

LEADER'S REPORT – MT. INDRASAN (6221 M) &
MT. DEOTIBBA (6001 M) EXPEDITION, 2004

ORGANISED BY: MOUNTAINEERS' ASSOCIATION OF KRISHNANAGAR

1. Name of the Association: **Mountaineers' Association of Krishnanagar.**
2. Name of the expedition: **Mt. Indrasan (6221 M) & Mt. Deotibba (6001 M) Expedition, 2004.**
3. Name of the Himalayan peak climbed and its height: **INDRASAN - 6221 M/20410 FT., H.P.**
4. Date on which permit given by IMF: **14/8/2004 to 15/9/2004.**
5. Nominal roll of the expedition leader and members:

Shri Basanta Singha Roy – Leader of the expedition and climbed Mt. Indrasan.

Shri Subrata Brahma – He was photographer of the team and also in charge of medicine. He reached up to 5000 mtr. i.e. Camp-I.

Shri Asim Mondal – He was the Equipment Incharge and climbed up to 5000 mtr. i.e. Camp-I.

Shri Prasit Biswas – He managed the quarter and stayed at Base Camp.

6. Commencement of trek from rail head/road head: **From road head – trek started on 19/8/2004 from Jagatsukh Village (8 K.M. from Manali), Kullu District, Himachal Pradesh.**

7. Number of camps en route up to Base Camp: **Two transit camps were established i.e Khanol and Seri (3665 M) before reaching Base Camp.**

8. Inter-action with local administration en route and assistance received/problems faced: **Villagers of Jagatsukh are very nice and they helped us all along.**

9. Establishment of Base Camp:

We engaged 5 mules for carrying our loads up to Base Camp. First day, on 19th August, 2004 we moved towards east from Jagatsukh village at 3.00 p.m. through the true right bank of Jagatsukh Nullah. Within 2 hours we reached Khanol. The route was through dense forest. We started late due to non-availability of Mule. So we pitched tents at Khanol for that night. On 20th August, 2004, early morning we started from Khanol. We took 3 hours to reach Chikka (3200 M) and from there on the same day we reached Seri. The route was 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. 21st we reached Chandratal (4350 M) within 3 and half hours. We established our Base Camp here.

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

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

From Base Camp to Camp-I, the route was straight towards east. We proceeded through a glacier and after one hour trek through the glacier we started climbing the rock wall through rock fall zone towards

Dhuhangan Col. (4865 mtr.). It took one and half hours to reach the top of Dhuangan Col. Very cautiously we reached the top without fixing rope.

From Camp-I i.e. Dhuhangan Col. to Camp-II, the route was through the rocky ridge towards northwest. We proceeded through this rocky ridge for one hour. Then we decided to climb through the ice slope avoiding the rocky ridge. We traversed towards northeast and began to climb a snow-icy slope. We fixed 1000 ft. ropes on that snow-icy slope to reach the Camp-II (5510 mtr.) and reached in a vast snowfield. From here we have a full view of rocky Indrasan peak towards north and snow covered peak of Deotibba towards north-west. From the base of Indrasan Peak at a height of 5500 mtr., route appeared as a sheer rock wall. From the base of Indrasan Peak (i.e our Camp-III – 5500 mtr.) we followed the route of the 1962's first ascents of Indrasan Peak by Japanese Kyoto University Alpine Club led by Dr. K. Onodera. We tried to find a way to the summit in the sheer rock wall in the south face of the peak. We fixed ropes upto the middle of the rock wall traversing towards westward direction and then could not climb the overhang rock. We then rappelled about 50 ft. on the rock wall and continued climbing a steep ice slope towards east-ward direction and reached the second rock stage. Here also we negotiate a 20 ft. overhang rock. Then we climbed steep, narrow ice couloirs between the hanging ice-wall coming down from the summit and the rock wall. It took 3 days to reach the snowy east ridge summit up to a height of 6000 mtr. of Indrasan Peak.

12. Snow and rock condition: Snow condition of this expedition was good. But loose rocks fall occasionally from the Indrasan Peak.

13. Weather condition:

On 17th & 18th August, 2004, weather was not good and we could not proceed to the mountain due to rain. Rest of the days of the expedition, we got a fairly good weather.

14. Summit report:

On 30th August, 2004 myself, Pemba Sherpa, Thupka Tshring Sherpa and Sange Sherpa prepared ourselves for moving Indrasan summit within 5.00 a.m. But cloud sky prevented us. We took shelter in the tent. Luckily at 7.00 a.m. we found a clear sky and we start for summit attempt. Within 10.30 a.m. we reached near the second rock stage i.e. 50 ft. below the final snowy east summit ridge of Indrasan. We negotiate the steep, narrow ice couloirs between the hanging ice-wall coming from the summit and a huge rock wall. Last year we returned from this point. This time Pemba Sherpa climbed this difficult ice wall and at 11.15 a.m. we reached the east summit ridge of Indrasan Peak. Then we proceeded through a gentle gradient soft snow slope towards north and at 1.35 p.m. we made it to the corniced top of Indrasan Peak. At that time visibility was poor due to cloud. We unfurled the National Flag and our Club Flag and performed Puja. We waited at the top for 20 minutes and snapped some photographs.

We came down to the Camp-III at 5.30 p.m. from summit safely.

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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: **6221 mtr. (i.e. summit) of Indrasan Peak on 30/8/2004**

17. Names of summitters : **1. Shri Basanta Singha Roy, 2. Shri Thupka Thsring Sherpa, 3. Shri Pemba**

Sherpa and 4. Shri Sange 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.12019.00
Sherpa/Mule	: Rs.46600.00
Equipment	: Rs. 6253.00
Transportation	: Rs.11264.00
Photography	: Rs. 1970.00
Others	: <u>Rs. 1323.00</u>
TOTAL	: <u>Rs.79429.00</u>

20. Details of day-by-day events to be attached: **Enclosed.**

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 : 13/10/2004.

(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, 2004

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. Firstly, last year we had climbed Deotibba Peak and returned from Indrasan summit just about 600 ft. As far as we know that there is no Indian ascent of Indrasan peak. A few foreign teams had climbed this peak.

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

On 14th August, 2004, four 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 16/8/2004. The same day we reached Manali by bus in the afternoon. We completed our marketing and other works at Manali on the same night.

On 17th we hired a Jeep and reached Jagatsukh village from where our trek will start. At that time it was raining. Next day i.e. on 18th we forced to stay at Jagatsukh due to rain. On 19th August Mule came late, so we started our trek at 3.00 p.m. and at 5.00 p.m. we reached Khanol. The route was through the true right bank of Jagatsukh Nallah i.e. towards east and through dense forest. We pitched our tents at Khanol.

On 20th we started from Khanol at 7.30 a.m. and reached Chikka at 10.30 a.m. On the same day we 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.

Next day i.e. 21st August, 2004 we reached Chhota Chandratat i.e. our Base Camp. First we crossed the Jagatsukh Nallah and then after climbing near about a 1000 ft. high mountain, covered with grass, we entered into another green valley. We crossed many streams rivulets on the way. It took only 3 and half hours to reach Base Camp. We handed over our Base Camp Cards to the Muleteer and requested him to drop it at Jagatsukh Post Office. It is a very beautiful place and we enjoyed the beauty of this place.

On 22nd first we performed Puja for our success and safe return at Base Camp and then we proceeded towards east i.e. Dhuangon Col. for load ferry. Chhota Chandra Tal is surrounded by 3 sides. In the northeast is Deotibba, in the east is Dhuangon Col and its ridge through south to north and in the southeast Norbu Peak. Main Chandratat is situated on the southeast behind a rocky ridges i.e. 500 ft. above our Base Camp.

It seemed apparently to be very difficult to climb Dhuangon Col. due to its high gradient. But we do not face any problem to reach Dhuangon Col. All members and Sherpas except Prasit 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

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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. Here I faced some problem. Due to small team, I had confused for manning the team in each Camp. My previous plan was to shift all the members and sherpas to Camp-I (16000 ft.) and that will be our Advance Base Camp. But I understand that Prasit could not climb this difficult route of Camp-I. He is a new member and has no formal training though he has a good trekking experience. After discussion I took the decision that all the three members except myself stayed at Base Camp and if needed, they will proceed for higher camp.

On 23rd August, myself, Pemba, Sangey and Thupka occupied Camp-I i.e. Dhuangon Col. Subrata and Asim ferried loads to Camp-I. 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.

Next day i.e. 24th August, we proceed towards northwest direction from Dhuangon Col. First we proceeded through a snow field and then we climbed through the rocky ridge due to crevasses. From the ridge, we

clearly viewed our Base Camp, Chandratat towards southwest far below. Again we climbed down to a snowfield and then started climbing a snow wall towards northeast direction. From here, we fixed ropes towards northwest direction. About 1000 ft. rope on a snow slope was fixed which ended in a vast snowfield. We returned Camp-I.

On 25th we ferried loads upto the last day's reaching point.

On 26th all of us took rest at Camp-I.

On 27th we moved for occupying Camp-II (18000 ft.). We took 4 hours to reach the Camp-II, at that time weather was foggy.

Next day i.e. on 28th August, 2004 we planned to shift our Camp near the base of Indrasan Peak. Weather was very clear. We viewed clearly the snow-dome peak of Deotibba (19687 ft.) towards north-west and the gigantic rocky peak Indrasan (20410 ft.) towards north. From here planned our climbing route of Indrasan Peak. Sherpas worried to see the crevasse line which started from the last west ridge and which ended near the east ridge above the hanging glacier of Indrasan peak. But viewed thoroughly, I told them that in my observation, the crevasse ended just before a rock of east snowy ridge of Indrasan Peak. Within 3 hours we ferried loads to Camp-III and shifted our tents to the base of Indrasan Peak. Height of Camp-II & III are the same height i.e.18000 ft.

On the same day, at 12.00 noon we engaged ourselves in hard work of rope fixing on the south face rock wall of Indrasan Peak in fine weather. We fixed ropes about 1200 ft. from the bottom of the rock wall traversing towards west. We returned our camp at 4.00 p.m.

On 28th again at 8.00 a.m. we started to climb the rock wall and reached the previous day's position. From there, we rappelled about 50 ft. on the rock wall because we could not climb the last overhang of the wall towards north. Last year also we followed the same route. After climbing again about 50 ft. of the rock wall towards west, we turned right i.e. towards east through a snow slope. We reached the huge overhang rock and negotiate the same with utmost effort. Then we reached the foot of the ice-wall hanging down from the summit. Up to this point all along we fixed ropes. We returned Camp-III at 4.00 p.m.

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On 30th August, 2004 myself, Pemba Sherpa, Thupka Tshring Sherpa and Sange Sherpa prepared ourselves for Indrasan summit within 5.00 a.m. We were ready to move but cloud sky prevented us. We took shelter in the tent. Luckily at 7.00 a.m. we found a clear sky and start for summit attempt. As because rope was fixed, within 10.30 a.m. we reached near the second rock stage i.e. 50 ft. below the final snowy east summit ridge of Indrasan. From here towards south-southwest we found snow-covered dome shaped Mt. Deotibba (19687 ft.). At that time, weather was good. Now we started to climb the tough and risky ice-wall. We negotiate the steep, narrow ice couloirs between the hanging ice-wall coming from the summit and a huge rock wall. Last year we returned from this point. This time, Pemba Sherpa climbed this difficult ice wall and fixed rope. At 11.15 a.m. all of us reached the east summit ridge of Indrasan Peak. I am very happy to see myself on the east ridge of Indrasan. Because just 30 minutes before I feared that this time also we could not negotiate this ice wall. Then we proceeded through a gentle gradient soft snowslope towards north. We have no problem to cross the crevasse which cutting the peak diagonally i.e. above the hanging glacier. The crevasse line ended just before a rock wall of the ridge which I observed from Camp-II earlier. At 1.35 p.m. we made it to the corniced top of Indrasan Peak. At that time visibility was poor due to cloud. We unfurled the National Flag and our Club Flag and performed Puja. We waited at the top for 20 minutes for a clear sky and snapped some photographs.

