



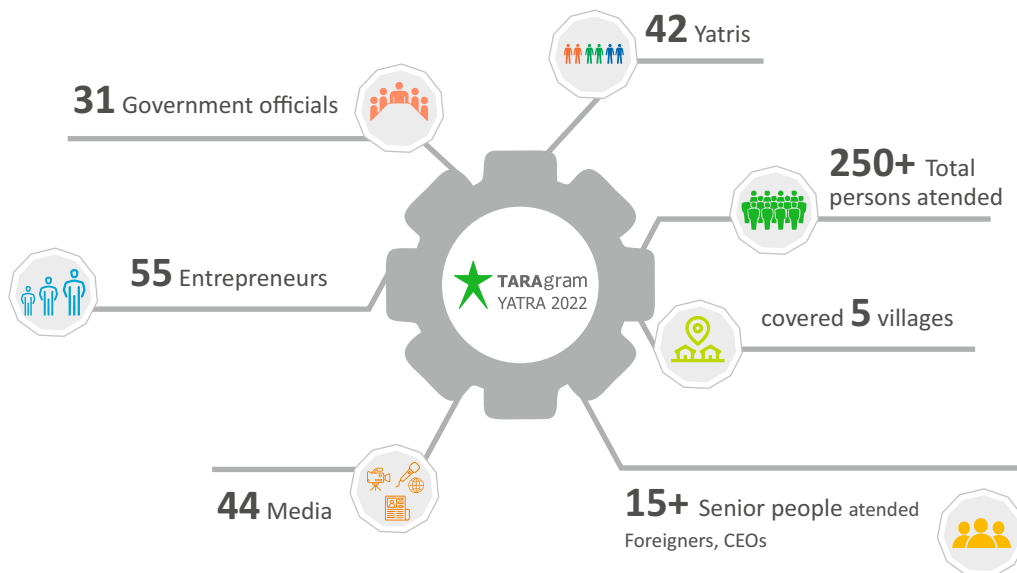
Development Alternatives Group

TARAgam Yatra



Development Alternatives (DA), the world's premiere social enterprise dedicated to sustainable development, is a research and action organisation striving to deliver socially equitable, environmentally sound and economically scalable development outcomes. DA completes 40 years of proudly contributing to India's growth. It hopes to move onto an accelerated track wherein it sees itself as a catalyst to rural transformation and making urban spaces more sustainable and livable. The TARAgam Yatra, initiated in 2010, is a unique experience of social impact and learning for social innovators, changemakers, and policymakers to experience on-ground action and deliberate to advance a compelling, practical, and solution-oriented vision for the well-being of people and the planet.

It provides a platform that fosters a multi-stakeholder dialogue and also initiates discussions on how we can build community resilience at the local level. The Yatra initiates discussion around technical research on the adverse impact of climate change, diversifying livelihood opportunities, and sustaining human well-being in the said geographies. The Yatra is a unique of both theory and practice. It introduces the Yatris to the intertwined factors, i.e., economic prosperity, equitable opportunity, healthy and productive environment, and participatory governance, important for India's green and inclusive growth. This year marks the 11th editions of the yatra.





Investing in the Local and the Green

Under an umbrella theme of ‘**Investing in the local and the green**’, TARAGram Yatra 2024 will be focussing on resource efficiency and circular economies; livelihood security and inclusive entrepreneurship; and climate resilience and ecosystem restoration. The Yatra, comprising a mix of dialogue and field visits to Orchha (Bundelkhand) and Delhi NCR, will be organised in August, 2024. The Yatra will develop an understanding and sensitivity towards socio-economic and environmental challenges at the grassroots. Yatris will witness how DA, along with its partner organisations, has been implementing sustainable development processes and evidence-based development strategies to address the complex issues of development – like reducing the exploitation of our resources, while still climbing the path of development. It will be a valuable experience providing insights into diverse community development models. They will get an opportunity to experience green transition and how this could be made local with innovative partnerships across governments, MSMEs and knowledge institutions and how corporates are investing in the green transition to build climate resilient communities.

Investing in the green and local is the need of the hour. This year we are travelling to Bundelkhand. The Yatra is open to local participation.

Yatra: Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy

TARAGram Yatra in Bundelkhand will illuminate the critical intersection of resource efficiency and circular economy principles, specifically addressing Construction and Demolition Waste, Industrial Waste, Fly Ash, and Bottom Ash in conjunction with low carbon cement. With a dedicated focus on building sustainable communities, the Yatris, representing academia, business, civil society, and government, will explore inclusive, participatory, and scalable models. The Yatra aims to unearth on-ground solutions to disseminate information and promote a circular economy, emphasizing green and inclusive practices across sectors, including the building and construction industry. Recognizing the sector's significant contribution to emissions, innovative practices involving low carbon cement, and the utilization of waste materials like Construction and Demolition Waste, Industrial Waste, Fly Ash, and Bottom Ash will be showcased. The Yatris will witness firsthand how these practices contribute to reducing emissions while meeting the housing and infrastructure needs of urban populations. This experiential learning opportunity will underscore the importance of recycling and resource conservation within a circular economy framework, providing valuable insights for creating a resilient and eco-friendly economy in Bundelkhand.

Yatra: Livelihood Security and Inclusive Entrepreneurship

India's impressive growth trajectory has not translated into a corresponding increase in jobs. For the country, the development of micro-entrepreneurship is the key to catering to the needs of millions of unemployed labour force. However, micro-enterprises are highly vulnerable to external shocks and require a conducive support system to thrive. Development Alternatives' (DA) social innovation methodology and tools are realigning the current ecosystem of economic development and job creation and resetting the growth trajectory to make it more inclusive. With this theme, we will introduce the Yatris to the experience of the aforementioned social innovation methodology, which includes listening, co-creation, prototyping, and learning in their journey. The key areas where the Yatris will work collaboratively are – Understanding and learning the emerging entrepreneurial needs of the youth and women; Building an inclusive ecosystem leading to solutions in the form of systemic prototypes that are creating changes in the local entrepreneurial ecosystem; Identifying leverage points that will accelerate entrepreneurship led job creation.



Yatra: Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration

Development Alternatives being a pioneer organisation in the field of promoting Climate resilient technologies and methodologies has consolidated its efforts to enable the communities in the Bundelkhand region which has been battling with water drought for years now. Due to global warming induced changing weather patterns, the farmers in the region need to be equipped with appropriate knowledge and skills. At DA, we have worked at all levels i.e., to make communities aware through our Radio Bundelkhand, impart knowledge & handhold on climate resilient farming and build a positive ecosystem through watershed management approach.

Saar Sangam – Seeking Policy Solutions through Practice

The Yatra concluded with the plenary ‘Saar Sangam’ in Bundelkhand. In this event, the Yatris will converged from the Bundelkhand after a highly immersive experience. They brought with them learnings that formed a launching pad for the discussions in the plenary. Present at the plenary will be the leading global experts.

