

Around the world on a **bicycle**

Experience A Cycling Tour With Renowned World Cyclist, Joost Van Wedge

Mentor Talk

With a desire to see a world without borders, world cyclist Joost Van Wedge has been cycling around the world for nearly 25 years, covering a total of 43 countries. In his latest cycling tour, he has covered eight countries namely, Thailand, India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Albania and traversing almost 9100 kms. Recounting his cycling experience with Amitians during 'Around the world on a bicycle' programme organised by Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) he sheds light on everything that makes him a cyclist by heart. GT brings you the excerpts...

What were the highlights of your experience while traveling through India?

Indians are a hospitable lot, and I loved the folks in Assam, Meghalaya, and Sikkim. In Assam, I celebrated Bihu festival with a Bodo family with whom I stayed for a week. I love the natural beauty of this country.

Arti Pandit, Amitasha Noida, X

What is the philosophical side of your cycling quest?

It is about experiencing the world with all my senses. It's fascinating to travel to various places, and meet different people.

Mohmmad Suhail, Atulasha, XII

What was your average speed throughout the journey?

It depends on the terrain I am traveling on. On mountains, it can be 5-6 kmph and while



Joost Van Wedge

going upward or down, it can be 70 kmph.

Rubani Singh Tyagi, AIS Saket, VIII

How did you cope when the pandemic struck and the world came to a standstill?

I believe that focusing on the positives is what matters the most in any situation. During the pandemic, I tried to be in touch with people who are positive and are willing to help others. Also, nature, mountains, landscapes - they all helped me to boost positivity in my mind.

Sanjana Chauhan, AIS Pushp Vihar, IX

What have you learnt in your journey which is essential for the world to know?

Our body can do far more than we think. One needs to keep pushing boundaries. It is also important to take care of your environment and keep it clean and healthy.

Ananiaah Wheeler, AGS Gurugram, IX

How do you overcome barriers of language and culture?

I don't consider these as barriers, as these are the facets I like to explore. In fact, I had many beautiful conversations with people



Dignitaries at the event

around me without speaking a word. Sometimes I have used sign language, or drawn or showed a picture, to express my views.

Ritika Yadav, AIS Mayur Vihar, XI

If given a choice to reside in any other country, which one would it be?

The more I travel, the more I appreciate my own country. But, if I do have to make a choice, then it would perhaps be Italy, as it has a good climate and great food.

Ayush Verma, AIS VKC Lko, VIII

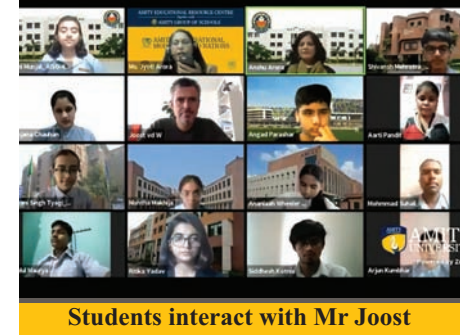
What inspired you to take up cycling?

In the past I had some mental health issues and cycling helped me relieve stress. Also, I come from the Netherlands where the number of cycles is greater than the number of people, it is part of our culture. And it is something that keeps me going.

Angad Parashar, AIS Mohali, X, Vidhi Singh, AIS Raipur, IX & Siddesh Kotnis, AGS Noida, XII

Which has been your easiest and most difficult journey so far?

Europe and Thailand was easy, as it has de-



Students interact with Mr Joost

cent roads and good tourist infrastructure. The most difficult journey by far has been Meghalaya due to the Garo Hills that are very steep.

Nishtha Makhija, AIS Vas 1, IX

Have you met anyone who inspired you?

I once met a Belgian traveler who was very free-spirited. Then, there was an inspiring girl in Tajikistan who was on a quest to change her life.

Kayaan Khaterpal, AIS Gur 43, VIII

You would have observed different cultural practices. Did you adopt any in your life?

I have experienced so many cultural practices around the world. And, I always take the positive aspect of every experience and incorporate it in my life in my own way.

Simran Jain, AIS Gur 46, X

If you had not chosen this path, what would you be doing?

I would perhaps be hiking in the mountains. In fact, I am still seeking myself as a person.

Vaishnavi Yadav, AIS VYC Lko, VIII & Adwithiyaa Puri, AIS Gwalior, VIII

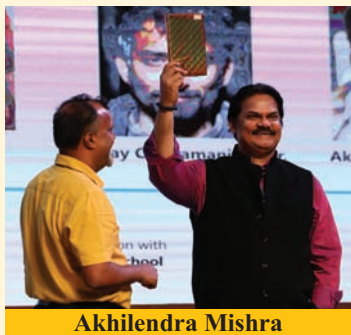
AUM

Amity University Mumbai organised its first-ever Amity International Short Film Festival, AMISHORTS 2023, on February 16-17, 2023 to connect students with the world of cinema and to help them grasp global issues. The festival was inaugurated by Dr AW Santhosh Kumar, vice chancellor, AUM; Ashok Rane, film critic and chief guest of the event; Tanishaa Mukerji, actress, and Amanollah Sayadi, director, Iran Cultural House, Mumbai.

Speaking at the event, Dr AW Santhosh Kumar said, "Cinema always attracts the youth. With the advent of OTT platforms, content

AMISHORTS 2023

Amity University Mumbai's International Film Festival



Akhilendra Mishra

is readily available. I am sure the students of AUM would connect to world issues through these fantastic movies especially curated



Screening of short film 'Agnidaah'

for them. From Iran to Argentina, we have prominent countries of world cinema participating in AMISHORTS." Ashok Rane, too,

praised the event by highlighting the importance of short films in shaping the career of filmmakers. The festival started on a bright

note with the screening of Agnidaah. Its lead actor, Tanishaa Mukerji, and director, Yogendra Chaubal, introduced the film to the audience followed by a short Q/A round. The session also saw the screening of a Hindi film Barat by Akhilendra Mishra, who emphasised on the importance of producing local language films on a large scale. Overall, the festival saw the showcase of 15 films from different nations along with various award-winning Indian films namely Prashna, Sea of Clouds, and Half Day.

Filmfare award-winning Marathi non-fictional film, Varasa, closed the festival on a high note, with everyone already gearing up for AMISHORTS 2024.