

INSACOG BULLETIN

29 February 2024

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/>

INSACOG:

Number of samples sequenced by IGSLs 300,320

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

Total number of samples sequenced by labs associated with INSACOG including their efforts under MoU with States: 335,761

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

Table 1: Cumulative samples with pangolin lineage assigned (as on 22-02-2024)				
Community sample	Travelers sample	Total pangolin lineage assigned	Total VOC/VOI	Percentage
212969	12564	225533	189307	83.9

Global Scenario

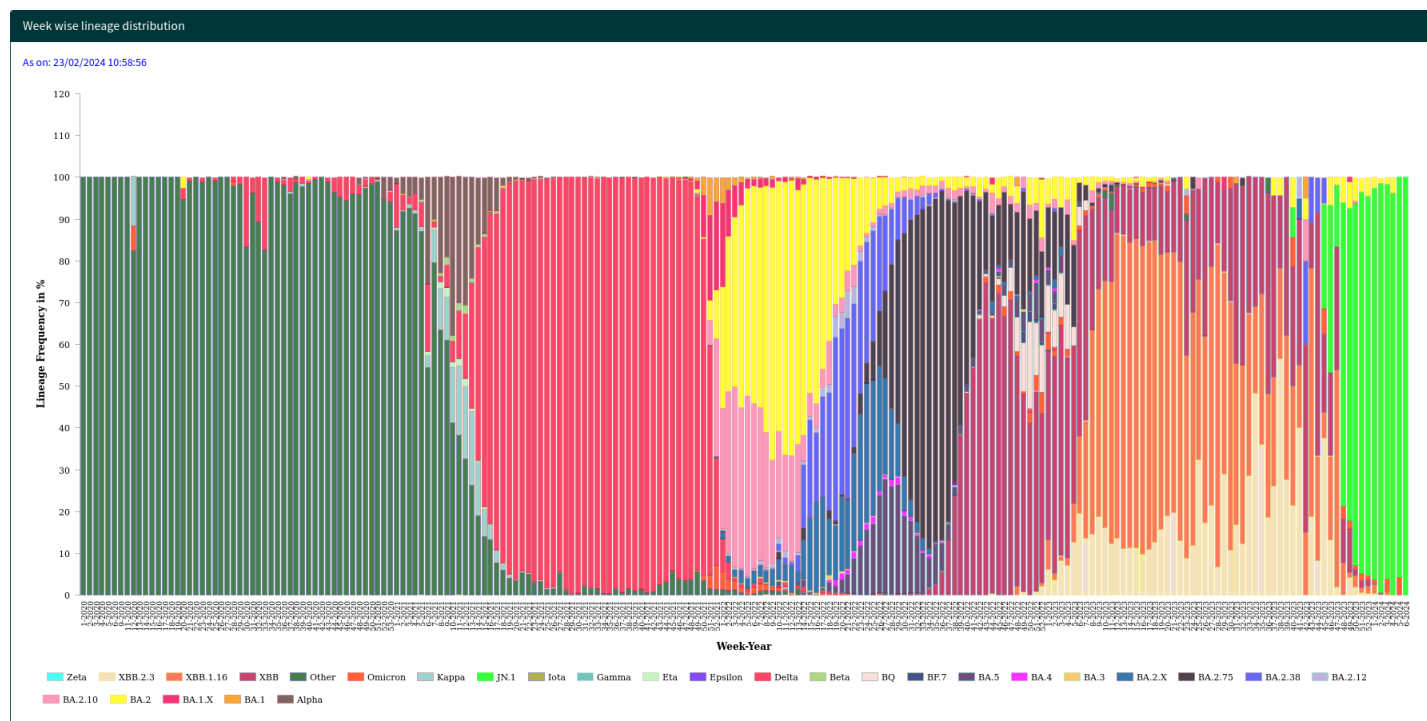
During the last 28-day period (from 8 January, 2024 to 4 February, 2024), over 503,000 new cases and 10,000 new deaths were reported globally. The number of reported new cases has decreased by 58% while the number of reported deaths has decreased by 31% compared to the previous 28 days¹. As of 29th February, 2024, 62,404 JN.1 sequences have been submitted to GISAID from 110 countries². Globally, JN.1 is now the most reported VOI, accounting for 88.2% of sequences in week 5 compared to 77.1% in week 2. Its parent lineage, BA.2.86, is declining and accounted for 3.7% of sequences in week 5. However, the JN.1 is of perceived as of low public health risk at the global level based on available evidence. WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants: five variants of interest (VOIs) – XBB.1.5, XBB.1.16, EG.5, BA.2.86 and JN.1; and three variants under monitoring (VUMs): XBB, XBB.1.9.1 and XBB.2.3. The other VOIs, XBB.1.5, XBB.1.16 and EG.5, have decreased in global prevalence during the same period. XBB.1.5, XBB.1.16 and EG.5 accounted for 0.9%, 0.4% and 5.4% of sequences respectively in week 5 of 2024. All the VUMs have also showed a decreasing trend.

INSACOG BULLETIN

Indian Scenario

During this reporting period, 100% of the submitted sequences were of JN.1 sub-variants. However, reported cases do not accurately represent infection rates due to the reduction in overall testing and reporting. INSACOG is continuing the surveillance of the emerging variants. However, no increase in disease severity or hospitalization has been observed with JN.1 sub-variants so far.

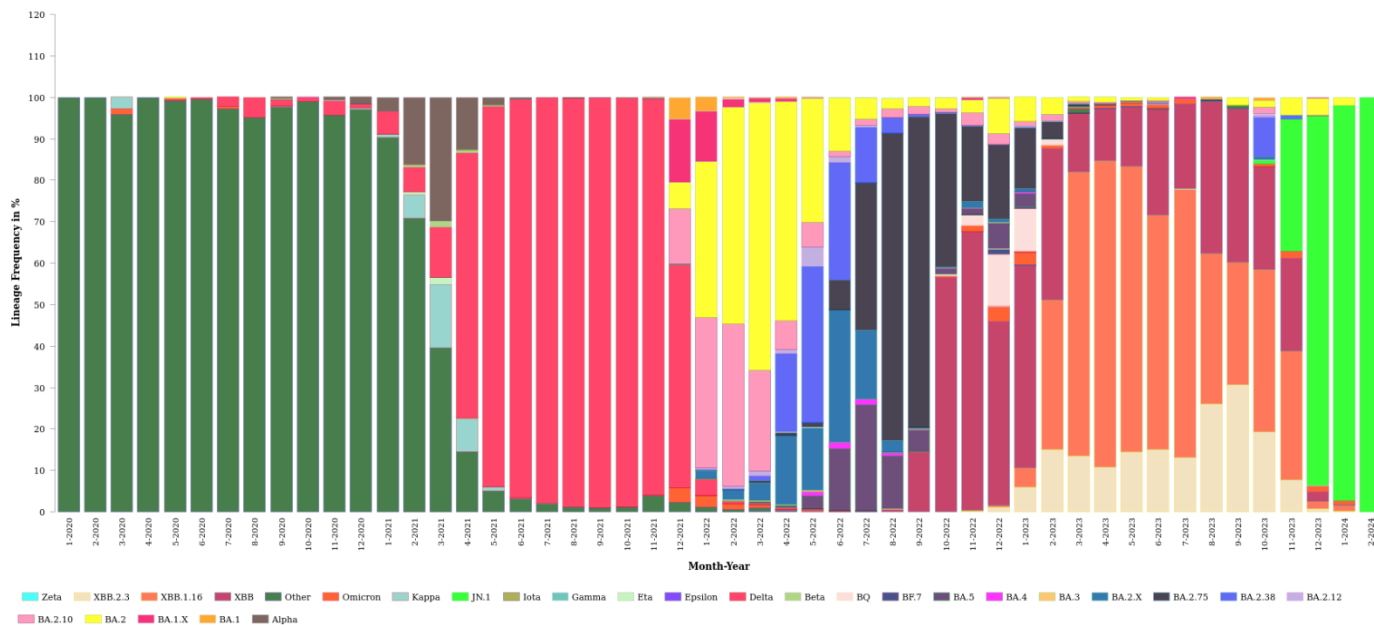
Country wide analysis:



INSACOG BULLETIN

Month wise lineage distribution

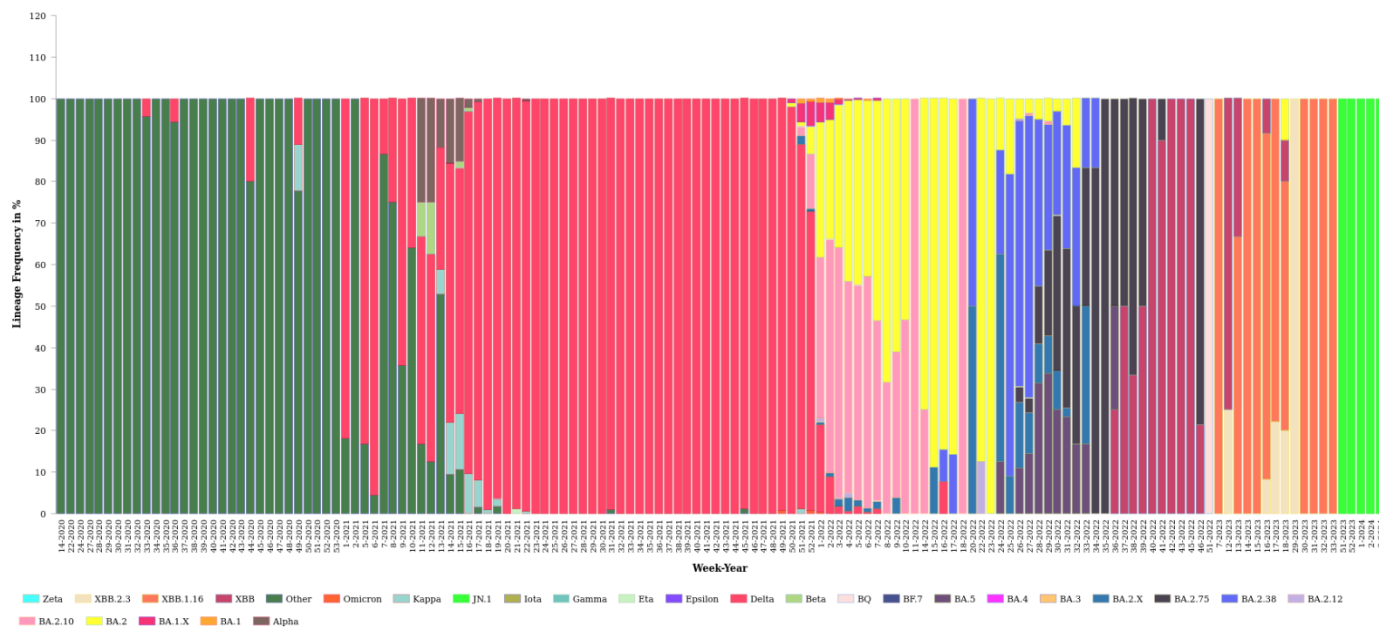
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Region-wise analysis:

NorthEast India - Week wise lineage distribution

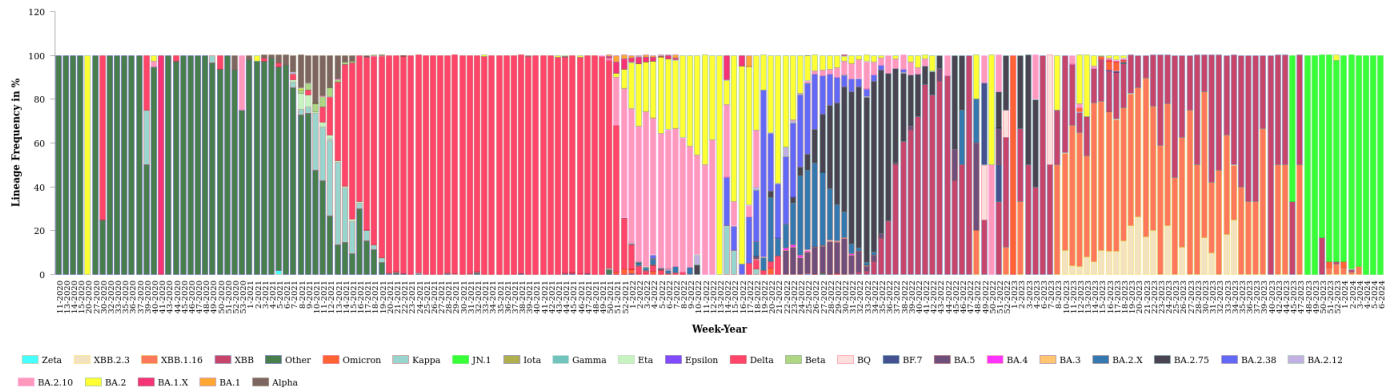
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INSACOG BULLETIN

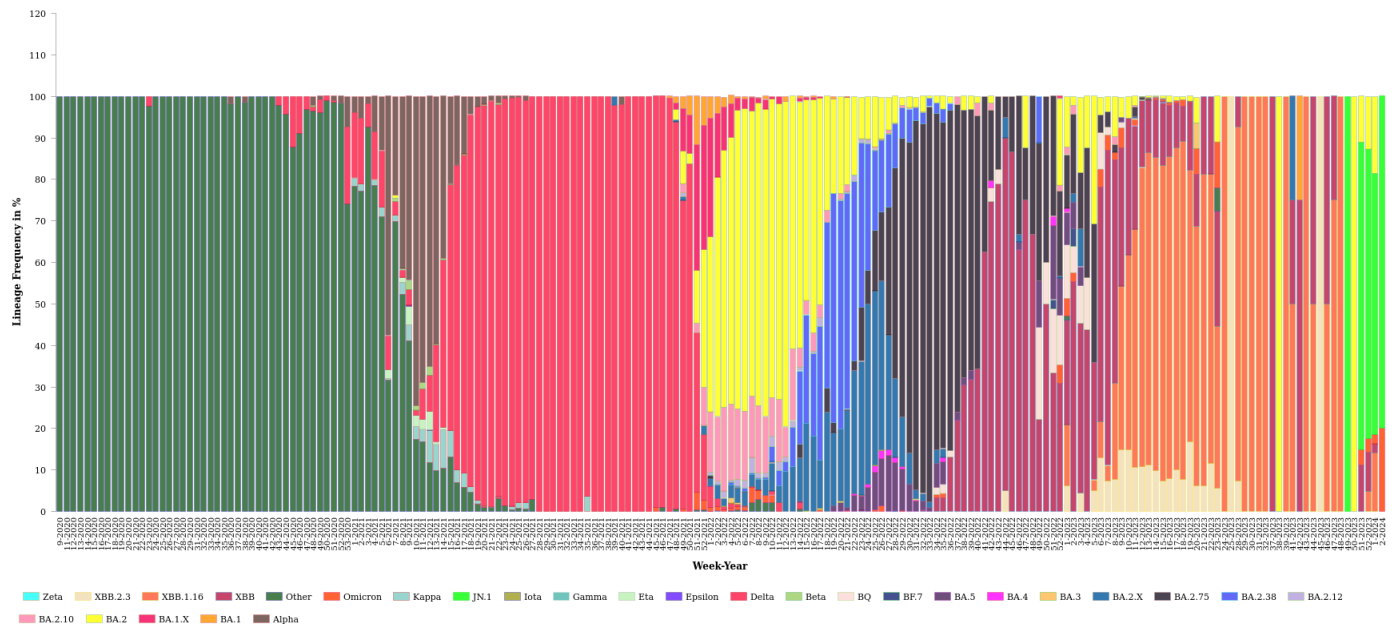
East India - Week wise lineage distribution

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North India - Week wise lineage distribution

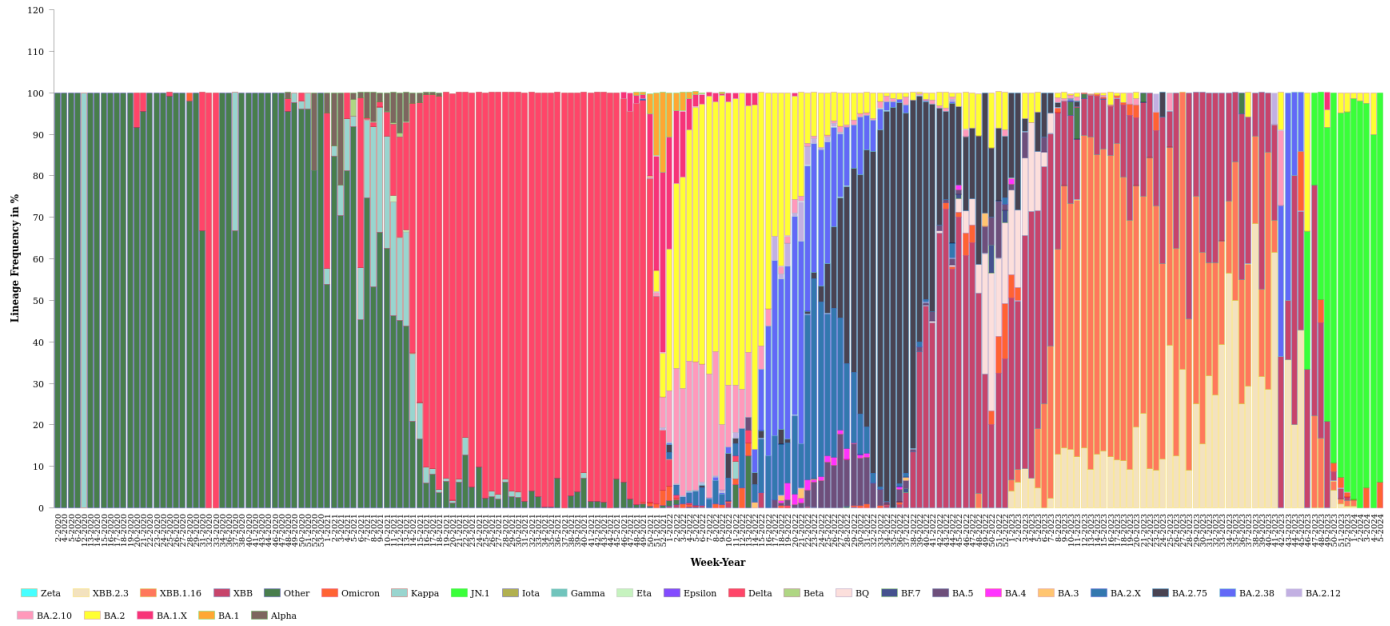
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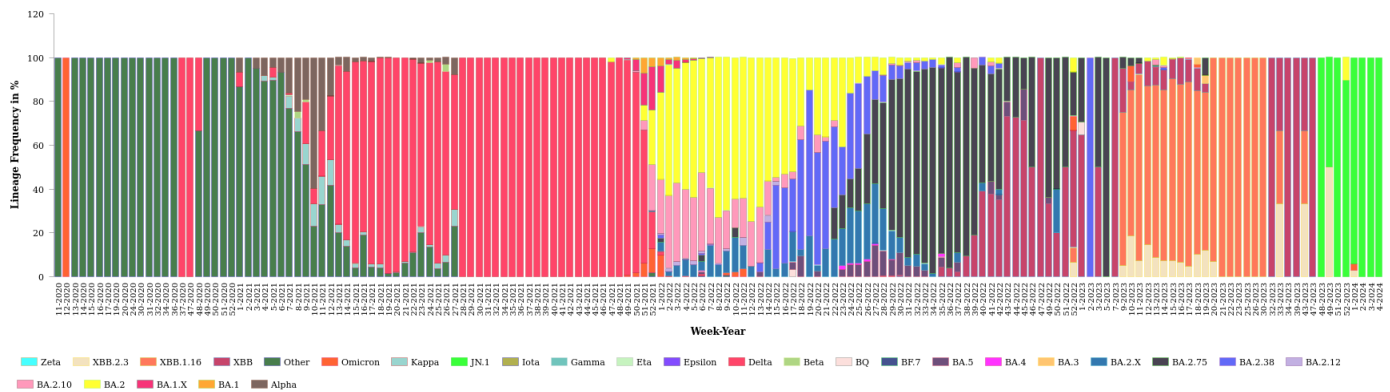
West India - Week wise lineage distribution

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Central India - Week wise lineage distribution

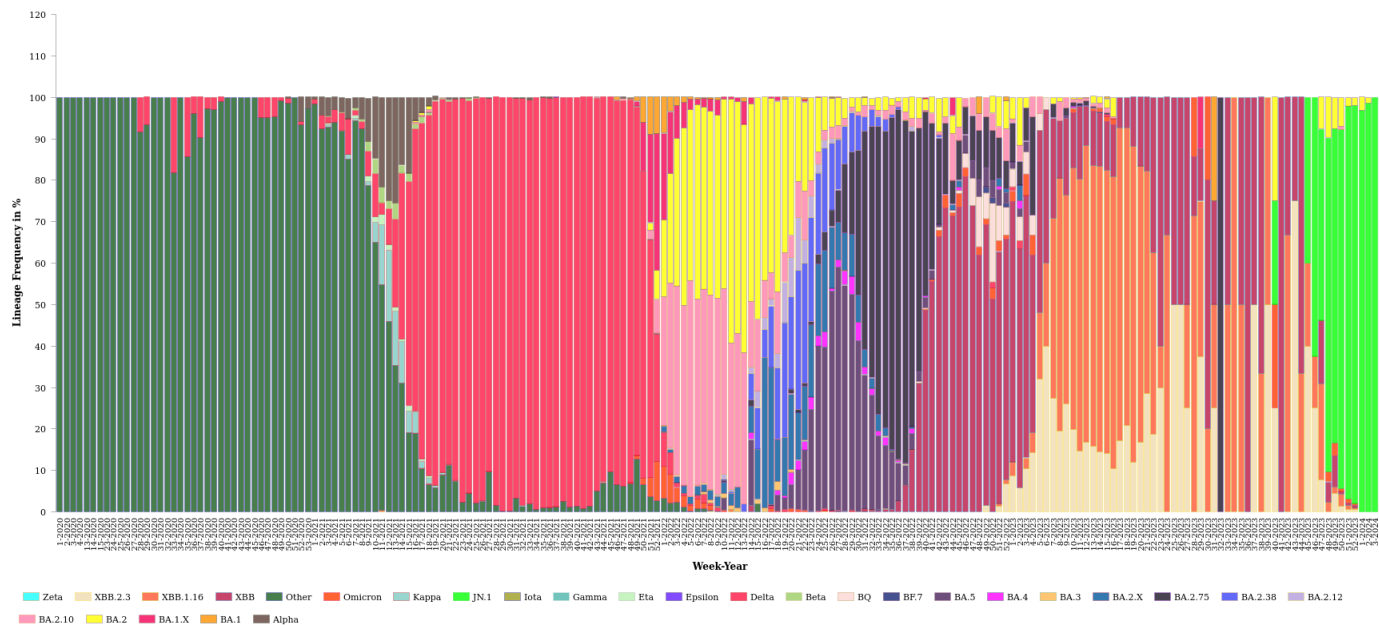
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INSACOG BULLETIN

South India - Week wise lineage distribution

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Reference:

1. WHO weekly epidemiological report.
2. GISAID. Available from: <https://gisaid.org/hcov19-variants/>