

# GANGOTRI – I EXPEDITION, 1993

*Organised by :*

## South Calcutta Trekkers Association

1/3 Love Lock Street, Calcutta 700 019

### Leader's Report

<b>Name of the Peak</b>	:	Gangotri – I.
<b>Altitude of the Peak</b>	:	6672 m. / 21,884 Ft.
<b>Location of the Peak</b>	:	In Uttar Pradesh Garwal Himlayas of Uttar Kashi District.
<b>Latitude of the Peak</b>	:	30°54'53" M
<b>Longitude of the Peak</b>	:	78°50'46"
<b>Route from Calcutta (According to the plan)</b>	:	By train – Howrah to Haridwar. By Bus – Haridwar – Uttarkashi – Gangotri 1 <sup>st</sup> transit camp - 12,000 ft. Base Camp - 14,500 ft. Advance Base Camp - 15,500 ft. Camp – I - 17,000 ft. Camp – II - 18,600 ft. Camp – III - 19,600 ft. Camp – IV - 20,800 ft. Summit - 21,884 ft. All are approximate Height except Summit.
<b>Duration of expedition</b>	:	15 <sup>th</sup> May 1993 to 8 <sup>th</sup> June'93 (Calcutta to Calcutta)
<b>Date of Journey</b>	:	15.5.93.
<b>Members' Name</b>	:	1. Sri Dipen Samanta (Leader) 2. Sri Indra Nath Dutta (Deputy Leader + Quarter Master) 3. Sri Ranjan Dutta (Team manager) 4. Miss Sudipta Das (Treasurer) 5. Sri Anupam Das (Equipment Incharge) 6. Sri Susanta (Photographer upto C-II) Team Depot Leader. 7. Srio Sib Sankar Das (Asst. Quarter Master) 8. Sri Aniruddha Sen (Transport Incharge)
<b>Idea of the Expedition</b>	:	As per yearly Expedition programme.
<b>High altitude friends</b>	:	Puran Raj Rawat Rajendra Mastalik Ram Prashad Bhat } All from Joshimoth of U.P.
<b>Cook</b>	:	Mohon Singh Rawat

### Report of the unsuccessful climb of Gangotri – I

On the eve of the venture on 15<sup>th</sup> May Association Flag was handed over to me by Vice-President Sri Goutam Giri at the Howrah Station. Beautiful send off at Howrah Station by Friends, well wishers, relatives and patrons. We left Howrah Station by Friends, well wishers, relatives and patrons. We left Howrah Station by 3009 Up Doon Express on the 15<sup>th</sup> May and reached Haridwar on the 17<sup>th</sup> May at 10 A.M. Due to late arrival, no bus service was

available for Uttarkashi. We then tried by Auto to Rishikesh for Uttarkashi but unfortunately Auto went break down. Then we stayed at Rishikesh.

- 18<sup>th</sup> May** On 18<sup>th</sup> early in the morning we left Rishikesh for Uttarkashi by Bus and reached U.K. at 10.30 A.M. We halted for the meal “Laxmi Hotel”. On that day we contracted with “Mountain Guide” for Low Altitude and High Altitude Friends, other members were busy for last minute marketing, packing and collection of our technical equipment from “Nehru Institute of Mountaineering” (N.I.M.). Sibū and I talked with the Principal about our Expedition probable route & others possibilities and also with Ratan Singh (Experience more than 30 years and Senior Instructor of N.I.M.).
- 19<sup>th</sup> May** The team finally moved at 11 A.M. and reached Gangotri at 5 P.M. and stayed at “Bazoria Nivas”. Then we met with well wisher and petron also we met another team from Gujarat “Bhawnagar Youth Service”. They come for “Gangotri-II” peak.
- 20<sup>th</sup> May** Our rest day – Member, moved there and there. Ranjan Dutta and I offered Puja at “Gangotri” temple for team success. L.A.P. with met reached at 5 P.M. In the evening we planned for load distribution and Team meeting for further programme.
- 21<sup>st</sup> May** **1<sup>st</sup> Transit Camp**  
At 8.30 A.M. we started our first day trekking with all loads. We followed the left side of Rudragaira Nala. After walking 2 ½ hrs. to 3 hrs. we crossed the nala with the help of snow bridge. Then at 12.30 p.m. we reached our 1<sup>st</sup> day Camp side. We pitched 4 Tents. LAP stayed at Sheprand Hut. We passed comfortable night.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May** In the morning weather was fine, although we received sunrays after 7 A.M. owing to high rise mountain ridges. We took breakfast and pack lunch. We started for our 2<sup>nd</sup> day trek at about 8 A.M. After walking 1 hour we saw a big field a beautiful camp site but there was no source of water. From there we located the base camp top. At about 11 A.M. we reached Base Camp passing few Humps. From there we saw Rudragaira, Gangotri group of peaks and ordens call and western side of Gangotri II. In the evening we do our team meeting with HAP and planned for future movement.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May** Rest day at the Base Camp for acclatisation. At about 9 A.M. all members and HAP after taking breakfast went for height gain from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. We made final for all crampans, food, utensils, technical equipment check upper camp food.
- 24<sup>th</sup> May** **Advance base camp load ferry (A.B.C.)**  
In the morning we started with bright sunlight. After taking breakfast we all members and HAPs except Mohon (Cook) with full load i.e. food, utensil, fuel, technical equipment left B.C. at 8 A.M. and reached A.B.C. nearly by 10.30 A.M. we crossed two three hump and few ice patch. We dumped all load under a big rock. We also draws tent spot for pitching tent. Gujrat Team also load ferry done with all members and Haps. But there Camp side is few hundred feet high than our at about 12.30 we went back at the B.C.
- 25<sup>th</sup> May** **Advance Base Camp Stablised (A.B.C.)**  
All the members HAP’s and cook started from B.C. at about 9.40 A.M. We left B.C. with one tent and two busket of return food and extra food and few litres of Fuel. Gujarat team also left one tent and food. We food in one kitchen. On the way to ABC we noticed Gangotri Group of Peaks. Rudragaira oden’s call Chirbus etc. weather was very good we established our A.B.C. at 12.30 p.m. In the evening, weather turned bad, snow fall, started from 6 p.m. it continue 7 p.m. during this period 6 to 8 inches snow was deposited.
- 26<sup>th</sup> May** **Load Ferry to Camp – I**  
In bright sunlight at 8.40 we all members and HAP with load started for load ferry to Camp – I. Our movement was through steep slope towards west. Nearly 700 ft. step walking we met with Gujarat team members at their A.B.C. They took tea and breakfast. Ramu the only HAP went to B.C. for carrying Fuel. From this point we saw Gangotri II peak more prominently peak side. Rudragaira glacier and Rudragaria peak was in our right side.  
After taking few minutes rest we again started walking through the ridge and finally at 11.30 we reached Camp – I area. We select Camp – I spot in a moraine surrounded by snow. We clean the area and placed one Tent. Within the tent we damped all foods, fuel, technical equipment – Utensils etc. From C-I, Gangotri – I route more clear. Weather was very nice, we stayed there 1 (one) hour then came back to A.B.C. by 1.50 / 2 P.M.

27<sup>th</sup> May

**Establish Camp – I**

Morning weather was very nice. We take heavy breakfast and started our movement for C-I at 9.15 A.M. We reached C-I at 12 noon. From C-I in our Eastern side, we saw Manda Group of peaks, Bhriugupanth, Thaylesagar, Ratangiri & others. At C – I we took some photographs with banners and surrounding peaks. We were the three senior members who planned for further movement. We separated all articles for higher camp use. We planned our next day movement with two separate teams. They also decide with H.A.P.

28<sup>th</sup> May

**1<sup>st</sup> Team Camp – II occupy**

2<sup>nd</sup> Team load Ferry.

1<sup>st</sup> Team members – Indra, Arupam, Puran & Raju.

2<sup>nd</sup> Team load ferry members – Dipen, Sib, Ramu, Susanta and Aniruddha.

At 9 A.M. two Teams started for Camp – II we the 2<sup>nd</sup> team members took only food, fuel, tent, technical equipments for load ferry. After walking 1 ½ hrs we reached at the base of the steep slope nearly 60° - 65°. We all members & HAP reached at the top of the steep slope by zig zag movement. It nearly took 2 ½ Hrs. From the top we saw ice field going down. After walking nearly 45 minutes, we reached below the Col of the Rudragaira & Gangotri – I, it was our Camp – II. We pitched tent for 1<sup>st</sup> Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team dumped all loads. We stayed there more than 45 minutes. From Camp – II to C – I, it took 2 ½ hrs. One the way Susanta our photographer took few photographs of Gangotri II, III, Rudragaira, Rudragaira Glacier etc. When we reached C – I, Sudipta received us with hot tea and water.

29<sup>th</sup> May

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team occupy C – II.**

Dipen, Sib, Ramu, were the members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> team started from C – I at 8.10 A.M. with personal load and company equipments. Morning started with a fine sunshine and spot less blue sky. Ranjan da gave me last minute suggestion. That day Mohon our cook, went for food & fuel at A.B.C. At about 9 A.M. weather suddenly turned bad and snow falls started. We made hurry and reached Camp – II at 10.30 A.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Team started at C – I they decided not to move that day as the weather was not good. We 2<sup>nd</sup> team members & pitched another Tent “Nowka”. All the members & H.A.P. decided that if weather became clear we would move but at 12 noon weather deteriorated. So we decided not to move. We all spent an anxious night that day.

30<sup>th</sup> May

**Col Camp – III**

Four members and 3 HAP occupied Col Camp at 10.15 / 10.20 A.M. with full load. We started 7.30 / 7.45 A.M. We gained 900 ft. to 1100 ft. But from Camp – II to Camp – III there was an Ice slope gradient nearly 70° to 80°.

In that slope we did not fix any rope. We all the members climbed only by rope up by use of Technic front point. There was snow deposition nearly 1 ½ ft to 2 ft. At about 10.15 / 10.20 we reached the Col. It was a tedious climbing for the steepness of the route as well as load ferry by the members. Weather was fine. At Col we took some water and took rest for about 45 minutes. Then Sib, Puran, Raju & Ramu cut ‘L’ shape step for pitching Tent on the slope nearly 45° to 55°. They made it in 1 ½ Hrs. with the help of Arupam, Indra & me with full Technical equipment started for rope fixing. From Calcutta we planned that we would follow the route which was used by Bramhakamal in 1990 expedition. That was the Traverse towards west then reached the Col of Gongotri – I & unnamed peak. From where they climbed the peak. But we observed that the route was very dangerous. Hanging ice wall & full of crevasses. So we decided not to follow that route. We would follow the route which was used by Latu Dorjee & Ratan Singh for Pre Everest Expedition in 1984, i.e. the Ridge coming down from Gangotri – I. Arupam, Indra and I followed that ridge. By using crampon. We climbed nearly one hours height gain 500 ft. Then we reached a rock barrier. Rock nature loose state Rock. We climbed by using Rock piton and Rope i.e. a technical climb. After crossing it, we again reached more stiff portion of ice slope. Where we used ice piton & fixed two ropes. The time was 2.30 p.m. Weather changed slightly bad so we decided to back to camp. At the time of returning we fixed another two rock piton & two pairs of rope for next day Zumaring. We also left another full length rope for next day use. We reached the Camp at 3.30 p.m. / 3.50 p.m. At about 6 p.m. weather turned bad and heavy snow falls started with storm. We saw a big size of rainbow. Snow stopped at about 8.30 p.m. Nearly 1 ft. snow was deposited. Night weather was at all good.

31<sup>st</sup> May

We the members prepared drinking water and some food. From 3.30 A.M. for early movement in the morning. From 6 A.M. weather turned very bad. Heavy snow falls started. We were unable to come out from tent. Gradually Sib, Raju and I removed snow from the tent side. During the whole

day there was nearly three ft. snow falls. At about 4.30 P.M. weather became slightly clear. All the surrounding was covered with white snow. All side white, white, white as because our tent was near the Cornice. The wind from Western side i.e. JAONLI side heavy wind came with full of powder snow. Arupam and Indra predicted that the weather of the following day would be good. Expecting a clear weather next day we went to the sleeping bag that night by taking maggi & hot drinks.

### **1<sup>st</sup> June**

From 3 A.M. we prepared ourselves for morning movement but weather at all good. Morning started without any change in the weather. Heavy snow falls continued with a complete white out over the surrounding. We could not see Gangotri – II, Rudragaira, Jaonli and the ice fall. We spent anxious moments with a hope for good weather. At about 8 A.M. we decided to come down to lower Camp – II, Sib, Raju and I tried to go to top of the Gangotri – I ridge for opening the fixed rope and bring the loose stack white rope. But nearly knee deep men tried heart & soul to go there but was unable to reach that point. Due to huge snow & white out, we tried 1 ½ hrs. to go there, then came back to the camp. From there we, all the members & HAP with all things came back to Camp – II. At 11 A.M. from Camp – II we saw that the Gangotri – II Expedition team coming down. At Camp II we the three senior members Arupam, Indra, and I decided that the weather turned gradually down and due to food shortage we also came down to Camp – I at 2 p.m. we at Camp – I. Sudipta received us with hot drinks and Tea. Ranjan da was very anxious previous night as there tent tore out four times due to wind. We stayed at Camp – I that day.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> June**

#### **Camp – I to Base Camp**

Morning started with a cloudy weather. Huge clouds concentrated in the lower level which looked like a “Sea of Clouds”. We all started Camp – I at 9.15 / 9.20 A.M. and reached at 12.30 / 12.50 P.M. at Base Camp. We plan that Rudragaira with new members.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> June**

#### **Rudragaira Peak – 5818 Mtrs.**

Latitude	-	30°56'
Longitude	-	78°52'
Date of Climb	-	3.6.93
Member of Climb	-	Sudipta, Sib, Aniruddha, Susanta, Dipen, Pura.

We the above mentioned members and HAP started at 5 A.M. and reached at summit at 1 P.M. Morning weather very fine with sunlight along with dry food. We started along with Sudipta, Aniruddha, Susanta there for first peak climb after Basic course. We climb through the north side of the ridge. We followed rocky face because of the high altitude rock climbing experience for the new members. After climbing few hump at about 11 A.M. we reached the base of the final climbing hump. By zig zag with rope up all members we climb throughout face of the peak gradient 40° to 50°. We reached at the top at 1 P.M. Weather became cloud with a breeze blowing from east to west. We spent 45 minutes on the peak, Took photographs of Gangotri group of peaks, Jaonli, Oden Col was clearly visible from there. We returned to Base Camp safely by 3.45 p.m. There we took our Heavy Lunch. Rajan, Indra, Arupam received us with sweets and chocolate. We thereafter dismantled the Base Camp and cleaned the site and finally at 4.50 P.M. we moved for Gangotri and reached to Gangotri at 8.30 P.M. Stayed at Bazoria Nivas.

We reached Uttarkashi on the 4<sup>th</sup> June, and on the 5<sup>th</sup> June we reached Haridwar. No accident occurred, no major illness during the period of expedition. All the members did their respective duty with full responsibility and sincerity. All the members and HAP followed the DOS and DON'T'S on the mountain.

I convey my sincere thanks to my all members, high altitude friends, low altitude friends or their assistants also to our patrons, friends, Himalaya Beacon, well wishers whose help enthused us. Lastly we did not use any other sources of fuel. The Garbages for upper camp and base camp were buried and burned and cleaned. I would like to thank I.M.F. Sports and Youth Services Dept. and Jethu (Onkarnath Mazumder).

**DIPEN SAMANTA**  
LEADER  
GANGOTRI – I EXPEDITION 1993

ORGANISED BY  
SOUTH CALCUTTA TREKKERS ASSOCIATION