

# live

## KOLKATA

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## Swiss guide globetrotting for a green cause

PEAK TO PEAK

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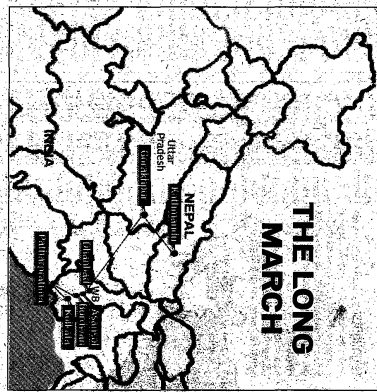
**KOLKATA:** Some people will swim the seven seas and climb the tallest peaks to have their voices heard. Dario Schwoner is one such person, who will go to any extent, talking for the earth and its frail health.

The Swiss has already climbed some of the highest peaks in the world, across four continents. Dario, who is on his way to Kathmandu after a brief halt in the city, will scale the world's tallest peak, Mount Everest.

Dario, a mountain guide in Switzerland, was carried by the fast-melting glaciers of the Alps and made him think about the menace of global warming. Anxious to do his bit against the havoc being wreaked in the planet, he set out on the Global Climate Expedition in December 2002. Advocating the cause of

clean climate and green energy, Dario decided that his job of climbing ways would be also a green, which he had in mind of being the backbone of his own sun-powered bicycle and self-propelled boats as his modes of travel, the Swiss campaigner has travelled across continents, on his way to the Mount Everest. "I came to Kolkata since this is the closest port from the airport. I also wanted to visit the city and interact with school children here regarding climate change and global warming," he said.

Going by his enthusiasm, Kolkata's schoolchildren have impressed the Swiss green champion with their "invaluable questions" and observations. "I saw it in their eyes that they are keen to do something. Since the children are our future I always want to meet and talk to them. Their brains are open to creat-



ive with no limitations to their thinking," he said. Three of Dario's team-mates, who would scale the Everest with him in mid-

April, will reach the city on Saturday and join him in a cycle journey to the Sunderbans, where they will meet Alia Vikas and meet

garvite solar charging centre near Pakurparvina. After a three-day tour to the mangrove forests of the Sunderbans delta, Dario and his team would cycle all the way to Kollingrud, passing through Bhubaneswar, Assam, Dibrugarh, Guwahati and through the Patkai Buzurg.

Wherever he goes, Dario looks for traditional technologies that can be used to combat global warming and climate change. Although his role is always possible for replicating these technologies for mass production, one can learn a lot from these said. Sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme, along with the Swiss Army, he is the manager of Swiss Army knife for the human leg of Dario's journey as two-wheeler and automobile spares major RVN, under the aegis of his telecom wing THTL.

Despite the political scenarios, Dario's motivations behind climate change and resolutions taken at global for a Dario remains hopeful of change. Global conferences are for politicians but change comes from the bottom. From the common people, I have more hope and that will come with their initiative," he said. Dario promised to return to Kolkata after his mission to make Mount Everest a cleaner place. And during the trip, he will interact with middle school children, share his views with them and pick up a few bright ideas on the way, which he hopes will be used to make the earth a better place. "When you have the privilege like me to travel across the world you will find that it's still a beautiful planet and there are reasons for optimism," he said with the smile of a man who knows he is not alone on his journey.



Dario Schwoner in the city

SARADY BASKIN