



Mobile:  
+919167758456



Atulya Ganga  
UGF, F-240, Shopping  
Arcade, Sushant Lok-1,  
Gurgaon,  
Haryana - 122009



Office Email -  
hem@atulyaganga.com  
Website -  
www.atulyaganga.com



AN 11 YEAR VETERANS'  
COMMITMENT FOR  
GANGA REJUVENATION

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Aulya Ganga Tableau at Republic Day Parade 2023

**Veterans of Atulya Ganga Create Shaheed Smriti Ganga Upwan at Atal Sarovar, Bankhanda village on 7th August 2025 in association with Sainik Bandu Hapur, Sainik Kalyan Evam Punirwas Nideshalaya, UP., and Gram Pradhan Bankhanda village**

Atulya Ganga Trust (AGT), the most steadfast veterans Initiative working since 2019 to synergise the Ex-servicemen (ESMs) for Nation building and environment protection, through rejuvenation of the Ganga Basin, found a unique way to immortalise the supreme sacrifice of local martyrs through protection of environment, by creating Shaheed Smriti Ganga Upwan at Atal Sarovar, Bankhanda village, Hapur on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025 by planting 1,000 saplings. Sainik Bandhu, Hapur, Sainik Kalyan Evam Punirwas Nideshalaya UP, through Zila Sainik Kalyan Officer Lt Col Vivek Sigh, and Gram Pradhan Bankhanda joined hands with AGT in this noble initiative.

Creation of Shaheed Smiriti Upwan to salute the supreme sacrifice of martyrs, will not only keep the memory of the martyr alive, but also protect the environment. The flourishing garden will send a message from the departed martyrs.

**“I sacrificed my life to ensure you can live peacefully. My soul continues to ensure your survival through protection of environment. Sit under my shade and remember, I remain your guardian”.**

**A trailblazing event worthy of emulation**

While the Defence Forces ensure the citizens of Bharat can sleep peacefully by guarding its borders with their lives, the over thirty lakh strong veteran community can play a stellar role in safeguarding the environment, the alarmingly steady degeneration of which, threatens the survival of future generations. River Ganga, flowing through 52 districts, provides the veteran community and the Army Establishment, a unique opportunity to address the woefully meagre two percent forest cover of the Ganga Basin, home to forty percent of our population, as against



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the national average of twenty-six percent, That it will increase the reverence for our Defence Forces and the veteran community manifold, needs no elaboration.

Families of local martyrs planted a sapling each to honour the supreme sacrifice by the departed A board listing the names of valiant local martyrs was erected. Local veterans volunteered to nurture the planted saplings.

To instill a sense of competition for a noble cause, the plantation area was divided for plantation and nurturing of saplings among ESM Community, students of local schools, villagers of Bankhanda, villagers of Dayanatpur, and NCC cadets of 38 Battalion NCC. Plantation drive commenced on 25 July with plantation by cadets of 38 Battalion NCC. Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July was celebrated through plantation by veterans to display their role model contribution to environment protection, and a team from 56 Field Regiment. The process continued with plantation by villagers of Bankhanda, Dayanatpur, Nali Huseinpur, Rasalpur, and local school,

The event was organised by The Vice President Sainik Bandhu Hapur, veteran Warrant Officer Manbir Singh and Chief Coordinator Hapur of AGT, the young farmer Rohit Jat, who hold the proud distinction of having walked 5,530 Km for 190 days, to complete the first ever, epic Ganga Parikrama on foot conducted by AGT in 2020-2021, when the nation was reeling under Covid.

The work of AGT was showcased by its Chief Mentor veteran Maj Gen Vinod Bhatt, He was accompanied by Mentor Maj Gen Brajesh Kumar, Founders Gopal Sharma, Lt Col H C Lohumi, Commander Amod Chaudhury, members Mr. Avdhesh Tyagi, Mr Yogendra Singh, Mr Abhay Misra, and Col Prem Prakash. The Zila Sainik Kalyan Officer (ZSKO) Hapur, many veterans including Brig J K Tomar, Vir Chakra 1971 operation, Capt Rajesh Chaudhury, Capt Gopichand attended the event

The support of the Army establishment to its veterans was seen through presence of Lt Gen Vikas Rohella, SM\*\*, Col. Naveen Sharma 56 Field Regiment Lt Col Vivek Singh, The Commanding officer of 38 Battalion NCC, Col Srikanth Natarajan, Administrative Officer Lt Col V Sharda, Lt. Col. Mayur Varshney of Station Headquarter Babugarh .

Technological association of AGT with Delhi Technological University (DTU) was represented by Phd students Kanupriya Sahu, Adrik Sarkar, and Shubhankar. Dr Mohit Verma represented association of IIT Ropar.



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The event was presided over by DFO Mrs Arshi Malik, Range Officer Mukesh Kandpal, Gram Pradhan Bankhanda Mr Suresh Kumar, Gram Pradhans of villages Dayanatpur, Nali, Rasulpur, Hajipur, Allipur, and Udaipur attended the event..

**Local martyrs board erected at Upwan 25 July 2025 Plantation by 38 Battalion NCC**



**26 July 2025, veterans, and Army's 56 Field regiment celebrate Kargil Vijay Diwas**



**Plantation by villagers of Bankhanda, Students of local school, Mrs Giriraj Kaur, wife of Kargil Martyr Naik Kartar Singh**



