



Kozhikode, UNESCO's City of Literature

Source: [HT](#)

Why in News?

Recently, [UNESCO](#) recognised **Kozhikode** as the 'City of Literature' under the [UNESCO Creative Cities Network \(UCCN\)](#).

What is the UNESCO Creative Cities Network?

▪ About:

- **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)** was created in 2004.
- The network covers seven creative fields namely **Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music**.
- The **annual conference of mayors and other stakeholders** of network cities offers a unique occasion to **strengthen ties between creative cities** from across the world.
- In 2024, the conference will be held in July in **Braga, Portugal**.

▪ Objective:

- In 2024, **350 cities** make up this network which aims towards a common objective of placing **creativity and cultural industries** at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.
- The **UNESCO Creative Cities** aims to achieve [Sustainable Development Goals 11](#) through innovative thinking and action to benefit communities at the urban level.

▪ Significance:

- **UNESCO Creative Cities** pledge to share **best practices and develop partnerships** involving **public and private sectors** as well as **civil society** to strengthen the creation, production, and distribution of **cultural activities**.

Which are Indian Cities in UCCN?

▪ Kozhikode:

- **Kozhikode** hosts many prominent personalities of **Kerala's literary and cultural world**, leading **media houses, several libraries** (over 500 libraries) and has also produced many **films and theatre professionals** over the years.
- The **first Malayalam novel Kundalatha** was written by **Appu Nedungadi** in Kozhikode in 1887
- Many renowned writers like **S. K. Pottekkatt, Thikkodiyam and P. Valsala Sanjayan**, along with poets, scholars, and publishers have contributed to the diversity and vibrancy of **Malayalam literature and culture**.

▪ Other Indian cities in the UCCN:

- **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).

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q1. Recently, the manuscripts of which one of the following have been included in the UNESCO's Memory of World Register? (2008)

- (a) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- (b) Mahabharata
- (c) Ramayana
- (d) Rig-Veda

Ans: (d)

Q2. Out of all the Biosphere Reserves in India, four have been recognized on the World Network by UNESCO. Which one of the following is not one of them? (2008)

- (a) Gulf of Mannar
- (b) Kanchenjunga
- (c) Nanda Devi
- (d) Sunderbans

Ans: (b)

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