

800 KM | TRAIL

■ **Nikhil began his expedition on August 31 and completed it on Tuesday**

Goa to Kochi on cycle to raise funds for Kerala

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEP 5:

Some outsiders have a mistaken notion that Kerala is a rich state and does not need any aid for flood relief. To dispel this idea and to collect money for the chief minister's distress relief fund, Nikhil Sasidharan, a hotel management professional, undertook a cycling expedition from Goa to Kochi on a 800-km trail from August 31 and completed it on Tuesday.

I started the expedition as there was some fake news spreading that ours is a rich state and that we don't need money. That was why I decided to take up the campaign

— NIKHIL SASIDHARAN

The efforts of Nikhil, regional manager of Lemon Tree Hotels in Goa and a native of Varkala, paid handsome dividends too. He said, "I did not collect the funds directly, but asked the people to deposit the money in the CM's relief fund. So far, the contributors have messaged

me with receipts of depositing ₹74,351 to the funds. I personally received ₹40,321 from my friends making it a total of ₹1, 14,672," he said.

"Some of my friends followed me in a car which also had a reserve bicycle. After completing the journey, we visited

Kumarakom and distributed relief materials to 150 families. I had to spend ₹30,701 for this. The balance amount will be used for more flood relief activities in the coming days or will be deposited in the CM's account," he said.

"I started the expedition as there was some fake news spreading throughout the country that ours is a rich state and that we do not need money. Even some of my friends had asked me about it. That was why I decided to take up the campaign," he said.

