

My Impressions of the 58th Chinna Shodha Yatra

25.09.26 – 27.09.26 | Palle Srujana

The **58th Chinna Shodha Yatra** was my second Shodha Yatra, and once again, it gave me an opportunity to step outside my usual routine and learn through people, villages, nature and real experiences.



We started our journey at **Madanapalli**, where our first interaction was with school children. I was impressed by their openness, curiosity and confidence. I especially remember one child who shared his ideas with great confidence. Even though some of what he said was not correct, the confidence with which

he expressed himself made me think about how important it is to encourage children to speak, explore and express themselves without being afraid of being wrong.



As we travelled from village to village, I observed many different plants and learned about their uses. I also came across people and organisations working for society. It reminded me that there are still many people quietly contributing to the community without expecting much in return.



The **villagers' hospitality** was one of the most beautiful parts of the Yatra. They never made us feel like outsiders. They welcomed us as though we were their own people, shared their experiences and spoke with us openly. Their warmth made me realise that sometimes a place becomes memorable not only because of what we see, but because of **how people make us feel**.

I also had meaningful conversations with farmers. Listening to them made me understand the struggles they face and the way their lives are connected with nature and agriculture. I learned about traditional foods such as **ragi sangati, jonnalu and sajjalu** and thought about how our food habits have changed over time. Seeing elderly farmers who were still active at an advanced age made me question my own lifestyle and think about taking better care of myself.



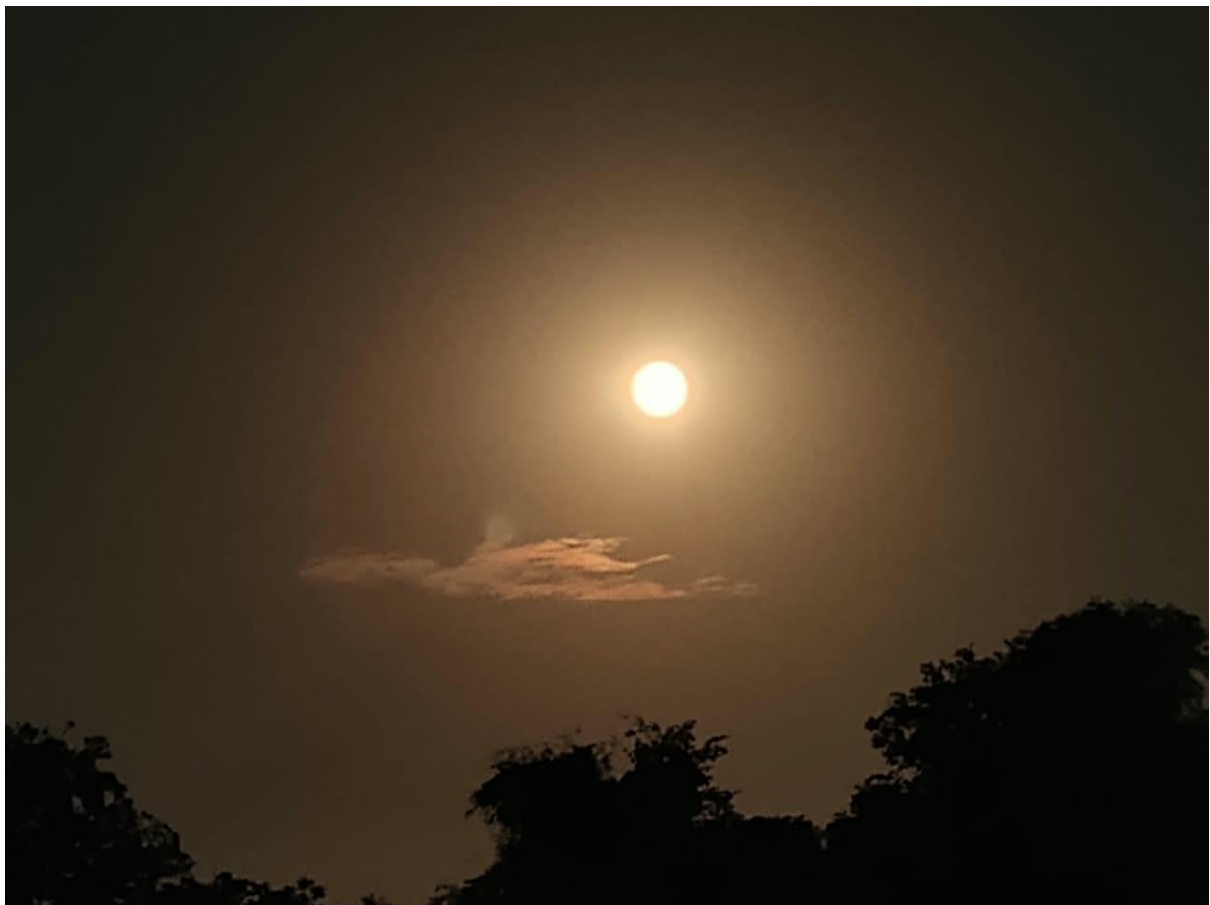
One of my favourite experiences was having lunch at a farmer's house surrounded by **hills, farms, cows and plants**. With the rain around us, the small house felt like a beautiful little cottage in nature. It was a simple moment, but it remains one of my strongest memories from the Yatra

I was also deeply inspired by **Pranav**, the little boy I spent time with during the Yatra. Watching him climb trees, listening to him and observing his confidence made me think about how much children can learn from their surroundings. It made me reflect on the importance of giving children opportunities to explore, observe and develop their natural abilities, and most of the time in yatra I spent with cutie fellow and really I feel happy to have conversation with him...



The **hill trek** was another memorable experience. While walking towards another village, I started observing the hills, breeze and surroundings more carefully. I felt that nature was communicating through its sounds and the movement of the air. Trekking also made me think about my own strengths and weaknesses and about how naturally the villagers manage these paths as part of their everyday lives.

The **Pournami silent walk** was perhaps the most peaceful experience of the Yatra. Walking along the hillside under the full moon, without talking to one another, allowed me to completely observe my surroundings. I walked nearly **two kilometres barefoot**, simply feeling the ground beneath my feet and listening to nature. For those moments, I was less occupied with my thoughts and more connected with the world around me.



Our **Charchas** also gave me opportunities to think deeply about questions such as what villages have that we may not have, what we can learn from rural communities, what we can give back to them, and what sustainable development actually means. These conversations helped me understand that development should not only be about growth, but also about **people, nature, sustainability and the future**.



Through the stories and grassroots innovations shared during the Yatra, I also understood that innovation is not limited to laboratories or technology. **A real-life problem, local knowledge and creativity can also become the starting point of an innovation.**

Another important part of this Yatra was the people I met. I interacted with people from different backgrounds and listened to their experiences, ideas and stories. I spoke with almost everyone I could, and many of those conversations became friendships. I returned with **new connections, different perspectives and a wider circle of people**.

Most importantly, this Yatra became a journey of **self-exploration** for me.

Before the Yatra, my mind was filled with many thoughts and confusion. During these three days, I felt more present, peaceful and confident. I started asking myself what I have, what I can learn from others, and what I can contribute to society. It made me realise that being grateful for what we have should go together with thinking about how we can **give back to society**.



I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to **Muni Raju Uncle**, the organiser of this Yatra, for the care and effort behind the entire journey. The food arranged for us was wonderful, and the warmth and comfort provided throughout the Yatra made the experience even more special.



One of the happiest parts of the Yatra was meeting so many wonderful people of my age from Malla Reddy College. I really enjoyed our conversations and the

time we spent together. Playing UNO cards with them at night was such a simple but memorable moment that I will always cherish ♡.



I am grateful to **Palle Srujana, Thatha garu, Muni Raju Uncle, the villagers, farmers, children, fellow Yatris and everyone who shared their time, knowledge and experiences with us.**

The 58th Shodha Yatra reminded me that **learning does not happen only through classrooms, textbooks or technology. It happens when we observe, listen, interact, question and step outside our comfort zone.**

I went to explore villages, people and nature and somewhere along the way, I explored myself ,Three days. Many people. Many perspectives. Countless learnings. One journey that I will carry with me.



Thank you..

From P.Kavya Reddy...

Student from GPREC Kurnool.