

# UNESCO Names Kozhikode 'City Of Literature' What Is UNESCO's Creative Cities Network?

## Why In The News?

- The City Of Kozhikode In Kerala Was Added In **UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN)**. Gwalior From Madhya Pradesh Was Also Among The 55 New Cities To Join The Network.
- These Cities Have Been Handpicked To Represent Seven Creative Fields Crafts And Folk Arts, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, And Music.
- **Kozhikode Was Included In The Category Of Literature And Gwalior In The Category Of Music.**

**INDIA TODAY**

**Kerala's Kozhikode named India's first 'City of Literature' by Unesco**

## UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- The UCCN Was **Created In 2004** To Promote Cooperation Among Cities That Have Identified Creativity As A Strategic Factor For **Sustainable Urban Development**. It Now Includes 350 Cities In Over A Hundred Countries.
- The Network Is Aimed At Leveraging The Creative, Social, And Economic Potential Of Cultural Industries.
- It Was Launched To Promote UNESCO's Goals Of **Cultural Diversity And Strengthen Resilience** To Threats Such As Climate Change, Rising Inequality, And Rapid Urbanization.

## Objective Of The UCCN

- The **UNESCO Creative Cities Network** Allows Member Cities To Recognise Creativity As An Essential Component Of Urban Development, Notably Through Partnerships Involving The Public And Private Sectors And Civil Society.
- It Envisages To Develop Hubs Of Creativity And Innovation And Broaden Opportunities For Creators And Professionals In The Cultural Sector. These Cities Have To Achieve The **UN Agenda Of Sustainable Development**.



## Annual Conference Of Network Cities

- A Highlight Of The Network Is The **Annual Conference Of Mayors** And Other Stakeholders Of Network Cities, Which Offers A Unique Occasion To Strengthen Ties Between Creative Cities From Across The World.
- The Main Objective Of The Conference Is To **Exchange Practical Information On Policies And Activities** Carried Out By Cities And Stimulate Inter-city Collaborations.
- The Last Conference Was Held In **Santos, Brazil**, And This Year's Conference Was In **Istanbul**. The Next Conference Will Be Held In **July 2024 In Braga, Portugal**.

## What Members Have To Do?

- Every Four Years, Member Cities Are Required To Submit **A Membership Monitoring Report**, With The Aim Of Demonstrating Their Steadfast Commitment Towards The Implementation Of The UCCN Mission Statement.
- They Present An Action Plan For The Following Four Years, **Providing Insights Into Their Achievements And Lessons Learnt**, As Well As The Impact Of The Designation.