



Kozhikode and Gwalior in UNESCO Creative Cities Network

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#) announced the addition of 55 new cities to its [Creative Cities Network \(UCCN\)](#). Among the new entrants, two Indian cities made their mark: **Kozhikode in Kerala as the 'City of Literature'** and **Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh as the 'City of Music'**.

Note

- Other Indian cities in the UCCN include Jaipur: Crafts and Folk Arts (2015), Varanasi: Creative City of Music (2015), Chennai: Creative City of Music (2017), Mumbai: Film (2019), Hyderabad: Gastronomy (2019), and Srinagar: Crafts and Folk Art (2021).

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India's both the nominations have been included
in the **UNESCO's Creative Cities Network**
Gwalior for Music & Kozhikode for Literature

Kozhikode

Gwalior

What is the Significance of Kozhikode and Gwalior?

▪ Kozhikode as City of Literature:

- Kozhikode is the **first city in India to receive** the prestigious title of 'City of Literature' by UNESCO.
- The city has a long history of hosting various literary events, such as the **Kerala Literature Festival**, which is one of the largest literary gatherings in Asia.
 - This acknowledgement reinforces the city's role as a hub for intellectual exchange and literary discussions.
 - Kozhikode carried the distinction of being home to over 500 libraries.
- The city is also home to many renowned writers, including **S. K. Pottekkatt (the most celebrated writer of the city)**, Thikkodiyar and P. Valsala Sanjayan, along with poets, scholars, and publishers who have contributed to the diversity and vibrancy of Malayalam literature and culture.

▪ Gwalior as the City of Music:

- Gwalior is the second city in India to be designated as the 'City of Music' by UNESCO, after Varanasi in 2015.
- The city is widely regarded as the birthplace of **Tansen**, one of the greatest musicians and composers in Indian history, who was **also one of the 'Navratnas' (nine jewels) in the court of Emperor Akbar**.
- The city is also the origin of the **Gwalior Gharana**, the oldest and most influential school of Hindustani classical music.
- The city hosts one of the biggest annual music festivals in India, the **Tansen Sangeet Samaroh**, which attracts thousands of music lovers and artists from across the country and abroad.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- It was **created in 2004**.
- It aims to "promote cooperation among cities which recognize creativity as a strategic factor in their urban development".
 - **Sustainable Development Goal 11** aims for Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- The **network covers seven creative fields**: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.