



## Solar Charkha Mission

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### Why In News

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Recently, the **Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises** gave information about the **Solar Charkha Mission** in **Lok Sabha**.

### Key Points

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- The **Solar Charkha Mission** is an enterprise driven scheme and envisages setting up of '**Solar Charkha Clusters**' which will have **200 to 2042 beneficiaries** (Spinners, Weavers, Stitchers and other skilled artisans).
- One cluster would involve a maximum **subsidy of Rs. 9.60 crore** provided in form of **Capital subsidy for individual** and **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), interest subvention for working capital** and **capacity building**.
- These solar charkhas are to be operated **using solar power which is a renewable energy source**. It will help in the development of **Green Economy** as it is an **environment friendly programme**. It will also **generate sustainable employment for the artisans**.

### Background

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- The Solar Charkha Mission is a **Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) initiative launched during June 2018**.
- A pilot project on Solar Charkha was implemented at **Khanwa village, Nawada District of Bihar in 2016**. Based on the success of the pilot project, the Government of India had accorded approval to set up 50 such clusters with a budget of **Rs. 550 Crore for 2018-19 and 2019-20**.
- The scheme is envisaged to generate direct employment nearly to **one lakh persons in the approved clusters**.

### Scheme Objectives

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- To ensure inclusive **growth by generation of employment, especially for women and youth**, and **sustainable development** through solar charkha clusters in **rural areas**.
- To **boost rural economy** and help in arresting **migration from rural to urban areas**.
- To leverage **low-cost**, innovative **technologies and processes for sustenance**.

**Source: PIB**