

**Passage 1**

With a stroke of a pen, the Drugs Controller General of India has put to rest any doubts and concerns that it would rush to grant emergency use approval to COVID-19 vaccines tested and manufactured in India or elsewhere in the absence of sufficient data. The greatly reassuring decision to seek additional safety and immunogenicity data from the Pune-based Serum Institute of India and Hyderabad's Bharat Biotech underlines the regulator's priorities even for emergency use approval rather than an early roll-out of vaccines that have not been sufficiently studied. The decision to seek more evidence would mean a slight delay in locally manufactured vaccines becoming available. But it clearly demonstrates that the committee did not misread the announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that a vaccine will be available in the next few weeks as a signal to grant approval in haste. By keeping the approval on hold pending more evidence, the expert committee has done much to generate trust in the regulator's uncompromising approval process even for emergency use in the midst of the pandemic. However, these manufacturers have unfortunately come out as being in a hurry to seek approval without sufficient data to support their case.

Bharat Biotech's rush to seek approval is of concern as the company had not submitted any data from its phase-3 trial but relied entirely on the interim safety and immunogenicity data of the phase-1 and phase-2 trials; the company had begun phase-3 trials only in mid-November. While Serum had submitted interim safety and efficacy data of the Oxford vaccine from the phase-2/3 clinical trials carried out in India and other countries, the safety data of the Indian trial submitted was only till mid-November. The phase-3 trials by Serum began on September 21, and since the second dose is administered 28 days after the first, the median follow-up after the second dose would have been for just a few weeks, far less than at least two months that the U.S. FDA had stipulated. With the published data of the interim phase-3 trial of the Oxford vaccine raising some concerns, the committee has rightly sought immunogenicity data from the U.K. trial. While the U.K. has approved the mRNA vaccine from the U.S.-based Pfizer, no country including the U.K. has approved the Oxford vaccine manufactured by London-based AstraZeneca. In September, nine global vaccine manufacturers had signed a joint pledge that they would not seek premature approval from regulatory authorities and would test COVID-19 vaccines to the highest standards and keep "the safety of vaccinated individuals our top priority". So Indian manufacturers should strive to carry out the trials to the highest ethical standards and submit comprehensive data such that emergency use approval is a sure shot. Any further haste shown in seeking approval for emergency use may turn detrimental and the companies may even run the risk of losing public trust.

[EXCERPTS published in an article published in The HINDU dated 12-12-2020.]

1. Which of the following must be true in context of the above passage?
  - (a) The DCGI did well to seek more data before clearing emergency use of vaccines.
  - (b) The DCGI did not do well to seek more data before clearing emergency use of vaccines.
  - (c) Manufacturers are in no hurry to seek permission.
  - (d) DCGI is in hurry to grant permission to the manufacturers.
  
2. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
  - (a) Trust can be claimed only after practical application.
  - (b) Credibility of a particular organization is of prime importance.
  - (c) Credibility of the class is based on popularity of a organization.
  - (d) None of the above

3. Which of the following is true assumption author draws from the phrase “these manufacturers have unfortunately come out as being in a hurry to seek approval without sufficient data to support their case” :
  - (a) Manufacturer wants avail its product to the nation.
  - (b) Manufactures fears that foreign manufacturer will take over them.
  - (c) Manufacturers are confident of the fact that they won’t get approval without evidences.
  - (d) None of these
  
4. Which following must be true according in context of the above passage.
  - (a) Seeking evidences will delay the vaccination among masses.
  - (b) There is haste among manufacturer to seek approval.
  - (c) DCGI are very much concerned about it people life.
  - (d) All of the above
  
5. Most research scientists who work for corporate consulting firms have low levels of job satisfaction. However, Expert Consulting is known throughout the industry for research scientists who experience very high levels of job satisfaction. Expert Consulting attributes its success in cultivating happy employees to its programs enabling staff scientists to work on their own research projects in addition to working for clients. Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports Expert Consulting’s explanation of its success in cultivating happy employees?
  - (a) Some scientists experience low job satisfaction when they must work more than full time.
  - (b) Most scientists at corporate consulting firms come from academic programs that they entered because they enjoyed pursuing their own research questions
  - (c) Many of Expert Consulting’s senior staff scientists divide their time between working on their own research projects and working for clients.
  - (d) Working on their own research projects shields scientists from exposure to other industries in which they might find better paying jobs.

### Passage 2

The government can ill-afford to withdraw the PDS [Public Distribution System]- subsidized food grain- as high incidence of undernourishment afflicting a sizable section of our countrymen remains one of its most formidable challenges. The Global Hunger Index for 2020 gave a grim reminder of this reality: India was ranked 94 out of the 107 countries for which the numbers were provided. Further, the State of the Food Insecurity of the Food and Agriculture Organization, showed that during 2017-19, “prevalence of undernourishment in the total population” in India was 14%, the second-highest among South Asian countries. It is a sad commentary that while hunger and undernourishment has remained a major problem, whose intensities have increased in the pandemic-induced economic crisis, the government is planning to transform India as an agricultural export hub. A NITI Aayog member has recently argued that given the emerging demand-supply scenario in the country, India will be required to sell 20-25% of the incremental agri-food production in overseas markets in the coming years.

This argument refuses to accept that given the scale of undernourishment among the country’s population, food stocks are a manifestation of inadequate implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA). In fact, over the past few years, budgetary allocation for the implementation of NFSA has been falling in real terms. Since it embarked on the economic liberalization policies three decades ago, India has consistently submitted in the WTO that its agricultural policies are designed to ensure food security and protecting the farmers from the uncertainties of the market forces.

India could therefore justify the imposition of high import tariffs in order to protect its agriculture from the heavily subsidized products that are traded in international markets. Can the government justify its moral high ground for protecting agriculture now that it wants to make the country an agricultural export hub?

[Excerpts from an opinion by Bishwajit dhar published in The wire dated 14 dec 2020]

6. Answer the question considering following two statements from the passage:
- I. The government can ill-afford to withdraw the PDS [public distribution system]-subsidized food grain.
  - II. High incidence of undernourishment afflicting a sizable section of our countrymen remains one of government most formidable challenges.
- The relation between the above two statement can be best described as follows:
- (a) (i) is premise and (ii) is conclusion.
  - (b) (ii) is premise and (i) is conclusion.
  - (c) (i) is premise and (ii) is justification.
  - (d) (i) is conclusion and (ii) opposes conclusion.
7. How does reasoning about incite of high import tariff and making India export hub proceeds in above passage?
- (a) The government failed miserably to justify the implementation of both point.
  - (b) Justifies one while there is question mark over the other due to various contradiction.
  - (c) Both the point seems a possibility when it comes to particle application.
  - (d) All of the above.
8. The argument of the author depends on which of the following assumption.
- (a) Government of India idea to export does not seem to be a good idea.
  - (b) Export duty is the main source of government's income which will ultimately help to PDS system more efficient.
  - (c) Exports of food grain will not aggravate poverty and malnourishment.
  - (d) Import is more important rather than export.
9. Which of the following, if true, would strengthen the author's argument?
- (a) India is still not self-sufficient when it comes food grain adequacy.
  - (b) India is still self-sufficient when it comes food grain adequacy.
  - (c) Indian import duty is not as compared to international standards.
  - (d) All of these
10. There were several early attempts to forge a reconciliation between Shintoism and Buddhism based on mutual respect among their adherents. The evidence for this includes extant sculptures depicting Shinto gods wearing Buddhist vestments. Which one of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?
- (a) Most sculptures contemporaneous with the sculptures mentioned were intended to have religious significance.
  - (b) No sculptures that have not survived depicted Shinto gods wearing Buddhist vestments.
  - (c) Early attempts at reconciling Shintoism with Buddhism were successful.
  - (d) The depiction of Shinto gods wearing Buddhist vestments was not intended to represent the triumph of Shintoism over Buddhism.
11. Tariffs on particular products tend to protect the small percentage of the population that works in industries that make those products while hurting everyone else through higher costs. Polls show that in fact most people oppose such tariffs. So politicians would be more likely to be reelected if they voted against these tariffs. Which one of the following is an assumption on which the argument relies?
- (a) Supporters of tariffs on particular products are not significantly more likely than opponents to base their vote for a politician on the politician's stand on this issue.
  - (b) Politicians always vote according to what is most likely to get them reelected.
  - (c) Politicians should support only general tariffs, since such tariffs would be more widely popular with voters than tariffs on particular products.
  - (d) Politicians should never support measures that favor only a small percentage of the population.