

Day 9:

On the 9th day of Ganga Aamantran Rafting Expedition, we moved forward in our Journey towards Kanpur. The history of Kanpur dates back to the 13th century when the present-day Kanpur was a village named Kanhpur, established by Raja Kanh Deo of the Kanhpuria clan. The city also played an important role in the freedom struggle and took part in the Indian Rebellion of 1857, under Nana Sahib.

Kanpur is also blessed with a rich cultural heritage. It is known to be the home of many famous poets. Fair and festivals that are celebrated in the city, also offer a glimpse of the culture of Kanpur. The famous Ganga Fair is held for five days each year, attracting people from all walks of life.

We reached the Ghat at around 8AM and people from all walks of life welcomed us along with the DM and DFO of Kannauj. We discussed the importance of Maa Gange and how it holds an important place in Kannauj. It was then, Ravindra Kumar, DM, Kannauj decided to join us for a small stretch. Everyone around us got really excited. We got ready and bid farewell to the people of Kannauj along with Sh Ravindra Kumar and started our journey forward.

At around 5PM, we reached Kanpur and we could see people eagerly waiting for us at Atal Ghat which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi in March earlier this year.

Sh. Manoj Kumar Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary (Urban Development); Sh Vijay Vishwas Pant, DM, Kanpur; DFO, Kanpur along with other officials welcomed us at the ghat. The ghat was filled with people. NCC cadets from different schools and people from all walks of life were there to Welcome us. We heard people shouting "Har Har Gange, Namami Gange. Har Har Gange, Namami Gange" in perfect harmony. It was a breathtaking moment.

As we started walking in the streets of Kanpur, we were accompanied by people playing dhols and clicking pictures with us. We took a short halt and Sh D.P. Maturia, ED(T), Ministry of Jal Shakti, interacted with the local people. He told them this movement will only be a success if the people living on river Ganga Take it personally and make it their mission to make Ganga cleaner.

At the cultural program, the rafting team was welcomed by Sh Santosh Kumar Sharma, Nagar Aayukt, Kanpur and Dr. Sudhir M Bobde, Nagar Ayukt, Kanpur. Many schools participated in the cultural event to support the expedition. The artist and the students who performed at the event were very talented. Ms Samarjeet Randhawa along with her team performed Manzar hai yeh naya to educate people about the importance of water.

We also interacted with a lot of children as they are the future of this country. We were so astonished to see how much the children living on the banks of Ganga are concerned about it. It was the time for Ganga Aarti and we bowed our heads down and paid homage to Maa Ganga. As it was getting late, we decided to call it a day.