Global Influenza Data Initiative (GISAID)

- GISAID is a global science initiative and primary source for **genomic data of influenza viruses** and the **novel coronavirus responsible** for COVID-19.
- It is headquartered in Munich, Germany.
- It is a not for profit organisation.
- Since its establishment in 2008, as an alternative to sharing avian influenza data via conventional public-domain archives.
- GISAID differs from other genetic sequence databases like GenBank and EMBL primarily in that users of GISAID must **have their identity confirmed** and **agree to a Database Access Agreement** that restricts the way GISAID data can be used.
- GISAID was **recognized for its importance to global health by G20 health ministers** in 2017.
- In 2020, GISAID entered into the **global research effort** to understand SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic, by making available **genomic sequences** that are modeled in real time, thereby helping to **detect viral mutations** and track movement of the virus across the planet.