

TARAgam Yatra 2022 in Agra, Uttar Pradesh

To understand the plastic flow, value chains, disruptive technologies, and enabling public policy, our annual event TARAgam Yatra 2022 was held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, from 22 November to 23 November, 2022. The *Yatra* is a unique experience of social impact and learning 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, all important for India's green and inclusive growth.

The Yatra included round table technical discussion sessions along with field visits to observe waste collection, sorting and recycling system in the plastic segregation and recycling sites. Technical sessions were organised which engaged local stakeholders, industry and the government, to deliberate on the culture and social circumstances of the plastic waste scenario in the city, which may have lessons for a large part of India.

On the first day of the Yatra, i.e., 22 November 2022, a round table technical session was held, engaging local stakeholders, industry, and the government to deliberate on the culture and social circumstances of the plastic waste scenario in Agra, which may have lessons for a large part of India.

After the session, the *Yatris* visited the Agra Smart City Office at Agra Nagar Nigam to observe the centralised mechanism using artificial intelligence to manage waste in the city. The second site visited was the Kuberpur Landfill Site. Agra dumps its mixed waste at this dumpsite, spread over 75 acres. It is located at a 3 km distance from Yamuna River and about 8-10 km from Agra main city. The site was planned as an integrated waste processing-cum-sanitary landfill by the Agra Municipality.

On the second day, i.e., 23 November, 2022, a Door-to-Door Waste Collection Drive was observed by all the *Yatris* in one of the wards of Taj Ganj area which was organised by the Agra Municipality along with Feedback Foundation. It was an interactive on-site activity amongst the *Yatris* and the waste collectors. The day ended with visiting one of the most famous historical sites - the Taj Mahal in Agra by all the *Yatris* and the team.

Overall, it was an immersive and engaging few days for the *Yatris* as they explored the unique and innovative entrepreneurial models initiated in Agra and understood the challenges from the perspectives of various actors in the plastics value chain in the city.



The *Yatris* along with the DA team at the Technical Discussion Session.



A field visit during TARAgam Yatra 2022 in Agra