

# IMMERSION programme



*A flagship initiative to bridge theory and practice  
through experiential learning in the heart of the  
country*



**Development Alternatives**

People | Planet | Prosperity



**TARA**

# About DA



Established in 1982, Development Alternatives and its sister organization TARA (DA Group) are dedicated to bringing about a systemic balance among the basic prerequisites of sustainable development - social equity, environmental quality and economic efficiency. The DA Group designs conceptual and methodological solutions to the global challenges of poverty and environment, and applies these at the local level through multi-stakeholder partnerships in a market based approach.



The programmes are designed to help participants experience the entire gamut of complexities of sustainable development processes in action - social, cultural, economic, infrastructural, financial and built environment . These lived experiences offer a once in a lifetime opportunity to the participants to dive deeper into the challenges faced by their counterparts.

The immersion programme will culminate into the design or execution of resilience strategies for the local communities of the selected study area.

# Programme overview





Proposed activities for the immersion activity follow a macro and micro level interdisciplinary approach and involve

- exposure visits
- hands-on work
- field research
- ground mapping exercises
- mentorship and training on transdisciplinary development approaches like infrastructure, circular economy, resource efficiency, sustainability principles, alternative technologies, design, construction, etc.

Customizations for activity type, duration and approach can be done in collaboration with intending participants or organisations.

# Programme details



# Themes | human settlements

- Research methods and urban/rural planning principles to explore cross-disciplinary linkages
- Documentation and assessment of architectural vocabulary and alternate materials and technologies, settlement design
- Understanding cities and climate action, policy implications, systems design, urban metabolism



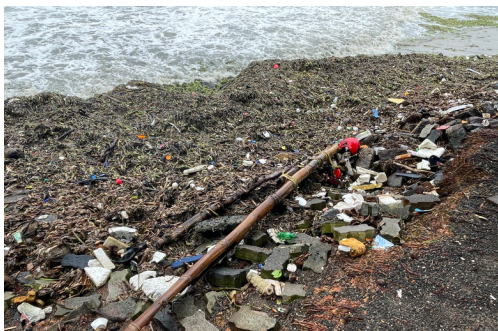
- Exploring dimensions of climate change and exploring ecological principles through walks, trails and hikes, mapping local flora and fauna, and hands-on workshops on permaculture and organic farming practices.
- Understanding theoretical frameworks around ecosystem services and their evaluation.



# Themes | natural systems

# Themes | circular economy

- Learning from local innovations
- Mapping natural and artificial water systems at the settlement level
- Assess the waste management cycle and systems in action





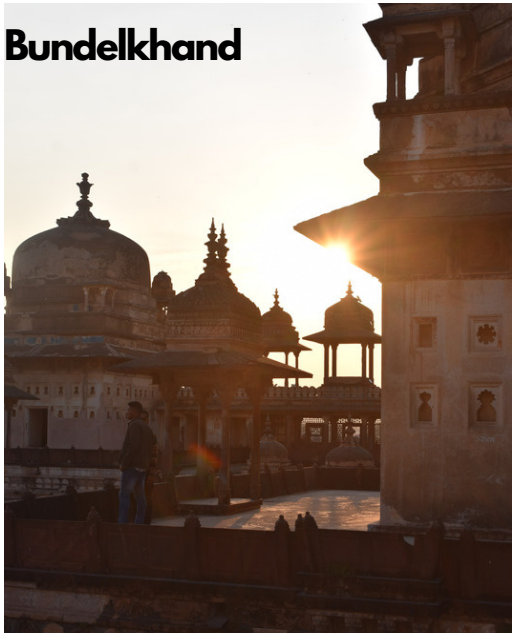
- Learning to deliver sustainable products and services through local, green enterprises using low-cost innovations and innovative business models



Themes | technology and local entrepreneurship

# Destinations

## Bundelkhand



## Mandi



## Bundelkhand

The TARA campus near Orchha provides a fascinating glimpse of interventions in many sectors ranging from agriculture, watershed management, green building materials and technologies, local livelihood generation opportunities, paper recycling, low-cost innovation, and community radio. Study areas may include urban centres like Orchha, Jhansi or surrounding villages in Bundelkhand region.

## Mandi

An innovative rural development approach adopted by DA led to the creation of ecotourism clusters in Mandi and Kamad.

By establishing prototype models for the two villages, various interventions in social, financial and built contexts were implemented.

# Destinations

*Current and previous DA project sites are carefully selected as programme destinations to provide participants with a rich experience of sustainable development action in multi-layered and diverse socio-cultural contexts.*

# benefits for participants





## **exposure**

- Sensitisation to ground realities of sustainable development practice through lived experiences
- Cultural sensitivity towards alternate ways of living

## **technical skills**

- State-of-the-art knowledge on emerging concepts in the global sustainability discourse
- Strong research foundations through theoretical frameworks, tools and methodologies

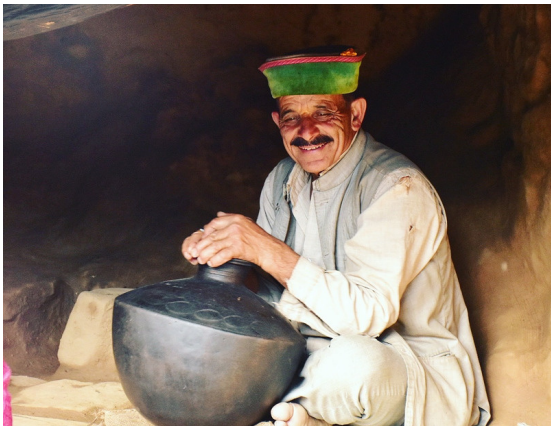
## **soft skills**

- Development of advocacy and leadership skills
- Networking and effective communication skills
- Teamwork and collaboration

## **systems thinking**

- Holistic and interdisciplinary thinking to deconstruct complex ideas
- Critical and analytical reasoning skills, strategic design thinking for solving contemporary challenges

# benefits for participants





**For further details, contact :**



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