

As India prepares for the pandemic situation, increasing genomic sequencing & use of scientific evidence for decision making are essential. Explain

Increased corona virus case load & mortality in second wave of COVID-19 in India is due to mutation & replication of virus.

India take huge effort to contain viral spread through measures like lockdown, vaccination etc, thing lag behind is genome sequencing

India is slow in adoption & use of genome sequencing even though setting up Indian SARS-CoV2 Genome Consortium or INSACoG

Success of other countries with similar variants like Alpha of UK is due to scaled up genome sequencing along with virus

Genome sequence a technique of reading genetic material help to understand

→ Mutation of virus

→ Effectiveness of vaccine on variants

→ Reason for detected behaviour

- Replicability & severity of its effects
- Cautioning of Government machinery in preparedness.

Thus India requires to scale up genome sequencing across all state by

- collecting genome at district level
- Large urban Agglomeration
- National level assing data collected

Along with it, Indian pandemic control policies need to be based on scientific evidence as reported India slow in updating its policies. For example

- UK warned Delta variant (B.1.617) of India is more dangerous in spread & mortality
- Lancet Journal said vaccine like Pfizer & Moderna are less effective to Delta variant

It helps India in procuring suitable vaccine (Ex: 1 dose vaccine is ineffective to Delta vaccine) and timely intervention

As India prepares for the third wave, increasing genome sequencing & use of scientific evidence for decision making are not a chore but an absolute essential