



UNESCO Recognition for Cities

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government will apply for [UNESCO](#) recognition for five cities as intangible heritage and creative cities to preserve the state's cultural heritage and gain global recognition.

Key Points

- **Selected Cultural Cities (Elements):**
 - [Perfume of kannauj](#)
 - [Holi of Braj](#)
 - [Ganga Aarti in Varanasi](#)
 - **Glass Art of Firozabad**
 - **Black Pottery of Azamgarh (Nizamabad)**
- **Further Attempt:**
 - The State government is also making efforts to include **the folk art and folk literature of Bundelkhand in the intangible cultural heritage** of humanity.
 - Research will be conducted on **the Deg-Bhapka method , historical importance, socio-economic impact and traditional processes** for **Kannauj perfume**.
 - **The historical, spiritual and ritualistic significance of the Ganga Aarti of Varanasi** will be studied.
 - **Holi of Braj**, especially **Lathmar Holi** will be given prominence.
 - Documents will be prepared by conducting research on **Alha singing and Rai dance of Bundelkhand , black pottery of Azamgarh and glass industry of Firozabad**.
- **Historical context and UNESCO recognition:**
 - In the year **2017**, due to the efforts of the central and state governments, [Kumbh](#) was for **the first time** recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity.
 - **Effects and potential benefits:**
 - **By getting global recognition** , these cultural heritages will get promotion at international level.
 - **Tourism will be boosted** , which will benefit the local economy.
 - **Local artisans, artists and traditional industries will get protection** , which will strengthen their livelihood.
 - **Preservation of culture and heritage** will be promoted, so that these traditions remain safe for generations to come.

UNESCO

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** is a specialized agency of **the United Nations (UN)** . This organization strives to establish peace through international cooperation in the field of education, science and culture.
- UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of **the Sustainable Development Goals** defined in Agenda 2030 , adopted by **the United Nations General Assembly in 2015**.
- It has **193 member countries and 11 associate members**. India joined UNESCO in 1946 .
- The United States and Israel formally left UNESCO in 2019.
- Its **headquarters is in Paris (France)**.

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