



Connect Karo 2021

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Why in News

Recently, the **Union Home Minister** addressed the '**Connect Karo 2021**' - Towards **Equitable, Sustainable Indian Cities**' Event.

Key Points

- **About:**

It is part of a **global series of events** that **World Resources Institute (WRI)** India organizes and hosts, to **bring together Indian and global leaders, and other stakeholders** committed towards **designing inclusive, sustainable and climate forward Indian cities**.

WRI India is an independent charity, legally registered as the **India Resources Trust**.

- **Importance of Cities:**
 - **Contribution to GDP:**
 - **By 2030, almost 70% of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will come from cities as rapid urbanisation facilitates efficiencies of agglomerations.**
 - The best-performing cities globally **contribute five times more to national GDP** than comparable Indian cities.
 - **Impact of Covid-19:**

By 2030, the **urban population in India will almost double to 630 million** and to facilitate this level of growth it is needed to upgrade the **urban infrastructure considerably** and the impact of **Covid-19** on our cities has made this even more significant.
 - **Help in Fighting Climate Change:**

As the recent **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report** suggests, **cities are the major contributors as well as worst affected from climate change**, hence, cities will be the battlegrounds for the fight against climate change.

Even **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 11** includes investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in participatory and inclusive ways.
- **Related Governments Initiatives:**
 - **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)**: Launched in 2015, it intends to **provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022.**
 - **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT Mission)**: Launched in 2015, it aims to provide **basic civic amenities** for all.
 - **Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework**: It is a step to **adopt, implement, and disseminate** the best practices adopted by our cities and further set standards in comparison to the international efforts towards the green, sustainable, and resilient urban habitats.
 - **Urban Transport scheme**: Under the scheme, public bus transport services will be augmented by deploying public-private partnerships to finance over 20,000 buses.
 - **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)**: It will provide universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all statutory towns.
 - **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**: It was launched on 2nd October 2014 which aims at making urban India **free from open defecation and achieving 100% scientific management** of municipal solid waste in the country.

Note

- **UNESCO Creative Cities Network:**

- It was **created in 2004** and 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 network **covers seven creative fields:** crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.

- **World Cities Culture Forum:**

- It was **established in London in 2012**. It **enables the policy makers of member cities to share research and intelligence**, and explores the vital role of culture in their future prosperity.
- **No Indian city is part of this forum.**

Source: PIB