price-capped** (adjective) – price-limited (by a government, regulators, etc.)
36. **in place** (phrase) – set up, established, arranged.
37. **lead to** (verb) – result in, cause, bring on, give rise to.
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. **hint** (verb) – insinuate, intimate, suggest, indicate.
40. **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).

41. price flexibility (noun) – a business strategy in which a product's final price is open for negotiation based on market forces (when demand rises or supply declines, prices go up).
42. rush (verb) – act rapidly/hurriedly.
43. leave out (phrasal verb) – exclude, omit, miss out.
44. seek (verb) – try to obtain.
45. sustainable (adjective) – reasonable, sensible, well-founded (without disturbing the balance of nature and then without exhausting all of the natural resources).
46. wage (verb) – engage in, carry on, conduct.
47. call for (phrasal verb) – require, publicly ask/necessitate, demand.
48. decentralisation (noun) – the process of distributing or dispersing functions, powers, people or things away from a central location or authority.
49. regulatory authority (noun) – the government agency that is responsible for exercising autonomous dominion over some area of (human) activity in a regulatory/monitoring capacity.
50. outlay (noun) – expenditure, expenses, spending.
51. state-funded (adjective) – government-funded.
52. free-market (noun) – a type of economic system that is controlled by the market forces of supply and demand, as opposed to government controls that involve price-cutting monopolies. It is different from a regulated market or command economy. In the latter, a central government agency decides the supply and demand, which means the market does not operate freely. In a free market, a majority of companies and properties are owned by individuals or entities in the private sector instead of the state.
53. on the ground (phrase) – in a situation/place where things are happening really/practically.
54. overstate (verb) – exaggerate, overdo, overemphasize.
55. model (verb) – use as an example.
56. campaign (noun) – an organized effort which seeks to influence the decision-making progress within a specific group.
57. abdicate (verb) – reject, disown, turn down, give up, abandon (a responsibility).

Open and safe: On Modi government's vaccination policy

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Prime Minister Modi is right about lockdowns, but the vaccination policy needs reform

If [Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the country](#) amid the raging storm of COVID-19 cases was intended as reassurance of the government's commitment to averting economic decline and ramping up health facilities, he provided little insight into specific measures. It should be evident from the pace of infection spread and the large number of deaths in several regions that the sensible course open to the Centre and State governments is to enable economic production and consumption while massively scaling-up the health response. Mr. Modi, who [advised States to treat lockdowns as a last resort](#), has virtually acknowledged, with the benefit of hindsight, that [last year's measure](#) dealt [a severe blow to unorganised labour](#) and the self-employed. The priority now is for the workforce to be vaccinated and containment measures against disease spread to be restricted to micro locations. Yet, the crucial question is that of [universalising vaccinations for everyone above 18 years of age](#) from May 1. The Centre's latest policy has effectively opened the floodgates to an unregulated system with market-determined vaccine pricing. Rather than use monopsonist power to procure all vaccines for price-capped distribution, extending the model that has been in place since March 1, the move has led to [a 266% to 400% price increase for Covishield](#) for State governments and private hospitals, respectively. Bharat Biotech has also hinted at the need to recover its investments in Covaxin through price flexibility. Manufacturers should not be rushing to seek approvals in those regions where the profits are the highest, leaving out the poorer territories. All vaccines need a sustainable manufacturing base, but the government must ensure a good, free people's vaccine for all.

With 2,94,365 new cases and 2,011 dead on just April 20, India is waging a war against the virus that calls for strong leadership, decentralisation to allow States to take speedy action and the effective use of regulatory authority. The Prime Minister is right to identify urban workers and labour as key coverage groups for vaccination, with support from the Centre and States. Here, the Union Budget allocation of ₹35,000 crore for COVID-19 vaccines should be able to cover more categories this year and the outlay can be enhanced if necessary. Worldwide, governments have made COVID-19 vaccination a fully state-funded effort. The case for free market pricing for vaccines, on the ground that private enterprise is leading vaccine development, is overstated. For AstraZeneca-Covishield, the single biggest research funding component, at over £38 million, came from the British government, followed by overseas governments, universities and charities. What India needs is free universal vaccination, modelled on the polio campaign. The Centre cannot abdicate that responsibility.

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