INSACOG BULLETIN

15 August, 2023

The INSACOG reports genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 by whole genome sequencing of samples from sentinel sites across the country and international passengers arriving in India. A summary of the cumulative data of INSACOG and other state sequencing initiatives can be found in the INSACOG data portal along with other INSACOG related information at https://ibdc.rcb.res.in/

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Total number of samples sequenced is 296,986

Samples sequenced by IGSLs under State government MoUs: 35,441

Total number of samples sequenced: 332,427

The number of samples with pangolin lineages assigned are given below:

Table 1: Cumulative samples with pangolin lineage assigned (as on 08.08.2023)

Community sample	Travelers sample	Total pangolin lineage assigned	Total VOC/VOI	Percentage
209330	**12564**	**221894**	**185901**	**83.8**

Global Scenario

Globally, nearly 1.5 million new cases and 2500 deaths have been reported in the last 28 days (10 July to 6 August 2023), an increase of 80% and a decrease of 57%, respectively, compared to the previous 28 days [1].During the week 28-29 of the year 2023, recombinant lineages are continued to be the most prevalent variants globally. Currently, there are three variants of interest (VOI), XBB.1.5, XBB.1.16& EG.5 and six variants under monitoring (VUMs): BA.2.75, CH.1.1, XBB, XBB.1.9.1, XBB.1.9.2, and XBB.2.3. EG.5 was added as a VOI on 9 August 2023. EG.5 is a descendent lineage of XBB.1.9.2 with an additional mutation, F456L, in the spike protein. EG.5 has shown rising prevalence globally from 7.5% in week 25 to 17.4% in week 29 from a total of 48 countries. XBB.1.5 has declined in prevalence, being replaced by XBB.1.16 as the dominant variant globally. XBB.1.5 has been detected in 121 countries and accounted for 13.2% and 12.7% of cases in epidemiological week 28 and 29 respectively. XBB.1.16 has been reported from 101 countries and

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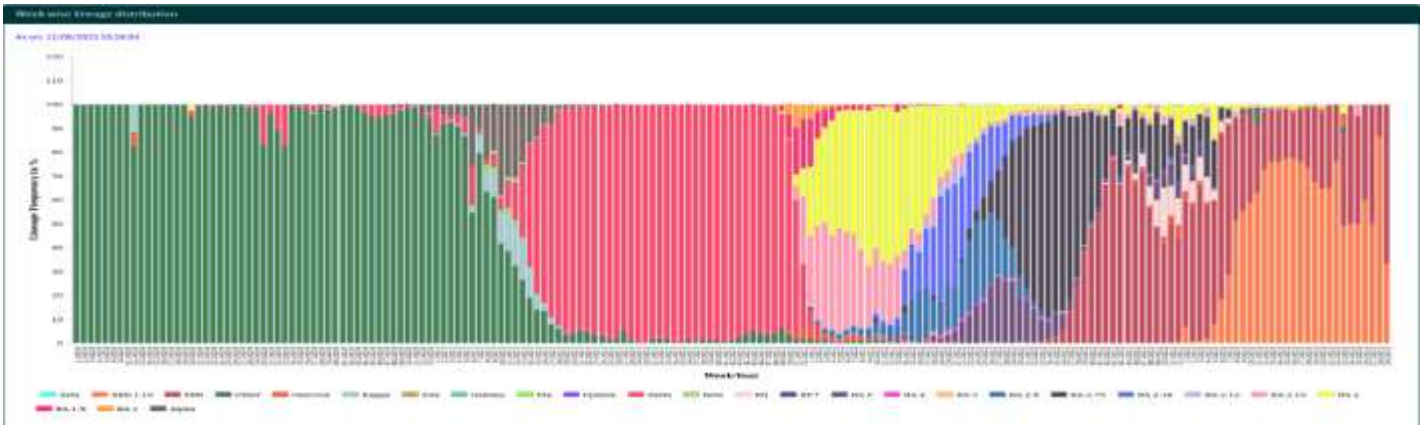
accounted for25.2% of sequences in week 29. Based on the available evidence, the public health risk of EG.5 was assessed to be low worldwide, aligning to the risk associated with XBB.1.16 and XBB.1.5.Although EG.5 has shown increased prevalence, predicted growth advantage and immune escape properties, no changes in disease severity have been reported so far.

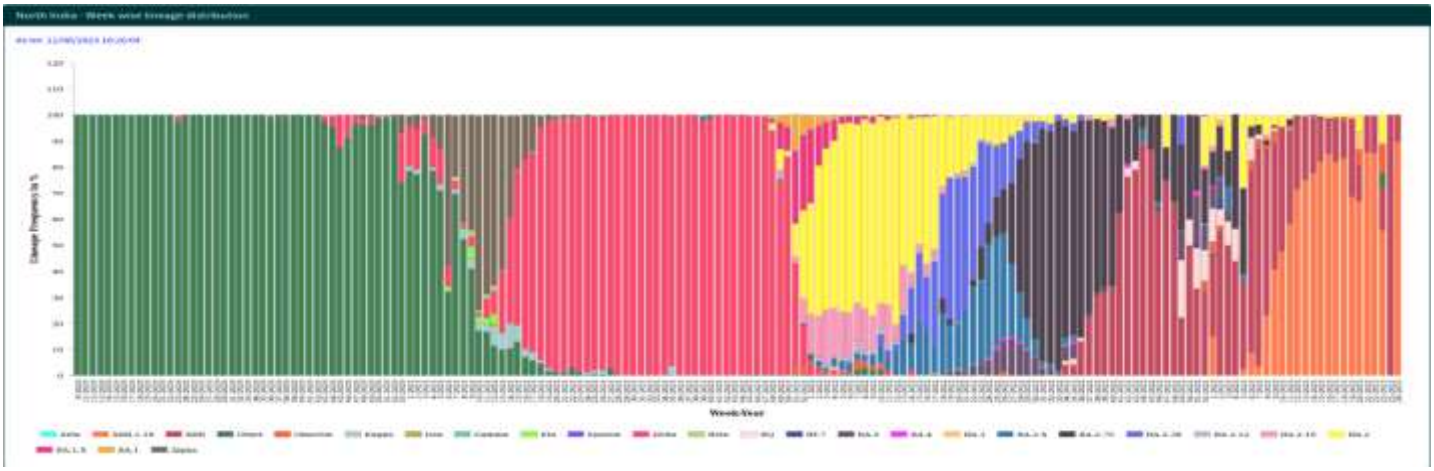
Indian Scenario

Omicron and its sub-lineages continue to be the dominant variants in India. The prevalence of recombinant variant XBB.1.16 has been observed in different parts of India, accounting for nearly 25.0% of the infection last week. Among the samples collected till the second week of August 2023, other XBB sub-lineages accounted for75.0% of the current infection. However, no increase in disease severity or hospitalization has been observed.

Country wide analysis:



Region-wise analysis:



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INDIAN SARS-CoV-2 GENOMICS CONSORTIUM

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

ICMR

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

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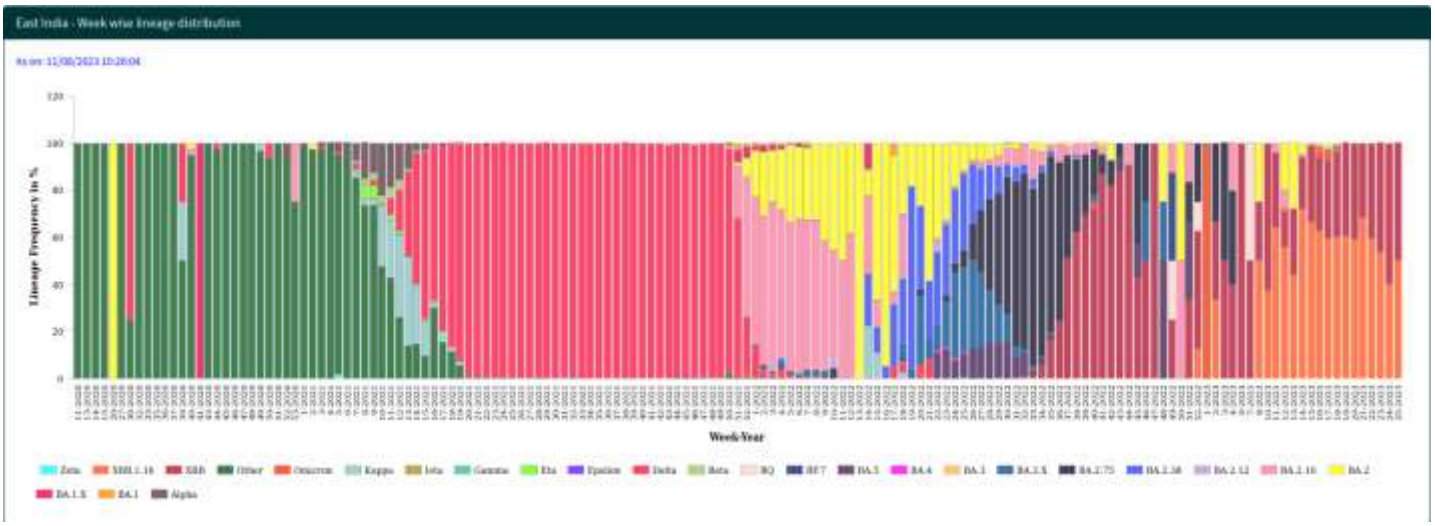

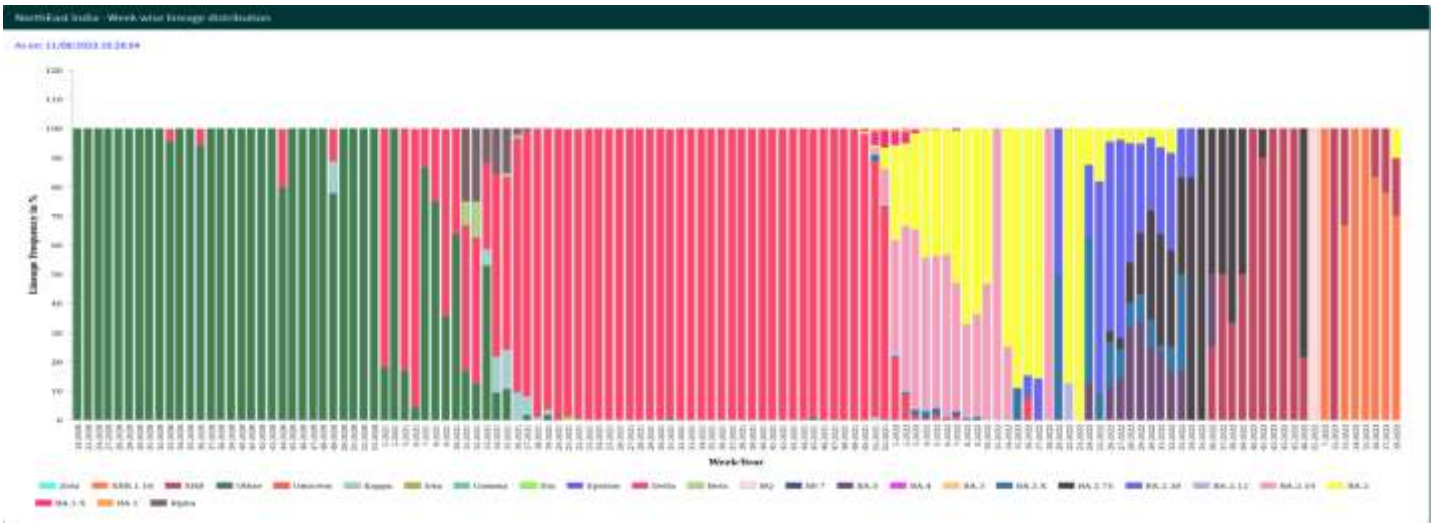

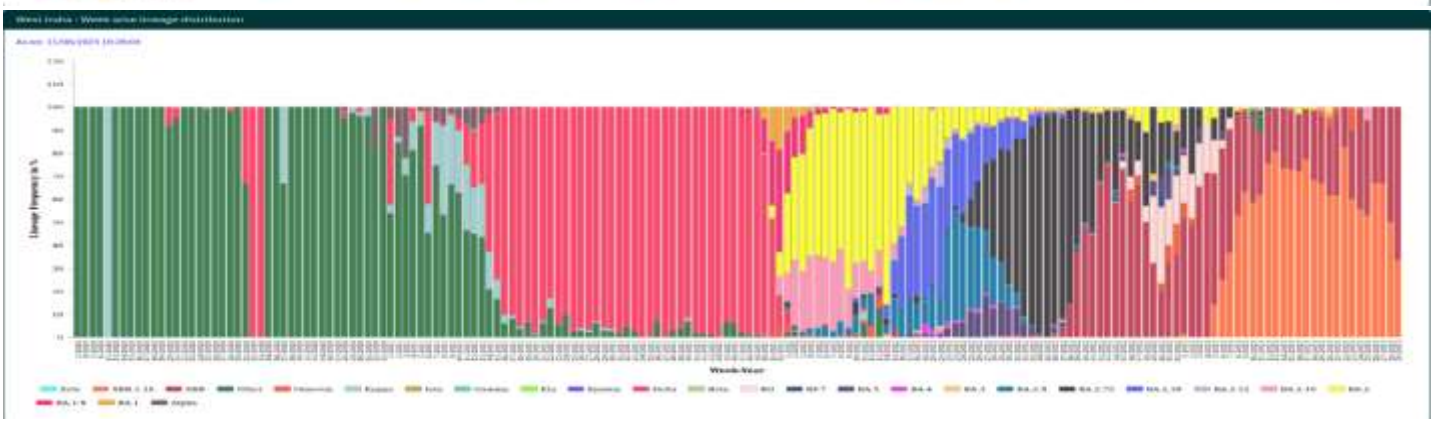

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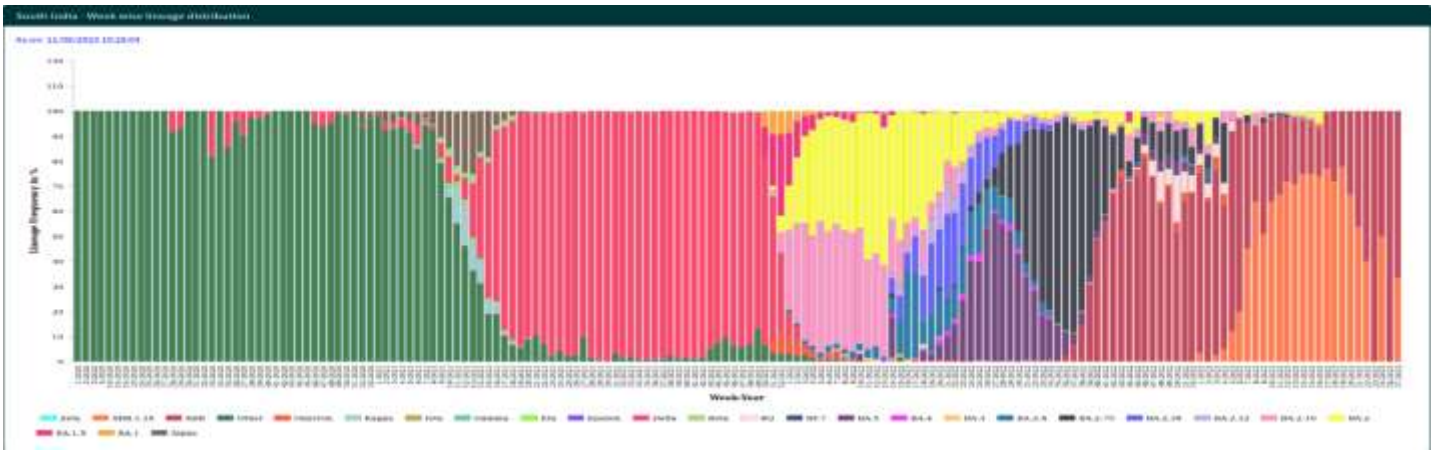

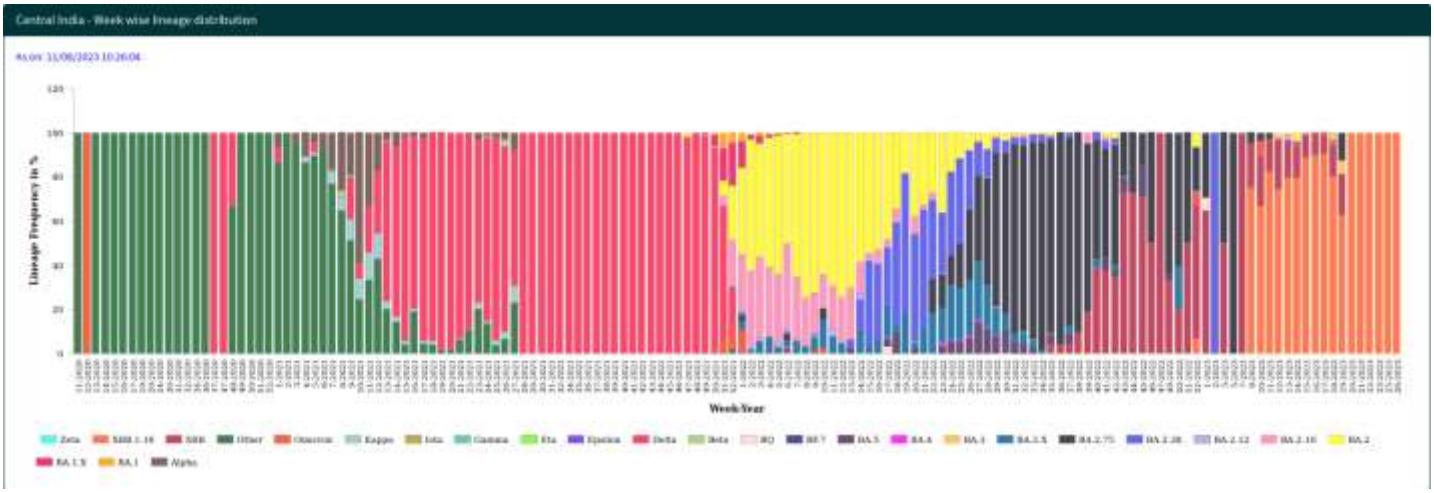

Reference:

1. WHO weekly epidemiological report.