

FRAME WORK FOR STRUCTURING OF EXPEDITION LEADER REPORTS TO IMF

1. NAME OF THE MOUNTAIN : MT. NUN (7135 MTR. / 23410 FT.)
2. FACE/RIDGE OF THE MOUNTAIN : WEST RIDGE OF MT. NUN.
3. AREA /LOCATION OF THE MOUNTAIN : SURU VALLEY NEAR KARGIL IN LEH AREA OF J&K HIMALAYA
4. GPS COORDINATES : 33⁰ 58' 524" N / 76⁰ 00' 18" E
5. MEMBERS :
 - I. SHRI BASANTA SINGHA ROY – LEADER OF THE EXPEDITION AND REACHED UP TO 6100 MTR. / 20013 FT.
 - II. SHRI ASOK ROY – REACHED UP TO BASE CAMP (4605 MTR./15107FT).
 - III. SHRI SUBRATA BRAHMA – HE WAS PHOTOGRAPHER & MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE EXPEDITION AND REACHED UP TO CAMP – I (5461 MTR./17914FT.).
 - IV. SHRI BISWANATH SAHA – HE WAS THE MANAGER OF THE EXPEDITION AND REACHED UPTO CAMP – II (6088 MTR./19973FT.).
 - V. SHRI ASHIM KUMAR MONDAL – HE WAS THE EQUIPMENT IN-CHARGE AND REACHED UPTO CAMP – II (6088 MTR./19973FT.).
 - VI. SHRI TAPAS SARKAR – HE WAS THE QUARTER MASTER OF THE EXPEDITION AND REACHED UPTO CAMP – II (6088 MTR. /19973 FT).
 - VII. SHRI SURAJIT CHAKRABORTY – REACHED UP TO CAMP–II (6088 MTR./19973 FT.).
 - VIII. SHRI ROHIT MAJUMDER - REACHED UP TO CAMP – II (6088 MTR./19973FT.).
 - IX. SHRI BIPLAB JANA - REACHED UP TO BASE CAMP (5100 MTR./16733 FT.).
 - X. SHRI BIJOY KANTI SARKAR - REACHED UP TO BASE CAMP (4605 MTR./15107FT.).
6. TOTAL PERIOD : 15/08/2014 TO 13/09/2014 TOTAL 29 DAYS.
7. ACTUAL CLIMBING PERIOD : 24/08/2014 TO 07/09/2014
8. ROUTE LOGISTICS :

(A) DELHI-TO-ROAD/RAIL HEAD:
(DISTANCE, HALTS, NATURE OF TRANSPORT, PROBLEMS)

WE STARTED OUR JOURNEY FROM KRISHNAGAR BY LOCAL TRAIN AND THEN AVAIL DELHI – KALKA MAIL FROM HOWRAH RAILWAY STATION ON 15.08.2014. ON 17.08.2014 WE REACHED AMBALA CANTONMENT STATION AT 4 A.M. FROM THERE WE AVAIL AHEMADABAD-JAMMU SARBODOY EXP. & REACHED JAMMU AT 4 P.M. NEXT MORNING I.E. ON 18.08.2014 WE STARTED OUR JOURNEY TO SRINAGAR BY HIRED BUS AT 6.30 PM. AND REACHED SRINAGAR AT 7.00 P.M. AND STAYED AT HOTEL IBNOGONI. ON 19.08.2014 WE LEAVE SRINAGAR AT 7 A.M. & STARTED OUR JOURNEY TO KARGIL BY SAME BUS WHICH WE HIRED FROM JAMMU. THE WAY WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL BUT GUARDED BY MILITARY. DUE TO LAND SLIDE AT JOJI-LA WE FORCED TO STAY THERE FOR 4 HOURS. WE REACHED KARGIL AT 8 P.M. WE STAYED AT HOTEL ASHIANA. ON 20.08.2014 WE ARRANGED OUR NEXT DAYS CAR FOR TONGOL AND PURCHASED FRESH VEGETABLES AND KEROSENE. ON 21.08.2014 WE LEAVE KARGIL AT 6.45 A.M. AND STARTED OUR JOURNEY TO THE WAY OF OUR ROAD HEAD TONGOL VILLAGE WHICH IS 70 K.M. FROM KARGIL. WE REACHED TONGOL FOREST

BUNGLOW AT 10 A.M. AND ENGAGED US FOR ARRANGEMENT OF PORTERS AND DISTRIBUTED LOADS AMONG THEM.

- (B) ROAD HEAD –TO-BASE CAMP:
(DAY-BY-DAY BREAKUP: HALT POINTS, NATURE OF ACCOMMODATION, DISTANCE, HEIGHT, TREK TIME, MODE OF PORTERAGE, MULES, NO OF PORTERS, PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED).

WE HIRED 31 PORTERS THROUGH LOCAL AGENCY TO CARRY OUR LOADS FROM TONGOL TO BASE CAMP. TREK STARTED ON 22.8.2014 FROM TONGOL (11033 FT.) TOWARDS SOUTH AT 5.30 A.M. AFTER CLIMBING A CONTINUOUS ASCENT FOR TWO HOURS WE FOUND A CAMPSITE AND WE ESTABLISHED OUR TRANSIT CAMP AT AN ALTITUDE OF (4200 MTR./13780 FT.) (N 34⁰ 1.862' / E 75⁰ 57.115'). NEXT DAY I.E. ON 23.08.2014 WE STARTED OUR TREK EARLY IN THE MORNING AND WITHIN TWO AND HALF HOURS TREK THROUGH MORaine AND IN THE LAST PORTION AFTER CLIMBING 200 FT. WE ESTABLISHED BASE CAMP AT AN ALTITUDE OF (4605 MTR./15107 FT.) (N 34⁰ 1.862' / E 75⁰ 57.115'). MOST OF THE TEAM OF MT. NUN EXPEDITION PITCHED THEIR BASE CAMP HERE. DRINKING WATER ALSO AVAILABLE HERE AND BEAUTIFUL FOR PITCHING TENT AND SAFE. WE ALSO GET A STRUCTURE BUILT OUT WITH STONES WHICH WE USE AS OUR KITCHEN.

- (C) BASE CAMP: LOCATION, HEIGHT, COORDINATES, DESCRIPTION OF NATURAL FEATURES, SOURCE OF WATER, TEMPERATURES, CLIMATE, FLORA AND FAUNA, ANY PROBLEMS.

ON 23.08.2014 BASE CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED AT AN ALTITUDE OF (4605 MTR./15107 FT.) (N 34⁰ 1.862' / E 75⁰ 57.115'). BASE CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED ON THE MORaine AREA. VARIOUS COLOURS OF SMALL SIZES BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS WERE SEEN BESIDES OUR TREKKING ROUTE AND AT THE BASE CAMP SITE. MARMOT & SMALL SIZE RATS WERE ALSO FOUND AT THE BASE CAMP SITE. THE FIRST DAY WAS SUNNY WITH CHARMING WEATHER, THE TEMPERATURE WAS 5⁰. FROM HERE WE COULD NOT VIEWED OUR TARGETED PEAK MT. NUN. HERE WE MET AN EXPEDITION TEAM FROM DELHI. THEY ALSO CAME FOR MT. NUN EXPEDITION AND NOW RETURNED FROM THE EXPEDITION. THEIR EXPEDITION WAS UN-SUCCESSFUL DUE TO BAD WEATHER. WE ALSO MET WITH SHRI THENDUP SHERPA (OUR OLD MOUNTAIN FRIENDS). THENDUP INFORMED US THAT THEY DO NOT UNFIXED THE ROPES FROM THE WALL OF MT. NUN WEST RIDGE IN BETWEEN CAMP-I TO CAMP-II. BUT THEY OPENED ALL THE ROPES ON THE ICE WALL IN BETWEEN BASE CAMP TO CAMP-I.

- (D) BC-TO-CAMP-I : HEIGHTS, DISTANCE, TRAVEL TIMES, TERRAIN FEATURES (SLOPES, GRADIENTS, OBJECTIVE HAZARDS), LOCATION AND COORDINATES, LOAD-FERRY DETAILS, ANY PROBLEMS.

NEXT DAY I.E. ON 24.8.2014 WE FERRIED LOADS EARLY IN THE MORNING TO CAMP-I EXCEPT SHRI ASOK ROY, SHRI BIJAY KANTI SARKAR AND OUR COOK SHRI LILARAJ RAI. THE ROUTE TOWARDS EAST. FIRST WE GRADUALLY STARTED STEEP CLIMBING THROUGH GLACIAL MORaine AND THEN WE PUT ON CLIMBING BOOT AND CRAMPON AND STARTED CLIMBING THROUGH HARD ICE. WE FIXED 500 MTR. POLYPROPYLENE ROPE ON THE ICEFALL. AFTER CLIMBING THIS PORTION WE MOVED TOWARDS SOUTH THROUGH KNEE DEEP SNOW WHICH WAS FULL OF CREAASSE. WE DUMPED OUR LOADS ON A ROCKY AREA AT AN ALTITUDE OF 5461 MTR./17914 FT. AND RETURNED TO BASE CAMP AT 3.00

P.M. WE TOOK REST ON 25/8/2014 AT BASE CAMP. DUE TO HEADACHE AND CONTINUOUS VOMITING OF SHRI BIJOY KANTI SARKAR FROM 24TH EVENING WE DECIDED TO SEND BACK TO BIJOY AT TONGOL. ON 25TH WE SENT BACK TO BIJOY WITH THE HELP OF SUBRATA AND ROHIT. ON 26TH ROHIT AND SUBRATA RETURNED TO BASE CAMP. THEY ALSO PURCHASED SOME CHICKEN FROM TONGOL. DUE TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF LEAVE MYSELF JOINED WITH THE TEAM ON ONLY 26TH AT BASE CAMP. ON 27TH MYSELF, PEMBA SHERPA, MINGMA SHERPA, ANG DORJI AND LAKPA SHERPA FERRIED LOADS TO CAMP-I. WE TOOK FIVE HOURS TO FERRY LOADS AT CAMP-I AND CAME BACK WITHIN TWO HOURS. ON 28TH ALL OF US EXCEPT SHRI ASOK ROY, SHRI SUBRATA BRAHMA AND SHRI BIPLAB JANA OCCUPIED CAMP-I. WE PITCHED 3 TENTS HERE AND ALSO MAKE A TEMPORARY KITCHEN COVERED WITH TARPAULENE SHEET. WATER WAS MADE FROM ICE HERE. ALL THESE DAYS WE GOT FAVOURABLE WEATHER CONDITION.

- (E) CAMP-1-TO-CAMP-II: SITE, COORDINATES, WEATHER, DISTANCE, TRAVEL TIMES, LOAD-FERRIES, TERRAIN FEATURES (NATURE OF TERRAIN: COULOIRS, GULLIES, SLOPES ETC, GRADIENTS, NATURE OF CLIMB (TECHNICAL), ROPE USED, WATER SOURCES, OBJECTIVE HAZARDS, SPECIAL GEO-MORPHIC FEATURES, ANY PROBLEMS).

29TH WAS A SUNNY DAY. FOR THE FIRST TIME WE VIEWED MT. KUN AND MT. NUN TOWARDS EAST – SOUTH-EAST. FOUR SHERPAS STARTED THEIR JOURNEY FOR LOAD FERRY TO CAMP-II. MYSELF, BISWANATH, ASHIM, SURAJIT, TAPAS AND ROHIT ALSO PROCEED TOWARDS CAMP-II WITH BARE HAND FOR ACCLIMATISATION. IT IS A HUGE SNOW FIELD. WE MARCHED FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR AND THEN RETURNED TO CAMP-I. SHERPAS CAME BACK TO CAMP-I IN THE EVENING. THEY ALSO FIXED ROPES WHERE NECESSARY. MOST OF THE PLACES IN BETWEEN CAMP-I TO CAMP-II ROPE WAS FIXED BY PREVIOUS TEAM. ON 30TH WE COULD NOT MOVE DUE TO BAD WEATHER AND CONFINED TO THE TENT. ON 31ST ALL OF US EXCEPT LILARAJ RAI (COOK) PROCEED TO CAMP-II. IT WAS A SUNNY DAY. WE FIRST CROSSED A SNOW FIELD WITH KNEE DEEP SNOW WHICH IS AROUND TWO SQR. K.M. WE TOOK 3 HOURS TO COVER THIS AREA. THEN WE REACHED AT THE BOTTOM OF MT. NUN NORTH FACE. WE PUT ON CRAMPON AND GRADUALLY STARTED CLIMBING WITH THE HELP OF FIXED ROPE THROUGH THE WEST RIDGE OF MT. NUN. GRADIENT WAS ABOUT 50°. WE TOOK MUCH TIME TO CLIMB. AFTER CLIMBING TWO THOUSAND METRE WITH THE HELP OF ROPE WE FACED A ROCKY AREA. CAUTIOUSLY WE NEGOTIATE THIS AREA AND THEN AGAIN CLIMBED AROUND ONE HUNDRED FEET THROUGH HARD SNOW, WE ESTABLISHED CAMP-II (6088 MTR. /19973 FT. – N 33° 58.284" / E 76° 0.355") ON A SNOW SLOPE. MT. NUN WAS TOWARDS EAST FROM HERE. 1ST SEPTEMBER WAS A SUNNY DAY. PEMBA, MINGMA AND LAKPA LEFT CAMP-II FOR FIXING ROPE TO CAMP-III (I.E. SUMMIT CAMP). AS PLANNED EARLIER SURAJIT, TAPAS AND ROHIT STARTED THEIR RETURN JOURNEY TO CAMP-I AT 11.00 A.M. ANG ALSO DESCENDED WITH THEM FOR SOME TIME AND AGAIN CAME BACK TO CAMP-II. WE VIEWED THE PROGRESS OF ROPE FIXING WORK BY SHERPAS THROUGH WEST RIDGE. FROM 2.00 P.M. WEATHER DETERIORATED AND DORJI AGAIN DESCENDED TOWARDS CAMP-I SO THAT HE MAY HELP THE DESCENDING MEMBERS IF NEEDED. VERY SOON ALL THE PLACES COVERED WITH WHITE OUT. SHERPAS WHO PRECEDED FOR CAMP-III RETURNED TO CAMP-II. THEY ALREADY FIXED ROPES THROUGH OUT THE ROUTE AND ALSO DUMPED SOME RATION AT CAMP-III.

SNOWFALL AND HIGH SPEED WIND CONTINUED. WE HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CONFINED OURSELVES TO TENTS. ANG RETURNED TO

CAMP-II FROM CAMP-I AT 3.00 P.M. ON 2ND SEPTEMBER. NEXT 2 DAYS WE CONFINED TO CAMP-II. AS RATION WAS LIMITED, SO WE DECIDED TO SEND BACK BISWANATH, ASHIM, ANG AND LAKPA TO BASE CAMP ON 5TH MORNING. WE PLANNED, MYSELF, PEMBA AND MINGMA STAY CAMP-II TWO MORE DAYS FOR BETTER WEATHER. AS DECIDED BISWANATH, ASHIM, ANG AND LAKPA STARTED THEIR RETURN JOURNEY IN THE MORNING IN BAD WEATHER. THEY PLANNED TO REACH BASE CAMP ON THAT DATE. AFTER WINDING UP CAMP-II THEY ALONG WITH LILARAJ RAI THEY REACHED BASE CAMP AT 11.00 P.M. THEY WERE FULLY EXHAUSTED.

ON 6TH WEATHER WAS SLIGHTLY FAVOURABLE AND FROM AFTERNOON SNOW FALL AND HIGH SPEED WIND STOPPED. WE, THREE, PLANNED TO PROCEED FOR SUMMIT CAMP AT NIGHT. BUT LATER WE CHANGED OUR DECISION AND NEXT DAY I.E. ON 7TH WE STARTED OUR CLIMBING FOR CAMP-III (SUMMIT CAMP) IN GOOD WEATHER. AFTER WINDING UP THE TENT AT 9.00 A.M. WE CLIMBED HALF AN HOUR WITH THE HELP OF ROPE. POLYPROPYLENE ROPE WHICH WAS FIXED BY SHERPAS WAS UNDER TWO/THREE FEET SNOW. SO WE FACED BIG TROUBLE TO RESCUE THESE ROPES. BUT THEN WE ASTONISHED THAT THERE WAS NO ROPES WHICH WE FIXED ON THE WALL ON WEST RIDGE OF MT. NUN. ALL THE ROPES WERE WASHED OUT DUE TO SNOW AVALANCHE. PEMBA TOLD THAT HE HEARD A HUGE SOUND OF AVALANCHE THAT PREVIOUS NIGHT. THAT MEANS AT THAT TIME THE AVALANCHE CAME. QUICKLY WE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION AND DECIDED TO ABANDON THE EXPEDITION. WE ARE LUCKY THAT AVALANCHE CAME THAT PREVIOUS NIGHT I.E. JUST EIGHT/NINE HOURS BEFORE. IF IT CAME WHEN WE REACHED THAT PLACE IT MUST BE FATAL. IT IS A WARNING TO US. WE TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS HERE. THE HIGHEST POINT WE REACHED TODAY IS **6100 MTR. / 20013 FT.**

WE STARTED OUR RETURN JOURNEY AT 10.00 A.M. VERY SOON WE REACHED OUR CAMP-II AREA. WE SOTRED ONE COIL POLYPROPYLENE ROPE UNDER A ROCK FOR FUTURE USE. IN GOOD WEATHER CONDITION WE DESCENDED TO BASE CAMP AT 6.00 P.M. THROUGH WEST DEEP SNOW. WE WERE FULLY EXHAUSTED. AT THAT TIME THE BASE CAMP AREA WAS UNDER TWO FEET SNOW.

NEXT DAY I.E. ON 8TH WE SEND SEVEN MEMBERS AND ONE SHERPA TOWARDS CAMP-I (IN BETWEEN BASE CAMP AND CAMP-I AREA) FOR SEARCHING SOME EQUIPMENTS AND TREKKING SHOWS WHICH WE LEFT BEFORE OCCUPYING CAMP-I BUT COULD NOT FOUND DURING OUR DESCEND BECAUSE IT WAS COVERED WITH HUGE SNOW. THEY RETURNED AT 2.00 P.M. AFTER RECOVERING ALL THE EQUIPMENTS AND TREKKING SHOES.

MR. TAKIA (MET) REACHED BASE CAMP FOR US WITH ANOTHER PERSON. THEY WORRIED FOR US DUE TO THIS LONG BAD WEATHER. THEY LEFT BASE CAMP AND TOLD US THAT PORTERS WILL COME NEXT DAY EARLY MORNING. NEXT DAY I.E. 9TH WE LEFT BASE CAMP AFTER CLEANING BASE CAMP AREA AND DISPOSING BIO-DEGRADABLE GARBAGES. WE TOOK BACK ALL THE NON-BIODEGRADABLE GARBAGES TO ROAD HEAD. TEN PORTERS CARRIED OUR LOADS. WE TOOK FIVE HOURS TO REACH TONGOL. THE OFFICER -IN- CHARGE OF PANIKHAR POLICE STATION WAS WAITING FOR US AT TONGOL. HE ADVISED US FOR REPORTING THEM WHEN WE AGAIN VISIT THAT PLACE. WE TOLD THE OFFICER THAT WE HAD INFORMED THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE OFFICE AT KARGIL AND NEXT TIME WE MUST INFORMED THE LOCAL POLICE STATION WHICH WAS NOT KNOWN TO US.

(F) MODES OF COMMUNICATION USED, ANY PROBLEMS:

WE COULD NOT ARRANGE ANY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR OUR EXPEDITION.

(G) SUMMIT CAMP :

HEIGHTS, SITE, COORDINATES, OBJECTIVE HAZARDS, TENT SPACE, NATURE OF SNOW/ICE/ ROCK, WEATHER.

WE COULD NOT OCCUPY SUMMIT CAMP BUT WE FIXED ROPES UP TO CAMP-III (I.E. SUMMIT CAMP). WE FIXED APPROX. TWO THOUSAND FEET POLYPROPYLENE ROPE ON THE WEST RIDGE OF MT. NUN ABOVE CAMP-II.

(H) SUMMIT DAY: START TIME, MODE OF TRAVEL (TECHNIQUES USED, ROPE USE), NATURE OF SNOW/ICE/ROCK ENCOUNTERED, WEATHER, EQUIPMENT USED, GRADIENTS, OBJECTIVE HAZARDS, TIME OF SUMMIT, TURN-AROUND BEFORE SUMMIT, REASONS FOR TURN-AROUND, TIME OF SUMMITTING, ROUTE CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED DURING DESCENT, TIME OF ARRIVAL AT CAMP SITE, SPECIAL EVENTS OR PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED.

NO SUMMIT DAY.

(I) FLORA AND FAUNA ENCOUNTERED.

VARIOUS COLOURS OF SMALL SIZES BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS WERE SEEN BESIDES OUR TREKKING ROUTE AND AT THE BASE CAMP SITE. MARMOT & SMALL SIZE RATS WERE ALSO FOUND AT THE BASE CAMP SITE.

(J) SPECIAL EXPERIENCES.

NIL

(K) ANY ACCIDENTS (DETAILS).

NO ACCIDENT OCCURRED DURING CLIMBING PERIOD, BUT AT THE TIME WHEN WE CAME DOWN FROM BASE CAMP TO TONGOL, ON THE GLACIER LILARAJ RAI SLIPPED AND MARGINALLY SURVIVED WHEN HE HIMSELF ARRESTED WITH THE HELP OF WALKING STICK.

(L) ANY ILLNESS (DETAILS).

BASE CAMP MEMBER BIJOY KANTI SARKAR SUFFER FROM HEADACHE AND CONTINUE VOMITING. WE DECIDE TO RETURN BACK HIM TO THE ROAD HEAD WITH OTHER TWO MEMBERS. OTHER MEMBERS WERE TOTALLY PHYSICALLY FIT DURING THE EXPEDITION.

(M) YOUR VIEWS OF THE WAY LOCAL VILLAGERS/SHEPHERDS UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:-

(i) IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON LOCAL LIVELIHOODS :

COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON LOCAL LIVELIHOODS.

(II) HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICTS.

NOTHING VIEWED.

(III) LOCAL PROBLEMS.

NO LOCAL PROBLEMS.

(IV) SOME CORE ISSUES OF THEIR LOCAL CULTURES.

NOT FOUND.

(V) CORE PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS AS SUGGESTED BY THE LOCALS

NO LOCAL PROBLEMS FOUND.

NAME OF LEADER :BASANTA KUMAR SINGHA ROY

NAMES OF MEMBERS

ORGANIZATION/CLUB :MOUNTAINEERS' ASSOCIATION OF
KRISHNANAGAR.

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