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UNESCO's Network of Creative Cities

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Why in News?

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has included **Mumbai and Hyderabad** in its network of 'Creative Cities' among the 66 cities selected on the occasion of **World Cities Day 2019 (31st October)**.

With the addition of 66 new cities, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network counts a total of 246 cities.

- **Mumbai** has been designated as **Creative City of Films** and **Hyderabad** as a **Creative City of Gastronomy**.

Earlier, Indian cities like **Chennai and Varanasi** have been included in **UNESCO Cities of Music** while **Jaipur** has been included in the **City of Crafts and Folk Arts**.

Significance

By joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), the 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.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- It was created in **2004**.
- **Currently (2019), 246 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** through innovative thinking and action.
 - Also, cities are championing sustainable development actions that directly benefit communities at the urban level.
 - **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.

World Cities Day 2019

- The **United Nations General Assembly** has designated the **31st of October** as World Cities Day.
- The **theme** for World Cities Day,2019 is, “**Changing the world: innovations and a better life for future generations**”.

Source: BS