

LEADER'S REPORT – MT. SHIVA (6142 M) EXPEDITION, 2002
ORGANISED BY : MOUNTAINEERS' ASSOCIATION OF KRISHNANAGAR, W.B.

1. Name of the Association : Mountaineers' Association of Krishnanagar.
2. Name of the expedition : Mt. Shiva (6142 M) Expedition, 2002.
3. Name of the Himalayan peak climbed and its height : Shiva - 6142 M
4. Date on which permit given by IMF : 15/8/2002 to 15/9/2002.
5. Nominal roll of the expedition leader and members :
 - i) Shri Basanta Singha Roy – Leader of the expedition team and climbed Mt. Shiva.
 - ii) Shri Asok Roy – Deputy Leader of the team. He interacted with the local administration and local people during the expedition. He also looked after the Base Camp and ferried loads. He reached up to 4700 mtr. i.e. just below the Camp-II.
 - iii) Shri Subhasis Chakraborty – He joined with the team at Manali. He left Krishnagar on 16th June, 2002 for All India Cycle Tour. His motto is Voluntary Blood Donation. He was the Quarter Master of the team. He reached upto Camp-I (4500 M). After completion of the expedition, again he started his journey on By-cycle on 3rd September, 2002.
 - iv) Shri Ajay Bhattacharjee – He was the Manager of the expedition team. He stayed at Base Camp.
 - v) Shri Debasis Biswas – He looked after the mountaineering equipments of the team and climbed Mt. Shiva (6142 M).
 - vi) Shri Subrata Brahma – He was photographer of the team and also in charge of medicine. He reached up to 4700 mtr. i.e. just below the Camp-II.
 - vii) Shri Biswanath Saha – He ferried loads up to Camp-II (4800 M).
 - viii) Shri Mithun Bhowmick – He reached up to 4700 mtr. He was also on Cycle Tour.
6. Commencement of trek from rail head/road head : From road head – trek started on 20/8/2002 from Cherry (240 K.M. from Manali - 14 k.m. before Killer, Head Quarter of Pangi Valley), Chamba District.
7. Number of camps en route up to Base Camp : One transit camp was established at Parmar village (3200 M) before reaching Base Camp.
8. Inter-action with local administration en route and assistance received/problems faced :

We met with the In-charge of Udaipur (Lahul District) Police Station and informed them about our expedition. They informed us that the expedition area is not under their jurisdiction and advised to meet with the Killer Police Station (Head Quarter Pangi) of Chamba District. We started our trek from Cherry which is 14 k.m. before Killer. So we could not meet with the Killer Police Authority. We stayed at Cherry P.W.D. Bunglow and the Chowkidar was very helpful but he frightened one of our Sherpa for climbing Mt. Shiva (their holly Shibji). The Post Master of Kumar village assured us for posting our Base Camp Card and he also welcomed us with hot Tea. The Panchayat Pradhan and the villagers of Parmar was very well behaved and they helped us a lot though primarily they hesitated to help us and refused to open the school building for our stay. Later on after verifying our authenticity, the villagers and Sarpanch arranged for accommodation and opened their room. They also arranged for our dinner, tea and vegetables. We also engaged Sri Dila Ram, a villager as a Cook for our expedition. We faced some problem with the Mule Owner at Cherry. Because he demanded more money for carrying the loads to Base Camp though they earlier fixed the rate.

9. Establishment of Base Camp :

We engaged 6 mules (though only 4 or 5 were required) for carrying our loads up to Base Camp. First day, we moved from Cherry at 9.00 a.m. and crossed the Sach Nallah through a Bridge and then within half an hour trek, bypassing Sach village in our right, we reached near the Kumar Nalla (which is coming from South Glacier of Mt. Shiva, another name of this Nalla is Garatu Nalla). From Kumar Nallah the route was very steep and painstaking. After 3 hours trek we reached Kumar village and after taking some rest at Postmaster's house, we proceeded towards east and reached Parmar village (3200 M). We took 5 hours to reach Parmar village from Cherry. We stayed there on that day. Next day i.e. on 21st August, 2002 we crossed the last village in this area, Bhatori, just 10 minutes walk from Parmar and then we proceeded through the true right bank of Kumar Nallah. The approach from Parmar to Base Camp was an easy and one of the most beautiful trek. After three hours trek we noticed a clear view of Mt. Shiva and understand why the villagers of this locality regarded it as a sacred mountain and often called it as Shivji or Shivling. We established Base Camp (4000 M) before the snout of south glacier on a flat ground which was covered with knee high grass. We took 4 hours to reach Base Camp.

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 simple trekking through an easy moraine ridge. Three ridges went upwards towards north east direction, we had taken the true right ridge of Kumar Nalla and took three hours to reach the top of the ridge. Then we crossed a flat moraine ground. Many streams coming down from the slopes. We crossed these streams and found a camp site under a huge boulder. Previous expedition teams also camped here. Camp-I was established at an altitude of 4500 mtr. on moraine field.

We moved towards north traversing through the true right of south glacier. The route was dangerous due to gradient and loose boulders. We reached the top of the south – west ridge safely within 3 hours after rock climbing with utmost care and not to dislodge any boulder. Here also we found the garbage of previous team's camp.

From Camp-II, our plan was to reach the lower part of west ridge. So, we climbed down to the west glacier basin which was full of open crevasses. We could not find any snow on the glacier field. Diagonally we crossed the glacier field towards north west and reached the lower part of the west ridge of Mt. Shiva. But we could not find any route through which we could reach at the top of Mt. Shiva. We cancelled this route and again backed to Camp-II with a broken heart. Again we entered into the west glacier which was full of crevasses and avalanche prone area. We fixed ropes all along through ice fall and reached a rocky area which was connected by a ridge to west ridge. We faced some problem to cross a big crevasse and loose boulders. We established Summit Camp i.e. Camp-III at an altitude of 5600 mtr. Here we found two tent pitching area which might be used by Junko Tawi of Japan whose team was first climbed this peak in the year 1988. We also found their fixed ropes, mountaineering equipments and garbage.

12. Snow and rock condition :

Throughout the expedition we did not face any soft snow except in the last part of the peak and nature of the snow of this part was hard. But we faced lot of problems due to loose rock from Camp-I to Camp-II and from the middle of the Camp-II to Camp-III route.

13. Weather condition : When we reached the Parmar village, the villagers told us that why we did not come earlier. Because there was no rain in that area till 20th August. Their experience was, whenever any outsider came their village, rain accompanied them.

There was no rain before reaching the Base Camp. But later on there was not a single day at Base Camp or Camp-I without rain. But we did not face any problem due to this rain because it was very little and we do not loss any day due to bad weather.

The weather condition of Camp-II and Summit Camp was good. Snow fall started two or three occasions and for little time. But on 29th August at 5.30 p.m. snow fall started heavily at Summit Camp and it stayed for about three hours. We faced some problem due to soft snow on rock on the summit date morning. Next day i.e. on 30th also snow fall started at 3.30 p.m. and continued it at 5.00 p.m. so we could not return Camp-II on that date.

14. Summit report : On 30th August, 2002, myself, Debasis, Sange and Dupka started our summit journey to peak Shiva. We had planned to start early in the morning but later on we changed our plan due to fresh snow. We left summit camp at 6.30 a.m. Previous day we fixed ropes on the last portion of rocky west ridge. Climbing Boot was on our back. Our movement was slow due to snow on the rock. At that time weather was good. Within two hours we crossed the two building like rock and reached near the ice wall of the peak at 8.30 a.m. Then after fixing rope about 1000 ft. on the hard snow we gradually started climbing. At this time bad weather started. Some times the area covered with cloud and some time it was cleared.

We fixed three full length ropes and reached at half way of the snow summit cap. The gradient from this point was low. So we roped up and started climbing. At 11.30 a.m. we reached the top of the Peak. From clearly we viewed the whole south west region. Base Camp, Camp-I were clearly viewed. West glacier was also viewed. But we could not found our Camp-II and Camp-III. We had taken photographs, performed Puja, hoisted National Flag & Club Flag and after staying at 15 minutes we started climbing down. We again viewed Camp-II & Camp=III. At 2.30 p.m. we reached at summit camp. At that time the previous day's snow was vanished from the rocky ridge. After taking some rest and food, we planned to reach Camp-II on that day but weather prevented us. Snow fall started at 3.30 p.m. so we stayed at Camp-III on that night.

15. Camp site cleaning activities and disposal of garbage :

The area of Base Camp was cleared and all the garbage were burnt and buried. Garbage from Camp-I, II and III area was collected and taken back at Base Camp and later on were burnt and buried.

16. Maximum height attained and its date : 6142 mtr. – 30/8/2002.

17. Names of summitters : 1. Shri Basanta Singha Roy, 2. Shri Debasis Biswas, 3. Shri Sange Sherpa and 4. Shri Dupka 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.15420/-
Porter	: Rs.31257/-
Equipments	: Rs. 6163/-
Transportation	: Rs.10225/-

Photography	: Rs. 2919/-
Others	: Rs. 3412/-
TOTAL	: Rs.69396/-

20. Details of day by day events to be attached : Separate sheet attached.

21. Suggestions/complaints : As far as we know, this is the first climb of Mt. Shiva from India. The peak is technically difficult though its is less. About 6 to 7 mountaineering expeditions had organized in this peak but previously but any one could not reach the summit of this peak (as per Indian Mountaineer record). In spite of technical difficulties to climb this peak, Indian Mountaineering Foundation, New Delhi sanctioned only Rs.5760/- for 8 members team (we do not know the reason) and also 50% of the grant of IMF is to be expended by the Association in kind form from IMF and lion's share of its expenditure goes to Gas Cylinders purposes which are to be carried in the train compartment or bus – this is totally prohibited by Acts. This procedure is to be changed immediately. Other required equipments are not available in due time. So, it will be better to reintroduce the previous system.

22. Survey of India Map or sketch marking accurately the route, camp site and their heights : Separate sheet enclosed.

23. Photo evidence : Enclosed.

Date : 04/11/2002.

(Leader's particulars and signature)

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DETAILED REPORT OF DAY BY DAY EVENTS OF MT. SHIVA (6142 M) EXPEDITION, 2002

Mt. Shiva is situated in the Pangri Valley of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh. Latitude and longitude of this peak is 76° 35' E and 33° 6' N respectively. The local people regarded this peak as a sacred mountain and often refer to it as Shibji or Kailash. The weather in this region is unpredictable.

This year our club selected expedition to Mt. Shiva (6142 mtr.) after a prolonged discussion and for many reasons. It is a low budget expedition and as far as our knowledge goes, there is no Indian ascent of this peak. Only the first Lady Everest Climber, Junko Tawi of Japan climbed this peak in the year 1988. Several attempts were also made but no one could reach the summit.

The approach of this peak can be made either through Chamba over Sach Pass to Killer or through Manali over the Rothang Pass, then crossing the whole of Lahul, through Udaipur. Regular bus service from Manali to Killer exists in this route.

On 15th August, 2002, 6 (six) member (2 member joined with us at Manali) and 2 (two) Sherpa of Darjeeling left Krishnagar and availed Kalka Mail from Howrah. In the morning at Rabindra Bhavan, District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and Sabhadhipati of Nadia Zilla Parishad handed over National flag to me in presence of a gathering by our club members and well wishers.

At Howrah station, Club President, Dr. P.Das Mahapatra handed over me the Club flag. Here also club members and well wishers were present.

We reached Manali from Chandigarh by bus on 17th afternoon. Shri Subhasis Chakraborty and Mithun Bhowmick received us at Manali Bus Stand. They left Krishnagar on 16th June, 2002 for ALL INDIA CYCLE TOUR. Their motto is to "DONATE BLOOD & SAVE LIVE".

We stayed at Nilkamal Hotel and came to know that bus service was curtailed due to land slide at Daldal Nalla, 20 k.m. after Udaipur. We changed our scheduled programme and decided to leave Manali on 18th morning. We also completed our marketing and organizational work here.

We availed Manali – Killar bus on 18th dawn and crossing Rotang Pass, Keyong etc. reached Udaipur in the afternoon. We met Police Officials here and they welcomed us warmly. They advised us to meet with Killar (Head Quarter of Pangri Valley) Police Officials because our targeted peak Shiva is under their jurisdiction.

On 19th we reached Daldal Nallah (24 k.m. from Udaipur) by a hired Tractor. We could not face any problem to ferried loads here and after crossing the landslide point we availed bus for Cherry and reached there at 4.00 p.m. We stayed at PWD Bungalow at Cherry. The Chowkidar of the Bungalow was very helpful. We arranged 6 (six) Mules for carrying loads to base camp and did some marketing. We could not meet with Killer Police Officials because it is situated 14 k.m. far from Cherry.

Next morning, i.e. on 20th August when our team were ready to start trekking for Parmar village, the mule owner demanded extra money for the mules though it was settled earlier. I was astonished at his misconduct which compelled us to pay more money and to waste the vital one hour. We started our journey for Cherry at 9 a.m. After half an hour trek through dense forest and crossing Sach Nallah through a bridge and bypassing Sach village, we reached near the Kumar Nallah and crossed it on a temporary wooden bridge. Nowadays there was regular bus services from Killer to Sach. From here steep trekking started and at about 12.00 noon we reached Kumar village. The Branch Postmaster of the Kumar rural post office welcomed us

with hot tea. After taking some rest we reached Parmar village at 2.00 p.m. At first, we faced some problems for accommodation. Villagers were hesitated to receive us. But after satisfying the Sarpanch of the village with our papers, they warmly received us and arranged lodging, dinner etc. We engaged Shri Dila Ram, a villager, as a Cook for our expedition.

On 21st the approach from Parmar to Base Camp is one of the beautiful trek. After the continuous steep from cherry to Parmar, the trek from Parmar to Base Camp was gently rising foot track and covered with green vegetation and valley. We saw our targeted peak on our way. We established our Base Camp (4000 M) before the snout of south glacier on a flat ground which was covered with waist deep grass. The whole of Mt. Shiva could be viewed from here clearly. But clouds and white-out intervene all the times to view Mt. Shiva or Shivji.

On 22nd we took rest at Base Camp. We were busy with our mountaineering equipments and repacking loads for the higher camp. Weather turned bad in the afternoon.

On 23rd August, all the members and sherpas (except Mithun and Dila Ram) ferried loads to Camp-I (4500 M). Though not a sunny day but we do not face any problem due to weather. It was simple trekking route through a ridge towards north-east. It took 5 hours to ferry loads at Camp-I and come back to Base Camp.

Next day, i.e. on 24th myself, Debasis, Biswanath and two Sherpas occupied Camp-I pouring rain completely. Rest members (except Ajay, Mithun and Dila Ram) started load ferry but after some time they returned at Base Camp due to heavy rain.

25th August 3 members and two sherpas started for reccee and ferried loads to Camp-II. Asokda, Dila Ram and Subrata ferried loads from Base Camp to Camp-I. Asokda and Dilaram returned to Base Camp today itself. While Subrata stayed here. The route was dangerous due to high gradient and loose boulders. We reached the top of the south west ridge safely within 3 hours with utmost care. We returned to Camp-I at about 2.00 p.m. After this day's experience, we decided to reduce our climbing team. After discussion it was decided that myself and Debasis will go further along with sherpas and rest members stayed at Camp-I and Base Camp respectively.

On 26th August, myself, Debasis, Sange and Dupka established Camp-II (4800 m). Asokda, Biswanath and Subrata ferried loads just below the Camp-II and returned Camp-I.

On 27th we started reccee for a safe route of west ridge of Mt. Shiva so that we may establish Camp-III. We were on the top of south-west ridge and easily viewed all the routes of Mt. Shiva. First we climbed down to west glacier basin which was full of open crevasses and proceeded towards north-west with rope up. We spent many times for searching a feasible route for summit through west ridge of Mt. Shiva but without results. We returned to Camp-II.

Next morning i.e. on 28th also we again entered into the west glacier and reached at the bottom of the west ridge. We could not found any possible route due to its cornice ridge all along. Ultimately we abundant our searching route and returned Camp-II with our loads.

On the same day we again we entered in to the west glacier and started climbing through the full of open crevasse and avalanche prone area towards east. We fixed ropes all along through the ice-wall and after traversing a big crevasse, we reached a rocky area which ultimately connected with the west ridge. After climbing the ridge we found a camp site and returned to Camp-II. It took 6 hours.

On 29th August we established our summit camp at an altitude of 5500 mtr. Here we found two tent pitching area which might be made by Junko Tawi of Japan whose team first climbed this peak in the year 1988. We also found their fixed manila ropes, mountaineering equipments like rock piton, ice piton, snow stake etc. and garbage. We also fixed ropes on the rock wall towards summit. Snow fall started in the evening.

On 30th August, we i.e. myself, Debasis, Sange and Dupka started our summit journey to peak Shiva at 6.30 a.m. though our plan was to start early in the morning. Our movement was slow due to fresh snow on the rock. Crossing two building like rock, we reached before the ice wall of the peak at 8.30 a.m. Then after fixing ropes of about 1000 ft. on the hard snow we gradually started climbing. The weather condition was deteriorating now. After reaching at half way of the snow summit cap, we found that there is no other rope left for fixing. So we roped up and started climbing. Gradient from this point was not so high. At 11.30 a.m. we reached the top of Mt. Shiva. We had taken photographs, performed Puja, hoisted the National Flag and Club Flag. From here we found clearly our Base Camp and Camp-I area but could not found Camp-II and summit camp. Staying 15 minutes we started climbing down. At 2.30 p.m. we reached summit camp. We planned to reach Camp-II but bad weather compelled to stay us at Camp-III.

On 31st August we were late to start for Camp because snow were deposited on the rock and it was slippery. At 10.00 a.m. we slowly and cautiously start to climbing down to Camp-II. We collected all the garbage from summit camp. It took 3 hours to reach Camp-II. After winding up the Camp-II and collected all the garbage we started our return journey. Biswanath, Mithun, Subrata and Dilaram came to receive us just below the Camp-II. They shared our loads. Camp-I already cleared by our rest members. We, all rejoined at Base Camp in the afternoon. Subhasis and Ajay received us with hot coffee.

1st September, 2002 - 4 villagers, who collected medicinal plant at Base Camp area, agreed to carry our loads to Chery. After cleaning the camp site and destroying all garbage we wind up our Base Camp. Rain tried to stop our camp wind up but failed. We reached Parmar at 1.00 p.m. and taking lunch at Dila Ram's house. At 6.00 p.m. we reached Cherry P.W.D. Bunglow safely.

We reached Manali on 2nd September night and on 6th September we reached safely in our town.

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