

# Karcha Parvat Expedition 2000

*Organised by :*

## South Calcutta Trekkers Association

1/3 Love Lock Street, Calcutta 700 019

### Leader's Report

|                                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Name of the Peak</b>            | : | Karcha Parvat  |
| <b>Altitude</b>                    | : | 6271 Mt  |
| <b>Location</b>                    | : | In the Lahul Himalayas of Himachal Pradesh   |
| <b>Longitude</b>                   | : |  |
| <b>Latitude</b>                    | : |  |
| <b>Route from Calcutta</b>         | : | From Calcutta to Chandigarh by train.<br>From Chandigarh to Manali by bus<br>From Manali to Batal by Bus<br>Transit Camp I – approximately 3500 m<br>Base Camp – approximately 4900 m<br>Camp I – approximately 5500 m<br>Summit - 6270 m  |
| <b>Duration</b>                    | : | From 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2000 to 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2000<br>(Calcutta to Calcutta)   |
| <b>Members</b>                     | : | 1. Sri Shib Shankar Das (Leader)<br>2. Km. Sunita D'Sa Prabhu (Dy. Leader, Quarter-in-Charge & Treasurer)<br>3. Sri Binoy Bhaumick (Photographer, Transportation Manager & Equipment-in-Charge)<br>4. Sri Surojit Dutta (Asst. Transport Manager)  |
| <b>High Altitude Friends</b>       | : | Sri Alam Chand Thakur (Guide), Burwa Village, H.P.<br>Sri Ram Singh<br>Sri Khem Raj  |
| <b>Summiteers</b>                  | : | Sri Binoy Bhaumick<br>Sri Surojit Dutta  |
| <b>Date and Time of the Summit</b> | : | 22 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2000 at 11:30 a.m.   |
| <b>History of the Expedition</b>   | : | As part of the club's yearly programme, an expedition to Mt. Devachan as initially planned. However due to the inability to raise the required finances, plans were subsequently changed and Karcha Parvat was selected. From the initially planned team of 8 members, 4 members backed out due to personal and other problems that cropped up shortly before the expedition commenced. The four remaining nevertheless were determined to carry on and give the venture their best. |

## **Day wise Report**

- 10.09.00** : Leave Howrah Station by train after a warm send-off by club members, well-wishers and friends.
- 11.09.00** : Train.
- 12.09.00** : Arrive at Chandigarh. Travel to Manali by Bus where the team is met by their Guide Alam Chand Thakur. The team settles down at a hotel for the night, after discussing their plans with the guide who promises to arrange the requisite High and Low Altitude Porters.
- 13.09.00** : Stay at Manali. Necessary arrangements for the expedition ahead are made.
- 14.09.00** : Three team members leave for Batal by bus with one HAP. The leader remains behind scheduled to follow the next day with the support team of Guide, HAPS and LAPs.  
The 3 reach Batal at around 1:00 p.m. and settle down in a deserted stone hut about 200m from the main road.
- 15.09.00** : The 3 members at Batal begin trekking towards Kumzumla to acclimatize themselves. After about 2 k.m. of trekking one team member complains of uneasiness and the three turn back. Meanwhile the team leader and the rest of the support team arrive at Batal.
- 16.09.00** : **Batal to TC (6 ¼ hours)**  
The team offers prayers at the Durga mandir at Batal. After deliberation with the Guide, it is decided that the unwell member carries on with the team till the team till TC I at least. The team sets off for TC I. They walk along the right bank of the Karcha Nala for about a kilometer. They then cross to the left bank and continue trekking. After a short while they see the remains of the ice bridge which expedition teams reportedly had used previously to cross the Nala. They also got a brief glimpse of their target, Karcha Parvat. The March was long and strenuous; over mostly barren boulder terrain. Tents are pitched by the side of a stream. The unwell team member seems to have acclimatized well and declares himself fit.
- 17.09.00** : **TC I to Base Camp (2 ½ Hrs.)**  
The team leaves for Base Camp in bright weather. After about an hour's trek they glimpse Karcha Parvat, which remains in their line of vision. Towards the base camp area, they cross a nala a little before it meets the Karcha Nala, and then once again cross the Karcha Nala. Camp is set up on the bank of the Karcha Nala. A very strong and cold breeze blows in the camp area.
- 18.09.00** : **Rest Day at Base Camp**  
Equipment and food is sorted and a tentative plan charted out for the days ahead which includes three more camps.
- 19.09.00** : **Load ferry to Camp I (5 hrs.)**  
The team members set off to HAPs for a load ferry to Camp I. The guide stays behind. After five hours of continuous uphill trekking over scree slopes, there is no sign of any water source near which a camp could be set up. The weather has also worsened and after a discussion with the team, it is decided to keep the food, equipment etc. carried, in a sheltered spot and returned to Base Camp. By the team's estimate, confirmed by the guide, they are close to the regular Camp II site. The trek back to Base Camp lasts barely an hour.
- 20.09.00** : **Estimated Camp – I: (5 hrs.)**  
This time the leader complains of uneasiness and is unwilling to move forward and fearing it might hinder the team. After deliberation it is decided that the remaining team moves forward with the guide and HAPs. The leader

is left behind with much reluctance. The team moves forward, picks up the load left behind the previous day. Camp I is set up about half an hour from the same spot. the water source about a kilometer downhill from the campsite is close to freezing. In a few days time, it is expected to be frozen. The weather is extremely cold and windy. A summit attempt is planned for the next day and the two HAPs move forward to open the route. They return to camp by around 6.00 pm.

- 21.09.00** : The team rises at 2.00 am to be greeted by a light snowfall and cloudy sky. Till around 4.00 a.m. there is no sign of the weather clearing up. A summit attempt was decided against and the team rests for the day. By around 9.00 a.m. the weather clears.
- 22.09.00** : **Summit Climb**  
**Camp I to Summit – 7 hrs. : Return – 4 ½ hrs.**  
Two members, the guide and two HAPs move at 4.30 a.m. for the summit attempt. The weather again is bad with a slight snowfall. But the team decides to take a chance. The deputy leader stays behind. The team moves with ice axes, snow boots and other equipment. The climb is exhausting and includes about 1 ½ hrs of rock climbing and crossing of a small snowfield. There is almost no snow cover enroute. They reach the summit at around 11.30 a.m. and gave their offerings to the mountain Gods. They leave behind a piece of the summit flag and their summiteers names in a plastic packet. After about half an hour they move back to camp. They reach the campsite around 4.30 p.m. Snow fall still continues. Throughout the entire day the peak had been covered in mist and clouds.
- 23.09.00** : **Camp I to Base Camp (2 ½ hrs.)**  
The team moves to Base Camp. Their leader who was overjoyed to hear of their success greets them.
- 24.09.00** : Rest day at Base Camp awaiting the return LAPs.
- 25.09.00** : **Base Camp to Batal : (5 ½ hrs.)**  
Begin march from Base Camp after camp cleaning. Cross the Karcha Nala twice in clear weather.
- 26.09.00** : Batal to Manali by truck.
- 27.09.00** : Stay at Manali.
- 28.09.00** : Leave for Chandigarh by bus.
- 29.09.00** : Reach Chandigarh. Move to Kalka by private taxi. Board the Kalka Mail at night for Howrah.
- 30.09.00** : Train.
- 01.10.00** : Reach Howrah.

**Shib Shankar Das**

Leader,

Karcha Parvat Expedition

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