



Visit to Channapatna Lacware Toys Cluster, Channapatna, Karnataka

The Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation (IMEDF) team visited the Channapatna Lacware Toys Cluster to ascertain the progress of the cluster after it became fully functional on 31 March, 2022. The cluster was sanctioned under SFURTI by the Ministry of MSME on 9 February, 2021. IMEDF is the nodal agency, Movement for Alternatives and Youth Awareness (MAYA), Bengaluru is the implementing agency, and Panorbit Services LLP, Bengaluru is the technical agency for the cluster.

On the first day of the visit, members from the three aforementioned organisations held a meeting in Bengaluru. The meeting aimed to assess the progress of the cluster and discuss key issues pertaining to Common Facility Centre (CFC), and machineries and training under soft interventions. On the second day, the team arrived at the Channapatna Crafts Park, a complex under Khadi and Village Industries Commission, which houses the cluster.

The CFC is fully functional with facilities including machine rooms, a training centre, a design room, a raw material store, and a packaging center. The cluster has 252 artisans, out of which 42 are women. And, most of the artisans are from the OBC and SC communities.

A two-hour session was organised with the artisans to understand their issues and views, in order to help them and the cluster to grow. These included marketing of their products as there is a growing demand both in domestic and export markets.