



Preserving a GI-tagged legacy, empowering the next generation of Channapatna toy artisans.



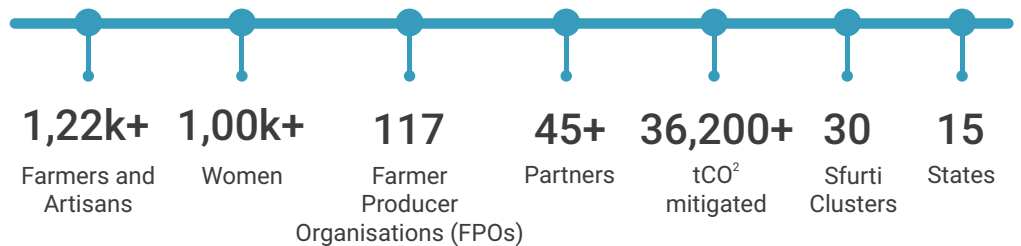
IMEDF INSIGHTS

Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation
...making entrepreneurship possible!

Preserving the GI tagged Handicrafts of Indian States

IMEDF is a special purpose vehicle & a Section 8 company of the Development Alternatives Group. Its major lines of business are Project Management Services, Enterprise Support Services and Capacity Building for Multiplication.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Driving Change Through Safe Mobility: 22 Women Complete E-Rickshaw Entrepreneurship Training in Sitapur

In a significant step towards promoting women's economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods, a **7-day E-Rickshaw Training Programme** was successfully conducted in **Sitapur district** from **30 June to 6 July 2026** in collaboration with the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI). The programme equipped **22 aspiring women entrepreneurs** with the technical knowledge, road safety awareness, and entrepreneurial skills required to confidently operate e-rickshaws and pursue self-employment opportunities.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by the **Chief Development Officer (CDO)** and the **Deputy Commissioner (DC)** as Chief Guests, who distributed training certificates to all the participants. Their words of encouragement reinforced the importance of women-led entrepreneurship and recognised the determination of the trainees in embracing a non-traditional livelihood pathway.

The initiative forms part of the **Safe Mobility Prototype**, conceptualised and nurtured by the **Sustainable Entrepreneurship Group (SEG)** at **Development Alternatives**. The prototype seeks to create a sustainable and inclusive mobility ecosystem by enabling women to become safe, confident, and financially independent e-rickshaw entrepreneurs while contributing to cleaner transportation solutions in rural and peri-urban areas. Through strategic partnerships, capacity building, and market linkages, Development Alternatives is demonstrating how green mobility can serve as a catalyst for livelihood generation, gender inclusion, and local economic development.

As the next step, **RSETI** will facilitate the registration of all trained women under the **Chief Minister Yuva Udyami Scheme**, enabling them to access financial assistance and government support for procuring e-rickshaws and establishing sustainable micro-enterprises. This continued handholding is expected to accelerate their transition from training to enterprise, ensuring that the Safe Mobility Prototype delivers lasting socio-economic impact for women and their communities.



The graduating cohort of women e-rickshaw trainees with district officials at the certificate distribution ceremony in Sitapur.

Field Insights: Advancing Mushroom-Based Rural Enterprises in Northeast India

As part of its efforts to identify innovative livelihood and enterprise development opportunities, IMEDF conducted a series of field visits across Assam and Northeast India to study mushroom cultivation ecosystems and emerging technology interventions. The visits covered interactions with the Mushroom Development Foundation, Navoday Foundation, Maa Laxmi Mushroom Enterprise, Halo Mushroom Producer, Bengsha Mushroom Enterprise, and Guwahati Biotech Park. The team observed sustainable cultivation practices, low-cost infrastructure models, women-led enterprises, and community-based production systems that are creating new income opportunities in rural areas.

Discussions also explored the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT), Innovative technologies for yield prediction, environmental monitoring, disease detection, and precision farm management. The visits highlighted significant potential for value addition, farmer aggregation, circular economy practices, and biotechnology-led innovation.

While challenges such as climate variability, contamination risks, infrastructure gaps, and fragmented market linkages remain, the findings reinforce the need for stronger institutional partnerships and technology-enabled solutions. The initiative provides valuable insights for developing scalable, climate-resilient mushroom enterprises that can strengthen rural livelihoods, promote women entrepreneurship, and contribute to sustainable economic development across Northeast India.



Interaction with Bengsha Organics, mushroom producer in Nalbari, Assam



The Bee keeping training of the associated honey rearers

BR Hills Wild Bee Honey Cluster: Guardians of the Forest, Keepers of Biodiversity

Nestled within Karnataka's Biligiri Rangana Hills (BR Hills), the BR Hills Wild Bee Honey Cluster is empowering the indigenous Soliga tribe to transform their centuries-old honey harvesting tradition into a sustainable, conservation-led enterprise. Supported by IMEDF under the Ministry of MSME's SFURTI Scheme, the initiative combines indigenous ecological knowledge with scientific harvesting practices, modern safety equipment, and community-owned processing infrastructure.

Nearly 500 tribal honey harvesters are benefiting from improved skills, value addition, and collective marketing, enabling them to earn better incomes while protecting wild bee populations and forest biodiversity. Led by the Shree Biligiri Rangaswamy Soligara Samskara Sangha Cooperative Society under the guidance of Dr. Madegowda, the cluster has become a model of community-led conservation and enterprise development. Ethical honey harvesting methods ensure minimal disturbance to bee colonies, supporting pollination, forest regeneration, and climate resilience within the Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Tiger Reserve.

By strengthening market access, promoting women's participation, and preserving traditional ecological wisdom, the BR Hills Wild Bee Honey Cluster demonstrates how biodiversity conservation and inclusive rural livelihoods can thrive together, making every bottle of wild honey a symbol of sustainable development and indigenous stewardship.



udyaME Prototype Strengthens Rural Entrepreneurship Ecosystems Across Uttar Pradesh

www.udyaME.in - one stop solution for Micro Entrepreneurs

The udyame Prototype continues to strengthen rural entrepreneurship by building robust local enterprise support systems across Uttar Pradesh. During the quarter, 225 Enterprise Facilitation Centres (EFCs) were trained in enterprise support services, while 42 business plan co-creation workshops and capacity-building initiatives empowered grassroots entrepreneurs to transform ideas into viable enterprises. The initiative facilitated the establishment of 1,016 new enterprises, supported 2,417 existing enterprises, enabled 483 entrepreneurs to transition from income generation to sustainable enterprises, and helped 102 women achieve the Lakhpati Didi milestone. Institutional convergence has also gained momentum with 10 District Entrepreneurship Coalitions (DECs), seven departmental convergences, over 400 market linkages, and ₹67 lakh in finance unlocked for entrepreneurs.



EFC members gaining information at the udyame camps

A three-day Training of Trainers programme further enhanced the capacities of EFC anchors on enterprise support services and the use of Social Innovation (SI) tools and prototypes, while dedicated EFC trainings in Mirzapur strengthened mobilisation and demand generation efforts. The integration of EFCs and udyame Kiosks with District Entrepreneurship Coalitions has created stronger collaboration among government departments, financial institutions, and private sector partners, making entrepreneurship support more accessible and action-oriented. As the initiative expands into newer districts, the focus remains on institutionalising DECs, deepening engagement at block and Panchayat levels, strengthening market access, improving credit linkages, and scaling community-owned enterprise ecosystems for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

STAKEHOLDER'S VOICE

Case Story: Mithlesh – Finding Confidence and Collective Strength Through Rural Enterprise



Mithlesh involved in the processing work

In Barauliya village of Amethi district, Uttar Pradesh, Mithlesh's journey reflects how community-based enterprises can transform rural livelihoods beyond agriculture. A 38-year-old farmer, Mithlesh balances household responsibilities with farming and active participation at the Common Facility Centre (CFC) established under the Ministry of MSME's SFURTI Scheme. Supported by IMEDF as the Nodal Agency and implemented by CREATE, the initiative has enabled women and farmers to diversify into processing, value addition, and collective enterprise activities. Working with nearly 500–600 farmers, Mithlesh has witnessed women gaining confidence, operating machinery, participating in meetings, and contributing to household decisions. The family's monthly income has increased from around ₹4,500 to nearly ₹8,000 through farming, processing, and CFC-based work, providing greater financial stability and reducing dependence on seasonal wage labour. Despite challenges such as waterlogging, limited crop diversification, and market disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mithlesh remains optimistic about expanding opportunities for women through improved packaging, branding, and market access. Her journey highlights how ecosystem-based rural enterprise development can foster sustainable livelihoods, strengthen community participation, and empower women to become active drivers of local economic growth.

Weaving Impact, Empowering Communities



Weaving Impact, Empowering Communities is a three-day immersive learning programme that offers participants a first-hand experience of the GI-tagged Madurkathi Mat Craft Cluster in Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. Through interactions with artisans, visits to the Common Facility Centre, and exposure to collective entrepreneurship models, participants will gain valuable insights into sustainable rural livelihoods, women's economic empowerment, and heritage-based enterprise development. The programme also includes a visit to the renowned Patachitra Cluster and a coastal excursion, making it a unique blend of learning, culture, and community engagement.

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Financing Growth: Unlocking Capital, Convergence & Enterprise Expansion

Financing Growth: Unlocking Capital, Convergence & Enterprise Expansion is an upcoming webinar designed to equip entrepreneurs, producer collectives, and development practitioners with practical strategies for scaling rural enterprises. The session will explore diverse financing opportunities, convergence with government schemes, and approaches to strengthening enterprise growth through effective capital mobilisation. Bringing together sector experts and practitioners, the webinar aims to foster knowledge exchange and enable participants to build resilient, investment-ready enterprises.

For more details contact
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Designed For

- ✓ Collective enterprises and producer organisations
- ✓ Rural and artisan-based enterprises
- ✓ Social enterprises and grassroots institutions
- ✓ NGOs and livelihood organizations
- ✓ Cluster management teams and enterprise leaders
- ✓ Ecosystem enablers and development practitioners

Upcoming Webinars

- **Financing Growth: Unlocking Capital, Convergence & Enterprise Expansion** - October 2026
- **Future-Proofing Collective Enterprises: Governance, Leadership & Sustainability** - January 2027

Dates to be announced soon !!!!

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Dear Reader,

We are happy to bring you Hindi edition of IMEDF Insights. These stories can now be read by our Hindi-speaking artisans and grassroots entrepreneurs. Happy reading!

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