

30th Chinna Shodha Yatra
by Palle Srujana

Ponduru to Naira

Dist Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh
19-21 April, 2019

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Background

Shodha Yatra, a journey of exploration, is a pilgrimage to the forgotten temples of Knowledge. We believe that villages and the villagers are highly knowledgeable and so to understand their expertise in “living in harmony with the ever changing nature” is the mission of Shodha Yatra.

The inspiration for Chinna Shodha Yatra came from National Innovation Foundation ([NIF](http://www.nifindia.org)). A group of participants walk for three days to interact with the nature and the people in the villages for learning, sharing and mutual exchange of knowledge. Please visit <http://www.nifindia.org>, and/or <http://www.sristi.org> for more details on Shodha Yatra.

Palle Srujana, a non-profit, non-government and voluntary organization focused mainly on Rural Knowledge and Creativity, is the overall coordinator for the Chinna Shodha Yatras in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Please visit <http://www.pallesrujana.org> for more details about the organization.

30th Chinna Shodha Yatra

Date: 19-21 April, 2019

Location: Ponduru – Kothavalasa – Purushothapuram - Naira

Meeting Point: Ponduru

Starts: Yatra commences at 8 AM on Friday, 19 April, 2019 from Ponduru.

Ends: At Naira@5 PM on Sunday, 21 April, 2019.

Total Distance: Approximately 50 km.

Route map: <https://goo.gl/EEZG3S>

Registration:

Please fill the form at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/tuYSZL5VsTPFWgdG8>

Please note that the registration does not automatically entitle participation in this Shodha Yatra. You shall be intimated if and when confirmed.

Last date for Registration: 17 April, 2019 (Noon).



Travel Advice

We are offering travel advice from Hyderabad. Yatris from other locations can contact us for advice.

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To reach the starting point:

Reach Srikakulam bus stand by road or Amudalavalasa (Srikakulam road) by train. Wash up at Amudalavalasa rail station or Srikakulam bus stand. Reach Ponduru (24 Kms from Srikakulam) by Bus likely to take max 1 hour. Buses going to Rajam will stop at Ponduru. Exact location of meeting point in the village will be intimated later.

Path we Walk:

19 April—Ponduru, Tungapeta, Gorinta, Gokarna Palli, Valtair, Kothavalasa, Cheemalavalasa

20 April—Cheemalavalasa, Vedullavalasa, Akkulapeta, Koragam, Rottavalasa, Palavalasa, Purushottapuram

21 April—Purushottapuram, Alamagepeta, Ramachendrapeta, Batteru, Naira

Return Journey:

On 21 April, 2019, yatries will reach Srikakulam by 7 PM. Naira is 15 Kms away from Srikakulam and will take 30 min. Return journey may be planned accordingly.

Reflections of yatris

For impressions of yatris who participated in earlier Chinna Shodha Yatras and to know the objectives and other details of Chinna Shodha Yatra, please visit www.pallesrujana.org

Please share your travel details with Coordinators

Coordinators for the Yatra

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Objectives of Chinna Shodha Yatra:

- Promoting grassroots innovations
- Observe the bio-diversity and its changes over the route
- Observe the livelihood practices of Villagers.
- Understand the harmony among the villagers and the nature.
- Interact with villagers, learn and document their traditional knowledge.
- Identify creative people in the village and document their knowledge.
- Felicitate elders above 90 years at their door step.
- Understand the villagers' perspective on Development.
- Observe resources availability and their utilization including value addition etc.
- Assess the self reliance practices.
- Talk to children, share your knowledge and inspire them with your achievements.
- Assess the aspirations of village youth and their parents
- Identify technology gaps and see the appropriateness of the tools and equipment being used by the villagers.
- Study the crop pattern and examine their suitability to the environment, people's needs and its sustenance.
- Observe their food habits, health practices.
- Traditional practices in treatment to animals.
- Forest management and ownership of lands by tribal.
- Share the knowledge of other villages which is captured by NIF and Palle Sruajana.

Who can participate?

- Participation in Chinna Shodha Yatra is voluntary.
- School and College Students, any world citizen-male or female, boy or girl, who understands the mission of NIF and honeybee may participate in the Yatra. Visit www.nifindia.org and www.pallesrujana.org before volunteering to participate in the yatra.
- Physical fitness to walk 54 kms during the Shodha Yatra is essential.

Registration Fee

- A nominal amount of Rs 500 per participant as registration fee is to be paid at the beginning of the yatra which will be used against the pre-yatra expenses of planning and reconnaissance by Volunteers of Palle Srujana.

Expenses during the Yatra

- All participants including students should bear their respective travel expenses and local expenses.
- Food and logistics expenses will be shared equally by the yatrasis.
- Yatra discipline needs to be strictly followed.

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By registering into this programme it is understood that you declare all the details that you furnished are correct and complete and in case you are a student you have your parents consent. It is also understood that you abide by the Palle Srujana's mission and objectives of the Chinna Shodha Yatra along with its norms and discipline.

Participation is limited to minimum 20 and maximum 40. If more participants register, Coordinator will select the final list. Confirmation from the Coordinator is essential. Should the registered participants be less than 20, the yatra may get deferred.

Last date for Registration: 17 April, 2019 (Noon).

Other Information

- Food will be centrally organized. Each yatri has to deposit Rs. 800 for the food on the first day. Accounts will be tracked and settled by a volunteer from the yatris before dispersal on 21st April, 2019.
- Boarding during the three days is free, we would sleep in a school, a panchayat office or a temple with no charges - courtesy village people but in very rare instances we may stay in a hostel and have to pay the expenses for stay.
- During the Yatra, we will be felicitating the old, knowledgeable and deserving villagers with shawls and other useful items. Voluntary contributions from yatris are welcome for this purpose. You are welcome to bring shawls and other items.
- Interaction with school children will be a major activity during the yatra. Idea competitions, bio-diversity competitions will be conducted for them. Volunteers are welcome to bring gifts like knowledge books, sketch pens, pencils, drawing books, pens, geometry boxes and other stationery and games kits for schools.
- Recipe competitions will be conducted for the local women
- For more details, please write to csy@pallesrujana.org

• Each yatri is expected to do the following:

- Maintain a positive attitude and shift to learning mode.
- Keep active and participate whole heartedly.
- Interact with other participants extensively.
- Talk to villagers with respect and learn from them.
- Be courteous to women, children and old persons.
- Share impressions everyday and more on the last day.
- A detailed report on your impressions (along with your willingness to work in some activity) to be mailed in a week by 28th April, 2019 to
Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham sir president@pallesrujana.org

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What to carry

- 1-2 sets of change of clothes
- Torch light with spare batteries
- Steel plate, tumbler and spoon
- Pad and pen/pencil
- Camera, video
- Bed sheets (2). Pillow(Only desirable)
- A Mug
- Water bottle
- Cap
- Suitable foot wear – avoid new shoes
- First aid kit
- Medicines, if you are using any
- One bag per participant will be carried separately in a logistic vehicle.
- **No plastics please.**

Useful Information

Kindly refer below for some important instructions/information for the Shodha Yatra:

- Travel light and bring only as much luggage, which you can handle by yourself.
- Sleeping gear has to be brought by the participant as it will not be provided
- Mobile signals may not be available for most of the route
- It is expected that during the Chinna Shodha Yatra, the participants would walk with their friends/colleagues. The objective of this walk is to get to know other people and learn from them.
- No waste material like food packets/ wrappers/polythene is to be littered in the jungles, villages or the places where we rest/sleep. Participants are expected to dispose such material, if in possession, at the designated place or carry bag for disposal later.
- Closed bathroom/washroom facility may not be available.
- Sometimes due to unforeseen reasons, food may be delayed. Kindly bear all this in mind.

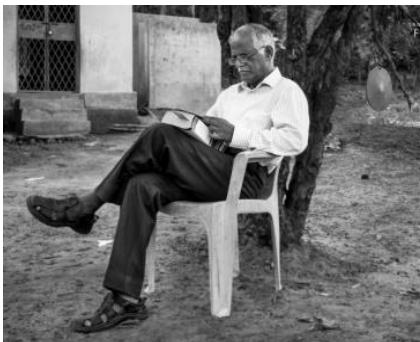
If we keep everything aforesaid in mind, Chinna Shodha Yatra would be a good learning experience for all. You will surely experience the excitement of living with minimal resources and facilities.

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Mentor

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Palle Srujana is a voluntary organisation based in Hyderabad. It strives to promote creativity at grassroots level in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Our core activities:

- Scouting and supporting Grassroots Innovation
- Scouting, documenting and dissemination of traditional knowledge and healing methods
- Internships to anyone interested in learning from Informal sector
- Dissemination of grassroots knowledge through publishing a bi-monthly magazine in Telugu
- Exposing the Grassroots knowledge to school and college children and involve scientists, academia, economists, industry and other state actors in leveraging the sustainable benefit to the society from these innovations.
- Promoting entrepreneurship with grassroots innovations

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www.pallesrujana.org



Moments from previous Chinna Shodha Yatras

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Previous Yatras

First Chinna Shodha Yatra was held in April- May 2011 in Duggondi Mandal of Dist Warangal. 23 students (6 girls) from NITW, MRIM and others participated. The feedback indicated that the objectives were fully achieved.

Second Chinna Shodha Yatra was organized during 18-20 November 2011 in Kothaguda Mandal of Warangal Dist from the *historic Pakhal Cheruvu* (Reservoir) constructed by the Rulers of KAKATIYA Dynasty, 800 years back for irrigation purposes to Gangaram through tribal belt and reserve Forest. 27 participants (5 girls) from NITW, Vagdevi Inst of Management, Two Professors made the Yatra very meaningful by their participation.

Third Chinna Shodha Yatra was held during 24-26 February 2012 in Mahabubnagar District. The Yatra commenced at Achampet and ended at Bakaram. 28 (including 4 girls) Participants from NITW, MRIM, Vagdevi Inst of Mgmt, Gurunanak Engg College, ITC etc made the Yatra a memorable one. The drought stricken, barren lands of this region provided us a deep insight into the livelihood strategies of the tribal people living in this area.

Fourth Chinna Shodha Yatra was conducted in Dist Khammam during 15-17 June 2012 from Chintur to Motugudem. 26 participants including a farmer, inter students, and students from NITW, IIIT, IIT, Kharagpur etc. A distance of 45 km was covered in deep forests and amongst adivasis.

Fifth Chinna Shodha Yatra was organized in Dist Karimnagar from Kataram to Mahadevpur during 02-04 November 2012. 32 participants explored the agri-belt and forests besides enjoying the flooded rivers and rivulets. Bath in the mighty Godavari River was the highlight of the yatra. Walking more than half the route in mud was a great experience.

Sixth Chinna Shodha Yatra was held in Adilabad district mostly in Tribal belt. During March 1-3, 2013 the yatra journeyed from DhannuraB to Indravalli. Age group ranged from 65- 16 years. 36 participants spent very useful three days interacting extensively with women, children, farmers and elders.

Seventh Chinna Shodha Yatra was conducted from Palakonda to Veeraghattam villages of Srikakulam District during 21st – 23rd June, 2013. 26 participants walked through a scenic green hills for a distance of about 52 km. Yatris were composed from a wide spectrum making the interaction rich and varied.

Eighth Chinna Shodha Yatra was held from 27-29 September 2013 from SriKalahasti to Kotha kandriga in Chittoor District. 34 participants actively involved in the yatra and walked 51 kms. Few foreigners also participated in this yatra and shared their experiences as memorable and meaningful.

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Ninth Chinna Shodha Yatra was held from 20-22 December 2013 from Nizampet to Narayanakhed in Medak District. 32 yatris walked 52 Kms along with two foreign participants from Japan and South Korea.



Tenth Chinna Shodha Yatra was held from Feb 28-Mar 2 2014 from Rajapet to Aleru in Nalgonda District. 30 yatris participated in the 50 km walk culminating in the residence of Innovator Mallesham.

Eleventh Chinna Shodha Yatra was held during May 9-11, 2014 Atmakur to Kapileshwaram, Kurnool District. About 20 yatris participated in the 50 km walk. For the first time, we've found innovators in the yatra.

Twelfth Chinna Shodha yatra was conducted in District Rangareddy from Ibrahimpatnam to Mall during 20-22 June 2014. 18 Yatris from various parts of India and one from US participated. Innovations such as Solar sprayer and coconut climber were demonstrated live by the volunteers. The distance covered was 52 Kms and the area was very scenic with hills, lot of greenery, and valleys.

Thirteenth Chinna Shodha yatra had seen a lot of rain and yatris enjoyed walking in the rain for almost 4-5 hours at a stretch. The scenic Nizamabad district area from Varni to Tadakapally enthralled the participants with hidden treasures of knowledge and amazing people. It was conducted during 5-7 September 2014. 25 yatris including two from US participated.

Fourteenth Chinna Shodha Yatra - 24 participants went through an exciting route from Ulavapalla to Racharlapadu in Nellore Dist from 26-28 December. Shodha yatris had the privilege of seeing the process of salt making from ocean water. They visited astonishing "Child Ashram" on the last day and were moved by the pioneering work done for the rejected children of the society. In all the walk was 55 Kms long.

Fifteenth Chinna Shodha yatra was conducted from Parvathipuram to Sambara during December 26-28, 2015 in Dist Vizianagaram. 24 participants walked 52 Kms and interacted with the people of that region.

Sixteenth Chinna Shodha Yatra was conducted from Sunnampadu to Ramanayya peta in East Godavari Dist. The area was scenic and nature was in great display. 36 participants interacted with people from 12 villages during the three day walk from 25 to 27 September 2015. The area and the people offered immense knowledge to the shodha yatris during the walk of over 55 kilometers.

Seventeenth Chinn a Shodha Yatra - 46 participants walked 52 Kms from Kannapuram to Kondrukota from 8-10 January 2016. The route was through the Sanctuary and the yatris had experienced walking through thick forest and solitary spaces. Majority of the area we walked would be in the waters of Polavaram reservoir. It was an unique experience for the yatris to interact and learn the difficulties these people face in their rehabilitation.



Eighteenth Chinn a Shodha Yatra was conducted in sweltering heat during month of April 2016 in a valley of Prakasam District. The yatra started from Cumbam and reached Gannepally after three days. Over 22 participants interacted with people from 18 villages and enjoyed the hot and cold days in the region. Hospitality of the people stole the hearts of the yatries.

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Nineteenth Chinna Shodha Yatra was held in June 2016 from V.N Palle to Gangireddi Palle in Kadapa dist of Andhra Pradesh. 36 participants walked 55 kms and enjoyed the hospitality of the locals, interacted with villagers to learn and share the grassroots knowledge and enjoyed the nature found during the route. Children creativity was documented by the yatries. Interaction with women in the villages was very meaningful. Three scientists from CSIR also walked in this yatra.

Twentieth Chinna Shodha Yatra - over 45 participants got together on 24 September at RDT premises in Atmakur, Dist Ananthapur. Next 3 days upto 25 September, yatries walked over 50 kms starting from Hanimireddypalli and concluded at kambalapalli. This was a very meaningful yatra where yatries could meet innovators, herbal healers and were overwhelmed with their knowledge and hospitality. Weather was perfect for walks and green fields with mountains as an excellent backdrop. The drought prone area gave yatries an insight into the inner strength of the people to survive and live in harmony with nature.

Twenty First Chinna Shodha Yatra - 38 Participants participated in this gyan yatra passing through around 20 villages starting from Repalle -Peasarlamaka-Bhattiprolu- Palle Kuna and back to Repalle in Dist Guntur of Andhra pradesh state. The verdant nature with full of cultivation, people with excellent farming skills and caring hospitality and abundant creative energy in the children, women and farmers humbled the yatries. We found three innovators and felicitated them at their door step.

Twenty Second Chinna Shodha Yatra - This Yatra was planned to be in the forest region of northern Warangal dist. 42 of us spent more time with trees, bushes and birds than with people. Lunch on a hill overlooking Jampanna Vagu curving through the reserve forest skirting hills and the discussion followed were exciting and inspirational. Interaction with school children and children was thoroughly enjoyed by yatries. Passed through the very popular shrine and Mela location "Sammakka Sarakka jatara" and interacted with moolika vaidyulu. As the Yatries walked over 50 Kms, there was a great exchange of knowledge with Nature and people. Many questions regarding the human behaviour towards the nature were raised and some found answers and some were left unanswered. Nature in its pure and gigantic form presented to the Yatries during this Yatra remains the most memorable experience.



Twenty Third Chinna Shodha Yatra - From Nirmal to Khanapur in Nirmal District of Telangana, 22 yatries walked over 52 Kms for three days. This Yatra was unique in the sense that each day we met one innovator and one old person above 90 years. Yatries learned from them with excitement and also were stunned to note the quality and depth of the knowledge these people possessed. Interaction with the young farmer Prabhakar was one of the highlights of the yatra.

Twenty fourth Chinna Shodha Yatra - 26 Yatris joined this yatra which commenced from Zaheerabad to Basanthpur in Sangareddy District, Telangana. Experiences during yatra were amazing as the journey included visiting "Aranya" - a permaculture Institution, Meeting Smt Tuljamma - a simple but extremely helpful to the society, Konda reddy a septuagenerain who walked faster than all the yatris and shared amazing anecdotes of his times. Yatris also visited DDS - a four decade old organization dedicated to preserve and promote local seeds and millets for farming and consumption. We found few innovators too and documented the knowledge of herbal healers. Interaction with children was least due to School holidays.

Twenty Fifth Chinna Shodha Yatra - This was a unique yatra for many reasons. Firstly, 46 participants with 11 women/girls was a record for all yatras. It had two youngest Yatris Rudra and Nilaya in their fifteenth year. The yatra also saw very low temperatures upto 4 degrees centigrade at Lambasingi on the second day night. The group walked 58 Kms and passed through some very remote, pristine and with simple people inhabiting the place. Every yatri was excited to walk and learn through interaction with people and witnessing the nature and love of the locals. We had some amazing moments when a dog - nick named CSY followed us for 16 kms on the last day.

Twenty Sixth Chinna Shodha Yatra - 46 yatries from various walks of life and of all ages with a dozen girls and ladies started the yatra from Nagayalanka in krishna dist from the banks of River Krishna. Three days walk upto Hamsala Deevi included visiting over dozen villages, interaction with students in 3 schools, crossing River Krishna twice on a ferry with many vehicles and people, spending a night on an island, walking in the moonlight on KARAKATTA which runs parallel to the Bay of Bengal, visiting Sorla Gundi village which lost over 600 people in two hours during 1977 cyclone. Finality was when yatries immersed themselves in the sea at Hamsala deevi on the last day before the yatries bid farewell to each other. Interaction with women was very significant and the life of fishermen was the focus of the yatra. Walking through mangroves was an experience having understood how they help people living in its proximity.

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Twenty Seventh Chinna Shodha Yatra - 34 yatries walked over 58 Kms in Nagar Kurnool dist starting from Peddakothapalli to Somasila. They interacted with school children, farmers and women. We met a farmer in the village who expressed his anguish at the unviability of farming due to high input costs and low price for farm produce. A women shared how happy she is being in the village as everyone knows everyone and care for each other. Somasila - a scenic place located on the back waters of Krishna from Srisailam Dam was the best place for culmination of Yatra.

Twenty Eighth Chinna Shodha Yatra - 36 Yatries gathered at Valivetivaripalem in a Brick making farm ten kms away from Ongole, the district capital of Prakasam Dist. An unlearning session in the morning brought us together for the first time. Next three days journey followed was a memorable as the nature and people opened their arms to extend hospitality, share their knowledge, displayed their skills, described the pains underlying the livelihood practices, humbly convey the apathy of the system and formal people. Women, men, children and elders were very kind to us all through the Yatra. Night halts on the side of the river and in Temple were the most peaceful. Small hotels provided the best and tastiest food at unbelievably low cost. All through we could see the emphasis was on people - their happiness and well being. Yatries learnt about brick making, river fish catching, sea fish catching, crab catch and process, harvesting in sandy soils etc enroute interacting with fishermen, farmers and brick makers. E met elders baove 90 years and took their blessings and listened to their life story. This yatra also saw 5 inmates from local Orphange "Bommarillu" participating very actively and gave all of us tremendous pleasure and an intellectual company.

Twenty Ninth Chinna Shodha Yatra - 34 Yatries collected at the Innovator Shanmukha Rao's house in Kambalapally village on the morning 21 December 2018. The journey began with an intense interaction with students of local school. Yatra went through a fairly cultivated area, beautiful hills and river beds, mostly through Pakhal reserve forest. Another innovator S Babu interacted with yatries and described his simple but very useful innovation. Enroute, yatries met many young farmers, which is rare nowadays, shepherds, school students, women and teachers. Visit to Bheemunipadam was a bit disappointment as the expected water fall was missing. Walk in the pure moonlight was bliss for all. Silent walk and walk through dark nights in unknown villages with utmost safety and security made all of us feel that villages by default are safer than over protected urban areas. A 48 Km walk was worth it.

