

Innovation *Yatra* 2026

(23 September – 05 October 2026)

The National Innovation Foundation–India (NIF) has commenced its Innovation *Yatra* with the objective of harnessing rural ingenuity and strengthening the identification, documentation and dissemination of grassroots innovations and traditional knowledge practices.

The Innovation *Yatra* is being undertaken from 23 September to 5 October 2026, covering selected districts across six States—Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. The *Yatra* will cover 29 districts and include more than 40 community meetings and roadside interactions, aimed at sensitising local communities to the importance of grassroots innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge practices.

A key objective of the *Yatra* is to scout, identify and document new grassroots innovations, particularly in agriculture and other sectors addressing critical societal needs. The *Yatra* is expected to identify more than 350 traditional knowledge practices and grassroots practices, along with over 30 potential grassroots innovations, while reaching more than 2,000 community members. In addition, the NIF team will undertake the verification and detailed documentation of potential innovations identified during the 14th National Competition, thereby strengthening the process of further evaluation and support.

The Innovation *Yatra* seeks to establish knowledge scouting as a sustainable and community-driven practice at the village level. It will encourage communities to recognise, preserve and share their locally developed innovations and traditional knowledge for wider societal benefit. The *Yatra* will also facilitate the dissemination of relevant technologies and help document unmet societal needs that may provide opportunities for future innovation.

The *Yatra* has a special focus on the Northeastern region, one of India’s richest areas of biocultural diversity. By covering Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, including areas where NIF’s outreach activities have been relatively limited—particularly in Mizoram—the *Yatra* will help strengthen NIF’s engagement and institutional presence in the region. It will provide an opportunity to engage directly with local communities, understand their unique knowledge systems and challenges, and identify innovations emerging from their lived experiences.

Through this initiative, NIF aims to build stronger linkages with rural communities and create a sustained ecosystem for scouting, documenting, validating, supporting and disseminating grassroots innovations and traditional knowledge, contributing to inclusive and locally relevant technological development.

Schedule for Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan:

SN	Date	District	State
1	23-09-2026	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh
2	24-09-2026	Etah & Mainpuri	Uttar Pradesh

3	25-09-2026	Jaalon	Uttar Pradesh
4	26-09-2026	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh
5	27-09-2026	Banda	Uttar Pradesh
6	28-09-2026	Mahoba	Uttar Pradesh
7	29-09-2026 to 30-09-2026	Chitrakoot	Uttar Pradesh
8	1-10-2026	Satna	Madhya Pradesh
9	2-10-2026	Chhatarpur	Madhya Pradesh
10	3-10-2026	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
11	4-10-2026	Dholpur	Rajasthan
12	5-10-2026	Bharatpur	Rajasthan
13	6-10-2026	Alwar	Rajasthan
Contact person: Dr Navneet Kumar (M 94110 30940)			

Schedule for Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram:

SN	Date	District	State
1	23-09-2026	Nagaon	Assam
2	24-09-2026	Dima Hasao	Assam
3	25-09-2026	Hailakandi	Assam
4	26-09-2026	Kolasib	Mizoram
5	27-09-2026 to 28-09-2026	Aizawl	Mizoram
6	29-09-2026	Champai	Mizoram
7	30-09-2026	Serchip	Mizoram
8	1-10-2026 to 2-10-2026	Lunglei	Mizoram
9	3-10-2026 to 4-10-2026	Kolasib	Mizoram
10	5-10-2026	Mamit	Mizoram
11	6-10-2026	Sribhumi	Assam
12	7-10-2026	East Jantia Hill	Meghalaya
13	7-10-2026	West Jantia Hill	Meghalaya
14	7-10-2026	Ri-Bhoi	Meghalaya
Contact person: Dr Rajiv Mili (M: 99544 56098) & Mr L Bika (M: 97747 81166)			

Innovation Yatra 2026

Uttar Pradesh and Assam

Uttar Pradesh – Mathura | 23 September 2026



The National Innovation Foundation–India (NIF-India) commenced its Innovation Yatra in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, on 23 September 2026, with a visit to SR High School, Village Rawal. Around 30 farmers participated in the interaction and were introduced to the activities, initiatives, and objectives of NIF-India.

During the visit, the **RTB-16 mustard variety**, developed by grassroots innovator **Shri Rajkumar Jain, Baran, Rajasthan**, was disseminated among 20 farmers across four villages.

The interaction developed into a meaningful exchange of knowledge and experiences. Farmers actively shared their observations, traditional practices, and local knowledge related to animal health, plant varieties, human health, and agriculture. Participants also discussed community-level experiences concerning skin-related diseases, highlighting local knowledge and challenges that may provide scope for further exploration as potential grassroots innovations.

The NIF-India team subsequently visited **Nagla Teza village, Mathura**, where farmers enthusiastically interacted with the team. They shared information about locally cultivated plant varieties, crop patterns, farming practices, and traditional agricultural knowledge followed in the region. The interaction provided valuable insights into the diversity of local agricultural practices and knowledge developed through generations of farming experience.

Assam – Nagaon | 23 September 2026



The National Innovation Foundation–India inaugurated the **Innovation Yatra 2026 for Assam, Mizoram and Meghalaya** at **ADP College, Nagaon, Assam**, on 23 September 2026.

The inaugural interaction brought together around **70 participants**, including students, faculty members, and media representatives. The programme provided an opportunity to introduce

participants to the objectives and activities of NIF-India and to highlight the importance of grassroots innovation in addressing local and community-level challenges.

Grassroots innovations were showcased during the programme, enabling participants to learn about practical solutions developed by innovators and their relevance to everyday challenges.

The Innovation Yatra in the region aims to strengthen engagement with local communities, identify grassroots innovations and traditional knowledge, and create greater awareness about NIF-India's initiatives among students, farmers, institutions, and other stakeholders.

Uttar Pradesh – Etah & Mainpuri | 24 September 2026



Under the Innovation Yatra, the NIF-India team visited **Chandpur village in Etah district** and **Paal village in Mainpuri district** on 24 September 2026. Around 50 farmers participated across both locations.

The interactions focused on introducing farmers to the activities, initiatives, and objectives of NIF-India. The team also highlighted the importance of traditional knowledge, locally available resources, and the potential applications of plants and natural resources in daily life and animal husbandry.

Farmers actively shared their traditional knowledge, field experiences, and concerns, particularly regarding the adverse effects associated with excessive use of chemical inputs on farming practices and soil health.

The **Riyawan Silver garlic variety**, developed by grassroots innovator **Shri Ishwar Lal Dhakad, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh**, was disseminated among farmers in both villages. In **Chandpur and Paal villages, 20 farmers in each village received the variety, with 5 kg of seed provided to each farmer** for cultivation and further field evaluation.

An **exhibition of grassroots innovations** was also organized at Paal village, Mainpuri, providing farmers with an opportunity to observe practical solutions to local challenges and interact with the NIF-India team.

Assam – Lodi Village, Haflong | 24 September 2026



The National Innovation Foundation–India conducted a community interaction meeting at Lodi Village, Haflong, Dima Hasao District, Assam, on 24 September 2026, as part of Innovation Yatra 2026 for Assam, Mizoram and Meghalaya. The meeting was attended by 25 participants, including farmers, Self-Help Group (SHG) members, students, college faculty, social workers, and other community representatives.

The programme began with a welcome address by Mr. Kitapungbe Pame. Dr. Rajiv Mili, National Innovation Foundation–India, introduced the objectives and activities of Innovation Yatra and highlighted the importance of identifying, documenting, recognising, and promoting grassroots innovations.

A demonstration and exhibition of selected grassroots innovations was organised, including the Fruit Nipper, Mitticool products, Fish Dryer, Arecanut Polishing Machine, ZenRelax Roll On, Estrona, and Siramide Plus BP Care. These innovations familiarised participants with practical solutions developed to address local needs.

Er. Dipjyoti Choudhury also presented student innovations, including a stapler with additional pin storage, a shock-absorber crutch, and a shoe-cum-sleeper. The meeting concluded with a poster exhibition showcasing innovative ideas and projects.