

**EMBASSY OF INDIA
Havana, Cuba**

Press Release

Mr. Somen Debnath, an Indian national, currently in Havana, Cuba is on a World Bicycle Tour Program. He began his World Bicycle Tour on May 27, 2004 from India. So far, Mr. Somen has so far travelled through 141 countries (including Cuba) and completed 149,300 kilometers on his bike trip in India and internationally.

The main objective of Mr. Debnath is to raise awareness on HIV / AIDS in particular among poor people in urban, rural and tribal areas and spread the message of peace and humanity with Indian culture through his planned tour of 191 countries, which he expects to complete in end-2020 covering almost 200,000 km and reach almost 20 million people. His campaign supporting by personal donations and Indian company's sponsorship.

More details on the journey so far undertaken and experienced by Mr. Somen Debnath are in the attached Annexure.

Embassy of India, Havana would appreciate any possible assistance and cooperation extended to facilitate the success of Mr. Semen's tour of Cuba and his future journey.

Havana, November 27, 2017

Presently Somen Debnath in Havana, Cuba. He would love to meet you all! His present contact number WhatsApp [+224 654 80 9441](https://wa.me/224654809441)

**PROFILE OF MR. SOMEN DEBNATH, INDIAN NATION ON
WORLD BICYCLE TOUR
Cuba 141 countries travel
Travelled 149,300 km from India to Cuba**

Mr. Somen Debnath, an Indian national is in "**Around the World Bicycle Tour Program seminars on Indian culture and awareness of HIV / AIDS**", which began on **May 27, 2004**, right after acquiring his Bachelor Science degree in Zoology at the University of Calcutta. He has also obtained the 'Visarad' degree in Fine Arts at the University of Sarabhartiya, Calcutta, West Bengal, India. So far, he has

travelled through **141 countries (including Cuba)** and completed **149,300 kilometers** on his bike trip in India and internationally.

The details are as follows: -

2004-2006: 28 States and 5 Union Territories of India

2006-2009: 22 countries in Asia.

2009-2012: 45 countries in Europe, including the North Pole (Greenland).

2012 and 2015: Africa (52) and Middle East (8) Total 60 countries).

2016-2017: 13 Countries South America Brazil to Colombia. Including South Pole Antarctica. In addition, 6 countries in Caribbean.

Future plans :

2017-2018: All countries in Central and North America.

2018-2019: Canada, Russia, Siberia, Mongolia and China, Korea, Japan, Philippines, New Zealand and Australia

2020: Sumatra, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh and then return to India on May 27, 2020.

Inspiration: He was inspired to this mission at the age of 14 when he read the article entitled "AIDS is more deadly than cancer". The person referred to in the said article was homeless and was sitting in front of the Medical College of Calcutta, abandoned by its inhabitants and left to die alone. The article had a great impact on him and then he began to ask his teachers at school about HIV / AIDS, but they could not give him any satisfactory answer. As a result, two years later, Mr. Somen decided to get specialized training in WBSACS (Society of West Bengal State AIDS Control) and started awareness campaign on HIV / AIDS, education from his own school. The AIDS-related stigma and lack of awareness about this deadly but preventable disease motivated him more. His first mission was extended to the people of his village, then in India and is now a global campaign for him.

Strategy: To educate people from different parts of society by raising awareness among students in schools, colleges, universities, and also encourage these institutions to begin a chapter on the sensitization program on HIV / AIDS, promote to use needles and syringes among people addicted to drugs and condoms for sex workers. It also aims to create awareness among youth and encourage non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in countries around the world.

Objective: He is in the world tour of 191 countries and plans to achieve this goal to complete their journey in 2020. Through his bicycle tour

around the world, he is trying to raise awareness on HIV / AIDS through conferences and seminars on Indian culture. Its focus is on poor people in urban / rural and tribal areas throughout the world as they have the lowest level of awareness on this deadly disease.

Short-term objective: Students, young people and communities that benefit from awareness program will run in the societies of their respected countries.

Long-term goal: To raise global awareness on HIV / AIDS through education of local people worldwide.

Achievements: From his hometown in Sundarbans, India on May 27, 2004, Mr. Somen carried out awareness program to NGOs, schools, colleges, universities, red light areas-road and numerous restaurants. Mr. Somen has the honour to meet **130 Indian HC / Ambassadors, 6 Reyes, 38 Presidents, 65 Prime Ministers, almost 400 Ministers and government officials from different clubs in different field so far. He desires to travel around 191 countries at the end of 2020 covering almost 200,000 km and reach almost 20 million people.** His campaign is supported by personal donations and sponsorships.

Exclusive story: Mr. Somen faced many difficulties while traveling, including 24 days captivity by the Taliban in Afghanistan. He was robbed 6 times in Central Asia; faced countries in -35 Degrees Celsius temperature in former CSSR; 8 times beaten by skinheads; Living with wild animals such as rhinos, elephants, cheetahs, pythons, etc. in the wilderness; and lived with one of the most ancient Jarawa tribe in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India for 20 days. One of the happiest persons he met was a Bangladeshi with 25 rupees per day income / quarter happily living with his family. India is felt everywhere in this world culture. Mr. Debnath has honorary citizenship with second home in Georgia. He traveled to the North Pole in 2011 facing -45 degrees. Met lovely people called Intuit / Eskimo. He crossed 7 Mares and Oceans with three big mountains like the Himalayas and the Alps. During night shelter, he had some fun too - courtesy police and thieves.

His campaign funds & Global Village Project: Forty percent of the funds collected during the campaign spent on travel expenses and the remaining 60 percent is devoted to his Global Village. He would like to invite all friends and families around the world that he has been meeting during the trip and supporting for global village. They will all be lifelong members of their extended family. He would like to thank everyone for their great support and cooperation, not only for the world but also his mission for the global village and its future plans.

Mr. Somen desires to conduct workshops on HIV / AIDS and peace and humanity in colleges, schools, health centers, NGOs, social organizations and other institutions in **Colombia** would appreciate any possible assistance and cooperation extended to facilitate the success of his tour of **Republic of Cuba**.

May visit the following sites on the World Bicycle Tour by Mr. Somen Debnath:

Somen Debnath

“Around the World on Bicycle Tour For HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme and Seminars on Indian Culture (27 May 2004 - 2020, 191 Countries)”

Website: www.somen2020world.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/somen2020globe/>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com](https://twitter.com/worldsomen) › worldsomen

Instagram: www.pikore.com › somenworld

English Blog: <http://www.somendebnath.com/>

Blog in Russian: <http://somen-debnath.livejournal.com/>

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=somen+debnath

Skype: somen2020

"People Are My God"