

LEADER'S REPORT – MT. INDRASAN (6221 M) & MT. DEOTIBBA (6001 M) EXPEDITION, 2003
ORGANISED BY: MOUNTAINEERS' ASSOCIATION OF KRISHNANAGAR, W.B.

1. Name of the Association: Mountaineers' Association of Krishnanagar.
2. Name of the expedition: Mt. Indrasan (6221 M) & Mt. Deotibba (6001 M) Expedition, 2003.
3. Name of the Himalayan peak climbed and its height: Deotibba - 6001 M.
4. Date on which permit given by IMF: 24/8/2003 to 23/9/2003.
5. Nominal roll of the expedition leader and members:
 - i. Shri Basanta Singha Roy – Leader of the expedition team and climbed Mt. Deotibba.
 - ii. Shri Ajay Bhattacharjee – He was the Manager of the expedition team. He stayed at Base Camp (4550 mtr.).
 - iii. Shri Subrata Brahma – He was photographer of the team and also in charge of medicine. He reached up to 5450 mtr. i.e. Camp-II.
 - iv. Shri Goutam Pal – He was the Equipment Incharge and climbed up to 5450 mtr. i.e. Camp-II.
 - v. Shri Rabi Karmakar – He ferried loads up to 5000 mtr. i.e. Camp-I.
6. Commencement of trek from rail head/road head: From road head – trek started on 29/8/2003 from Jagatsukh Village (8 K.M. from Manali), Kullu District, Himachal Pradesh.
7. Number of camps en route up to Base Camp: Three transit camps were established i.e Chikka (3200 M), Seri (3665 M) and Tainta (3990 M) before reaching Base Camp.

8. Inter-action with local administration en route and assistance received/problems faced:

At Kullu we had visited the office of the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police of Kullu District and informed them about our expedition.

Our plan was to start our journey from Jari (Bhunter – Manikaran Route) towards Malana Nullah. We came to understand from the District Forest Officer, Kullu that our trek will start from Malana Hydro Electric Project Dam instead of Jari because upto that point metal road was constructed.

On 27th August, 2003 we hired a Jeep and reached Malana Hydro Electric Project Dam. One Muleteer (who usually ferry loads to Malana village) advised us that he may carry our loads up to Malana village and then Porters will carry the loads. So we decided to visit Malana village. After two hours trekking we reached Malana village but we could not arrange any Porter. We talked with the Panchayat Pradhan, School Teacher and others but the villagers were reluctant to carry our loads to Base Camp. We returned at Malana Dam from that village.

Then we planned to proceed through the Jagatsukh Nullah and reached Jagatsukh on 28th afternoon. The Incharge of Malana Hydro Electric Project, Mr. Sandeep Lahori helped us to reach Jagatsukh by arranging a Jeep. Though we hired Mules from the Mule Trekkers Union, Manali but when we started from Jagatsukh the villagers demanded Rs.50/- per Mule and we were forced to pay them Rs.300/-.

The Mule owner also cheated us. They left our luggage at Tainta Camp though we had contracted up to Chandratat i.e. our Base Camp.

9. Establishment of Base Camp:

We engaged 6 mules for carrying our loads up to Base Camp. First day, on 29th August, 2003 we moved from Jagatsukh village at 10.15 a.m. towards the true right bank of Jagatsukh Nullah. Within 2 hours we reached Khanol. The route was through dense forest. From Khanol it took 3 hours to reach Chikka (3200 M). We spent

the night in a Hut. Next day i.e. on 30st August, 2003 we proceeded through the true right bank of Jagatsukh Nallah. The approach from Chikka to Seri (3665 M) was an easy and one of the most beautiful treks. We took 5 hours to reach Seri. Here we pitched Tents on a vast green valley. Next day i.e. 31st we reached Tainta within 2 and half hours. The Muleteers advised us that this is the Base Camp of Deotibba Peak. Later we understood that Base Camp i.e. Chandratat was far ahead. We ferried loads 2 times on 1st September from Tainta to Chandratat and occupied Base Camp (Chandra Tal – 4500 mtr.) on the same date.

10. Establishment of higher camps with routes marked on the maps/sketches: Enclosed.

11. Technical/Climbing difficulty on way to higher camps:

From Base Camp to Camp-I, the route was straight towards east. At first we thought that rope may be fixed to reach the top of the Col. We proceeded through a glacier and after one hour trek through the glacier we started climbing through rock fall zone towards Dhuhangan Col. (5000 mtr.). It took one and half hours to reach the top of Dhuhangan Col. Very cautiously we reached the top without help of rope.

From Camp-I to Camp-II, the route was through the rocky ridge towards northwest direction. We fixed four ropes to reach the Camp-II (5450 mtr.) area for safety. From Camp-II we climbed an ice wall after fixing rope and reached in a vast snowfield. From the base of Indrasan Peak at a height of 5550 ft. the route appeared as a sheer rock wall. From the base of Indrasan Peak (i.e our Camp-III) we tried to find a way to the summit in the sheer rock wall in the south face of the peak. We fixed ropes along the entire route and it took 3 days to reach up to a height of 6000 mtr. of Indrasan Peak. Then we could not negotiate the hanging ice wall coming down from the summit and a steep rock wall.

To climb Deotibba Peak, we did not face any trouble though we fixed 2 full-length ropes on the rock wall.

12. Snow and rock condition:

Snow condition of this expedition was very good. First we faced the snowfield after reaching Camp-II. Soft snow was there. Granite rock was there. But loose rocks fall occasionally from the Indrasan Peak.

13. Weather condition:

After starting from Jagatsukh on 29/8/2003 we faced bad weather on the first day trek. Heavy rain started in the afternoon. Next day also weather was not good. Then again on 7th September, 2003 evening to 12th night, the weather condition deteriorated. Snowfall started on 7th evening and it continued till 12th night. It was snowing all these days. After that again on 18th September, 2003 the whole day was white out.

14. Summit report:

On 18th September, 2003 myself and Thupka Tshring Sherpa returned from Camp III (Summit Camp) of Indrasan Peak with all loads at 6.00 a.m. in fine weather to climb Deotibba peak. Within an hour we reached near the Camp-II (i.e. Summit Camp of Deotibba Peak). We left our loads and proceeded through snow ridges towards northwest to Climb Deotibba Peak. We found from the ridge, Chandratat, our Base Camp area and Tainta (where Institute members made their Tent). Within one hour climbing over the snow, (sometimes over the cornice) we reached near the southeast face rock wall of Deotibba Peak and started fixing rope. We fixed 2 ropes on the rock portion and then started climbing through a high gradient wall. We found another two Sherpas carrying loads from Camp-III to Camp-II far below. They made a ferry from Camp-III to Camp-II and then reached Camp-I. We roped up and turned towards west and reached the top of a snow filed after breaking a cornice at 12 noon. Then we proceeded through a gentle gradient soft snowfield towards north and within one hour we made it to the top of Deotibba Peak. At that time visibility was nil. We could not see anything, we waited half an hour and suddenly we found Indrasan Peak for few minutes and snapped some photographs. The top of the Deotibba Peak is oval shaped and resemble a big ground.

We came down to the Camp-II area at 3.30 p.m. from summit and reached Camp-I at 7.00 p.m. Sangey received us. At that time an Advance Training Camp from Directorate of Mountaineering & Allied Sports, Manali was organised there.

15. Camp site cleaning activities and disposal of garbage:

The area of Base Camp was cleared and all the garbage was burnt and buried. Garbage from Camp-I, II and III area was collected and taken back at Base Camp and later on burnt and buried.

16. Maximum height attained and its date:

6001 mtr. (i.e. summit) of Deotibba Peak on 18.8.2003 and 6000 (approx.) of Indrasan Peak on 17.9.2003.

17. Names of summitters : 1. Shri Basanta Singha Roy, 2. Shri Thupka Thsring Sherpa.

18. Name of LO, if any: Not applicable.

19. Total expenditure incurred for the expedition (i.e. on food, porter, equipment etc.) along with Chartered Accountant's audited statement of accounts:

Chartered Accountant's Audit Report enclosed.

Food	: Rs.10456/-
Porter	: Rs.38400/-
Equipment	: Rs. 6300/-
Transportation	: Rs.10302/-
Photography	: Rs. 2670/-
Others	: <u>Rs. 7252/-</u>
TOTAL	: <u>Rs.75380/-</u>

20. Details of day-by-day events to be attached: Separate sheet attached.

21. Suggestions/complaints: Nothing.

22. Survey of India Map or sketch marking accurately the route, campsite and their heights: Separate sheet enclosed.

23. Photo evidence: Enclosed.

Date : 22/11/2003.

(Leader's particulars and signature)

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DETAILED REPORT OF DAY BY DAY EVENTS OF MT. INDRASAN (6221 M) & DEOTIBBA (6001 M) PEAKS EXPEDITION, 2003

Mt. Indrasan and Deotibba Peaks are situated in the Kullu Valley of Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh. This year our club selected expedition to Mt. Indrasan (6221 mtr.) & Deotibba (6001 mtr.) Peaks after a prolonged discussion and for many reasons. As far as we know that there is no Indian ascent of Indrasan peak. A few foreign teams had climbed this peak. But Deotibba has been climbed several times by Indians.

The approach of this peak can be made either through Malana Glacier or through Jagatsukh Nallah.

On 24th August, 2003, five members and three sherpas of Darjeeling left Krishnagar and availed Kalka Mail from Howrah. Well-wishers and club members were present both at Krishnagar and Howrah Railway Station.

We arrived Chandigarh early in the morning on 26/8/2003. The same day we reached Kullu by bus in the afternoon. We completed our marketing and visited the office of District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and District Forest Officer of Kullu and briefed the officials about our expedition.

On 27th we hired a Jeep and reached Malana Hydro Electric Project Dam at noon. The only Mule Owner told us that he might carry our loads up to Malana village and from there, Porters would carry loads. Sangey and myself proceeded to Malana village for arrangement of Porters. We took one and half-hours to reach the village. We contacted the Panchayat Pradhan and School Teachers of Malana village and other villagers but nobody could arrange for Porters to carry loads to Base Camp of Indrasan Peak. We returned empty handed from Malana village.

After discussing with the team we planned to enter the area via the alternate route i.e. through Jagatsukh Nallah. We had to stay that night there. Mr. Sandeep Lahori, M.E., Incharge of Malana Hydro Electric Project helped us a lot and arranged a Jeep for us. On 28th August, 2003 afternoon we reached Jagatsukh (8 k.m. from Manali) by Jeep. Mule was arranged on that very day through the Mule Owners Union, Manali. It was decided that 6 Mules will carry our loads up to Base Camp i.e. Chandra Tal and they took 3 days.

Next day i.e. on 29th we started our journey for Chikka at 10.15 a.m. Before our journey from Jagatsukh road head, 2 gentlemen of that village claimed Rs.50/- per Mule as tax and we were forced to pay Rs.300/- to them. At 12.30 p.m. we reached Khanol. The route was through the true right bank of Jagatsukh Nallah i.e. towards east and through dense forest. At 4.00 p.m. we reached Chikka. It was then raining heavily. We took shelter in a vacant Hut.

On 30th we started from Chikka at 8.30 a.m. and reached Seri at 3.00 p.m. The route was all along through the true right bank of Jagatsukh Nallah. We pitched our Tents on a big green valley. Weather condition did not improve.

Next day we reached Tainta. First we crossed the Jagatsukh Nallah and then after climbing a rock wall near about a 1000 ft. covered with grass we entered into another green valley. We crossed many streams rivulets on the way and pitched Tents on a flat ground. It took only 2 and half hours. Mule Owners told us that this is the Base Camp of Deotibba Peak. They also told that previously many teams including Army team established Base Camp here. They left our luggage and returned. We believed them because we had no idea about this route; we handed over our Base Camp Card to them to drop it at Jagatsukh Post Office.

On 1st September, 2003 we proceeded towards east i.e. Dhuangon Col and realised that our targeted Base Camp i.e. Chhota Chandratat was not far ahead. It was merely 1 and a half ours trek but we were taken for a ride by the Mule Owners. All of our five members and 3 Sherpa ferried all the loads two times on that day and in the afternoon we could shift our camp.

I had little knowledge about this route. But 2 previous expedition reports were with me. I repeatedly read these 2 reports and tried to here a grasp about the route. Chhota Chandra Tal is surrounded 3 sides. In the northeast

is Deotibba, in the east is Dhuangon Col and in the southeast Norbu Peak. Main Chandratat is situated on the southeast.

It seemed apparently to be very difficult to climb Dhuangon Col. due to its high gradient. On 2nd September, 2003 Sherpas made a recce towards east i.e. Dhuangon Col. Members took rest and reorganize the Base Camp. After return, Sherpas told me that there was no need for rope fixing to reach the Dhuangon Col. though I heard that it is a technical climb. The only fear of this route is sudden rock fall.

Next day i.e. on 3rd, weather was not good. So we forced to stay at Base Camp. We visited Main Chandratat situated behind the rocky ridge towards south. Performed pujas near that Tal. It is a very beautiful place and we enjoyed the beauty of this place.

On 4th Sangey and Thupka occupied Camp-I i.e. Dhuangon Col. and we (except Ajay) ferried loads to Camp-I. All along we proceeded towards east. First we crossed the Dhuangon glacier and reached at the foot step of Dhuangon Col. and then started climbing of the steep rock wall of the west face of the Col. Very little ice-patch was on the wall of Dhuangon Col. and we were very wary of rock fall. We took 3 hours to reach the Col. We returned to Base Camp within one and a half hours.

Next day i.e. 5th September also we made the same ferry.

Ajay was not fit due to chest pain two day's before. I advised him for rest and if again chest pain started, he must return to Jagatsukh keeping all at Base Camp with Rabi.

On 6th, myself, Goutam, Subrata and Pasang occupied Camp-I. Ajay and Rabi stayed at Base Camp. We pitched tents on the top of Dhuangon Col. Malana glacier is on east side, Norbu and Jambo Peaks on south and on the north west rocky ridge of Deotibba Peak.

After reaching Camp-I we met Sangey and Thupka. They told me that they had found the route as I briefed them. The route is towards northwest rocky ridge from the Col. They had tried two another routes towards northeast on 4th and 5th September to locate Indrasan Peak but failed due to difficulty. Then they tried through the rocky north-west ridge from Dhuangon Col. and after climbing through the ridge found the previous team's fixed rope which confirmed about the route of Deotibba peak.

Next day i.e. 7th September all the members of Camp-I made a ferry to Camp-II (5450 mtr.). Rope was fixed on four occasions. From the ridge we clearly viewed our Base Camp, Chandratat towards southwest far below. After severe rock climbing through the rocky ridge, we reached at the end of the ridge (Camp-II). It took long 6 hours. We dumped our loads here. From here also we could not find the peak Deotibba and returned in the late afternoon to Camp-I. Snowfall started in the evening.

We were confined at Camp-I in the following five days i.e. from 8th to 12th September on account of incessant snowfall. On 8th September we noticed through Binocular that Ajay and Rabi had left Base Camp and proceeded towards Jagatsukh.

Weather condition was a little better on 12th. Sherpas moved towards higher camp. After reaching the Camp-II area they moved further and found Indrasan Peak in a foggy weather. They identified the peak with the picture, which I gave them earlier. Sherpas also brought some ration from Base Camp on 10th also.

On 13th in clear weather we planned to shift our Camp. Goutam and Subrata refused to move further. So 3 Sherpas and myself left Camp-I at 9.30 a.m. to occupy Camp-II. We moved very cautiously for fresh snow on the rocky ridge. We took 3 and half hours to reach camp-II. Then we started climbing about 100 mtr. snow wall after fixing rope. We entered in a vast snowfield. The rocky peak peeped into our view and we were happy to have a full view of the summit of Indrasan towards north and on our left i.e. towards northwest, snow-covered peak Deotibba. At 3.00 p.m. we established Camp-III i.e. summit camp on the upper part of Malana Glacier at an altitude of 5500 mtr. of Indrasan peak. We pitched one 4 men tent on the snowfield.

Next day Sherpas made a back ferry from Camp-II and then we shifted our tent about 200 mtr. ahead after crossing a crevasse and reached at the footstep of Indrasan Peak.

The next 3 days we engaged ourselves in hard work of rope fixing on the south face wall of Indrasan in fine weather. On 17th noon we reached the foot of the ice-wall hanging down from the summit. About 500 mt. heights were gained from Summit Camp where we could not negotiate a rock wall due to its steepness. We decided to abandon attempt of summit of Indrasan peak. At 7.30 p.m. we reached Camp-III. Major portion of ropes, pitons etc. were also taken back.

On 18th August, 2003, it was decided that Sangey and Pasang would carry loads from Camp-III to Camp-II and then they again carry their personal loads from Camp-III to Camp-I. Thupka and myself make an attempt to Deotibba Peak.

At 5.45 a.m. Thupka and myself left Camp-III with our personal loads in fair weather. Within one hour we reached the Camp-II (summit camp of Deotibba). We left our Rucksack there and moved for summit attempt of Deotibba at 7.15 a.m.

Our movement was fast over the corniced snow ridge towards northwest. On our left i.e. towards southwest, far below we could clearly see 4 lakes of our Base Camp area. At 9.00 a.m. we reached near the southeast rocky wall of Deotibba Peak. We fixed 2 ropes on that rock wall and reached the top of the rock wall at 12.00 noon. From there we noticed Sangey and Pasang carrying loads from Camp-III to Camp-II. From here we have to negotiate steep snow wall. We roped up and gaining some height on the snow wall and turned towards west and after breaking a cornice of ice wall we reached the top of Deotibba peak. Weather started deteriorating and visibility came to zero. Then we moved towards northwest through the snowfield. After an hour's movement, we reached to the top of the oval shaped summit of Deotibba Peak. We could not find anything from the top of summit due to whiteout. We waited 30 minutes for a clear view and suddenly Indrasan peak was visible for a few moments. We snapped some shots.

At 3.30 p.m. we returned to Camp-II and at 6.30 p.m. we reached Camp-I. Sangey and Pasang were to receive us. At that time Advance Course Team of Manali Institute was present there for attempting Deotibba Peak. They reported us that our other members left Camp-I on 13th September and reached Jagatsukh safely.

Next day i.e. on 19th, I returned to Jagatsukh. At Tainta, the Base Camp Incharge of the Institute, Mr. Bhisal welcomed me. At 5.00 p.m. I reached Jagatsukh village.

At Jagatsukh I met with my other members. We arranged for Mule to carry loads from Base Camp. But only on 21st the Mule proceeded for Base Camp in the morning.

Sherpas took back all the loads of Camp-II and Camp-I on 19th & 20th and reached Base Camp. They also collected garbage from Camp-III, Camp-II and Camp-I and took back to Base Camp and burnt and buried.

Mule reached Base Camp on the same date i.e. on 21st evening and started coming down at night. They reached Jagatsukh on 22nd September, 2003 at 1.30 p.m.

We reached Manali in the evening and made payment for Mule. We left Manali by bus at 7.30 p.m. and reached Chandigarh on 23rd September, 2003.

We reached Krishnagar on 25th September, 2003 by Train safely.

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