



## Cluster Development through Sectoral National Programmes in collaboration with UNIDO

A new dimension was added to the activities of the Ministry of SSI through launching of the four National Programmes for Development of Toy, Stone, Lock and Machine Tools in collaboration with UNIDO through its International Centre for Advancement of Manufacturing Technology (ICAMT), Bangalore. The National Programmes are industry and demand driven programmes aimed at bridging the technology divide by promoting manufacturing technology and innovations as the means to industrial competitiveness in selected Indian sectors and fostering international cooperation. These are developed and pursued for technology led interventions in selected sectors for enhanced performance in totality covering Technology Upgradation, Market Development, Capacity Building and Sustainability.

Although these programmes are sectoral in nature, and do not take up any particular cluster directly, the activities are designed for intensive coverage of several clusters under each programme for the sake of achieving maximum output through the interventions.

### National Programme for the Development of Indian Stone Industry (NPDSI)

- a) **The programme objectives:** Technological upgradation, development of international market for the dimensional stone items, development of a National Centre for the Stone Industry with facility for testing, certification and human resource development, development of state-of-the-art mining technologies for quarrying of stones to reduce the pollution of the environment and also to improve health standards for the workers.
- b) The programme is monitored by a *STEERING COMMITTEE* chaired by AS & DC (SSI) with members from UNIDO, Centre for Development of

Stone (CDOS), Jaipur and two representatives from the Stone Industry Association. CDOS (an autonomous agency under Government of Rajasthan) has been nominated as the nodal agency for implementation of the project.

- c) The Programme is being run with active cooperation and financial contribution from the Ministry of SSI (Government of India), State Governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka, Stone Industry Associations and UNIDO.

### Activities undertaken so far

- i) Participation of the Indian Stone Industry in three International Stone Fairs in Germany & Italy (twice).
- ii) Organization of STONA 2002 and Stone Mart 2003 — two International Exhibitions on Dimensional Stones at Bangalore and Jaipur respectively. Shilp Grams were also organized in these two fairs, where traditional artisans exhibited their stone artifacts.
- iii) Final report prepared for establishing the National Test House at Jaipur by National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar, Karnataka, (NIRM). Construction of building for the Test House has already begun and process for procurement of equipments started.
- iv) Special training module on stone quarrying developed.
- v) First ever Compendium of Stones in India launched in print and on Website giving stone specifications to help export and domestic marketing.
- vi) Workshops held at Kota, Alwar, Udaipur, Kishanganj, Jodhpur, Kota, Ambaji, Himmat

