



# Boost for Artisans in Rajasthan

## Why in News?

The Rajasthan government is planning to implement an **'integrated cluster development scheme'**, which will help boost the productivity and quality of handicrafts, handlooms, and [Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises \(MSME\)](#) sectors.

- A draft had already been prepared and suggestions were being sought from stakeholders.

## Key Points

- **Cluster development schemes** are being run by various central government ministries such as MSME, textiles, food processing, information and technology, and commerce and industry to support MSMEs.
- According to the draft policy, there are **four main components of the scheme:**
  - The key component includes **support for artisans, craftsmen, and weavers** for undertaking soft interventions for capacity building, operation of the raw material bank for easy availability of resources, and market development through e-commerce platforms.
  - The other is support for MSME clusters for establishing **Common Facility Centres (CFCs)** with assistance from the state government for projects of up to Rs 5 crore.
  - Another component notes infrastructure development for existing clusters in **non-Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO)** industrial areas and for greenfield clusters in non-RIICO industrial areas.
- The draft policy says that for implementation of the cluster development project related to artisans, craftsmen and weavers, a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** will be constituted as a partnership firm and/or a trust or society or co-operative society or company or producer company etc. with at least ten artisans, craftsmen and/or weavers, having registered artisan ID card. Artisans, craftsmen, and weavers practicing their trade in Rajasthan will be eligible to be part of the SPV.

## Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO)

- It is a premier agency of the Government of Rajasthan that has played an important role in the industrial development of Rajasthan, it was **formed in 1980**.
- A Government enterprise established under **Companies Act, 1956** on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1969 as Rajasthan State Industrial & Mineral Development Corporation (RSIMDC) was divided into two entities on 1st January 1980:
  - Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Limited (**RIICO**)
  - Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation (**RSMDC**)

