



## TARAgam Yatra

**TARAgam Yatra (TGY)** is an annual flagship event of the [Development Alternatives Group](#) and its partners to deliberate on germane issues of sustainability. The Yatra – a journey that one undertakes along with friends and colleagues to attain higher goals brings together practitioners and policy makers from across the world. With a mix of dialogue and field visits, the Yatra provides a platform for exchanging cutting edge ideas to achieve a sustainable future. The event provides leads for follow-up on policies and action at local, national and global levels.

### The Journey So Far...

Initiated in the year 2010, Development Alternatives has so far successfully conducted 7 significant TARAgam Yatras. A brief overview of the TGYs held in previous years has been outlined as given below:



### ***Towards Green Economies: Scalable Solutions for People and Our Planet***

17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2010

**Partners:** Green Economy Coalition (GEC), Ring Alliance of Policy Research Organization, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML)

Spread for over five days, the Yatra focused on Green Economies – Solutions for People and Planet. The Yatra was conducted in partnership with the Green Economy Coalition, IIED, UK, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and the UNEP-IRP in two simultaneous phases one in New Delhi and second in Bundelkhand, Central India. The sessions at TARAgam Orchha concentrated on “discussion and design” of path breaking approaches and explored overviews highlighting global trends, major gaps, best practices, and high potential opportunities in renewable energy, sustainable construction, water management, waste recycling and sustainable agriculture. The issues discussed in New Delhi focused on wider “consultation and communication” with a national and global audience. TARAgam Yatra 2010 proved to be a milestone in a series of global multi-stakeholder consultations as it enabled a consensus amongst key stakeholders on prioritising specific issues in the transition to sustainability and communicated Indian and South Asian perspectives to inform the Global discourse on Green Economy.



### ***Resource Efficiency and Green Transformation: Driving Change in Asia***

21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

**Partners:** United Nations Environment Programme- International Resource Panel (UNEP-IRP)

The Yatra, picked up the discussions in 2010, in recognition of the exigent priority of Asian countries to achieve resource efficiency in economic development, brought in a feature of building capacities for Green Economic Growth. The Yatra was organised by Development Alternatives and supported by UNEP- IRP at New Delhi and TARAGram Orchha, Central India. It brought practitioners and policy makers from across South Asia to explore good practice cases and develop action strategies for resource efficient and climate responsive economic models.



### ***Sustainable Development in South Asia: Women Driving Change***

22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2012

**Partners:** South Asia Women's Network (SWAN) United Nations Environment Programme – UNEP, APFED

The Yatra focused on the role of women leading the world on a path for Sustainable Development. It celebrated contributions by women that have impacted the economic, social, and political lives of their countries, communities, and families. The initiative also focused on realistic solutions for sustainable livelihoods, green enterprises and the policies required to develop capacities and skills of women across South Asia. It also emphasised on the overall empowerment of women by observing them as an imperative figure essential towards to promotion of green economy. The four-day event also showcased the achievements of grassroots actions leading towards community empowerment anchored by the women of the specific regions. The discussions focused on the roles and potential of women led interventions that are vital to nurture and revive the wellbeing of our ecosystems, enhance securities of food, water, energy, livelihoods and to construe self-reliant societies.



### ***Safe Water for All and Always: Science - Policy - Markets***

22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2013

**Partners:** Department for International Development (DFID)

Yatra 2013 focused on designing strategies for enabling access to safe drinking water to all and provided a forum for stimulating debate, exchanging ideas, experiences and learning of professionals working in this sector. The technical sessions at the Yatra, initiated discussions on technical research and processes for taking technologies from laboratories to people, ingredients for successfully marketing the technologies on ground and the policy regulations for up scaling. This three days Yatra witnessed leading stakeholders as participants who were made to visit the field at Development Alternatives World Headquarters, New Delhi and then to TARAGram Orchha, Madhya Pradesh. A major highlight of TARAGram Yatra 2013 was the *TARAGram Mela* and the deliberations built around the theme for over three days lead to the design of a roadmap on interventions needed to scale up technology access for safe water to communities through markets. It oriented policy makers and practitioners with emerging concepts and models for sustainable development and emphasised on access to water in South Asia.



### ***India Post – 2015: A Country in Transition***

13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

**Partners:** Habitat Technology Group, Keystone Foundation, Sarvajal, CURE , Heinrich Böll Stiftung / Foundation's (HBF), National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Global Water Partnership (GWP), New Economics Foundation (NEF), Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP)

The Yatra in 2014 marked a change in its course as the journey touched upon four different areas in the context of rural and urban settings such as Delhi, Orchha, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kotagiri. It explored interconnected strands of sustainability brought to forth by the global and national dialogues for a post 2015 sustainable development agenda. It explored the transitions that India is making and needs to make in its economic strategies, social processes and environment management systems to achieve human wellbeing on a healthy planet. The Yatra looked at both rural and urban concerns in the India development story; the fine balance between biodiversity conservation and livelihood security of indigenous populations in the Nilgiris and resource efficiency in the construction sector highlighting the pace of rapid urbanisation taking place in Kerala. TARAGram Yatra 2014 also looked at system efficiency to deliver safe water to all in our growing cities and mainstreaming climate risks into development planning processes. The *TARAGram Mela held in parallel* provided an opportunity to showcase development approaches, demonstrate technology and solutions, and showcase products, and use of ICTs for eliciting community support and empowerment. *Radio Bundelkhand* recorded the views and experiences of experts from different fields for the benefit of the people of Bundelkhand region.



### ***India Post – 2015: Investing in Sustainability***

7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2015

**Partners:** Heinrich Böll Stiftung / Foundation (HBF), OXFAM, GIZ, CANSA, TARA, All India Radio, Rural Connect

The Yatra initiated a process to address India's transition to a greener, inclusive sustainable future. In continuation, the Yatra in 2015 celebrates the historic 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development and takes a hard look at what it would mean for India. Organised on the theme: "***India - Post 2015: Investing in Sustainability***" the Yatra, will start from New Delhi on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2015 and travel to Madhya Pradesh in Central India, Bihar in the East, and the NCR in the North. It will deliberate on pertinent issues of growth of local economies through energy access, food and livelihood security and urbanisation in a resource stressed nation. Field visits brought about practical challenges and potential into round table discussions on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, 2015 followed by a plenary session that addressed the priorities and characteristics of investments linking India's flagship initiatives with the Global Sustainable Development Goals.



### ***Policy Shifts for Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in India***

20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016

**Partners:** TARA, HBF, GIZ, GEC, CII, CII-ITC, BMTPC, "laCaixa" Banking Solutions, CSA, UNICEF, UNDP and NABARD

TARAGram Yatra 2016 focused on the nature of policy shifts required to implement Agenda 2030, better known as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in our nation. Roundtable consultations and conversations on the issues that affect the relevant geographies in India took place in the Delhi, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh thereby infusing a flavour of ground realities into the dialogue. The conversations deliberated on the issues of resource efficiency in urban affordable housing, WASH, and agriculture among others, where they matter the most – in the hubs of policy implementation. Yatra 2016 has a special focus on SDGs 2 (No Hunger); 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation); 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy); 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); and 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production). Innovative field visits brought practical challenges and potential into the plenary session which took place in New Delhi on the final day of the Yatra.

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