

Day 11

On Day 11th we got up early and excited to reach to Kalankankar Ghat, Pratapgarh- the place where the modern poet Shri Sumitra Nandan Pant, the vigilant sentinel of the earth and the analyst of human conscience, fused the thoughts of Karl Marx and Mahatma Gandhi, made his most important compositions.

We reached the ghat at around 8 AM in the morning. The morning winds were cold and we could feel the winter breeze. Ganga was as peaceful as ever. People from all walks of life came to welcome us to the Ghat. The determination shown to us about the importance of water in life by the common man has strengthened our faith that we will soon be able to overcome the water problem.

The water was colder today in comparison to other days. As it was getting late, we decided to bid farewell to the people of Fatehpur and move to our next destination and we were flagged off by Sh Sanjeev Singh, DM, Fatehpur, Sh Ramesh, SP, Fatehpur, and Sh C. P. S. Malik, District Forest Officer, Fatehpur. As we rowed away, the officials along with the common people prayed for our safe journey. We could hear the crowd cheering, “ Har Har Gange, Namami Gange.. Har Har Gange, Namami Gange.” Such enthusiasm in the common man really builds up our confidence and morale to face the obstacles in our journey.

As we move, we could see different life forms in Ganga. It is amazing how Ganga has been a home to so many life forms. There are over 140 species of freshwater fish, 90 amphibian species, and 315 bird species unique to Ganga.

We reached Pratapgarh at around 5 PM. Pratapgarh is one of the oldest towns in Uttar Pradesh. We could see the cultural connect Pratapgarh had with Maa Ganga. Sh Markandey Shahi, District Magistrate, Pratapgarh, along with the local people and students from different local schools welcomed us at the Kalankankar Ghat. 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 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. As the sun started settling, 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.