

# DECCAN Chronicle

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

## Pedal to Agumbe to save snake king

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
BENGALURU, JAN. 10

Twelve NCC cadets set out on a bicycle expedition from Bengaluru to Agumbe on a nine-day expedition that aims at spreading awareness about protecting the King Cobra, found in Agumbe and surrounding forests of Western Ghats, and also encouraging students to join NCC.

On Tuesday, Lt Col Alope Guha - group commander Karnataka Battalion NCC Bengaluru flagged off the team of 2A/5 Coy NCC of Jain University, affiliated to 7 Karnataka Battalion NCC, Group 'B' Bengaluru.

"This expedition takes us on an adventurous trip across the real India. The cadets come out of their



Jain College students take part in a cycle expedition from Bengaluru to Agumbe to create awareness on saving the King Cobra, on Tuesday

— SATISH B.

comfort zones and experience the real world that surrounds them. It is a proud moment for us since we are

involved with an activity that spreads awareness on an imperative issue and motivates the youth to join

the NCC - which bonds like-minded people who want to give back to the nation," Lt. Col. Guha said.

One of the cadets said, "The bicycle expedition has been initiated with the purpose of spreading awareness on protecting the King Cobras. We also want to spread awareness about women empowerment and the importance of armed forces as a part of curricular activities," he said.

Reptile conservationists say that the habitat of King Cobras has been encroached upon by farm lands, which have been inching closer to the forest with each passing year.

The lack of awareness about the snake puts the longest venomous snake at risk.