



## Initiatives for Cities: MoHUA

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### Why in News

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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

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- **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