



Kappa Variant: Covid-19

Why in News

Recently, two cases of the **Kappa variant of Covid-19** have been recorded in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- According to the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#), Kappa is one of the two Covid-19 variants, the other being [Delta](#), first identified in India.
- Earlier a new variant [Lambda](#) was reported from Peru.

Key Points

▪ About:

- As India raised **objection over the B.1.617.1 mutant of the novel coronavirus being termed an “Indian Variant”**, the WHO had named this variant ‘Kappa’ and B.1.617.2 ‘Delta’ just as it **named** various variants of the coronavirus using Greek alphabets.
 - The **Delta and Kappa variants are actually siblings, the direct descendants** of a variant that earlier used to be referred to as the **double mutant, or B.1.617.**
- It is still listed among ‘**variants of interest**’ and not ‘**variants of concern**’ by the WHO.

▪ Variants of Interest:

- They are [SARS-CoV-2](#) **variants with genetic changes** that are predicted or known to **affect virus characteristics such as transmissibility, disease severity, immune escape, diagnostic or therapeutic escape.**
- **Examples:** Lambda, Iota, Eta and Kappa variants.

▪ Variant of Concern:

- A variant **for which there is evidence of an increase in transmissibility, more severe disease** (e.g., increased hospitalizations or deaths), **significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies** generated during previous infection or vaccination, reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures.
- **Examples:** Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta variants.

[Source: IE](#)