

Day – 03

“Give me one reason you should not take care of something as precious as water, that too, the Ganga, the holy river that supports over 500 million people and numerous flora and fauna across its length and breadth” asked Shri Shikhar Paliwal, the founder of Being Bhagirath. It was the Day-03 of the expedition and Shri Paliwal was addressing a huge gathering of students, social workers and citizens. Soon, the Hon’ble Minister of Urban Development, Uttarakhand Government, Shri Madan Kaushik graced the occasion. The stage was perfectly set for the forward journey with the presence of Hon’ble Minister, Shri Rozi Agarwal, Executive Director-Finance, Wing Commander Paramvir Singh and his team.

Speaking on the occasion the Hon’ble Minister thanked the Prime Minister for this initiative and his consistent focus on the developments related to the mission. Speaking of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Hon’ble Minister of Jal Shakti, he said that Shri Shekhawat has given a new impetus to the initiative by not only thinking of Ganga Aamantran Abhiyaan but also leading from the front by rafting from Dev Pragyag to Rishikesh.

The morning saw some beautiful nukkad natak performances by the students of various schools, which left the audience awestruck at their sheer understanding of the water crisis in hand.

Addressing the gathering, Sh. Rozy Aggarwal thanked the people for their participation. He said there is a paradigm shift in the way people’s perception has changed towards the mission. Sharing his previous experiences with the audiences he said when the mission was launched nobody trusted it. But the way NMCG went about its business and made the differences felt at grass-root level, people have not only started to appreciate our efforts but are also coming forward to join us in this Jan-andolan.

The morning also witnessed launch of “Swachhta Kalash” by Being Bhagrath team. Swachhta Kalash is a very unique yet simple way to segregate pollutants at source. It is made up of four kalash namely for pooja samagri, flowers, clothes and other.

It was time again to bid adieu to the rafting expedition team, led by Wing Commander Paramvir Singh, to reunite at Madhya Ganga Barrage of Bijnore. Shri Madan Kaushik, Hon’ble Minister of Urban Development, Uttarakhand flagged-off the rafting team for their next destination at Bijnore while hundreds of students wished them good luck and pledged to be their flagbearers in keeping the Ganga Clean.

The Madhya Ganga Barrage at Bijnore was eagerly waiting for these water champions. The distance was long and challenging, which resulted into their late arrival at Bijnore. But the enthusiasm was such that it did not hamper their spirit and they kept waiting for their arrival with utmost sincerity.

The people were joined by Shri U.P.Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri Ramakant Pandey, DM, Bijnore, NCC, Ganga Praharis, Aanganwadi workers, citizens from various walks of life and other government dignitaries.

While interacting with the government officials, professionals and reporters Shri U.P.Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti reiterated the importance of various stakeholders coming together to achieve this Himalayan task. He thanked Bijnore district administration for its exemplary efforts in making the district plastic free

The cultural event began with the auspicious 'Ganga Aarti'. The evening saw some beautiful nukkad natak performances by the students of various schools, which left the audience awestruck, and at the same time, reminded them of their duty towards keeping Ganga clean. The enthralling event also saw the encouragement of the citizens in their participation in cleaning the Ganga and its ghats, by the present dignitaries.

Addressing the citizens, Ms. Deepti Agarwal, Pollution Control Board, Uttar Pradesh informed that how the government has used technological interventions not only in reusing the water coming out of the main 20 polluting industries but also ensuring that the Ganga does not get polluted by it.

The evening ended with Shri U.P.Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, addressing the participants, and appreciating the massive participation of citizens, institutions, and various NGOs, in the mission of Namami Gange of water conservation and river rejuvenation.

As the sun sets for the day, the team for the rafting expedition prepares for an early start tomorrow, where they set out towards their next destination in the 'Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan'.