

Delhiites pedal for planet Earth

ENVIRONMENT CONSCIOUS Cycle rally saw about 100 participants from all walks of life

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NEW DELHI: For about 100 environment-conscious people, Sunday morning started on cycles.

Ahead of the Earth Hour — on March 26, when people across the world switch off the lights between 8.30pm and 9.30pm — cyclists from all walks of life pedalled from Ambedkar Nagar to Panchsheel Enclave, a seven-kilometre stretch.

Titled 'Pedal for the Planet 2011', the event was organised by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India and Hindustan Times, in association with Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company Ltd.

"A similar event is planned in Mumbai next week. A panel discussion of corporates on ener-



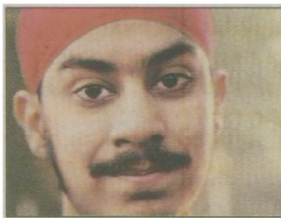
■ Participants of a seven-km cycle rally that began at BRT Corridor in Delhi on Sunday.

SUNIL SAXENA/HT PHOTOS

gy conservation will be held in Bangalore and a college activation programme is planned in Shimla," said Arti Khosla of WWF India.

"This year we hope people will do something permanent like setting air conditioner temperature at 24 or 26 instead of a low 18 degrees," she added.

YOUNG BLOOD FOR NATURE



MANVIR SINGH

Unlike many other youngsters of his age, 18-year-old Singh, student at Indraprastha University, worries about the environment.

"We may run out of natural resources of energy by 2050, if we keep going on at the current pace," he said.

Singh was among the 100 participants of the 'Pedal for the Planet' cycle rally that kick-started on Sunday morning.

"My sister works for WWF India and that's how I came to know about the rally. As my family is environment-conscious, we believe in judicious use of resources and I am here to support that," he said.

CYCLING BRINGS THEM TOGETHER



VAMINI SETHI

Delhi Cyclists have members who are doctors, photographers, DJs, students and corporate house professionals. Twelve of the group were at the cycle rally for the love of cycling.

"We organise weekly rides in and around the city. Sometimes we also go for off roading trips but usually stay in and around NCR," said Vamini Sethi, a member of the group.

The group came to know about the rally from social networking site Facebook and participated in the event for the first time. Their page on Facebook is slowly become popular and now has 193 members.

OLD GUN LEADS THE RIGHT WAY



TS RAJAMANI

At 51 years, Rajamani was the oldest person in Sunday's cycle rally. His love for anything to do with nature and environment made him get up at 5.30am on Sunday and come to Ambedkar Nagar to participate in the rally.

"I keep telling people in my neighbourhood about energy-saving techniques. I also got a park built in my colony recently. I feel it is really important to stand up for the environment so that we can save it," he said.

Rajamani, whose daughter is a marathon runner, works at a private bank and has been associated with the rally for the last two years.