

Day 20

Day 20th was a terrific day. Today we were rafting to Sonepur, a town with a history that dates back to 8th century AD when it was known as Swarnapur and was a part of Khinjali Mandal, ruled by the Bhanjas as the feudatory of the Bhaumakaras of Toshali. The District was ruled by many dynasties from its past.

We reached Sonepur at about 3PM and we were received by Sh Rajiv Pratap Rudy, MP, Saran; NCC Cadets from different schools; volunteers from Jivika and other NGOs along with people from all walks of life.

As we got down from our rafts, people started cheering for us, clicking pictures with us and congratulating us for the work so far. We were welcomed by – SP; DDC; Director, DRDA; SDO; SDPO; BDO, and other officials of saran district.

We were then taken to the cultural event where our rafting team started the program with the lighting of lamp and we, along with everyone present there promised to help in keeping Ganga clean. Speaking on the occasion, Sh Rajiv Pratap Rudy said when we establish a destination by defining what we want, take physical action by making choices that move us towards that destination, then the possibility for success becomes limitless and arrival at the destination becomes inevitable. But to achieve this in something like Ganga cleaning and river rejuvenation, people's participation is a must. As the sun started setting, it was time for Ganga Aarti. The priest started preparing for the rituals and we stood behind him. We paid our homage to Mother Ganga and thanked for all the gifts we get from her.

We then interacted with the local public about the expedition. The locals told us how they listen to our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi on "Mann Ki Baat" and how they will do everything in their power to make Ganga the cleanest river in the world. As it was getting late, we decide to call it a day. We thanked everyone for coming and asked them to pray for us for our future endeavours and to help us in keeping Ganga Clean.