

# No schedules, no maps: A ride for peace

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Thiruvananthapuram: Covering more than 12,000 kilometres across 16 countries in seven months, 24-year-old Patrick Kaiser from Germany is in the city campaigning for peace and promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle. A graduate in Geoecology, Patrick began his journey in June 2015 on his specially made tandem cycle.

People are the best maps says Patrick, who does not follow a strict schedule but prefers a slow journey so that he could enjoy the travel instead of the rushing to complete it.

In addition to various decorations and a colourful flag with the word peace printed on it in different languages, the cycle has been fitted with an additional seat in the front



Patrick Kaiser the cyclist from Germany riding with founder of the Jyothirgamaya Foundation Tiffany Brar

with a message 'Take a Seat' on it, which Patrick has included for anyone who is interested to travel along with him. "I have been mostly taking the blind as my co-riders as most of the time such people are

confined to the passenger seat. But I want them to enjoy the pleasure of a rider. I have installed the seat such that a person with physical disability can travel in it comfortably," said Patrick.

One of the many people who travelled with him was the founder of the Jyothirgamaya Foundation Tiffany Brar. She travelled with him from Thiruvananthapuram to Neyyattinkara. According to Brar, it was a different experience which she enjoyed a lot.

Entering India through the Wagah Border in December, he chose to travel along the coastline of Arabia Sea to reach Kerala. "It was through this journey that I realized that one should not be judgemental about anything or anyone until we have really had any experience. The preconceptions that I had about countries like Pakistan and India have changed, where I find people friendly and kind," said Patrick.

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