

Around the world in 13 years

JASON LEWIS, an Englishman who has been circumnavigating the globe for the past 12 years, was at the Royal Bombay Yacht Club on Friday afternoon, on a five week-long stopover before embarking on the last leg of his global journey, reports **Sowmya Rajaram**.

From Mumbai, Lewis will now cross the Indian Ocean and go to Africa. Aptly called Expedition 360, this expedition is unique for its dependence on human power only.

Explaining what that meant, Lewis said, "The globe has been circumnavigated before by people. But what made it exciting and unique for me was that I wanted to use only the mental and physical faculties, without any external dependence on motor assistance."

Lewis's expedition has

therefore been made only on pedal boats, bicycles, roller blades and patches of hiking.

"The idea that solely the human mind and body could circumnavigate the planet fascinated me, and that is what has kept me going all these years, through all the times," he said.

Lewis initially used his own capital for the expedition but then did find supporters and sponsors on the way.

The expedition began in Greenwich, London, 12 years ago when Lewis was 26. "Having traversed over 35,000 miles since then, I now feel the need to end the journey where I began, and I hope to do that by next year," said the adventurer.

His most important experiences so far, he said, have been the recognition of the commonalities between cultures and people around



the world.

"Travelling so much has taught me to live better, and to see the essential similarity between places and people," he concluded.

FREEWHEELING: Jason Lewis pedals alongside a dabbawalla in Colaba

PIC/ SAMEER MARKANDE