

Day 24 & 25

The 'Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan' is drawing nearer to its destination, and we stand at Day 24 of the 34-day expedition across the length of river Ganga. The rafting team was welcomed at Babua Ghat of Munger, Bihar, by the Bhagwan Bhaskar Sangeetmaya Natika by putting up a street play to spread awareness about the need of public participation to keep the Ganga clean.

The day then saw a gathering of the residents of Munger, along with the officials, which was graced by the esteemed presence of The Secretary of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Sh. UP Singh, along with Wing Commander Paramvir Singh and his expedition team. Wing Commander Paramvir Singh lauded the efforts of the residents in keeping the Ganga clean. Sh. UP Singh mentioned that the 'Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan' was not just helping people get more connected to water, but also letting the Ministry gather first hand information on the river Ganga, and how we can work towards its rejuvenation and conservation.

The expedition team and the residents of Munger then took a pledge to do the most in their power to preserve the river and keep the Ganga clean. The day further saw Sh. UP Singh leading the residents and other officials on a march from the Babua Ghat to Kashtaharini Ghat in Munger, Bihar. The participants then took up the responsibility of cleaning the Kashtaharini Ghat.

The expedition team, led by Wing Commander Paramvir Singh, and Sh. UP Singh, thereafter continued their rafting journey towards Bhagalpur in Bihar, and were given a heartfelt send off by Sh. Rajesh Meena, District Magistrate.

The team was welcomed as warmly at Sidhi Ghat in the Bhagalpur district of Bihar, by the DDC-Begusarai, Smt. J. Priyadarshini. The day ended with the team and all participants witnessing the beautiful evening lit up by Sandhya Ardhaya of the famous festival of Chatt Puja.

The next day - day 25 - began with a 'Prabhat Pheri' at Sandish Ground of the Bhagalpur district of Bihar. Residents and officials gathered together and made it their mission to spread the message of keeping the Ganga clean. The Prabhat Pheri, led by Wing Commander Paramvir Singh and DDC-Begusarai, Smt. J. Priyadarshini, saw passive participation from Urdu Mahavidalya khanjarpur, Barhapura, Nathnagar, Tatarpur, Mojahidpur, Urdu Prathmik Vidalaya, Jabbar chak and Sahibgang, as well as the team of a non-government organisation. The students of Sarju Devi Mohanlal Madhy Vidylay, Bhagalpur, also stood up for the mission of cleaning the river Ganga. To encourage the public to participate in the programme and spread the message of the

mission amongst the people, the DM and Municipal Commissioner of Bhagalpur and other state government officials graced the occasion.

Thereafter, the officials and residents of the district participated in a cleanliness drive at the Barari Ghat of Bhagalpur, Bihar. The drive saw not only massive public participation, but also the involvement of the Director DRDA, Deputy Commissioner, and officials of NMCG and SMCG-Bihar.

The day then witnessed an enthralling cultural programme, portraying a captivating street play on the Champa river, called 'Nirmal Ganga, Nirmal Champa'. The river Champa is one of the tributaries of river Ganga, and holds great cultural, historical and mythological importance for the people of the country.

The day ended with 'Ganga Aarti' by the Municipal Commissioner of Bhagalpur, and the rafting team sought blessings from Maa Ganga for their journey onward in the morning to come.