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## B'luru student rides for women's safety

Ashish Muthappa will be travelling to Jammu and Kashmir to spread awareness regarding women's rights and safety

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**A**shish Muthappa, 22, a second year BSc interior design student at Jain University in Bengaluru and a cyclist, will be travelling to Jammu and Kashmir from Bengaluru to spread awareness about women's safety and rights. Ashish, who will travel about 7,266 km from Basaveshwaranagar with his friend Ganesh R, will commence his journey from Freedom Park on April 23.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Ashish said, "It is disturbing to hear about the rapes and crimes against



**"I am trying to reach out to motorcyclists across India and connect with NGOs who work with women and children"**

—Ashish Muthappa

women, especially the recent Kathua rape case. I want to spread the message of women's safety and women's rights across India. I will be carrying about 30 flags which are being designed to spread this message and hope to hoist the flag in every state that I enter. In addition, I would be carrying with me pamphlets that speak about women's safety and rights that will be printed in Hindi and English and distributed among people who I interact with on the journey," he said.

Ashish hopes to interact with a wide cross-section of people in different states and will document what they say about women's safety in India.

After taking up several cycling expeditions for the environment, this is the first time that Ashish will be going on a long distance expedition on his motorcycle – a Royal Enfield Thunderbird.

"The preparations for this expedition are on full swing and I would appreciate it if more motorcyclists could also join in. I am trying to reach out to motorcyclists across India and connect with NGOs who work with women and children. Both men and women have the responsibility of safeguarding the rights of women and children," Ashish said.

Ashish will take different routes to and from his destination so that he can cover more states. He will be covering Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

In August last year, in an attempt to protect the Cauvery catchment area, along with his friend Chengappa Chekkara, an HR consultant, Ashish cycled from Bengaluru to Virajpete in Kodagu.



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