

Day-2

The sunrise of day 2 of 'Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan' at Rishikesh, saw the participation of students in taking the lead at Triveni Ghat. Students from various schools came together to put up a cultural show, highlighting the need of the hour to conserve water and keep the Ganga clean. They put their words into action, and got down to cleaning the ghat as well. Executive Director (Finance) - NMCG, Sh. Rozy Aggarwal, Team Leader of the expedition, Wing Commander Paramvir Singh, Mayor of Rishikesh, Smt. Anita Mangain, and other dignitaries graced the event with their presence, and encouraged the students in their laudable efforts towards keeping the Ganga and its ghats clean.

It was time again to bid adieu to the rafting expedition team, led by Wing Commander Paramvir Singh, to reunite at Chandi Ghat of Haridwar. As the team left for their next halt at Haridwar in the long journey to Ganga Sagar, Chandi Ghat awaited them with another group of students leading from the front.

Team Sparsh Ganga, an NGO working tirelessly towards restoration and rejuvenation of the Ganga, had organised a grand welcome for the rafting team. The evening began with a drawing competition organised by Sparsh Ganga, in association with SPMG, Uttarakhand. More than 300 students participated and pledged their support towards keeping the holy river clean, by sketching their unique perceptions of 'Swachh Bharat, Swachh Ganga'. From the earth weeping because of its continuous abuse at our hands, to lauding the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the small hands presented a grand view of their vision for the future. The inspiring work of these students also compelled the Executive Director (Finance) - NMCG, Sh. Rozy Aggarwal, to go back to his childhood and bring out the artist in him!

After the drawing competition, children of all ages stole the show yet again, by putting up the most vibrant and colourful performances in honour of the rafting team of 'Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan'. The evening began with the auspicious lamp lighting ceremony by MLA Haridwar, Sh. Yatishvaranand, Executive Director (Finance) - NMCG, Sh. Rozy Aggarwal, Team Leader of the expedition, Wing Commander Paramvir Singh, and the daughter of Minister of Jal Shakti, Ms. Suhasini Shekhawat, along with other eminent dignitaries. Hundreds of students and participants sought blessings from the holy river, and prayed for the success of the 'Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan' for the following month.

The evening saw some beautiful dance performances by the students of various schools, which left the audience awestruck, and at the same time, reminded them

of their duty towards keeping Ganga clean. The cultural event began with the auspicious 'Ganga Vandana', followed by numerous other performances by children of all ages. The enthralling event also saw the encouragement of the citizens in their participation in cleaning the Ganga and its ghats, by the present dignitaries. It would be unfair to not speak about Ms. Nirja Goyal, a Divyang paraglider and a national para-badminton player, cleans the ghats of Ganga every single Sunday!

The evening ended with Executive Director (Finance) - NMCG, Sh. Rozy Aggarwal addressing the participants, and appreciating the massive participation of citizens, institutions, and various NGOs, in the mission of Namami Gange of water conservation and river rejuvenation. Sh. Aggarwal looks back at the time when NMCG was mocked for its ambitious endeavour of cleaning the Ganga, and today, two years down the line, people are coming forward to associate themselves with the mission.

As the sun sets for the day, the team for the rafting expedition prepares for an early start tomorrow, where they set out towards their next destination in the 'Ganga Amantran Abhiyan'