



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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UNESCO'S CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK (UCCN)

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details " UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN)". This topic has relevance in the Human Development section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

GS 2: Human Development

Why in the news?

Kozhikode, Gwalior added to Unesco 'creative cities' for literature, music

About UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN):

- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was established in 2004 to promote collaboration among cities that prioritize creativity as a strategic element for sustainable urban development. This global network includes 350 cities spanning over a hundred countries.
- The UCCN aligns with UNESCO's goals of promoting cultural diversity and strengthening urban resilience in the face of challenges like climate change, inequality, and rapid urbanization.

Aim and Objectives:

- The UCCN focuses on harnessing the creative, social, and economic potential of cultural industries to drive urban development.
- It encourages a culture of creativity in urban planning and seeks innovative solutions to urban challenges.
- Member cities are encouraged to recognize creativity as a fundamental aspect of urban development, forging partnerships that involve the public and private sectors as well as civil society.
- The UCCN aims to create hubs of creativity and innovation, expanding opportunities for professionals in the cultural sector and contributing to the UN's sustainable development agenda.



Areas of Action:

- The objectives of the UCCN are implemented at both the city level and the international level. This involves sharing experiences, knowledge, and best practices. Activities include professional and artistic exchange programs, research, and evaluations of the experiences of creative cities.

Annual Conference of Network Cities:

- A highlight of the UCCN is the annual conference, where mayors and other stakeholders from network cities gather. This event provides a unique opportunity to strengthen ties between creative cities worldwide.
- The previous conference was held in Santos, Brazil, while the most recent was in Istanbul. The upcoming conference is scheduled for July 2024 in Braga, Portugal.

Responsibilities of Member Cities:

- Member cities within the UCCN are required to submit a Membership Monitoring Report every four years. These reports demonstrate their commitment to implementing the UCCN Mission Statement. They present an action plan for the following four years, highlighting achievements, lessons learned, and the impact of the UCCN designation.

Indian Cities in the Network:

- Several Indian cities have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, including Kozhikode, Gwalior, Varanasi (music), Srinagar (crafts and folk arts), and Chennai (music).
- These cities are actively contributing to the network's objectives and leveraging their cultural richness for sustainable urban development.

Kozhikode's Literary Tradition:

- Kozhikode, a city in India, has a rich literary heritage, with notable contributions such as the first Malayalam novel, Kundalatha, authored by Appu Nedungadi in 1887.
- The city has produced renowned writers and cultural figures, as well as professionals in the film and theater industry, strengthening its position within the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

UNESCO

- UNESCO, which stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is a specialized agency within the United Nations (UN) system.
- Established with a constitution that came into force in 1946, UNESCO has played a pivotal role in promoting international collaboration in the field of education, science, and culture.
- Headquartered in Paris, France, it operates under the purview of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- UNESCO's fundamental goals revolve around fostering peace, security, sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue.

Key Areas of Focus:

- **Education:** UNESCO places a strong emphasis on advocating for quality education accessible to all. Its efforts encompass facilitating access to education, enhancing teacher training, and promoting global citizenship.
- **Natural Sciences:** The organization supports scientific research and the application of science to address pressing global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable development.
- **Culture:** UNESCO is dedicated to safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, including monuments, sites, traditions, and languages. It also champions cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.
- **Communication and Information:** UNESCO actively promotes freedom of expression, the development of media, and access to information. It strives to create a free, independent, and pluralistic media environment.
- **World Heritage Sites:** One of UNESCO's notable responsibilities is the designation and maintenance of a list of World Heritage Sites. These sites are recognized as having outstanding universal value and are protected for future generations.

Key UNESCO Reports:

- Global Education Monitoring Report
- The United Nations World Water Development Report
- World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development
- Global Ocean Science Report

SOURCE:

[Kozhikode, Gwalior added to Unesco 'creative cities' for literature, music \(msn.com\)](#)

Q.1 Which of the following statements regarding UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN) is/are correct?

1. UCCN was established to promote creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
2. Member cities within UCCN are not required to submit periodic reports demonstrating their commitment to its mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: A

Q.2 Consider the following reports:

1. Global Education Monitoring Report
2. The United Nations World Water Development Report
3. World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development
4. Global Ocean Science Report

How many of the above reports are published by UNESCO?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

ANSWER: D

Q.3 Discuss the significance of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN) in promoting sustainable urban development and cultural diversity. Provide examples of Indian cities in the network and their contributions to this global initiative.

Rishabh

LUCY MISSION

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Lucy Mission". This topic has relevance in the Science and Technology section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

*About the Lucy Mission?
Trojan Asteroids?*

For Mains:

*GS 3: Science and Technology
Key Aspects of the Lucy Mission?*

Why in the news?

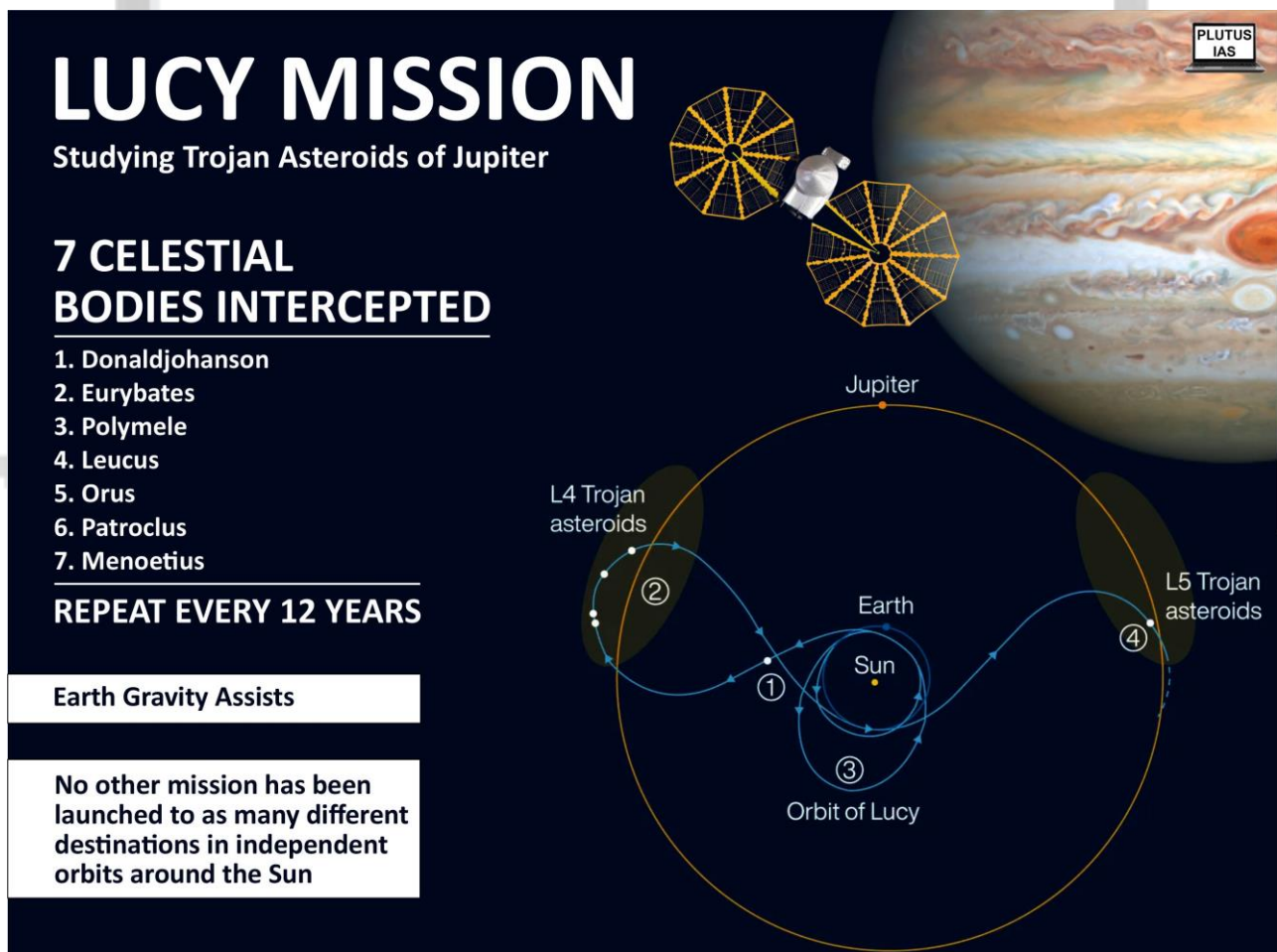
NASA's Lucy mission has discovered that the asteroid Dinkinesh is actually a binary system of two asteroids.

About Lucy Mission:

The Lucy mission, initiated by NASA, is an extraordinary venture designed to explore the enigmatic Trojan asteroids of Jupiter. Launched successfully on October 16, 2021, from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the mission is set to span 12 years, providing valuable insights into these ancient relics of our solar system's formation.

Key Aspects of the Lucy Mission:

- **Objective:** Lucy is the first mission of its kind, dedicated to the exploration of Jupiter's Trojan asteroids. These asteroids share the same orbit as Jupiter, with two distinct groups at the leading (L4) and trailing (L5) Lagrangian points of the planet.
- **Mission Duration:** Over its 12-year mission duration, Lucy will make close encounters with a remarkable number of asteroids. It will pass by two asteroids within the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, followed by encounters with ten Trojan asteroids, including both individual asteroids and the moons of some of them.
- **Earth Flybys:** As a unique feature, Lucy will execute three Earth flybys. These flybys will utilize Earth's gravity to provide the necessary velocity adjustments, allowing Lucy to reach its target Trojans. This marks Lucy as the first spacecraft to return to Earth's vicinity from the outer solar system.
- **Scientific Instruments:** Lucy is equipped with two infrared spectrometers and four cameras, enabling it to conduct detailed observations and gather critical data about the Trojan asteroids.



Trojan Asteroids:

Trojan asteroids are asteroids that share Jupiter's orbit but are situated at the planet's Lagrangian points, specifically the leading (L4) and trailing (L5) points.

Key characteristics of Trojan asteroids include:

- **Stable Orbits:** These asteroids occupy stable Lagrangian points within Jupiter's orbit around the Sun, maintaining a stable position despite the gravitational forces at play.
- **Ancient Remnants:** Trojan asteroids are believed to be some of the oldest remnants from the formation of the solar system, dating back approximately 5 billion years.
- **Two Groups:** There are over 4,800 known Trojan asteroids associated with Jupiter, and they are categorized into two loose groups: the leading group ahead of Jupiter in its orbit and the trailing group, positioned at the same distance from the Sun as Jupiter.

Lagrange Points:

Lagrange points are positions in space where the gravitational forces of a two-body system, such as the Sun and the Earth or Sun and Jupiter, create regions of enhanced attraction and repulsion. These points have significance for several reasons:

- **Balanced Forces:** At Lagrange points, the gravitational pull of two large masses precisely equals the centripetal force required for a smaller object to move with them, resulting in a state of equilibrium.
- **Spacecraft Utilization:** Spacecraft can use Lagrange points to reduce fuel consumption required to maintain a stable position in space, making them advantageous for missions like Lucy.

Source:

[Asteroid Dinkinesh is actually two space rocks, finds NASA's Lucy mission | Technology News - The Indian Express](#)

Q.1 Consider the following statements:

1. The Lucy Mission is led by the European Space Agency (ESA) in collaboration with NASA.
2. The mission aims to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids, which share the planet's orbit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: B

Q.2 Consider the following statements:

1. These asteroids have stable orbits, maintaining their positions despite the gravitational forces at play.
2. Trojan asteroids are believed to be among the youngest celestial bodies in our solar system, dating back just a few million years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: A

Q.3 Discuss the significance of the Lucy Mission initiated by NASA in exploring the Trojan asteroids of Jupiter. Analyze the potential scientific and practical applications of the knowledge gained through this mission.

Rishabh

