



Four women from Coimbatore and Mumbai are all set to promote literacy and women empowerment, XPD2470, a 70-day road journey across 24 countries that will be flagged off in March 2017. — DC

Women to go on 24-nation tour for cause of literacy, drive to end in UK

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To promote literacy and women's empowerment, a group of four women, three of them from the textile city of Coimbatore, have decided to go on a 70-day road journey, 'XPD2470' across 24 countries.

This journey is being undertaken on a Tata vehicle by an All-Woman Team led by Meenakshi Arvind, a 45-year-old married woman who is roadaholic and mother of 19-year-old daughter.

Second is Mookambikai Rathinam, a 38-year-old mother of an eight-year-old daughter, while the third woman is Priya Rajpal who calls herself an explorer on the journey called life. The latter is a 49-year-old single mother of 21-year-old dau-

ghter and the fourth member of the team is 49-year-old Ruckmani Sekar, an entrepreneur-cum-mother of a 26-year-old son.

The road journey will be flagged off from Coimbatore in March 2017 and is scheduled to arrive in London in May 2017. All the women participants are from Coimbatore except Priya Rajpal, who is from Mumbai. The 'XD2470' is an initiative of Rotary India Literacy Mission, Rotary Club of Coimbatore Texcity & Rotary Club of Aakruthi (an All Women Rotary Club) to promote literacy and women empowerment, said Krishnaraj, project chairman of 'XPD2470'.

This journey will raise funds along the way to make this the longest literacy charity drive and aims to spread the message that

Rotary India is promoting its literacy mission.

Union Human Resources minister Prakash Javadekar, in the presence of the International Literacy Mission President, John F. Germ, will officially flag off the unique journey on March 3, 2017.

This journey will also be in commemoration of 70 years of independent India. The route and itinerary of the journey is scheduled as follows: — Day 1 to 9 in India; day 10 in Myanmar; day 14 China; day 33 to 39 Krygystan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan; day 43 Russia; day 48-50 Belarus, Poland; day 52- 60: Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia; day 61-70 Austria, Czech Republic, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Netherlands and then reach U.K.