Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. efficacious (adjective) – effective, successful, powerful.
2. 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).
3. vaccine (noun) – a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease.
4. efficacy (noun) – In medicine, the ability of an intervention (for example, a drug or surgery) to produce the desired beneficial effect; effectiveness, efficiency, power.
5. interim (adjective) – provisional, temporary, transitional.
6. phase-3 trial (noun) – In phase 3 trial, the vaccine is given to thousands of people to confirm its safety – including rare side effects – and effectiveness. These trials involve a control group which is given a placebo.
7. phase 2 trial (noun) – In phase 2 trial, the vaccine is given to hundreds of people so scientists can learn more about its safety and correct dosage.
8. phase 1 trial (noun) – In phase 1 trial of clinical testing, the vaccine is given to a small group of people to determine whether it is safe and to learn more about the immune response it provokes.
9. human trial/clinical trial (noun) – a type of research that studies new tests and treatments and evaluates their effects on human health outcomes.
10. indeed (adverb) – in fact, actually, undeniably.
11. promising (adjective) – good, optimistic, positive, heartening, reassuring.
12. regulator (noun) – an association that supervises a particular business activity.
13. symptomatic (adjective) – relating to a condition/person with symptoms.
14. asymptomatic (adjective) – relating to a condition/person with no symptoms.
15. pre-symptomatic (adjective) – relating to a condition/person with mild illness/symptoms.
16. dose (noun) – an amount/quantity of something.
17. undertake (verb) – begin, start, launch into; engage in, become involved in, take part in.
18. carry out (phrasal verb) – conduct, perform, implement, execute, bring about.
19. placebo (noun) – it is an inactive substance (with no therapeutic effect) that is given to one group of participants in a clinical trial, while the treatment (usually a drug or vaccine being tested) is given to another group.
20. 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'.
21. administer (verb) – dispense, provide, give, apply (a drug/vaccine).
22. comorbidity (noun) – the presence of one or more additional conditions (diseases/problems) co-occurring/co-existing with a primary condition (disease/problem).

23. The Lancet (noun) – a weekly peer-reviewed general medical journal. It is among the world's oldest and best-known general medical journals.
24. **preprint** (noun) – a full draft of a research paper that is shared publicly before it has been peer reviewed/has been sent to press for publication.
25. **immunogenic** (adjective) – relating to a foreign substance that provokes an immune response in the body.
26. **variant** (noun) – different or form or version or mutant of something (virus).
27. **account for** (phrasal verb) – constitute, comprise, form, represent.
28. **vaccination** (noun) – treatment with a vaccine to protect against a particular disease; immunization.
29. **absolute** (adjective) – total, complete, full.
30. **stand at** (verb) – be at a particular level.
31. **so far** (phrase) – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
32. **on a par with** (phrase) – comparable with, equivalent to, as equal to, on a level with.
33. **seek** (verb) – request, demand, ask for.
34. **consent** (noun) – agreement, assent, approval.
35. **informed/signed consent** (noun) – the permission a patient gives a doctor (by signing a document) to perform a test or procedure after the doctor has fully explained the purpose.
36. **narrow** (adjective) – small, limited, inadequate.
37. **window of opportunity** (phrase) – a short period of time in which one has a chance to do/achieve something; lucky chance, good time, golden opportunity, suitable time/moment, opportune occasion.
38. **vaccinate** (verb) – inoculate, administer, introduce (with a vaccine to provide immunity against a disease).
39. **probably** (adverb) – most likely, in all likelihood, all things considered, perhaps.
40. **set in** (phrasal verb) – (of something bad/unpleasant) begin/start.
41. can ill afford (phrase) – to prevent something from happening because it would be embarrassing and cause problems (if it happens).
42. **roadblock** (noun) – hindrance, obstruction.
43. **uptake** (noun) – the action of taking up something (available/given).

Vaccine **efficacy of 80.6% for Bharat Biotech's Covaxin** at the first **interim** analysis of phase-3 trials in India is indeed promising, though it took two months for the data to become available after the vaccine was approved for 'restricted emergency use' by the Indian drug regulator. The vaccine efficacy was measured based on **symptomatic** COVID-19 disease — mild, moderate or severe — two weeks after the second dose. The interim analysis undertaken at the first endpoint of 43 COVID-19 cases in the phase-3 trial **carried out** across 26 sites in India found 36 cases in the **placebo** group while only seven COVID-19 cases in the arm that received two doses of the vaccine given 28 days apart. The phase-3 trial that began last November recruited 25,800 participants, with one half receiving the vaccine and the other, a placebo. While the phase-3 trial will continue till 130 participants in both groups put together develop COVID-19 disease, another interim analysis will be carried out when there are 87 cases. Covaxin's efficacy of 80.6% at first interim analysis is higher than AstraZeneca/Covishield vaccine efficacy of 55.1% when the second dose is administered less than six weeks after the first; in India, the second dose of Covishield is approved for four-six weeks after the first. Also, the phase-3 trial recruited 2,433 participants over the age of 60 and included 4,500 people with **comorbidities**. However, those with severe and/or uncontrolled comorbidities were not recruited.

As per the phase-1 data published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* and a **preprint** of the phase-2 trial, Covaxin appears to be safe and highly **immunogenic**, and has also been found to be effective against the B.1.1.7 **variant** first found in Britain. While **Covaxin accounts for less than 10% of all COVID-19 vaccinations in India**, the **absolute number of vaccinations** as on March 3 **stands at** over 1.6 crore. No deaths associated with this vaccine have been reported so far. Though the first interim analysis is based on 43 cases, which is smaller when compared with other vaccines that have been approved by other regulators, the vaccine appears safe and **efficacious** in phase-3 and early stages of human trials and animal studies. The Indian regulator should therefore revise the restricted emergency use approval such that Covaxin is treated **on a par with** Covishield and should no longer seek additional precautions in the form of signed consent before vaccination and also remove the label "clinical trial mode" from the approval; their continuation would send a wrong signal about its safety and efficacy. With a narrow **window of opportunity** available to vaccinate people before a second wave probably **sets in** or dangerous variants get established, India can **ill afford** to have **roadblocks** in the **uptake** of either vaccine.

1)The primary passage of the passage is to

a) compare the efficacy of Covaxin and AstraZeneca/Covishield
b) give the facts regarding the success of Covaxin in phase 3 trials.
c) underscore that restricted emergency use approval of Covaxin should now be revised
d) none

2) According to the passage which one of them is true

a) Covishield's efficacy of 80.6% at first interim analysis is higher than Covaxin vaccine efficacy of 55.1%
b) The first interim analysis is based on 34 cases, which is smaller and efficacious when compared with other vaccines.
c)The people with severe and/or uncontrolled comorbidities were not recruited for the trial.
d) All the above are true.

3) The tone of the passage is
a) Informative
b)Monotonous
c)Analytical
d)didactic

4) The phrase "On a par with" used in the passage means
a) equivalent to
b) to prevent something from happening
c) the presence of one or more additional conditions
d) be at a particular level

5) Which one of the following is not the antonym of the word "interim" used in the passage?
a) provisional
b) permanent
c)hindrance
d)optimistic