

**MT. KULUMAKALU (6350 M) EXPEDITION, 2007**  
**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. Kulumakalu (6350 Mtr. / 20830 Ft.) Expedition, 2007.
3. Name of the Himalayan peak climbed and its height: KULUMAKALU (6350 M/20830 FT.).
4. Date on which permit given by IMF: 01/6/2007 to 30/06/2007.
5. Nominal role of the expedition leader and members:
  - I. Shri Basanta Singha Roy - Leader of the expedition and climbed upto 6200 Mt. of Kulumakalu (6350 M) peak.
  - II. Shri Debasis Biswas – Climbing member and climbed upto 6200 Mt. of Kulumakalu (6350 M) peak.
  - III. Shri Asok Roy – Member of the expedition and reached upto 4800 Mt. i.e. upto Camp-I.
  - IV. Dr. Sanjib Raha – He was the Medical Officer of the team and stayed at Base Camp – (4400 M).
  - V. Shri Subrata Brahma – He reached up to 5600 Mt. i.e. Summit Camp.
  - VI. Shri Ajoy Bhattacharya - He reached up to 5600 Mt. i.e. Summit Camp.
  - VII. Shri Sourav Sinchan Mondal - He reached up to 5600 Mt. i.e. Summit Camp.
  - VIII. Shri Biswanath Saha - He reached up to 5600 Mt. i.e. Summit Camp.
  - IX. Shri Supriya Chitra – He reached up to 4800 Mt. i.e. upto Camp-I.
  - X. Shri Buddhadeb Halder – He reached up to 5600 Mt. i.e. Summit Camp.
  - XI. Shri Tapan Roy – He was the Quarter Master and Manager of the expedition. He stayed at Base Camp.
6. Commencement of trek from rail head/road head: From road head – trek started on 01/06/2007 from road head Barsheni, Dist. Kulu, Himachal Pradesh.
7. Number of camps en route up to Base Camp: Before reaching Base Camp, we established 3 more transit camps like Khirganga (12 k.m.) on 01/6/2007, Tundabhuji (14 k.m.) on 02/06/2007, Thakurkuan (6 k.m.) on 03/6/2007 and Ratituni i.e. Base Camp (4400 Mt.) (10 k.m. approx) on 04/6/2007.
8. Inter-action with local administration en-route and assistance received/problems faced: Local administration like Additional District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and ITBP official of Kulu District helped us and local people also cooperate with us.
9. Establishment of Base Camp:

We hired 12 Mules to carry our loads from Barsheni to Ratiruni Glacier (42 k.m. approx. ) i.e. upto Base Camp. We also engaged one Guide (Chaman Singh of Barsheni village) and 2 Cook. After taking our breakfast at Barsheni we started our trek along with Mules at 9.30 a.m. A big Hydel Project on Tos Nala near Tos Nala & Parbati river confluence is constructed at Barsheni. After trekking for an hour i.e. just before Naktan village one of our Mule slipped into Parbati river and died. We collected some ration and later at Base Camp we understand that our valuable food 15 kgs. Dal lost. We forced to engage one Porter from here who carried the extra load upto Base Camp. Our route is along the true right side of Parbati river. After crossing Naktan village (last village in this route) we crossed Parbati river and now we proceed through dense forest towards

east i.e. through the true left bank of Parbati river. We reach Khirganga at 3.30 p.m. Khirganga is a tourist place due to a hot spring. We stayed here in our Tent. Next day on 2<sup>nd</sup> morning we started our trek at 8.00 a.m. and reached Tundabhuji at 2.30 p.m. Here also we pitched Tent on a beautiful valley. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> day's trek is only 2 and half hours. So we started from Tundabhuji at 8.30 a.m. and reached Thakurkuan at 11.00 a.m. We stayed here in condemned Bungalow which was made by Hydrel Project Co. On 4<sup>th</sup> June we left Parbati river and entered into the Dibibokri Nala valley. Today we start at 8.00 a.m. and reached Ratiruni i.e. Base Camp (4400 mtr. / 14432 ft.) at 3.00 p.m. which is situated 1 k.m. before Ratiruni & Dibibokri Nala confluence. Mule returned from here. 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 (4800 mt. / 15744 ft.) the route towards north and then west direction. We proceeded through the true right lateral moraine of Dibibokri Nala for an hour. Here a feeding Nala which is coming from the west Dibibokri glacier meets with main Dibibokri Nala which is coming from east. Our target is to reach the head of this west glacier where Kulumakalu peak situated. Again we turned our left i.e. proceeded towards west through the true right side of feeding Nala which is started from the west Dibibokri glacier snout. After 2 hours trek through this boulder zone we decided to pitch our Tent beside the river bed of this nala just 1 k.m. before its snout.

From Camp-I to Camp-II (5200 mtr. / 17056 ft.) we proceeded through the knee deep soft snow towards west and climbed on the top of west glacier snout turning towards north. Then we again proceeded through vast west glacier moraine. Almost another 2 hours trek towards north-east direction through moraine ridge, we pitch our Tent on this moraine ridge. From here we clearly viewed our targeted peak Kulumakalu which is adjacent to Rubalkang.

From Camp-II to Camp-III (5600 mtr. / 18368 ft.) we proceeded through the moraine ridge of west glacier for half an hour and then proceeded through the snow field and gradually turned towards north-east. After two hours trek we started climbing and traversing to reach Summit Camp just below the Rubalkang peak. Before reaching the Summit Camp gradient was high on snow slope but we do not fix any rope.

From Camp-III to summit of Kulumakalu peak – the route is very dangerous. First half an hour we walked through the snow field towards north-east crossing the Rubalkang peak. Then we reached on the foot of Kulumakalu peak. From this point we fixed ropes all along. Gradient is very high but it was soft snow, not ice. Some times we climbed surface rocks and again snow wall. We fixed about 3000 ft. rope through this wall. Then we reached near Col. of Rubalkang and Kulumakalu connecting ridge. From here we found an overhang rock wall which we could not negotiate. From here summit is near about 500 ft. We decided to return Summit Camp. No other attempt made so far.

12. Snow and rock condition: We faced soft snow from Camp-I. We also faced high gradient snow wall and also negotiate some surface rock from summit camp to summit route.

13. Weather condition: Upto Base Camp weather was not so good everyday. Every day it was raining from noon. After Base Camp also each day we faced snow fall from 12.00 noon to evening. Cloud covered the area and sometimes heavy snow fall started during this time. It was a regular feature. But other times weather was more or less good. There was no incident for cancellation of our scheduled programme due to bad weather.

14. Summit report:

We fixed 3000 ft. ropes on the high gradient of ice wall of Kulumakalu (6350 mtr.) peak which took two days. We decided that on third day we attempt for summit and the balance work of rope fixing should be done during our climbing. So we decided to start our summit journey at midnight. Our plan to complete the summit before 12.00 noon because after that time weather would be deteriorated. The summit team consisting myself, Debasis, Thendup and Pema. We woke up at 12.00 midnight and prepared ourselves for summit approach. After taking hot drinks we started our summit journey at 1.00 a.m. Within 45 minutes we reached near the foot of Kulumakalu wall. We put on Crampon and with the help of Head Torch and Jumar on fixed rope, we gradually started climbing. The temperature was far below 0° centigrade. At 8.30 a.m. we reached upto that point where we fixed ropes previous two days. From here we clearly viewed Corner Peak (6050 mtr.) towards north, then Parbati Peak (6633 mtr.), then Dibibokri Pyramid (6408 mtr.). Towards east to south ridge Balck Peak, White Peak, Sakkarkang Peak and Ice Sail peak also visible. We could not view Rubalkang Peak (6187 mtr.) due to rock wall. Then we started rope fixing and climbing. As the gradient was very high so we took much time for fixing rope. We reached just below the rock wall at 1.00 p.m. But we could not found any possible route from where we would be able to climb this overhang rock wall. We could not found any other alternative route to reach the top of this last 500 ft. rock wall. We forced to return summit camp.

15. Camp site cleaning activities and disposal of garbage:

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

16. Maximum height attained and its date: 6200 mtr. / 20336 ft. on 13/6/2007 of Kulu Makalu Peak.

17. Names of Summitter : Not applicable

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 etc. & lodging	-	21108.00
Mule/Porter/Sherpa charges	-	69000.00
Equipment hire charges	-	9000.00
Transport	-	24336.00
Photography	-	4000.00
Printing, stationery & banner	-	700.00
Postage & Telephone	-	2160.00
Insurance	-	<u>1389.00</u>
Total expenditure	-	<u>131693.00</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: 18 Pcs of 4" x 6" colour print photo with caption enclosed (2 sets).

Date : 20/8/2007.

(Leader's particulars and signature)

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## DETAILED REPORT OF DAY BY DAY EVENTS OF MT. KULUMAKALU (6350 M) PEAK EXPEDITION, 2007

Kulumakalu is one of the most challenging peak in the Himachal Himalaya. Only one or two expeditions had organized in this peak earlier by foreigners. The first ascent was made in this peak by Roma Section of the Club Alpino Italiano, an Italian team in 1961 led by Paolo Consiglio. Thereafter as far as our knowledge goes, no one attempted this peak.

Kulumakalu peak is situated in the Parbati Valley of Kulu District of Himachal Pradesh. It is situated at the head of west Dibibokri Glacier. In Dibibokri Glacier, there are 4 glaciers i.e. West, Second, Main and South glacier which unite into the Dibibokri Nala. North ridge of this peak leads to Barasigri Glacier. From that side the i.e. north face of Kulumakalu is vertical rock wall. Whereas south face though steep snow slope and fragmented with surface rocks, it is comparatively easy than vertical north rocky face. Italian team climbed this through this route. Other ridges or faces are difficult for climbing. This peak is also called Lal Qila (Red Fort) due to its shape and beauty of the red granite. We decided to make an attempt along the south face i.e. the route of the successful Italian team.

After completion of all formalities, an 11 member team of Mountaineers' Association of Krishnanagar along with 3 Sherpas from Darjeeling left Krishnanagar on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 and reached Howrah by local train and then availed Kalka Mail at 7.45 p.m. Well-wishers, friends and members were present both at Krishnanagar Railway Station and Howrah Railway Station to convey their wishes for our safe return and success.

28<sup>th</sup> May : We spent the whole day at train.

29<sup>th</sup> May : Reached Chandigarh at 4.00 a.m. and then availed Bus for Bhuntar, Kulu. We reached Bhunter at 3.00 p.m. and stayed in a Dharamsala. Members were busy for marketing like grocery, vegetables from Bhuntar market. We also visited Kulu for giving information about our expedition to the government officials of Kulu District.

30<sup>th</sup> May : After taking breakfast, we availed Bus for Barsheni (road head) via Manikaran and reached Barsheni at 2.00 p.m. Mr. Chaman Singh Rana met with us and he agreed to go with us as a Guide. We stayed at Chaman's house.

31<sup>st</sup> May : We forced to take rest at Barsheni because non-availability of Porters. Later we arranged Mule to carry our loads to Base Camp. Barsheni is a small but rich village but it is too dirty due to dust. A hydel project is constructing on the Tos Nala and many Trucks carry materials and polluting the area. But the scenic beauty of this village is very beautiful.

1<sup>st</sup> June : We hired 12 Mules from Barsheni. Mr. Chaman Singh agreed to accompany us as a Guide. He is an experienced guide in this area and he also participated many expeditions in this area. Chaman's son and nephew also agreed to go with us as Cook. We start our trek from Barsheni at 9.30 a.m. Our target is Khirganga (12 k.m. from Barsheni). We crossed the hydel project area and reached Naktan, the last village in this route. Just before Naktan village we met an

accident. One Mule slipped into the Parvati river and died. Our route through the true right bank of Parvati river. After Naktan we crossed Parvati river and now our trek through forest. We reached Khirganga at 3.00 p.m. Many travellers trekked to Khirganga because there is a hot spring. We pitched tents here.

2<sup>nd</sup> June : We start trek from Khirganga at 8.00 a.m. The route is through the true left bank of Parvati river. We moved through dense forest. Sometimes we are moving through the valley. At 2.00 p.m. we reached a very beautiful valley. This is Tundabhuji (14 k.m. from Khirganga). Here also we stayed in our tents.

3<sup>rd</sup> June : Today's journey is only 6 k.m. The route is same. Today we proceeded through the Radodendran forest. After 2 k.m. trek, we crossed Parvati river again over a permanent bridge and now we proceeded through the true right bank of Parvati river. We took only 2 and half hours to reach Thakurkuan. Thakurkuan is a beautiful valley. Here Dibibokri nala meets with Parvati river which is coming from north. We stayed here in a condemned temporary shelter which was earlier made by a hydel project company.

4<sup>th</sup> June : Today we left the Parvati river and entered in to the Dibibokri nala valley towards north. We proceeded through the steep green valley. There is a foot track because many Sheep owners stayed in this area for grazing their Sheep. Rain started and we took 6 hours to reach Base Camp (4400 mtr.) area. This area is called as Ratiruni. Base Camp is situated on a small valley. There is a cave and water source is a stream which comes from west ridge. Kitchen made by the side of a big rock. Mules return from here. We pitched our tents here.

5<sup>th</sup> June : Today 8 members, 3 Sherpa ferried loads to Camp – I. We started trekking towards north at 8.30 a.m.. After half an hour trek we found that Ratiruni nala meets Dibibokri nala coming from the east. Again we trekked through the true right bank of Dibibokri nala for an hour and reached at the confluence of Dibibokri nala and a nala which comes from Dibibokri west glacier. Then we turned towards west. Now we proceeded through boulder towards west. After one hour boulder march we met with Chaman Singh and Thendup Sherpa. They moved early in the morning to locate our next camps. Chaman Singh is a experienced guide in this area. He earlier came to this area. As he left Base Camp today due to his urgent works at home so I requested him to identify us the probable camp areas and the route of the Kulumakalu peak to Thendup Sherpa. Chaman went back to Base Camp and we started to move again. After another one hour journey through the boulder we dumped our loads and return Base Camp.

6<sup>th</sup> June : Five member of our team today occupy Camp-I (4800 mtr.). Others ferried loads to Camp-I. Today we pitched our tents near the riverbed of the Nala. In the afternoon heavy snow fall started and continued 2 hours. All sides covered with fresh snow. From here we viewed Dibibokri Pyramid peak towards east and towards west we viewed West Horn peak.

7<sup>th</sup> June : Today we again moved towards west. Within one hour trek through the knee deep fresh soft snow we reached the snout of west Dibibokri glacier. We climbed on the glacier and then turned towards north. Another 2 hours trek through the moraine ridge towards north we dumped loads and return to Camp-I.

8<sup>th</sup> June : Today we occupy Camp-II (5200 mtr.). From here we clearly viewed our targeted peak Kulu Makalu which is situated at the head of west Dibibokri glacier.

9<sup>th</sup> June : Today we ferried loads to Camp-III i.e. summit camp. First half an hour we proceeded through the moraine ridge and then over the snow field. We proceeded towards north and then gradually turned towards north-east. In the last portion of this snow field it became steeper. We dumped loads at Camp-III and return to Camp-II.

10<sup>th</sup> June : Today we occupy Summit Camp. Summit Camp is situated at the head of west Dibibokri glacier. Towards north Rubalkang (6187 mtr.) peak is in front of us and then towards north-east Kulu Makalu (6350 mtr.) peak, then Corner peak (6050 mtr.) and towards east Parbati peak (6633 mtr. – highest peak in this area) and Dibibokri Pyramid peak (6408 mtr.). Towards south-east to south we clearly viewed Black peak, White peak, Sakkar Kang and towards south-west is Ice Sail.

11<sup>th</sup> June : After taking breakfast we started at 8.30 a.m. for route opening to summit route. Near about 30 minutes we proceeded through a snow field towards north-east crossing the foot of Rubalkang peak we reached below the south wall of Kulu Makalu peak. We started the tough job of rope fixing on the south wall of this peak. We took 4 hours and completed only 30 percent rope fixing on this high gradient soft snow wall which fragmented with surface rock. As snow fall started we return Summit Camp at 3.00 p.m.

12<sup>th</sup> June : Today also we were also busy for rope fixing. Still we have to fix rope near about 1000 ft.

13<sup>th</sup> June : We planned to attempt summit this day and the balance work of rope fixing should be done during our climbing. So we decided to start our summit journey at midnight. Our plan to complete the summit before 12.00 noon because after that time weather would be deteriorated. The summit team consists are myself, Debasis, Thendup and Pema. We woke up at 12.00 midnight and prepared ourselves for summit approach. After taking hot drinks we started our summit journey at 1.00 p.m. Within 45 minutes we reached near the foot of Kulumakalu south wall. We put on Crampon and with the help of Head Torch and Jumar on fixed rope, we gradually started climbing. The temperature was sub-zero. At 8.30 a.m. we reached upto that point where we fixed ropes previous day. Then we started rope fixing and climbing. As the gradient was very high so we took much time for fixing rope and reached just below the rock wall at 1.00 p.m. But we could not found any possible route from where we would be able to climb this overhang rock wall. We could not found any other alternative route to climb this last 500 ft. granite rock wall. Weather became bad and we forced to return summit camp.

14<sup>th</sup> June : After discussion we decided to return. We started our return journey at 9.30 a.m. from Camp-III. We cleaned all the camps and collected all non-biodegradable items and carried this garbage to Base Camp. We reached Base Camp at 3.30 p.m. Members of Base Camp received us.

15<sup>th</sup> June : We took rest at Base Camp.

16<sup>th</sup> June : We stayed at Base Camp because Mule do not turned down.

17<sup>th</sup> June : We cleaned the Base Camp area and packed all equipments, tents, utensils and non-biodegradable garbage. On return journey we hired 6 Mules. We proceeded for Khirganga at 9.30 a.m. after taking breakfast and reached Khirganga at 5.30 p.m. We stayed in Pooja Committee's room.

18<sup>th</sup> June : Today we started at 7.20 a.m. and reached Barsheni i.e. road head at 10.00 a.m. We left Barsheni at 1.00 p.m. by Bus and reached Kulu via Manikaran at 5.00 p.m. Then we availed night journey Bus for Delhi.

19<sup>th</sup> June : We reached Delhi at 12.00 noon and stayed in a hotel.

20<sup>st</sup> June : We availed train from Delhi and reached Krishnagar on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2007 safely.

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