



Home Guards to be deployed for Ganga cleaning

LUCKNOW: Chief Minister Aditya Nath Yogi on Wednesday directed officials to engage UP Home Guards in 'Namami Gange' project dealing with the cleaning of the river Ganga. The decision is sure to bring smiles on the faces of 1-lakh plus jawans serving the department.

The UP Home Guards department has a strength of 1,12,533 jawans but only 50,325 are engaged for law and order while another 1,765 and 4,500 are deployed for assistance in security at prisons and public places, respectively. Jawans are engaged for assignments on rotation basis thereby meaning that 50% of the Home Guard force is off duty on any given day in normal circumstances. Since jawans are paid remuneration on per day basis, those out of duty lose their earnings. Demanding regular deployment, the jawans had held protests across the state in the recent past. CM's decision will offer new engagements for jawans who can now be engaged in assisting the Namami Gange project.

Apart from engaging Home Guards, Yogi also directed the officials to organise a month-long drive starting from Ganga Dushshehra in June where Home Guards would be engaged in large numbers. Addressing officials, he assured the government will look into the of jawans and increase their participation in law and order and other duties at social and religious gatherings in the state.

The CM also directed officials that apart from the Namami Gange project, Home Guards should be engaged in state disaster relief force (SDRF) deployments. The CM was brief on remuneration structure of the force and methods in place for deployment and preparation of duty assignments for the Home Guards.