

MT. DHARMSURA (6445 M) EXPEDITION, 2012

ORGANISED BY: MOUNTAINEERS' ASSOCIATION OF KRISHNANAGAR, W.B.

Leader's Report

1. Name of the Association: Mountaineers' Association of Krishnanagar.
2. Name of the expedition: Mt. Dharmsura (6445 Mtr. / 21145 Ft.) Expedition, 2012.
3. Name of the Himalayan peak climbed and its height: DHARMSURA - 6445 M / 21145 FT.
4. Date on which permit given by IMF: 04/8/2012 to 04/09/2012.
5. Nominal roll of the expedition leader and members:
 - I. Shri Biswanath Saha– Leader of the expedition and climbed Mt. Dharmsura (6445 Mtr. / 21145 Ft.).
 - II. Shri Subrata Brahma – Dy. Leader of the expedition and climbed Mt. Dharmsura (6445 Mtr. / 21145 Ft.). He also made Videography of the expedition.
 - III. Shri Sanjib Biswas – He ferried loads up to 4200 M.
 - IV. Shri Biplab Jana - He ferried loads up to 4200 M.
 - V. Shri Tapas Sarkar – He ferried loads up to 4200 M. He was the Manager of the expedition.
 - VI. Shri Bijay Sarkar - He was the Quarter Master of the expedition.
 - VII. Shri Partha Sarathi Layak – He climbed Mt. Dharmsura (6445 Mtr. / 21145 Ft.)
6. Commencement of trek from rail head/road head: From road head – trek started on 09/08/2012 from road head Toss Village, Dist. Kulu, Himachal Pradesh.
7. Number of camps en route up to Base Camp: Before reaching Base Camp, we stayed at Kutla (2300 M) on 08/08/2012, Saram (3240 M) on 09/08/2012 and Samsi (3580M) on 10/08/2012.
8. Inter-action with local administration en-route and assistance received/problems faced: We have intimated about our expedition to Manikaran P.S., Dist. Kulu.
9. Establishment of Base Camp:

We hired first 8 Mules to carry our loads from Toss to Base Camp (22 K.M.). First day, on 8th August, 2012 we moved from Barseni towards Kutla at 11.00 a.m. Within 1 hr 40 minutes we reached Kutla (3 k.m.) We stayed at Kutla (Private rest House – 2300 M) that night. On 9th August, 2012, early morning we started from Kutla. We took 4 hours to reach Saram (12 k.m.) and stayed at Tent. Next day i.e. on 10th August, 2012 at 8.30 a.m. we started from Saram and

reached Samsi at 2.30 p.m. Here also we stayed at Tent. The route was through true right bank of Toss River. On 11th August, 2012, early morning we started from Samsi and reached Base Camp (7 K.M.) within 4 hours through the true right bank of Toss river. We established our Base Camp at an altitude of 4120 Mtr. The Base Camp was situated on a meadow and near a stream.

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 towards South East. We proceeded along with the Toss Glacier. After gradual ascent of 4 hours, we reached beside a water fall. We established our Camp – I at an altitude of 4200 Mtr, just beside the Toss Glacier on the boulder. From here we viewed our Base Camp far away towards North West. No need not to fix any rope up to Camp-I.

From Camp-I to II – First we crossed the boulder zone of the Toss glacier and moved east. In between the boulders we could see snow deposition and glacial table on the glacier. We headed straight up towards north-west beside the water fall. After one and half hour climbing towards north east, crossing moraine ridges and land slide zone we reached the ice field we could see from camp 1. We had to cross a couple of humps to reach to the snow field. After another 3 hours of advancement we established our Camp - II in between two long crevasses at an altitude of 4750 Mtr. as there was hardly any better place to pitch our tents. We do not need to fix any rope up to Camp-II though we had to put on our Climbing Boot and Crampon. Total time taken from Camp-I to Camp-II was 4.5 hours.

From Camp-II to III – First we crossed the snow field towards north. After 20 minutes we were in front of the ice wall. 400 meters of rope had to be fixed to make our way on to the top. Snow Stakes and Ice-pitons were used to fix the ropes all along. At one time we had to traverse left on the ice wall to avoid a ice fall area. Reaching on the top we had to climb a sharp steep rocky area. There we fix a small rope of 50 M for safety and reached the top of the ridge. Rock Pitons were used here. Clearing this rocky area and dodging the crevasses we came in front of the snow field which gradually gained height and ended where we established Camp III. We moved towards east and gained height gradually. After nearly two hours of snow marching we reached the area of Camp-III at an altitude of 5200 M. From there we could see the entire snow field we crossed and the route we had to take to reach camp IV.

From Camp-III to Camp IV – The entire route from Camp III to Camp IV had to be fixed with rope. It started with ice wall followed by steep rock-wall of loose boulders through which we have to move nearly 4 hours and then at the end a 200 meters snow march where we had established Camp IV. It's only from here the tip of Mt. Dharmsura and the initial route could be seen. Snow Stakes, Rock Pitons and Ice-pitons were used and we fixed ropes all along. First we climbed a steep snow wall. Then we had to climb on fixed ropes on rock wall. Loose rocks are coming down wherever we placed our foot. Very cautiously we climbed this area. Again we climbed another 300 Meters of snow wall with the help of fixed rope and reached to the top where we established Camp IV. From here we clearly viewed numerous peaks in the South direction. The altitude of Camp IV was 5800m.

12. Snow and rock condition: We faced soft snow from Camp-II. Crampon required because we had to face hard ice occasionally throughout the expedition. We had to negotiate numerous crevasses, snow bridge in the entire route. We also faced rock wall, which was loose.

13. Weather condition: The weather was good though we faced occasional showers in the later part of the day. In most of the days we got good weather up to 3 p.m. but thereafter it used to be fully whiteout with rain / snowfall.

14. Summit report: On 23rd of August, 2012, myself Sri Biswanath Saha, Sri Subrata Brahma, Sri Pasang Sherpa, Sri Nima Sherpa, Sri Purba Sherpa, our cook Sri Balvant Singh and Sri Partha Sarathi Layak prepared our selves for Dharmsura summit at 5.30 a.m. Because we knew that the approach of summit was not very long from this camp. Ultimately we moved for summit at 6 a.m. After two hours climbing on snow with the help of fixed rope and jumar, we reached at the foot of a gradual snow wall with the help of ice axe. We faced lot of problem due to verglass and almost knee deep soft snow. As rope was fixed earlier on the snow wall, we are able to reach to the top in an hour with the help of Jumar. Here we had to traverse right to avoid climbing a rock wall.

Again we started climbing on a snow wall of about 200 M., which directly hit the south ridge of Mount Dharmsura above. Rope was fixed earlier and the snow condition was favorable here. So we had no problems to reach the top of the south ridge. The weather was very clear then. From here we clearly viewed peak Papsura on left hand side i.e. towards north of Dharmsura. Again we climbed a steep snow wall. We negotiated these two corniced ridge very cautiously because there were sheer fall in both the sides. At last at 10.10 am we reached the top of the Dharmsura (6445 M). Taking photograph and hoisting National Flag and Club Flag, we performed Puja and after spending 30 minutes on the top we came down slowly but steadily to Summit Camp at 2 p.m. At that time we were very exhausted. This time weather became very dull. Visibility was very poor. It was whiteout and snow falls continued for 4 hours.

15. Camp site cleaning activities and disposal of garbage:

Garbage from Camp-I, II, III and IV area was collected and taken back at Base Camp. The area of Base Camp was cleared and all the biodegradable garbage was burnt and left non-biodegradable garbage taken back and dumped the same at Toss Village.

16. Maximum height attained and its date: 6445 mtr. / 21145 ft. (i.e. Summit) of Dharmsura Peak on 23/08/2012.

17. Names of Summitter : Sri Biswanath Saha, Sri Subrata Brahma, Sri Partha Sarathi Layak, Sri Pasang Sherpa, Sri Nima Sherpa, Sri Purba Sherpa and our cook Sri Balvant Singh.

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

DETAILED REPORT OF DAY BY DAY EVENTS OF MT. DHARMSURA (6445 M) PEAK EXPEDITION, 2012.

The Peak DHARMSURA (6445 m), also familiar as White Sail, is situated in Himachal Pradesh and lies 96 km from Manikaran towards the northeast. Mr. J.O.M. Roberts climbed the peak in 1941 and named the peak **White Sail** (also known as Dharmsura) in the Tos Glacier of Kullu Himalaya. Dharmsura is one of the most challenging peaks in Himachal Pradesh Himalaya. Very few expeditions had organized in this peak earlier.

In last three year the members of Mountaineers' Association of Krishnanagar had climbed Mt. Everest, Mt. Kanchenjunga and Mt. Annapurna.

After completion of all formalities, a 7 member team of Mountaineers' Association of Krishnanagar left Krishnanagar on 4th August, 2012 and reached Howrah by local train and then availed Kalka Mail at 8.00 p.m. Well-wishers, friends and members were present both at Krishnanagar Railway Station and at Howrah Railway Station to convey their wishes for our safe return and success.

5th August : We spent the whole day at train.

6th August : Reached Chandigarh at 5.30 a.m. and then availed Bus at 6.00 a.m. for Bhuntar. We reached Bhuntar at 1.30 p.m. and stayed in a Dharmsala. There we met our Sherpa Sri. Pasang Sharpa.

7th August : Members were busy for marketing like grocery and other vegetables from Bhuntar market. After taking lunch, we availed a bus at 1.30 p.m. and left for Berseni with all loads and reached there at 5.00 p.m. via Manikaran. We stayed at Berseni (2090m) that night.

8th August: We took a jeep at 9 a.m. from Berseni to reach to Toss Village. At Toss Village we hired 8 Mules to carry the load up to our base camp. We trekked (5 K.M.) up to Kutla today. It took 2 hours to reach Kutla. We stayed at Kutla wooden rest house that night.

9th August : At 9.00 a.m. we began our trek from Kutla and reached Saram at 2.00 p.m. (10 k.m.). We stayed at Saram in Tents that night. The entire valley was surrounded with flowers of different colours. All day the weather was cloudy and by the time we reached Saram it started raining heavily.

10th August : At 8.30 a.m. all of us started from Saram after taking our breakfast. We took pack lunch for our route. We reached Samsi (11 K.M.) at 2.30 p.m. and pitched our tent at the bank of Toss River. It was a sort of island traversed by numerous sparkling, crystal clear water streamlets with the Tos nala roaring down on its extreme left. It was a huge picturesque valley and has seen many local villagers staying in temporary tents extracting herbs and juniper bushes for herbal medicines and essence dhupbattis. We stayed at Samsi that night. The Weather was cloudy with light rain sometimes.

11th August : At 8.30 a.m. we started from Samsi. Trekking further towards the Tos glaciers, one could see the big ice cave and the snout of the glacier from where the Tos stream originates. Just after crossing a stream of knee high chilled water we reached our Base Camp area (7 km) in 3 hours. We established our Base Camp at 12.30 p.m. We pitched our tents beside a stream which was our source of water. Kitchen was temporarily made for our use. We also re-arranged loads for upward journey. Base Camp Cards were signed and we handed over the same to the mule owner to have them posted from a post office as he was supposed to leave us today and head towards Toss Village. Climbing equipments were thoroughly checked. Now we were 11 (7 members + 3 Sherpas + 1 Cook) staying in Base Camp. The weather was cloudy all day and heavy rain started at 3.30 p.m. which stopped after 2 hours.

Here I want to mention that we have met a trekking Team Comprising of a Swiss lady geologist of a University of Germany along with her guide and around 7 - 8 porters who were coming from Chotashigri. We have seen them collected many stones of different colours.

12th August : We took rest that day and prepared finally for Camp I. We sorted our ration for the higher Camps too. A shepherd with his two dogs and a herd of sheep was staying 100 meters away from our Base Camp Area. We payed homage to the soul of Miss. Malabi Das of Kolkata and Mr. Roger who lost their lives at Papsura Expedition. Plates depicting their names in metal plates kept our minds in a state of melancholy for hours.

13th August : All of us except our Quarter Master in charge Sri. Bijoy Sarkar ferried loads to Camp – I. We started trekking towards north-east at 8.30 a.m. after performing Puja. First we descended to Toss Glacier and then proceeded towards East through the moraine of Toss Glacier in a fair weather. After half an hour of bouldering we turned towards North East. The route was full of boulders. We saw a few glacial ponds on our route. At one point we could see Peak Papsura(6451 m), Dharmsura(6445m) and Angdu Ri (5953m). We reached Camp I site at 12.30 p.m. Dumping our loads, and covering them with tarpaulin sheet we returned to Base Camp at 3.30 p.m.

14th August : We occupied Camp-I (4800 M) today. We were 3 members, 3 Sherpas and our cook. Weather was clear till 11.30 p.m. Today we started at 9.30 a.m. and took only 3 hours to reach Camp-I and pitched two Tents and also made a temporary Kitchen. Base Camp was far away towards North West. No need not fix any rope up to Camp – I.

15th August : The sherpas opened the route and also ferried loads to Camp-II. Myself Sri. Biswanath Saha, Subrata Bramha and Partha Sarathi Layak took rest. Weather was cloudy in the afternoon.

16th August : We left Camp I at 8 a.m. to ferry load to Camp II. Leaving Toss Glacier behind and after climbing through the boulders and land slide areas for 1.5 hours towards East we were over a hump. We negotiated a moraine area and reached on a steep rocky ridge at an altitude of 5000 M. After crossing the ridge we were in the ice field. Moving forward towards east for another hour we were in the snow field of 30 to 40 degree gradient and so had to put on our

crampons. We kept moving towards North East and finding a suitable place after dumping our loads we returned to Camp-I. We took 7 hours to ferry our load and return to Camp-I. No fixing of ropes was required to reach to Camp II.

17th August : Myself, Subrata Bramha, Partha Sarathi Layak and all sherpas and cook occupied Camp-II (5300 M). Weather was cloudy all over the day and drizzling started after 2.30 a.m. and continued all day. Our sherpas Pasang, Nima and Purba moved towards the ice wall searching route for Camp-III to fix ropes. Our camp-II area was full of open and hidden crevasses. We had to pitch our tents in between two large crevasses and our moves were restricted in Camp area only.

18th August : The weather was clear. We left Camp-II at 7.30 a.m. to ferry load up to Camp III. First we moved cautiously negotiating the crevasses on the snow and moved towards north. After 15 minutes we reached near the ice wall. We climbed up with the help of fixed rope of 400 meters with jumar and reached to the top of the ridge. Once we had to traverse left in the ice fall area. Snow Stakes and Ice-pitons were used on fixed ropes all along. We had to cross a steep loose rocky area and after a long march over the snow field we reached Camp III. It took 7 hours to ferry load to Camp III and come back to Camp II. As most of the route was covered with snow and ice there were no source of water and we faced problem with thirst.

19th August : We were all very tired and so decided to rest this day. We found that we could run short of ration so had to send our two sherpas Purba and Nima to the base camp to bring some so that the team gets a couple of more days if required to rest or stay back due to bad weather condition. We were all determined to make this expedition successful so had to take this decision to bring in extra ration.

20th August : As the sherpas came in today from the Base Camp in the afternoon with ration and Best Wishes Note from the Base Camp members we had to stay back in Camp II today.

21st August : After taking breakfast we started at 8.10 a.m. from Camp II. It took 4.5 hours to reach Camp III. As the previous day after one hour climbing on ice wall, we reached at the foot of a rock wall. Then we started climbing the steep loose rock which is approx. 200 M. It was a very difficult task because loose rocks are coming down whenever we placed our foot on the rock. Very cautiously we climbed on this part. When we reached the top we could differentiate the right ridge of which connects the peak Angdu Ri (5953 m) while the left ridge, the SE ridge of Dharamsura. Again we reached near a snow field which hit directly to the Camp III. The approach was very long from Camp-II to Camp III. Like in Camp II here too we had to level the snow to pitch our tents. Our Sherpas went ahead to open the route and fix ropes to Camp IV. Heavy snow fall started and it continued all the night.

22nd August : We started at 7.30a.m. After 10 mins walk over the snow we stood in front of the snow wall of 70 degree gradient. As ropes were fixed we climbed up with the help of the Jumer. The steep climb ended near a loose rock wall which we had to climb very cautiously. At one time we could see the large glacier on the other side of the ridge which starts from the base of Dharamsura. After the rock area which ended after 300 meters and we were in snow again.

Steady climb with the help of fixed ropes we reached Camp IV at 12.30 p.m. The weather was deteriorating and after 2 p.m. snow fall started which continued all night with very strong winds. We were worried whether we could move towards summit the next day.

On 23rd August 2012, myself, Sri Partha Sarathi Layak, Subrata Brahma, Pasang Sherpa, Nima Sherpa, Purba Sherpa along with our cook Balvant Singh prepared ourselves for Dharmsura summit at 5.30 a.m. As the weather wasn't favorable the previous afternoon and night we delayed for some time to judge today's weather condition before approaching for the summit. Ultimately we moved for summit at 6.00 a.m. After one hour climbing on snow with the help of Jumar, we reached at the foot of a rock wall which we had to traverse right and again climb with the help of the fixed rope and jumar. We faced a lot of problem due to verglass and almost knee deep soft snow. The Weather was good and we were all roped up and moved towards summit. Again we climbed a steep snow wall. We could see Papsura on our left and felt the summit point of Dharmsura not far away. After a few more minutes we were near the summit point. We kept our nerves steady and moved towards the dream point we dreamt for the last couple of months. We could judge the immense joy our respected senior club members felt when they approached towards Everest, Kanchenjunga and Annapurna-I in their last three successive years of great success. At last at 10.10 a.m. we reached on the top of Mount Dharmsura (6445 M). It was a moment of great joy. We recollected all the people who have wished us good luck and blessed us for the success of this expedition. Taking photographs and hoisting National Flag and Club Flag, we performed Puja and after spending 30 minutes on the top we came down slowly but steadily to Summit Camp (Camp IV) at 2.00 p.m. This time the weather became very dull. Visibility was very poor. We were very exhausted at the same time very satisfied. We summited Dharmsura.

24th August : We started our return journey at 7.30 a.m. after cleaning the Camp IV area and we reached between Camp I and Camp-II at 4.00 p.m. On the way we cleaned up the Camp III and Camp II area and picked up and carried all the garbage to Base Camp. We could manage to come down between Camp I and Camp II and pitched our tents to stay that night. The weather was deteriorating and it soon started raining.

25th August : We started early and moved down towards Camp I. After resting a while at Camp I, we started for Base Camp. We reached Base Camp at 2 p.m. All Base Camp members received us. It was a very joyful moment. We enjoyed our success and safe return.

26th August : We cleaned the Base Camp area and packed all the equipments, tents, utensils etc. 4 Mules were brought to carry our loads up to Toss Village. We proceeded for Samsi in the afternoon and reached at Samsi at 5.00 p.m. amidst heavy rain. We stayed at Samsi that night.

27th August : We proceeded for Toss Village at 8.00 a.m. Amidst heavy rain we reached Toss Village at 3.00 p.m. We stayed in a hotel at Toss Village that night.

28th August : At 8 a.m. morning we left Toss Village by 2 hired Jeep for Berseni. We travelled in Bus from Berseni to Bhunter. From Bhunter we shifted to another bus and reached Chandigarh at 8.15 p.m. We availed Kalka Mail that night and reached Krishnanagar on 30th August, 2012 safely. Our Club's respected senior members came to receive us in Howrah Station

