

## Day 19

It is the 19th day of the expedition. We woke up early, fresh and charged to reach the ghat at sunrise. There was a sea of people from all walks of life who came to see us off. Everyone was cheering for us and wishing us a safe journey. The Ganga was pure and serene as always. We sat at the ghat for some time enjoying the scenic beauty. Many devotees were taking a dip in Ganga and what we experienced can only be defined as divine.

Today, we were moving to our next destination- Chapra, a quaint town, studded with ancient structures and monuments and embedded in history and heritage. Embellished in the colorful Bhojpuri culture, the city captivates you with its fervor for traditions. Despite the passage of time, it has managed to stay true to its age-old cultural heritage. A city of historical importance, Chapra has shone through different eras of India's glorious past. It is believed to have been a part of the ancient kingdom of Kosala. Archaeological remains suggest its affinity to the Maurya Empire under Emperor Asoka. It was believed to be an important market town during the Mughal reign in the 18th century. Today, Chapra lures travellers as a major cultural and heritage hub of Bihar.

As we reached the Tiwari Ghat Doriganj (Chhapra) where we were received by D.D.C, Saran; Director, Jivika didi, volunteers from various NGOs and students from various schools. As we move ahead, there was a huge crowd waiting for us. Addressing the gathering, our Wing Commander Major Paramveer Singh Said, "Ganga Amantran Abhiyan is not only about the adventure. The major idea is to spread awareness among people. He also congratulated the Namami Gange team on their tremendous work." Then, the stage was taken over by the youngsters who performed various cultural activities. They explained how there won't be any life left if we don't stop contaminating the environment. We all could feel our goosebumps as it was both emotional and reflective.

The cultural program ended with Ganga aarti, making us all feel one with the universe and feeling extremely grateful for our mother Ganga and her generosity.