

Date: 25 – 27 February, 2022
 Tour: CSY-40, Yepuru to Somashila
 Mode: By walk

Hi, greetings and wishes.

For three days you lived for yourself or for someone else.

With this, I have successively and successfully completed participation in four Chinna Shodya Yatras as a volunteer in Palle Srujana.



Started by Padmavathi Express from Secunderabad with Mahesh & Gang. Gang S13. Raj, Medha, Manasa, Naga, Mahesh and Omkar. Got down at Nellore 5 pm. All of us got refreshed at Mahesh’s home in Nellore. His mother served too yummy and great tasty break fast. Carrot Halwa, Idly and Pongal. Along with podis

and pickles. An unforgettable taste served with love.

Day-1, 25 Feb, 2022: Arrived Epuru after 1 and half an hour journey from Nellore. After all yatries arrived as usual everyone briefly introduced themselves. This time total 42 persons. Almost 10 women. Anji Reddy garu took briefing session about Palle Srujana. He lead the intro session excellently. I liked it very much the way he leads. He is a good leader as well a good follower. He is well versed to be the next leader of Palle Srujana. Participants varied from 19-year boy Soham to 82-year-old Madhava Reddy garu. Yatries are from Students, Teachers, Lecturers, ITs, and varied walks of life. I helped team to pick banana peels, tea cups, which I like most. Met Kalesha garu there itself. Brigadier felicitated him. Then after tea break started walking towards Gundavolu. Most walk is on highway only. Met Shivayya garu and Mallamma who run a small tea shop with snacks. Enjoyed tea and peanut-cakes there. They showered love on all of us. They are felicitated for their knowledge about the area and Nellore history.

25 ఫిబ్రవరి, 2022 : ఏపూరు, గుండవోలు, అఖిలవలస, ఓబిబాయపల్లి, పెనుబర్తి, గోసుపల్లి.
 26 ఫిబ్రవరి, 2022 : తీగచెర్ల, కొత్తూరుపల్లి, ఎర్రబల్లి, వెంకట రామరాజు పేట, మాదన్నగారి పల్లి, కుల్లూరు.
 27 ఫిబ్రవరి, 2022 : రాజుపాలెం, సోనుశిల.

I met a person, Mahadev garu, running a small hut temple of Lord Shiva. He is staying outside the village. He seemed to be fed up with family and villagers and leading a single life like ‘vanaprastha.’ He is having good property and running agriculture also. Still he looks unrest. Another interesting and pity issue in these villages from Epuru to Somasila is - they have Kandaleru dam and Somasila dam and Telugu Ganga canal on one side. Another side covered by Penchalakona forest, which is not accessible for farming. These villages do not have water facility for farming from these reservoirs and canal. And hence farming is restrained to either neem farms or paddy cultivation. They are just given a house space to live after their lands are acquired under dam and canal. Many farmers left lands uncultivated. They are distressed and feel hopeless. A pathetic situation.

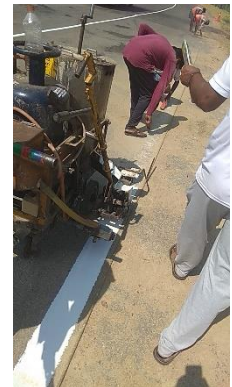


Had lunch break at Budwel Road. The usual yummy food. As we walk I interacted with few co-yatris. Met a young guy who is working as OT assistant in a hospital in Rapur. He is earning salary Rs. 8,000/-. He looks very much satisfied and self-content. I asked him why not he go to Nellore, Hyderabad and big cities to fetch higher and higher salary. He said the expenses and transport cost at cities are high. After that actual salary family enjoy comes to same. How about marriage, I asked him. He said he will bring from still lower profile girl from surrounding villages and be happy. So simple life. Night stay at Gundupalli School. By the time we reach night stay point, the school at Gundupalli, many yatris waiting for not me, my power-extension box! **Happy to Share**, always. Total 7 mobiles attached to it!!

Day-2, 26 Feb, 2022: Woke up at 5 am. Daily I drink 3 glasses of water and a tea as first job of the day to comply with nature call. Ha ha. Came out of the school and enquired about the tea. Tea at shop at Bus-stand is really nice. Then sat at the village stage near school. Here all cows and buffaloes are left on the road all over night. Don't know why they not returned to homes as they do in other places. I spoke to an Intermediate 2nd year student. He is waiting for the bus to go to Rapur. Many students in villages and districts are lacking of direction. Private schools in this area are not doing any better than governments schools I felt. Returned to school and got ready by bathing under bore-well openly as Raj gave me company to co-bath! Interacted with Parandham reddy, Obulaya palem. He is gazing 4 buffaloes and having livelihood. Also another elder puncture shop wala, I talked to him. It is clear that many of villages are left with old people. Their children left to cities like Rapur and Nellore for various non-farming woks. They are not interested in farming in villages for various reasons.



I met Ganesan, a 19-year boy from Nomads community. He makes living by doing whatever work people give in village. He is ready to do any work. His brother also does similar work. Mother stays home. Ganesan left home with his friend in childhood. He lived with his friend's family and grown up. Later when his father left his mother he returned to home. When he has no work, if haunts birds in the forest. As I listen to his life story, I once more realised that there is a big world and we know very little. Then met Raju who is working as supervisor under a contractor. He is supervising and getting work done to pain the roads with divider lines. He is from Hyderabad, but he roam around all states wherever his boss bags contract for road work. I



enquired about their work, and family details. Also spoke to workers who are cleaning the road before the paint is put on the road. They hail from neighboring districts. They cook their food in the Lorry which is carrying paint preparing machine. I found 7-10 workers as a batch. Once in a month they go back to home. Then met a Sheppard. Grazing 30 goats in the fields near forest. Interacted with him. He grows and sell goats. 8 to 10k per goat he sells at. He claimed to earn Rs.2 lakhs per year minimum. At good times he earns 4-5 lakhs per annum too maximum. I felt happy hearing it. Whenever I here this type of simple living and inspiring self-employed stories from villages, I compare to the people in cities struggling to find jobs and people in IT jobs who don't have time for life with work tensions, but good money. Today happened night walk, on the



second day, in every yatra. This time it is between one side forest and another side villages in distance. It was for 30 minutes this time and has a unique feeling each time. Reached the school at Kullur village at night. It is very dark. Finished dinner in motor bike lights. Impressions conducted very well, in semi-dark. But place and experience remains last in memory.

Day-3, 27 Feb, 2022: Third day, woke up early at 5 am. After face wash, me and Madhu garu moved out for bath at River Penna. It is still dark a little. We enquired distance with someone on the main road. It is 3 km. We had a good early morning village side walk. Had a tea on the way at Somasila circle. The scenery at Penna river is very beautiful. We watched Sun rise. As the Sun is rising, we saw it like a lamp mounted on the nearby small hill. Awesome scenery. We walked deep inside the river bank, as water is less. It is been comfortable to sit down in the water. Enjoyed 40 min in water. Did little chanting in water. Then back to school and got ready, with a tea on the way back. These tea stalls are set on the highway few days back only. Has good make down the lane with traffic increase. We had a breakfast where dosa is just Rs.2-50/- these days!!! I found this couple at the café to live peacefully not to earn and live luxury. As we continued waking ... met two water streams small and big. All of us enjoyed good time at the water with playing and group pics. After lunch at a Mango farm, all the yatris shared their CSY40 impressions. As my return ticket is not confirmed to Hyderabad, I travelled with Brigadier sir, Pa rasuram, Ramakrishna, Murali and Parasuram in the car. Reached home by 7 am back to home at Manikonda, Hyderabad.



Finally, in Ganesh sir's words: "All that you do should have human connect."

