

A HANDICAPPED BELGIAN CYCLIST WHO IS ON A WORLD TOUR, SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF "BELIEVE IN YOU" WAS RECENTLY IN MANDI TOWN. HE SHARES HIS EXPERIENCES WITH TOS

Munish Sood Mandi

A handicapped Belgian cyclist, Ludo Linden, is on a world tour for a cause. He wants to spread a message of self-confidence, harmony and brotherhood among the people of the world especially the disabled who feel shattered after such tragedies in their lives.

"One should believe in oneself and have the courage to do the impossible to overcome the pain of life. The motive behind my journey is to tell people that self-confidence is the key behind everything in life. If one's mind is clear then they can do anything," he tells bravely.

Cycling across the world in his bicycle he reached Mandi last week. He started his journey a year back and

WORLD TOUR



Belgian cyclist, Ludo Linden has proved that handicap is no bar for achieving anything

Man on a mission

“When you believe in yourself you can make all your dreams come true. Disability cannot be a barrier in any case

— Ludo Linden, cyclist

has padded more than twelve countries including Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Dubai, Sri Lanka, India and others.

It will take four long years for this brave man to tour the world before he completes his mission impossible.

Fifty one year old Ludo is associated with Handicapped International, a Belgian organisation that is working extensively for the cause of disabled persons especially those who lost their limbs in long lasting wars of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

"I chose the Handicap International because I am being proof that despite your disability you can still chase your dreams. I try to collect money for them and am specially cycling for their projects," even dia and others.

Well aware of the facts that it is not an easy journey to do with prosthesis, the tall man does travel above eighty miles in a day. "I enjoyed my journey and overcome the challenges smilingly which came across. I also make sure not to overload the leg," he explains.

He planned his tour well in advance and has a list and addresses of all the places where parts of his prosthesis are available, he told.

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Man on a mission

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He derived the inspiration to travel by his friend, also a handicapped person who lives in Bali. "I promised to visit him taking eleven years back and hence this tour. I have some friends in New Zealand, which helped me bring out the real man out of me despite all odds. So I decided to do a tour from Belgium to New Zealand for a charity meeting the friend is though part of that long journey," he added smilingly.

Linden lost his left leg in a tragic accident twenty-eight years ago. Cycling the world was always his childhood dream but he never expected doing it this way in his farthest dream. Sharing his one-year experience cycling on road, Ludo informs that his European counterparts have a gloomy picture about the eastern

people especially the one from the sub-continent, which is not correct in any way. "I would like to tell them that the world is a beautiful place and they must come out of their false misconceptions about other," he said.

Ludo found the Asians especially Indian the best human beings in his journey so far. They are polite, smiling, hospitable and ready to help the strangers. "I can sense the value of being a human being from them," said the man who has defied the disability.

"The colour of the skin does not matter, what matters is that you must be a human being," he added before marching ahead for Mandi. Ludo is an example for all that disability is no bar to do things in life, we should enjoy life to the fullest.

Times of Shimla
 Published on :-
 4th April 2012.
 Photograph :
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