

CSY 51 Impressions

Guru 1 (Nature)

- The journey began with a great start at Ananthagiri. The lush greenery around us helped set a positive tone for the Yatra.
- The diverse vegetation in Ananthagiri, along with the various crops we encountered during our Yatra, provided a rich learning experience. I'm grateful to Anji Reddy Garu for sharing his extensive knowledge about the different crops and plants along the way.

Guru 2 (Villagers)

- **Krishna (near Ananthagiri):** A solo traveler on a bicycle, occupied with knife sharpening, Krishna's story is truly inspiring. Despite leading a simple life, he doesn't complain. He trusts his skills, manages his own livelihood, and makes things work. There's a lot to learn from his resilience.
- **Anthayya (Ex-Farmer, Kerelly):** A 73-year-old retired farmer who practiced natural farming back in the day. Although he had no formal education, his experience gave him deep knowledge of the land. He was very welcoming and shared insightful advice, such as the importance of drinking water that has been exposed to sunlight. It was a pleasure chatting with him.
- **Lakshmi (Vegetable Seller, Dornal):** A humble and simple vegetable seller, Lakshmi doesn't complain about her circumstances. She lives with whatever she harvests from her farm and ensures her children attend school.
- **Harinatha Reddy (Farmer, Dornal):** A young graduate with a B.A. who is experimenting with natural farming on his land. It was heartening to meet someone of his age who believes in sustainable practices. He mentioned that one of the main reasons farming is becoming unsustainable is due to the dependency on external labor. He hopes that more of the younger generation, who currently live in villages but are mostly focused on partying, will turn to farming, thus reducing the reliance on outside help.
- **Raju (Farmer & A potential Innovator):** I finally met someone working on an innovation in farming. Although his design is very similar to the current Palle Srujana innovation, it was exciting to see his initiative. He uses a 20-liter water can instead of a bag, and the pipe and button mechanism are comparable to the existing model. Hopefully, he completes his innovation and reaches out to Palle Srujana soon.

- **Unknown/Forgotten Name (Farmer, Gottimukkala):** Due to rising fertilizer costs, this farmer and his community have gradually shifted towards natural farming practices. He mentioned that they now use very little fertilizer. Their story was inspiring—15-20 years ago, they would farm during the day and attend night school (organized by a past government initiative). Today, they've managed to learn how to sign their names, and one of the farmers completed nearly all his degree subjects, leaving just one unfinished.

Guru 3 (Co-Yatris)

- The dynamic and down-to-earth co-yatris provided numerous lessons and shared valuable knowledge across a wide range of topics.
- As an introvert, I usually take months to start interacting with people. However, during this Yatra, thanks to the warmth of my fellow yatris, I was able to connect with most of the group.
- Sharing limited resources, such as accommodation and water during our walks, was a great learning experience. It taught us the importance of resource management and cooperation.

Guru 4 (Myself)

- I came to the Yatra without many expectations, but I left with a wealth of lessons that will stay with me. The in-person experience offered much more than any virtual encounter could.
- The story of Malleshham was particularly inspiring (even though I had already seen the movie). Hearing the full story gave me a deeper understanding of his struggles. I was especially moved by the fact that he learned low-level coding and did programming on his own to create his innovation.

Summary

The Yatra was a journey full of lessons from nature, inspiring people, and fellow yatris. It helped me learn about resilience, sustainability, and how to appreciate the simple things in life.

“V N K Teja Varma S”

