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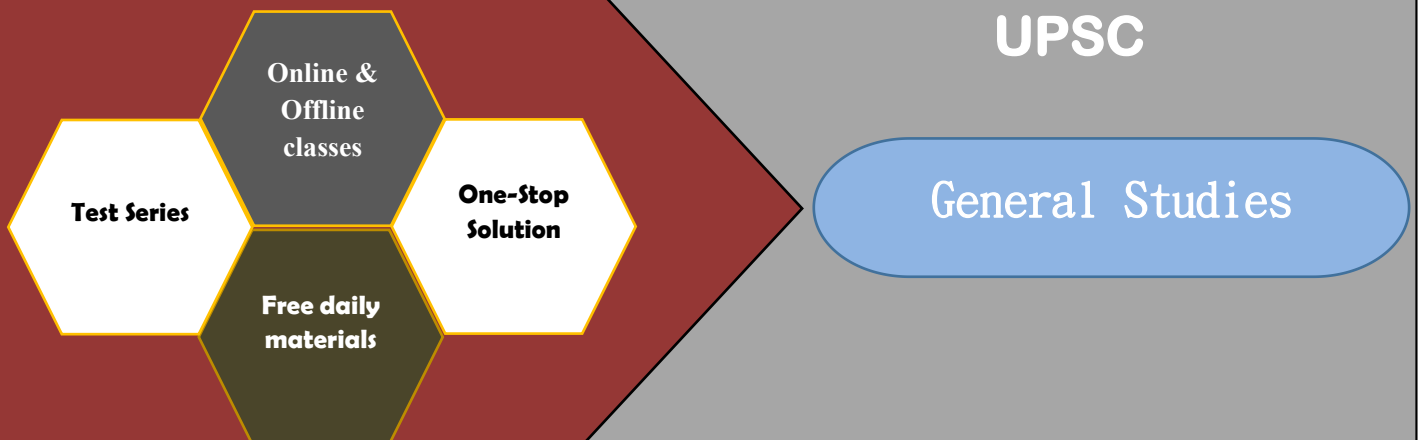
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Kappa Variant: Covid-19

Notes for civil services preparation



Kappa Variant: Covid-19

- 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.