

Day 18:

At the 18th day of the expedition, we got up early, fresh and excited, as our next destination is none other than Buxar- a city famous since the epic period for being the seats of eminent saints, battlefield of Gods and Demons as per Puranas and a combat zone between foreign invasion and countrymen in modern history. The remains from archaeological excavations have established the link of Buxar with ancient civilizations of Mohanjodaro and Harappa. The place where the due killing of the famous Rakshasi (demoness) Tadika by Lord Rama, is said to fall within the present Buxar town area. Besides, Lord Ram and Lord Laxman took their teachings at Buxar.

We reached the ghat at around 7 AM. Government officials, Volunteers from various NGOs, students from different schools and people from all walks of life welcomed us at the ghat. It was chilly and we decided to have an interaction with the locals over chai. The one thing that needs special mention here is the warmth of the people. They debate with an open mind, embrace your ideas once convinced and then win you over.

We discussed the issues faced by Maa Ganga on a daily basis and concluded that if we come together as one, nothing can stop us. As it was getting late, we decided to bid farewell to the people and move ahead in our journey. We thanked the people for their cooperation and with a promise that each of them will act as Ganga Rakshak, we left for Buxar.

At the Ramrekha ghat, we were received by the SDO, DEO, EO and ward Parshad along with students from different schools, volunteers from different NGOs, and people from all walks of life. Seeing these many people leaving their work and finding time just to support our expedition is still the best part of this expedition. It proves that Ganga Aamantran Rafting Expedition is a success as the idea of this expedition was to aware people and bring them together as one to make Ganga Clean.

It was Diwali and people of Buxar has organized an eco-friendly celebration for Diwali for us. SDO, DEO, EO, Chairman, volunteers from Ganga Vichar Manch, members of Namami Gange Team and the local people of Buxar celebrated Deepawali, the festival of hope and joy at the Ram Rekha Ghat- the place where Lord Ram received his education.

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.