

## **Day 7:**

Today marked the 7th day of the expedition. It was one of the biggest stretches that we had to cover in our journey. We woke up early so as to reach Bhagirath Ghat at around 6.30 AM. As we expected, people from all walks of life came together to see us off at the Ghat. To be honest, seeing people taking out time from their day to day lives to be a part of “Ganga Aamantran Rafting Expedition” is the best part of our day. It means the expedition is continuing to be a success as it was more about raising awareness than the adventure.

We were surrounded by a huge group as soon as we got out of our vehicles. People were clicking pictures with us, congratulating us on the expedition and praying for our future journey. Shri Rajiv Kishore Executive Director, Admin, along with Rajesh Singh, Divisional Forest Officer also welcomed us at this early hour. We were also accompanied by Dr. Akhilesh Yadav, Scientist CSR- Indian Institute of Toxicology Research Lucknow to collect samples of Ganga River. He interacted with the locals and told them what they can do to contribute towards cleaner Ganga.

As we were getting late, we said farewell to everyone and started our journey forward. The beatitude of Ganga was breathtaking as always. On our way, we came across many aquatic life forms including a water snake which was a beauty in itself.

We reached Panchal Ghat at 5 PM and were welcomed by Sh. Nagender Singh Rathore, MLA, Bhojpur; Sh PK Upadhaya, DFO, Farrukhabad; Sh. Amit Tyagi, DPRO, Farrukhabad along with hundreds of people eagerly waiting for us.

As we moved towards the event area, we were accompanied by the NCC Cadets from Badri Vishal Degree College and D.N. Degree College. The enthusiasm showed by the students in this expedition so far has been a great motivating factor for us. They are the future of this country and if every student decides to work towards a cleaner Ganga, Mother Ganga will be the cleanest river in the entire world in no time.

It was time for Ganga Aarti at the Ghat and we all decided to pay our homage. It was a beautiful moment as and everyone could feel the tranquillity in the moment.

Even though it was one of the longest stretches today, it was a memorable one. We interacted with the locals for a while, discussed the issues they face and what changes they have made to make Ganga Cleaner. It was getting late and we decided to call it a day and bid farewell to the people and thanked them for their support.