

MT. CHANGUCH (6322 M / 20741 FT) EXPEDITION, 2009

ORGANISED BY :

MOUNTAINEERS' ASSOCIATION OF KRISHNANAGAR
CHURCH ROAD, KRISHNAGAR-741101, NADIA, W.B.

LEADER'S REPORT

1. Name of the Association : **Mountaineers' Association of Krishnanagar.**
2. Name of expedition : **Mt. Changuch (6322 MT./20741 FT.) Expedition, 2009.**
3. Name of the Peak with height in metres and six figure co-ordinates : **Changuch – 6322 mtr. / 20741 ft. - 30° 17' 24" N / 80° 02' 24" E.**
4. Nominal roll of team :
 - I. **Shri Basanta Singha Roy – Leader of the expedition. Reached Camp-IV (5650 Mt./18500 ft. – approx.) of Changuch peak and then crossed Traill's Pass (17425 ft.).**
 - II. **Shri Ajoy Krishna Bhattacharya – He was the Equipment In-charge.**
 - III. **Shri Subrata Brahma – He was the Photographer & Medical Officer of the expedition and reached upto Camp – III (17200 ft.) of Changuch peak and then crossed Traill's Pass (17425 ft.).**
 - IV. **Shri Bijay Sarkar – He stayed Base Camp (12000 ft.).**
 - V. **Shri Asim Kumar Mondal - He reached upto Camp-IV (18500 ft.) of Changuch peak and then crossed Traill's Pass (17425 ft.).**
 - VI. **Shri Supriyo Chitra – He stayed at Base Camp.**
 - VII. **Shri Sanjib Chakraborty – He reached up to Camp-III (17200 ft.) of Changuch peak and then crossed Traill's Pass (17425 ft.).**
5. Liaison with local administration and other agencies (name, designation, address, phone No., e-mail ID). Assistance received or hurdles faced if any :

We had informed the Dy. Divisional Forest Officer, Bageswar and District Magistrate of Bageswar District about our expedition.
6. Approach March (Road head to Base Camp). Dates, Co-ordinates and altitude of enroute camps. Any significant information, passes negotiated, river crossings etc. Attach route marked on map. :

We hired 9 Mules to carry our loads from Song (Road head) to Base Camp i.e. Martoli Kharak (45 k.m. - near Pindar Snout). Trek started from Song on 18/8/2009 towards Pindar Glacier. Transit camp was established at Upper Loharkhet, Khati, Phurkia on the true left bank of Pindari River. First day, on 18th August, 2009 we moved towards Loharkhet at 5.00 p.m. Within one and half hour we reached Upper Loharkhet (3 k.m.) We stayed at Upper Loharkhet (KMVN Bunglow – 1750 M) that night. On 19th August, 2009, early morning we started from Loharkhet. We took 4 hours to reach Dhakuri Top (12 k.m.). After taking lunch at Dhakuri Bunglow, we moved towards Khati (2210 M) at 2.00 p.m. and within 3 hours we reached Khati (8 K.M.) and stayed at PWD Bunglow. Next day i.e. on 20th August, 2009 at 7.30 a.m. we started from Khati and reached Dwali (2734 M) at 12.30 p.m. After taking pack lunch, we again started from Dwali and within 2 hours reached Phurkia (7 k.m.) Here also we stayed at PWD Bunglow. The route was through true left bank of Pindari river. On 21st August, 2009, early morning we started from Phurkia and within 2 hours we reached Martoli Kharak (through the true left bank of Pindar river). Then crossed Pindari River through a tiny temporary wooden/stone bridge made by Sheep Owners and established our Base Camp at an altitude of 3600 mtr. / 12000 ft. The Base Camp was situated on a meadow and near a stream.

7. Route opening and setting up of higher camps. dates, description on features encountered, technical / climbing difficulty involved, techniques and equipment utilized to negotiate. Snow and rock condition, location of camps with six digit co-ordinates and altitude. Attach suitably marked maps / sketches. :

From Base Camp to Camp-I, the route towards north. We proceeded through the true right lateral moraine of Pindar river for half an hour. Then we started climbing through the dense long grass towards northeast. Gradient was not so high. After 3 hour climbing, we reached on the top of a ridge and then came down near the river bed of Buria Nala and after crossing that Nala we gradually started climbing again towards northeast. We took another 3 hour to reach Camp-I We established our Camp – I at an altitude of 4500 mtr. / 14760 ft. on a meadow. From here we clearly viewed our target peak i.e. Changuch towards east and Nandakot (6861 M), Nandabhanar (6236 M) Peaks were also viewed from Camp-I. No need to fix any rope upto Camp – I.

From Camp-I to II– We started climbing towards north. Our target was to reach the top of Pindar Glacier. After one hour climbing through grassy land we again started climbing through boulder. Pindar glacier was on our right. It took another three hours to reach under a rock wall. We fixed 330 mtr. polypropylene rope with help of rock pitons on that rock wall. We used jumer on this rock wall. Another 30 minutes climbing through a crevasse zone we reached on the top of Pindar glacier and established Camp-II beating soft snow at an altitude of 5425 mtr. / 17800 ft.

We took 5 hours to reach Camp-II from Camp-I. From here we viewed clearly our targeted peak Changuch towards east and Nandakhat towards southwest. Traill's pass also visible towards northeast but sometimes we could not able to differentiate in between Traill's pass and a parallel ridge far behind.

From Camp-II to III – Today we proceeded through a snowfield which is full of open and covered crevasse. Camp-III established just below the Traill's pass at an altitude of 17200 ft. So today we do not gain any height but climbed down near about 600 ft. First we traverse the snow field towards northeast and after one hour march we turned towards north. Another two hours march over the soft snow we established our Camp-III beating snow.

Our plan to climb Changuch through the connecting ridge of Nandakhat and Changuch. As we established our Camp-III just below the Traill's pass so we climbed on the pass and then turned towards east. The ridge was rocky. We tried to continue our march through that but we could not proceed due to difficulties. Then we came down and again started climbing. Our target was to reach on the top of the said ridge which is nearer to Changuch. First we negotiate some crevasse with snow bridge and after 1000 ft. climbing we reach the top of that ridge and then proceeded through that sharp ridge towards Changuch. After marching one hour we established our Camp-IV on snow on that ridge after cutting ice at an altitude 5640 Mt. / 18500 ft. – approx. After that we tried to open the route towards Changuch. After proceeding over that ridge for half an hour we could not descended to the Col due to vertical rock wall. We could not find any feasible route through that ridge. On our left side we could view the Lawn Gad area and towards west was Nandakhat peak.

8. Detailed report on Summit Climb / attempts with list of summiteers / highest altitude achieved with date. A detailed description of entire climb including features encountered, technical / climbing difficulty involved, techniques and equipment utilized to negotiate, snow, ice and rock condition.

We established summit camp i.e. Camp – IV at an altitude of 5640 mtr. / 18500 ft. on the northwest ridge of Changuch. Myself, Asim Kumar Mondal, Pemba Sherpa and Phurba Sherpa occupied this camp. After that we tried to open the route through that ridge of Changuch. After proceeding over that ridge for half an hour we could not descended to the Col due to vertical rock wall. We could not find any feasible route through that ridge. On our left side we could view the Lawn Gad area and towards west was Nandakhat peak. Then we returned to Camp-IV and then decided to return Camp-III on the same evening.

Next day i.e. on 30/8/2009 we decided to try again to attempt summit of Changuch. We planned to gain directly the crest of the North West Ridge of Changuch. But due to snow condition and huge crevasse in which route we decided to try and also the high gradient of direct ascent of summit ridge, we changed our decision and abandoned the expedition.

On the same morning i.e. on 30th August, 2009 all the members and Sherpas wind up Camp-III and climbed on Traill's Pass (17425 ft.). We climbed about 200 ft. traversing towards west from Traill's Pass on the same ridge. Because descending from that point is easier and safe. Then we fixed 1000 ft. polypropylene ropes and with the help of this rope we rappelled down through a snow gully. The descending route is dangerous due to rock fall from the upper part of rock wall. Myself and Lilabati Rai (Cook) injured due to rock fall. But there was no fatal injury. We started rappelling at 7.30 a.m. and reached safely on the Lawn glacier at 4.00 p.m. We climbed down from the Pass near about 2000 ft.

Trail's Pass crossed by : – Myself, Sanjib Chakraborty, Subrata Brahma, Asim Kumar Mondal, Pasang Sherpa, Pemba Sherpa, Phurba Sherpa and Lilabati Rai.

On 3rd September, 2009 evening we reached Munsiairy. In between we spent 3 nights. On 31st August in between Naspanpati & Lawa village. On 1st September at Rilkot and on 2nd at Bugdiar and on 6th September, 2009 we reached Krishnagar safely via Kathgodam (Bag Express).

9. Weather summary.

Upto Base Camp i.e. Martoli Kharak weather was more or less good. Later we got cloudy weather. Due to weather we do not loss a single day throughout the expedition. But during our return journey we faced occasional heavy rains at Rilkot and Lilam.

10. Waste and garbage disposal report including spotting of garbage left behind by earlier expeditions with leads if possible :

Garbage from Camp-I, II and III area was collected and taken back at Base Camp. The area of Base Camp was cleaned and all the bio-degradable garbage was buried. The non-bio-degradable garbage weighing about 15 k.g. was taken back and dropped the same at Bageswar.

11. Expenditure details with category wise breakdown (equipment, food, portage, medical etc.). Attach Chartered Accountant's audited statement of accounts.

(Chartered Accountant's Audit Report enclosed.)

Food	-	18803.00
Sherpa / Cook/ Mule	-	90540.00
Equipment hire charges & purchase	-	11885.00
Transport	-	19117.00
Photography	-	4500.00
Peak booking fees & entry tax	-	10500.00
Insurance	-	1802.00
Postage & others	-	<u>4732.00</u>
Total expenditure	-	<u>161879.00</u>

12. Suggestions : No.

13. Photo Evidence : All photos should be with date and time electronic impression. Shoot wide angle formats for official requirements. The following photos should be submitted : -

- a) One group photograph of only team members at Base Camp.
- b) A few appropriate photographs from base camp onwards till highest / summit camp.
- c) Sufficient number of photos to depict progress from summit camp to summit.
- d) Most of the summit photos should be shot in wide angle view with sufficient coverage below the horizon to depict background features. (Just like the portraits of members, sky, clouds and the snow ridge on which standing make up for poor evidence to substantiate any summit claim). The Summit photos must include the following :
 - i. All around view from summit.
 - ii. Prominent peaks around the summit.
 - iii. The photographs of the last camp from the summit, where feasible.
 - iv. Photographs of glaciers / any other important features from the summit.
- e) Photographs of camp cleaning operation and garbage disposal.

19 Photographs (2 sets) pasted on a white chart paper along with detailed caption enclosed as per direction of IMF.

14. The report should be appended by the Leader's signature with date.

Date : 05/11/2009.

Signature of Leader
(Basanta Singha Roy)

Address : "NIKETAN"
181A, Raipur Road
P.O. Naktala
Kolkata – 700 047.
E-mail : basanta_singha@rediffmail.com. Mobile : 09433465868