

# **PROFILE OF MR. SOMEN DEBNATH, INDIAN NATION ON WORLD BICYCLE TOUR**

## **USA 150 countries travel**

**Traveled 154.800 km from India to USA**

**Mr. Somen Debnath**, an Indian national, is currently in the midst of a 16 year dream journey to bicycle around the world. His mission is titled "Around the World on Bicycle Tour for HIV / AIDS Awareness and Seminars on Indian Culture 2004-2020".

The dream began on May 27, 2004, shortly after acquiring his Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology at the University of Kolkata, India. He has also obtained the 'Visarad' degree in Fine Arts at the University of Sarbabhartiya, Kolkata, India.

So far, he has travelled through 150 countries (including USA) and has completed 154,700 kilometers on his bike trip. His journey details are below:

## **Journey completed**

2004-2006: 28 States and five Union Territories of India.

2006-2009: 23 countries in Asia.

2009-2012: 45 countries in Europe, and Greenland.

2012 and 2015: 52 countries in Africa and 8 countries in the Middle East.

2016-2017: 13 countries in South America, 6 countries in the Caribbean, and the South Pole in Antarctica.

## **Journey ongoing and planned**

2018: 8 countries in Central America and all the countries in North America, including the Arctic circle.

2019-2020: 25 countries in Asia and Australasia.

2020: Return to India on 2020.

**Inspiration:** Somen's mission was inspired at the young age of 14 when he read an article entitled "AIDS is more deadly than cancer". The person referred to in the said article was homeless, and was sitting in front of a prominent medical college in Kolkata, abandoned by its inhabitants and left to die alone. The article had a great impact on him, so he began to ask his teachers at school about HIV / AIDS. Unfortunately no one could provide a satisfactory answer as to the why this individual went through such tribulation. As a result, two years later, Somen got special training from the WBSACS (Society of West Bengal State AIDS Control), and started an awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS and education from his own school. The AIDS-related stigma and lack of awareness about this deadly but preventable disease motivated him even more. Somen's first mission was to provide awareness in his motherland India, and subsequently extend his campaign to a global front and audience.

**Campaign:** An arduous journey of this nature can only be done with the love, support and generosity of many a special people around the globe. For this a special GoFundMe cause has been set up for anyone interested in partaking with the cause.

Please support this campaign to continue this journey through 2020. The fund would like to request your generous financial support to ensure the goal of covering 191 countries and 200,000 kms covered through bicycling around this wonderful world. As a special commendation, Somen would love to have you share in the common goal by having you and/or your near and dears recognized as honorary travel companions during the journey. Somen will bike the equivalent number of kilometers for each 1USD donated. A benchmark contribution of \$25 or more would be greatly appreciated.

Through the lens of his eyes, Somen has gone through a myriad of experiences, difficulties, trials and tribulations. However through the strength of the human spirit of one and others, the peace mission has persevered to a global belief and understanding that has proliferated through one and all, and is continuing to grow.

One such incident among many, was when he was captured by the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2007 for 24 days. He was released due to the strength of his resolve, and message of peace and non-violence.

Taliban captive won his release by cooking curry - Telegraph

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/6510505/Taliban-captive-won-his-release-by-cooking-curry.html>.

Below are a few links from Somen's library and experiences, where his outreach and adventures have been received by many a local and global media outlets.

**Passing Through - Somen Debnath video watch:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38hEbHkTSHU>

Indian man brings message of peace and love to Palm Beach, Florida, US

<https://www.wpbf.com/article/indian-man-brings-message-of-peace-and-love-to-palm-beach/23880227?src=app>

**Future Plans:**

Somen has a devoted vision of creating a Global Village post the completion of this world tour. All the global friends and family from around the world are cordially invited to reminisce in the memories created around the world during the trip. The global village will be an 8 hectare land encompassing accommodation as well as an ecological and sustainable farm in the village. 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.

Please help to share and spread the word!

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

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

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/worldsomen>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/worldsomen/?hl=en>

Website: [www.somen2020world.com](http://www.somen2020world.com)

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

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

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpyR0yoYU3N8U563QLJ5hdg>

Skype: somen2020 Whatsapp: +91 70315 37391 (India) +1 210 894 9896 (USA)

“People Are My God”