

Day 33 of the 'Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan' started with a one-of-a-kind gathering at the Princep Ghat of Kolkata, where the officers of the Indian Army and the Indian Navy addressed the team of officers from IAF, Indian Army, Indian Navy, NDRF, and the researchers from Wildlife Institute of India and IITR. The officers lauded the rafting team for their efforts in raising awareness for rejuvenation of the river Ganga, and encouraged them to keep moving forward towards this mission. They also commended the WII and IITR team for the knowledge bank that they have contributed with respect to the aquatic life of the river.

The morning then saw a heartfelt flag off by Major Ankush from the Princep Ghat in Kolkata, as the rafting expedition team, led by Wing Commander Paramvir Singh, left for its next destination at Nischinta Pur, a village in the South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal.

The team received an equally warm welcome at the Nischinta Pur Ghat by Sh. AK Arya, Chief Engineer-CWC, Dr. Bharat Pathak, National Convenor, Ganga Vichar Manch, and Dr. Nandita Pathak, Ambassador, SBM (Grameen). What was most touching was the enthusiastic welcome of the team by the residents of Nischinta Pur Village, with children and adults showing their love and respect for the team with the same ardour.

The evening ended with the people's cheers still echoing in the team's ears, as they await the final destination of Ganga Sagar in an expedition that seems to end all too soon.