

## **The Rural Bicycle Tour**

21<sup>st</sup> March 2010

Over 1000 students, alumni, faculty and staff of IIT Kanpur rode their bicycles along the kaccha and pukka roads of rural Kanpur as part of the event that came to be called the Rural Bicycle Excursion. The tour was intended to promote a healthy, sustainable lifestyle and interaction between the IITK community and the rural community. It was organized by the Bumpy Trails bicycling group along with the IITK Adventure Club.

The tour began at 6:00am from the Students Activities Centre of the campus and ended at 3:00pm. There were two levels of the tour – a 65km loop for experienced riders and a 25 km loop for everyone else. There were several attractions along the two routes like the village of Lodhar where the NGO Jagriti runs a school, the famous Shobhan mandir, several beautiful and unusual bird species like Kingfishers, Pied Myna, little egrets, etc. As soon as the news reached the rural areas that the IITK techies would be passing by they all gathered to cheer the riders.

Thirteen volunteer stations were set up along the route to serve energy drinks and refreshments to the participants. Support vehicles were stationed at key points along the route. The district authorities were also informed about the tour and a number of police, civic, and health measures were put in place.