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## A 'SERPENTINE' CYCLING EXPEDITION

by Nivedita K G

The two A/5 Coy NCC of Jain University undertook a bicycle expedition from Bangalore to Agumbe with one aim: 'A ride for protecting the reign of the Kings'. The troop of 15 members, including 12 cadets, a liaison officer, an Associate NCC Officer (ANO) and a driver will ride for 18 days covering nearly 800 kms. They are undertaking this ride to spread awareness about protecting the King Cobra.

Speaking about sponsoring the event, an employee of Coleman, Harish J Padmanabha said, "We found that the Jain University is organising a cycle expedition for its NCC Cadets. This is an adventure sport with a message. Since it is for a social cause in the form of an awareness campaign, we are glad to be a part of it by co-sponsoring the event."

Several organisations have come forward to support the expedition by providing medical support, supplying tents, airbeds, camp-



NCC cadets and students of Jain College taking the highway route on J C Road as they embarked on an awareness campaign on Tuesday | SURESH NAMPOOTHIRI

ing chairs, stoves, camping furniture, sleeping bags and other camping accessories required. An Army

Battalion truck carrying these amenities will accompany the group. The team led by Arvind Kumar, an

Associate NCC Officer, will interact with school and college students. He said, "We will interact with the snake-

catchers as well and explain to them the adverse effects of killing the cobras as they are endangered species. We have

### Route Map

- 6 DAYS**  
Bangalore to Shimoga  
(281 kms)
- 4 DAYS**  
Shimoga to Agumbe  
(95 kms)
- 3 DAYS**  
Agumbe to Chikmagalur  
(116 kms)
- 5 DAYS**  
Chikmagalur to Bangalore  
(252 kms)

The estimated cost of the trip is ₹3,30,000

chosen 12 cadets who have the stamina to undertake the expedition for 18 days."

Many more volunteered to participate in the event but organising a trip for a large group was difficult, he said.

Speaking about being a part of the group, Abhinav Shivkumar said, "This is the second expedition after the bike expedition to Panaji and Bidar. It is very adventurous and we are proud to protect the king of snakes."