

DAY 6:

The sixth day of 'Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan' saw the rafting expedition team continue its journey from Narora to Kachla in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh. Badaun, the birthplace of the first female ruler of Delhi, Razia Sultan, was ready to live up to the grandeur that history has witnessed from this small town.

The proud eyes of various schools of Badaun, Rotary Club of Ujhani Classic and various dignitaries of the city awaited the arrival of the team at the Bhagirath Ghat. Executive Direction (Admin), Sh. Rajiv Kishore, blessed the event with his presence and guidance.

The team of the rafting expedition, led by Wing Commander Paramvir Singh, was welcomed with immense enthusiasm and joy, by the young and old alike. The students of Tithonus international School, Badaun and Rajkiya Inter College, Badaun led the expedition team for a tree plantation drive at the Ghat. As DG-NMCG, Sh. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, has insisted time and again, it was the youth that led by example, and put their best foot forward to ensure that we are successful in our mission of rejuvenation of the river Ganga.

After the plantation drive, the expedition team, along with the chief guests, was welcomed by an enthralling cultural show put up by children from across the city. The event was graced by the presence of Executive Direction (Admin), Sh. Rajiv Kishore, MP Badaun, Dr. Sanghamitra Maurya, and other dignitaries. Moreover, the new DM, SSP, CDO, DFO were also present. The efforts of the NGO, Shri Ganga Aarti Seva Samiti, in upholding an atmosphere of devotion and duty, alike, made the evening even more memorable.

After the auspicious lamp lighting ceremony by the present dignitaries, it was time for the participants and chief guests to witness the beautiful event put up by children of all ages. The cultural event saw participation from students of various schools, who left more than 1,500 participants enraptured by their wide range of talent. From budding dancers swaying to the tune of the Namami Gange anthem, to an upcoming rapper, Anurag Gupta, presenting the voice of Ganga, the students of the schools of Badaun stole the hearts of every single eye in the audience. The students of HP International School, Badaun, also put up a very innovative rendition of the Ganga Call to Action song of Namami Gange. The students of Bloomingdale School presented an unconventionally captivating medley on the Swachhata theme.

The event saw participation from people across all ages, who transcended boundaries to come together for spreading the message of rejuvenation of river Ganga. Padma Vibhusan, Iftikhar Hussain Khan enthralled the audience with his bhajan and thumri. Ganga sewak, Swami Tridandi Maharaj, who started a crusade against Ganga pollution way back in 2012 along with two other supporters, narrated the journey of his mission. The emotion and eagerness of his narration did not allow any participant to believe that an almost 90 year old gentleman was speaking to them!

The evening also saw a Kavi Sammelan on river Ganga, moving the participants with one of the oldest forms of art - poetry.

After the cultural event, Shri Ganga Aarti Seva Samiti, along with the expedition team and the chief guests, performed Ganga Pujan at the pious ghats of River Ganga, and sought the

blessings of Ma Ganga for the journey of the coming month. The Samiti also presented the rafting team with a memento to honour their expedition, and bless them for their successful journey towards the next destination.

The evening ended with all the participants standing shoulder to shoulder, and taking a pledge of cleaning the river Ganga and its ghat, and ensuring that each one puts their best foot forward to preserve the cleanliness and purity of the Ganga. The pledge was administered by the members of Gayatri Parivaar. They also read out a touching letter from Maa Ganga, addressed to her sons, calling them to act today.

The day was the perfect portrayal of the famous Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb, showing all different cultures and people coming together to display their raised consciousness for the welfare of the river Ganga.