Initiatives for Cities: MoHUA

Why in News

Recently, the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** has launched **three initiatives,** namely,

- The **Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge** that focuses on shaping cities for young children and their families.
- The **Data Maturity Assessment Framework - Cycle 2** to evaluate data ecosystems of cities.
- An **on-line training programme for City Data Officers (CDOs)** of 100 Smart Cities.

Key Points

- **Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge:**

  - It is a **three-year initiative** that will **support cities** to develop, pilot, and scale solutions that **enhance the quality of life of young children,** their caregivers and families in the public realm.
  - It will be **open to** all smart cities, other cities with more than 5,00,000 population, and capitals of states and Union territories.
  - **Cities will receive technical assistance and help** in capacity-building to re-imagine parks and open spaces, improve access to early childhood facilities, adapt public spaces with early childhood-oriented amenities, and create accessible, safe, walkable streets for young children and families.

- **Data Maturity Assessment Framework - Cycle 2:**

  - **Background:**

    - The **Smart Cities Mission** launched the **DataSmart Cities Strategy** in February 2019, as a roadmap for harnessing the potential of data to address complex urban challenges across 100 Cities.
    - To successfully implement this initiative, the **Data Maturity Assessment Framework** was also launched to encourage cities to strengthen their data infrastructure and facilitate them in assessing their readiness and maturity on data.

  - **DMAF -Cycle 2:** It will support cities in the **creation of 'culture of data'.**

    - The **core objective** of this framework is to enable cities to assess their own data maturity with respect to a standardized framework covering aspects of enabling policies, governance structures, data management, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement at the city level.
    - This is expected to **play an enabling role in democratizing the data culture** for open- innovation, collaboration, co-creation and academic research.
    - The assessment for this cycle has been **expanded to include cities other than Smart Cities.**
    - It is in line with the **Digital India Campaign** which ensures that the government's services are made available to citizens more efficiently by leveraging data and digital technologies.

  - **Data Maturity:** It is the extent to which an organisation utilises the data they produce.

- **On-line Training Programme for City Data Officers:**

    - **Specially designed for CDOs appointed in the 100 Smart Cities,** it is a practice-based digital course that will expose CDOs to basic and advanced tools for data collection, analysis and visualization.
- **Other Recent Initiatives:**

    - **Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0**, along with the **'Streets for People Challenge'**
    - **India Cycles4Change Challenge**

Source: PIB

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