

# MT. JOGIN – I (6456 mtr., 21,360 ft.) Expedition, 1992

Organised by :

## South Calcutta Trekkers Association

1/3 Love Lock Street, Calcutta 700 019

### Leader's Report

- Planning** SOUTH CALCUTTA TREKKERS ASSOCIATION is a mountaineering organisation. Since its inception in the year 1983. The Association is trying to promote mountaineering and adventure activities amongst the Youths of West Bengal. Like past this year the Association planned to go to “KEDAR-GANGA” Glacier in the month of May – June’92 to set foot on the top of Mt. JOGIN – I (6456 m). Accordingly was sent to the Indian Mountaineering Foundation New Delhi for necessary permission & approval in the month of February. After receiving Provisional Booking the members Organising to raise the necessary expedition funds and the members started physical training to encounter the climbing difficulties to scale the peak. Ultimately we received the approval from IMF but without Financial grant at last line and started borrowing Loan from our well wisher to meet the necessary expenses for the Expedition. The team members were 12.
- Location of the Peak** The Peak JOGIN – I (6456 m) is situated at the head of KEDAR GANGA Glacier with a Lot 3053 ft. long 7856’.
- Journey** The 12 member team consisting of SRI INDRANATH DUTTA (Dy. Leader), SRI SHYAMAL DEY, SRI CHINMOY BHATTA, ANJAN GHOSE, RANJAN DUTTA, SRI SUTONU CHAKRABORTY, SRI DIPEN SAMANTA, SRI AMAL KUMAR NANDY, SRI SHIB SANKAR DAS, SRI RATHIN BASU & SMT. PADMA BASU CHOWDHURY & myself (SMT. SITA GHOSE) as Leader left Howrah Station by 8009 Up Doon Exp. on 23<sup>rd</sup> May’92 amidst warm farewell from our well wisher. The Indian tricolor & club flag were handed over to me by Sri Ratan Kr. Das our Patron in the Howrah Station to the Flag on the Summit. The team reached Uttarkashi on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1992 via forced stay at Hardwar on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1992.
- 27.5.92** **UTTARKASHI** – We had to stay at Uttarkashi for necessary Porter arrangements & Ration arrangements throughout the day. Two members went to Nim to collect climbing Boot. Two went for Bus booking for GANGOTRI. The rest were engaged in Packing.
- 27.5.92** **GANGOTRI** – In the morning all the members were ready for Gangotri and were waiting for Bus. A bad news came in the morning that due to landslides in between Gangotri & Uttarkashi, the bus service is closed. There is a chance of opening of the Bus route by 12 noon. Normally we became tensed. All the Porters (20 HAPs & 4 LAPs) gathered at the Hotel at 10 A.M. Then at last at about 1 p.m. the Bus started and we reached GANGOTRI at about 7 p.m. We booked our Hotel there for night stay.
- 28.5.92** **GANGOTRI** – We decided last night for staying one day at Gangotri for acclimatisation. So we took our Bed Tea at 6 A.M. and having our Breakfast we went to “GANGA” Temple for paying our homage to deity for safe & successful journey and then we started height gaining towards our original route of our Base Camp. We gained height of about 2000’ keeping Kedarganga to our left and at about 12 Noon we came back to our Hotel at Gangotri and took our Lunch. Rest of the day we were busy with different work.
- 29.5.92** We started at 9 A.M. for our transit Camp – I (Bhujkharak). After having our breakfast, we started and crossed the Bridge and gained height gradually. The Kedarganga is flowing towards our left. The road was very narrow somewhere we had to left our Rucksack and after having roped with each other we had to cross some difficult routes. Ultimately after a track of about 6 hrs. are reached our Camp Site i.e. Bhujkharak. The area was very nice surrounded by Bhuj trees. We pitched our tents and discussed with each other for our next day’s plan. The weather was fine that day.
- 30.5.92** We woke up early morning and having our bed tea and breakfast we made ourselves ready for our track. We started by 9 A.M. Today’s route was really very tuft. Sometimes we had to track through the bed of Kedarganga. Sometimes we had to cross Vidges. By 11.00 A.M. the peak “THALAYSAGAR” was visible before us. Suddenly the weather became worse resulting Snow Fall. Today we had to cross a

dangerous rock fall zone area. We took 1 hr. to cross the danger zone and ultimately we reached our Camp site at about 2 p.m. We were completely drenched due to heavy snow fall and immediately after reaching to our “Kedarkharak” Camp we pitched our tents and changed our clothings. Then we took tea and became worm. The snow fall ceased & after coming from our tents we were stunted to witness the snow surroundings covered because every where it was always our witness there. But after hearing to our HAP, we were really astonished because he reported that out of 20 LAPs 15 Laps had left our luggages and went back towards Lower Camps. They told him they would not come again to carry our Luggages towards Base Camp. So we decided to ferry our Loads to B.C. instead of occupying B.C. on 31.5.92. Accordingly I told my fellow members regarding tomorrow’s Plan.

**31.5.92** According to our Yesterday’s Plan we took our Breakfast and opened the load and distributed amongst ourselves and started for ferrying our Loads towards B.C. at about 9 A.M. Myself, Padma & Sutonu stayed in TC – II Camp for repacking of Rest Loads and cooking arrangements. The other members carried their tuck back and started. They ferried the load to B.C. and returned to TC – II of about 4 P.M. according to their version the base camp route was very tuff. They had to tuck throughout the boulders and after gaining of approx. 1500’ height they saw their Base Camp area Tint beside Kedar Tal. They saw Jiant Thalay Sagar and Bhrriru Panth and Manda towards left. They pitched one tent and dumped all the loads inside the tent and after having some talks with Sri Prasanta Bhattacharjee (leader of JOGIN Expedition – organized by Charai-Utrai Calcutta). They came back to TC – II.

**01.06.92** The weather was very fine today. We packed our tents and rest luggages we started trekking. The route was absolutely within Boulders we trekked towards left and ultimately after crossing some ridges we reached our Base Camp. The trek was for 4 hrs. We pitched our tents and made the kitchen ready. Then we were discussing the future Plan amongst ourselves. This is also for information that one Club of Calcutta (PATHAJATRA) they also established their B.C. Just by our side for the Expedition to JOGIN II & JOGIN III on the same day.

**02.06.92** **Base Camp.** The day was absolutely rest day. We all were engaged in assorting of Food for higher camps. The others were engaged in equipments for climbing. After having our Lunch we started packing of Foods & Equipments. This is the afternoon we had a group discussion regarding future approach and selection of members for ultimate Summit. Accordingly Sri Indranath Dutta, Sri Dipen Samanta, Sri Shib Sankar Das, Sri Ranjan Dutta & Sri Chinmoy Bhattacharjee as Climbing member & HAP PURAN RAWAT, Raju Towch, Ratan Martolia & Ranu Bhat were selected for higher Camps & ultimate Summit to JOGIN – I (6456 mt.) Rest of us would be engaged for ferrie and support team. The whole day weather was very nice except in the evening we had a face Snow fall for an hour.

**03.06.92** We started with our Load towards ABC of SAM. The route was through the medial marriage of Vendor GANGA Glacier. We have to climb a ridge covered with snow. Thereafter our route was through the top of that ridge. The route was very tuff, moreover we had to face tremendous breeze. However after 11 A.M. we came just below the peak the lay Sagar. From therefore turned right and descended to the snow field. Kneedeep to soft snow made. Ultimately we came below the snow ridge of 500’ high we took rest there for 10 mins. Then we started climbing the snow ridge. It took 45 mins. to reach the top of the ridge and WR saw our Target i.e. JOGIN I (6456 mt.) and our ABC Good lite. We rested there and pitched our tents. Then we discussed with our climbing members & HAPs and started for coming down to our B.C. at about 4 p.m. On our way back the weather became worse. We moved very fast and did not talk with each other because of tension & anxiety for higher camp members. We reached B.C. of 2 p.m. and immediately the Snow for started. It continued for 3 hrs. in the evening. The Base Camp area became absolutely white. Naturally we felt ourselves nervous for our higher camp members.

**04.06.92** **CLIMBING REPORT BY SRI I. N. DUTTA (DY. LEADER)**

We were tired because we have to face real mountain hazards in the last evening. Snow Fall continued for 4 hours from 5 p.m. However we packed our rucksack & tents and having our breakfast we moved to Camp I at 9 A.M. We kept one tent in ABC for our support members. We descended from the ridge then Trekked through the medial morome of Vedar GAWGA Glacier. The route was entirely covered with Chow. We had to walk very cautiously because of hidden Orceven. Some time we trekked Zigzag way to avoid Orcavasse. Ultimately after 5 hrs. trek we climbed top of Snow covered Ridge at about 100 ft. & then in the snow field we pitched our tent for Camp – I. The weather was good at 2 p.m. All the members were fit in

Camp – I. After having Tea & Snacks two of us were going to recay the next day’s route and came back to our Camp Site at 5 p.m. Immediately the snowing started and continued for 2 hrs. In the evening we

discussed amongst ourselves regarding next day's movement and decided that if the weather permits then we would move all for our Summit Camp.

**05.06.92**

The morning was very fine. Sky was absolutely clear. We were all fit and were making ourselves ready for Camp – II. We took our breakfast and after packing our rucksacks, tents and other gears we started at 7 AM. We were wading through the snow field. The snow condition was fine. Gradually we were gaining height and ultimately we came just below the snow covered wall. The height of the wall was about 1000 ft. We found there that the rope was fixed (Charai – Utrai Calcutta. They were in Jogin I & III Expedition in the last week of May'92. They fixed up the ropes to negotiate the wall. But at the time of descending they had to face very bad weather resulting they could not open up the ropes from the wall). So we got the opportunity to use the same. We roped up with other and with the help of harness & carabiner we climbed up the wall. Then we crossed Snow Field and after crossing few ridges we pitched our tents in the Snow Field for Summit Camp at about 2 p.m. The weather was very nice throughout the day. Our peak JOGIN I was absolutely clear in front of us. JOGIN III was also slightly visible. The Peak Thalaysagar & Bhregupanth was absolutely clear of the opposite side i.e., our back side. We were all fit and were tensed side by side because of our Lower Camp members as well as for next day's programme. However after having tea & snacks we started discussing regarding Summit attempt. We decided to climb two peaks i.e. JOGIN I & JOGIN III. (Accordingly myself Indranath Dutta, Dipen Samanta along with AAP Retan Martolia & HAP Raju Rawat) we would be divided into two groups tomorrow to scale the peak.

**06.06.92**

The dawn was unveiling gradually from the cover at darkness. The temperature was much below the freezing point. In such a chilling atmosphere, we came from our tents. In that vast snow field among the garland of white peaks we started for our ultimate destinations. The clock was struck at 5.00 A.M. In that shivering cold our feet steps rustling in the aid. Yesterday it was decided that we would take attempts to reach on the summit of JOGIN I & III simultaneously being separated in two groups. The group for JOGIN III consisted of 3 members and two H.A.P.s and a team of two members and two H.A.P.s for JOGIN I.

### **Way to JOGIN III**

After a twenty minutes walking on the almost level snow field we reached at the base of the JOGIN III – a steep snow wall having an average gradient of 60°. We began to ascend. The snow condition was good, weather was helpful, we were gaining altitude smoothly. In order to reduce the time, we carried on our climbing through the front face of JOGIN – III. Our way of climbing was almost straight, except in some cases to avoid some hidden crevasses we made our way in zig-zag manner. After three hours struggle and overcoming three humps of similar gradient we stepped on the ridge of JOGIN – III. The dome shaped peak was not distinctly segregate from the ridge. At 8.30 A.M. we stepped on the highest point of the ridge. Ultimately our efforts were crowned with success. The members had a tremendous sense of elation.

In a very favourable weather we savoured our chance to look at our eye-witness Thalaysagar at the direction E-SE, the spreading fascinating Khatling glacier from south to west, our struggling members in JOGIN I – in the North-West direction. The attractive JOGIN – II in the North.

We were delighted but we still had had to wait to celebrate until our members safely returned from JOGIN – I.

### **JOGIN – I**

After adieu from the Companion, we were diagonally proceeded in towards the Col of Jogin I & III. Having reached the half way, we started our Climbing on the south-east of Jogin I. The gradient of the snow covered face was nearly 70°. After ascending a height of few hundred foot from the base, suddenly a black line was sighted by us which was spreaded crosswise along our direction of movement. Coming closer to that region we found a wide sent asunder area covered with very soft snow. Keeping faith on the old rumour that fate favour the brave, we crawled over that area by using running belay. Due to heavy snow deposition our movement was comparatively slow, we sank knee-deep in the mash. Soon we reached the South ridge of Jogin I. Looking back we were delighted to see that our Jogin III members were returning from their summit. The resonance of their success accelerated our movement towards the goal. The excellent partial views of Mt. Kederdome and Gangotri glacier along with Mt. Thalaysagar and Mt. Bhregupanth attracted our sight for a few moments. While proceeding along the ridge we suddenly found that the ridge ended at the foot of an ice wall covered with thin layer of snow, elevated at an angle of 75° - 80°. We tired up our Crampons. But due to the presence of snow having a depth of 6", it became

very difficult to ascend considering that in case of any slip there would be a shees fall to the Khutling glacier, we decided to fix up rope. From the beginning of the day the weather was at its best but now it began to change. The blue sky turned into white cloudy, the white mist swirled all around. The visibility became very much less. The situation forced us to change our climbing technique. Instead of rope fixing we proceededly using running blay method. Having climbed up about 400 fts. in such a manner, finally we reached in a broken region full of crevasses. Carefully overcoming that barrier when four pairs of feet printed out their steps on the top of Jogin I, it was 11.45 AM. then the weather was little better than before.

Our exhaustions were greeted by the fantastic view of East dominating magistic Thalaysagar with its rustic Himalayan beauty. Looking at the South-East we could see Jogin III, in the south illusive view of Khatling glacier. We were very much unfortunate that we could not see the panaromic view of our left hand side i.e. from East, North to West as it was covered by the dense mist.

At 1.30 a.m. we reached at the summit camp safely and received the warmth welcome from the summiters up Jogin – III. We congratulated each other.

- 07.06.92 On the next day we started our return journey towards base camp early in the morning because we eagerly want to meet the other members of our team to share of victory, we reached at base camp at 3 P.M. The Leader along with other members welcomes us with great joy and relief and serves us the much needed hot drinks. The rest of the afternoon passed by gossiping and in remembering the incidents of last week.
- 08.06.92 The next day we have to stay at base camp as because the Return L.A.P.s had not still arrived. So we re-packing all our loads for return journey and go to sleeping.
- 09.06.92 Next day we started our journey for Gangotri at 7.30 A.M. and reached there by 6 P.M. Before leaving the base camp we cleared and burn all the garbages we accumulated in the meantime of our stay at base camp and try to keep the mountain as it was before our visit.
- 10.06.92 From Gangotri we took the 1<sup>st</sup> bus on 10.06.92 for Uttarkashi and reached There.
- 11.06.92 We have to stay at Uttarkashi another day for deposition of equipments to NIM and others which we had to hire for the expedition.

We reached Calcutta on 16.06.92 via Haridwar on 14.06.92.

At last I must convey my thanks to all of my members for their great effort to make this expedition a successful and memorable one. Also to those who had help the expedition by way of finance and other means to make it a grand success.

This is to certify that we have clean all the garbages of each camp. We established and bring them at base camp and burnt all that before leaving the base camp to keep the mountain as it was before our visit for the next team.

Thank you.

**Sita Ghose**  
Leader,  
Mt. Jogin I & III Expedition

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