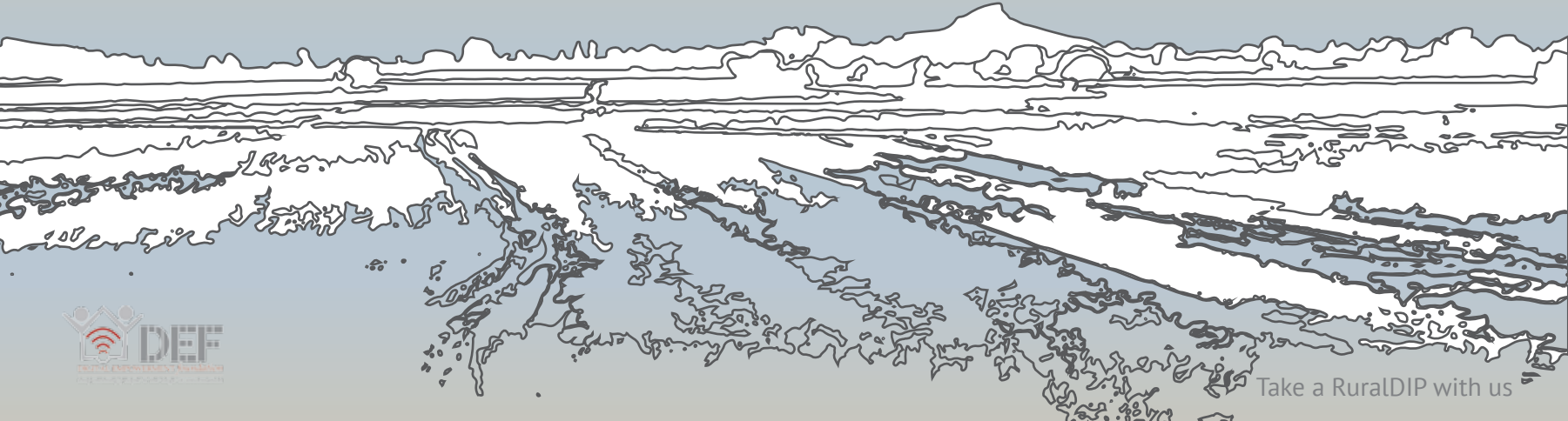




RURAL DIP

RURAL DIGITAL IMMERSION PROGRAMME



ABOUT

Rural Digital Immersion Programme or RuralDIP is an initiative of the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) that has been conceptualised to share experiential learning from rural India with people across the globe.

Through this programme, DEF facilitates an individual or a group of people to take a “dip” into the lives of rural citizens and their culture in regions where digital interventions have made an impact.

OUR PRESENCE

DEF is fortunate to have its physical presence across more than 150 locations in India, mostly in rural and remote areas where village life is still traditional but the people have now been connected to each other as global citizens, just as anybody else is in cities and metros. This unique positioning of DEF provides an opportunity to policy makers, government officials, employees of the corporate sector, academicians, members of international organisations, individuals, experts, media personnel and explorers to immerse in a contemporary village environment through RuralDIP, understand issues on ground and learn from their fun and educative experiences.

EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES

DEF was established in 2002, and in the last 13 years it has spread across more than 100 villages where it has introduced information communication technologies (ICTs), including digital tools and media, to make critical interventions in an effort towards a more equal society/community. Our areas of interventions have been:

1

In areas of governance at village level, digital interventions have helped make panchayats or village councils more accountable and accessible to the masses

2

In areas of education and learning, digital interventions have focused on digital media as the future medium of communication for learning, knowledge sharing and participative education

3

In areas of micro businesses, traditional skill-based clusters use digital tools to directly connect to the market, design digitally and sell products online to ensure maximum sustainability

4

In areas of heritage and culture, digital tools help preserve history, heritage and folk art and make the same available to the people who want to experience it

5

In areas of health, digital tools help connect grassroots-level organisations and communities to make health services and inputs on healthy living available to all which may otherwise have been inaccessible

6

In areas of infrastructure, digital connectivity enables rural communities to connect to the rest of the world seamlessly

7

In areas of access to critical information, digital tools and broadband provide access to such information that can critically change the lives of people for better

8

In areas of rights, connectivity and access treats the remotest communities as equals to those who have everything at their footsteps.

EXPERIENCE RuralDIP

RuralDIP is open for educational, training, professional and recreational purposes. The programme has been designed for individuals, groups, researchers, travellers who can customise their RuralDIP experience to suit their purpose, need and time.

One can take a trip to one of our locations like Nuapatna to meet weavers, see how they live, how they've acquired the ancient art of weaving, understand their daily struggles and witness how digital tools — such as design software, social media and e-Commerce — are boosting their business. One could also visit a heritage site like Chanderi which is home to over 400 historic monuments and a man who breathes history so much so that he isn't just a tourist guide with an extreme passion for history but has led several excavations in the town independently. One may also drive down to a project site like the one in Barmer to see how a village is connected to the world and the Web through WiFi.

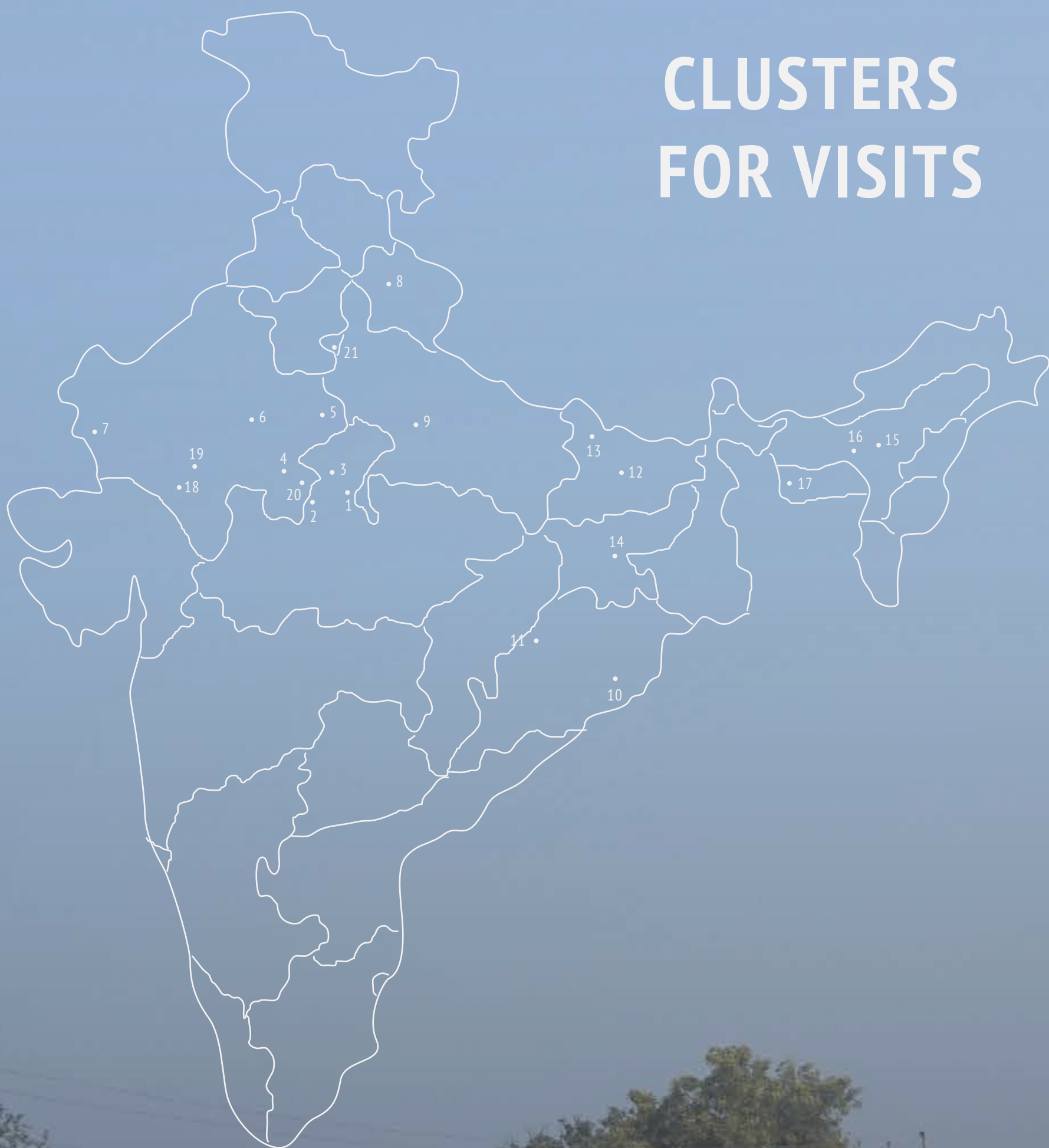
RuralDIP provides and facilitates plans of travel, customised to topics and for specific geographies. Based on the individual or group's requirement, DEF will arrange travel and tour for periods varying from a day or two days to three-seven days, a fortnights or even a month(s).

Under RuralDIP, DEF will:

1. Prepare an itinerary for the experience
2. Plan travel and make bookings
3. Arrange accommodation and local food
4. Schedule meetings with members of the local community
5. Visit to DEF's integrated digital information and resource centres
6. Organise events to facilitate experience of local culture, folk art, history and heritage

Overall, RuralDIP will ensure an individual or a group's immersion into the lives of the local community to gain a holistic perspective about it. The individual(s) will also be provided with a letter of their experience, which can be used, if required, for educational purposes so that the travel can be viewed as a “unique” learning experience that not only adds value to the lives of those possessing the letter but also those who wish to collaborate/work with the person who has taken a “RuralDIP”.

CLUSTERS FOR VISITS



CONTRIBUTION

RuralDIP has been designed as a self-sustaining initiative which will be available to all for a certain price, and the proceeds will be used to make the rural communities more connected, participative and equal. The price of the experience will vary, depending on the location, number of days of stay, and facilities requested. An individual or group can pay in cash or kind. The idea is that each visitor should be able to contribute to the society in some form or the other.

- 1. Chanderi
- 2. Guna
- 3. Shivpuri
- 4. Kaithoon
- 5. Alwar
- 6. Tilonia
- 7. Chamba
- 8. Barmer
- 9. Barabanki
- 10. Barpali
- 11. Nuapatna
- 12. Vaishali
- 13. Bettiah
- 14. Ranchi
- 15. Nagaon
- 16. Guwahati
- 17. West Garo Hills
- 18. Kumbhalgarh
- 19. Bhim
- 20. Bhanwargarh
- 21. Shahjahanabad (Old Delhi)

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