

My Impressions of Chinna Shoda Yatra 51

Day 1: Beginnings and Challenges

- Arrived at the meeting point in Vikarabad with five other participants. The atmosphere felt slightly familiar since this was my second time, but I faced a personal challenge with cholera. Despite that, I carried no specific expectations.
- Formal introductions with the group were insightful. Brigadier's introduction brought a fresh perspective on rural innovations and the current developments in that space.
- Walking over 20 km on the first day was a significant achievement, made possible by maintaining fitness with just ORS.
- The Vikarabad conservation area offered beautiful scenery, and it was wonderful to engage with fellow Yatris, learning about their diverse perspectives.
- Observed a noticeable shift in farmers' attitudes toward a progressive mindset, evident in the variety of crops and farming techniques along the way.
- Engaging discussions revolved around key themes such as AI, migration, corporatism, and marriage.
- Brigadier's speeches and storytelling created awareness about life's basic needs and inspired a deeper appreciation for simplicity and innovation.

Day 2: Connections and Inspiration

- Sleep was scarce at the school where we stayed, but the day's priority was to interact with villagers and connect with experienced Yatris.
- Visiting homes and chatting about **Palle Srujana** was a highlight, offering a glimpse into rural life and its aspirations.
- I bonded with the remaining Yatris, allowing my extroverted side to shine. Access to the personal stories of inspirational individuals was truly motivating.
- Confidence and positivity grew with each story, though hearing about the challenges faced by some raised my concern and empathy.
- I practiced negotiation techniques like mirroring and labeling during conversations, which helped build rapport.
- Witnessed Brigadier's exceptional talents in public speaking, storytelling, and motivational speeches. His articulation and ability to inspire were unmatched.
- Learned about J.N. Reddy's impactful work and initiatives like **INSPIRE** and **IGNITE**, which sparked new ideas.
- Spent time talking to media professionals and gained insights into their unique way of life.
- Tried Sri Tailam but remained unsure about its effectiveness.

Day 3: Reflections and New Ideas

- The night was bitterly cold, and sleep was rough, but the day brought new milestones. I recorded my first video byte, which was an exciting experience.
- Spent time contemplating ideas such as **Pattana Yatra**, promoting farmer-to-family trade to bypass intermediaries, purchasing farm plots, and setting up permaculture-based, self-sustaining properties.

- Learned to approach situations by gathering arguments from multiple perspectives before forming judgments.
- Brigadier's visionary approach demonstrated the importance of alternative skill development and leadership.
- Gained valuable insights from fellow Yatris, both on personal and professional fronts.
- My perspective on farming shifted from relying solely on automation to embracing enhanced independent farming models, which prioritize sustainability and innovation.

Closing Thoughts

The Chinna Shoda Yatra 51 was an incredible journey of healing learning, growth, and connection. From physical endurance to intellectual stimulation, every moment was an opportunity to expand my horizons. Brigadier's leadership and the shared experiences with the Yatris left a lasting impression, inspiring me to think critically and act with purpose in my personal and professional endeavors.

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