

All-woman BSF team to raft 2,500km down Ganga in 53 days



Union Jal Shakti minister C R Patil (in white) with the women BSF personnel and others during the Ganga Utsav in Haridwar

MS Nawaz & Kalyan Das | TNN

Haridwar: An all-woman rafting team drawn from personnel of BSF set off to traverse the length of Ganga from Devprayag in Tehri Garhwal to Ganga Sagar in West Bengal, covering a distance of 2,500km in 53 days. This is the first time an all-woman team will raft the entire stretch of the river.

The team will spread the message of clean Ganga and women empowerment.

Union Jal Shakti minister C R Patil flagged off the joint initiative by BSF and National Mission for Clean Ganga on Monday at Haridwar's Chandi Ghat as part of the annual Ganga Utsav. "Ganga holds sig-

nificance beyond being just a river; it represents our cultural legacy and heritage," the minister said.

The campaign is being led by SI Praya Meena of BSF and will conclude on Dec 26 at Diamond Harbour in West Bengal. BSF deputy commandant Manoj Sundariyal, who is supervising the expedition, said, "Twenty officials were selected after a rigorous six-week training, including advanced courses for the rafting expedition." Mahesh Negi, commandant of BSF Institute of Adventure & Advance Training told **TOI** the idea for the campaign came on seeing "exceptional performances of trainees during rafting course".