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.