

# **SOUTH CALCUTTA TREKKERS ASSOCIATION**



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To,  
The Director  
Indian Mountaineering Foundation  
6, Benito Juarez Road  
New Delhi 110021  
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Date: December 20, 2020

**Sub: Expedition Report on Mt. DEO TIBBA (6,001 M) 2020**

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1023/IMF/IE/2020 dated 9th October 2020 we hereby submit the leader's report on our expedition to Mt. Deo Tibba 2020, as per the suggested format. The expedition was unsuccessful as the members had to retreat from ABC due to massive poor weather and few other decisive factors (rock fall and landslide, fuel loss, animal intrusion) mentioned in the report.

**Mail Attachments:**

- 1.Full Expedition Report including Incident Report**
- 2.Photographs of evidence for Expedition Report Summary**

With sincere thanks and warm regards,

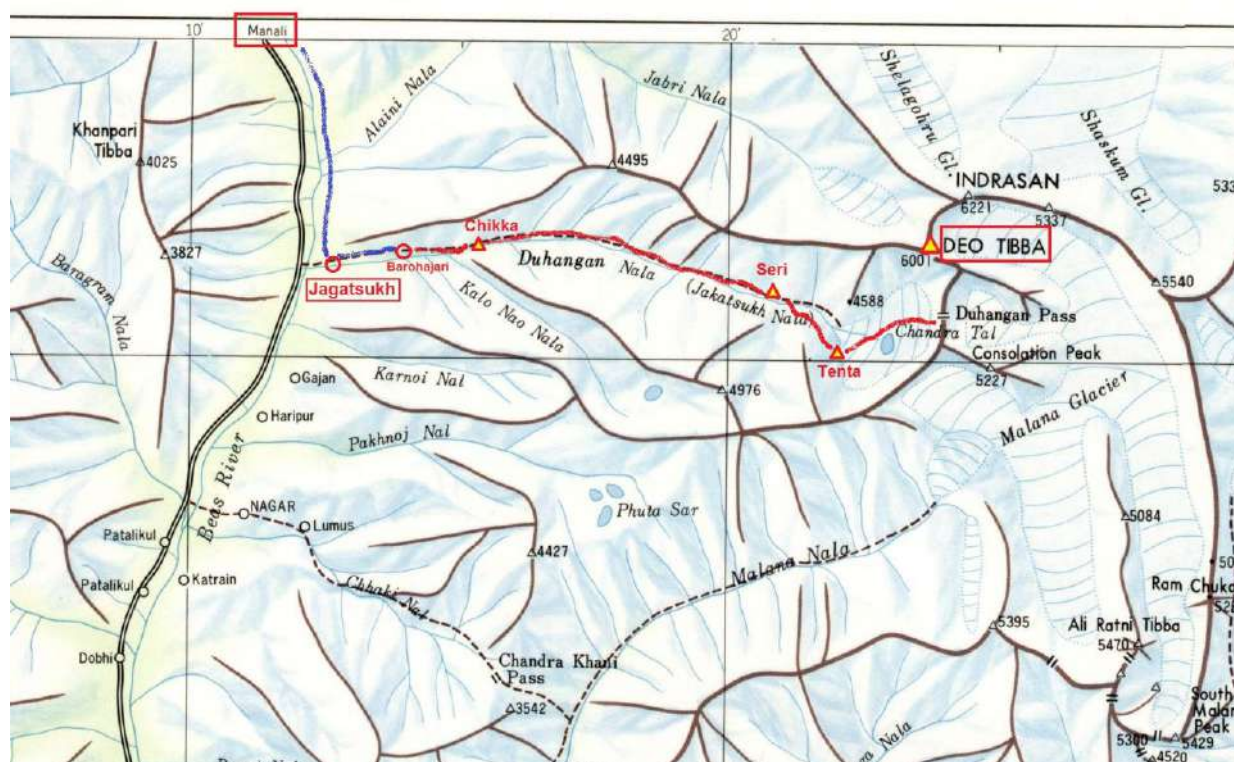
**RAJSEKHAR MAITY**

*Leader, Mt. Deo Tibba Expedition 2020*

**South Calcutta Trekkers Association**  
14, Chakraberia Lane, Kolkata - 700020

Expedition Summary	
1. Name of the Association	<b>South Calcutta Trekkers Association</b>
2. Name of the Expeditions	<b>Mt. Deo Tibba Winter Expedition 2020</b>
3. Name of the Peak with height in meters and six figure co-ordinates	<b>Mt. Deo Tibba</b> Height: 6001 meters Co-ord: 77°22'57" E 32°11'43" N
4. Date on which permit given by IMF	09-Oct-2020
5. Nominal role of the team members	Leader – Rajsekhar Maity Members – Sayantan Dutta Avik Mondal
6. Commencement of Trek	25 October 2020 from Jagatsukh Powerplant, HP
7. Number of camps en route to Base Camp	2. Chikka (10400 ft) and Seri (11800 ft)
8. Interaction with local administration	1. Local Police Station, Manali, HP
9. Establishment of Base Camp	27 October 2020, 13677 ft
10. Establishment of higher camps	ABC (15245 ft) on 30 October 2020
11. Technical difficulty on way to higher camps	<u>BC to ABC</u> No technical difficulty on the route along the moraine and ice field of Dhuangan glacier  <u>ABC to Dhuangan Col</u> Abandoned the climb witnessing rockfall and a landslide along the gully
12. Snow & Rock condition	<u>Snow</u> Almost no snow anywhere while going towards higher camps. However during the return to roadhead the entire trail got covered with thick snow due to severe snowfall.  <u>Ice</u> The Dhuangan glacier and the approach towards the base of Dhuangan Col was completely hard and slippery ice.  <u>Rock</u> The only rock section faced in our route was on Dhuangan Col and it became very unstable with occasional rockfalls and landslides along the gully in this season.
13. Weather Condition	On the onset of winter, the climate was harsh. Around 10:30 am morning everyday it usually got covered with dark clouds accompanied by chill wind. Lastly a thunderstorm with severe snow fall continuing for more than 10 hours forced us to retreat. Minimum temperature at base camp was -10° C
14. Summit Report	N/A. Summit not attempted
15. Compliance to Environmental guideline	Garbage - All biodegradable waste was buried under soil by digging hole at campsites and non-biodegradable garbage were carried down and disposed at roadhead. Equipment – All technical equipment are brought down except one fixed rope which was buried in debris on the gully of Dhuangan Col in a landslide.
16. Maximum height attained and its date	4700 Meters (Base of Dhuangan Col), on 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020
17. Name of Summiteers	N/A. Summit not attempted
18. Total Expenditure	Rs. 1,50,000 (rounded off)
19. Details of Day by Day events	Attached
20. Financial assistance required?	No

## Route Map



## Day To Day Itinerary

24-Oct	Reached Manali by morning. Food Marketing & Packing
25-Oct	Travelled to Jagatsukh Power Plant. Trek to Chikka (10,267 ft)
26-Oct	Trekking to Seri (12,682 ft)
27-Oct	Trekking to Tenta. Establish Basecamp (13,677 ft)
28-Oct	Ferried load to C1. Fixed rope on Dhuangan Col route. Returned to BC
29-Oct	Ferried load to C1. Returned to BC
30-Oct	2 members moved to C1 (15,245 ft). 1 member ferried to C1 and returned to BC
31-Oct	Climb abandoned. 2 members returned to BC
01-Nov	Practiced ice climbing techniques on glacier ice
02-Nov	Left BC due to heavy blizzard and intense snow fall. Reached Chikka at 10PM night.
03-Nov	Trek to Jagatsukh Power Plant. Returned to Manali

## Summit Report

N/A

Climb was abandoned from the base of Dhuangan Col due to various factors (details in incident reporting)

## Grade Assessment Reporting

N/A

## **Incident Reporting**

### **Rock fall and Landslide**

We experienced increased incidents of rock fall on the route of Dhuangan Col during this dry winter season. To make a safe progress we fixed a rope at the lower section of the route. After 2 days we discovered a large portion of the rope was buried under debris coming down from the col in a landslide and thus making the climbing route very unsafe.

### **Snowfall and Blizzard**

Weather got cloudy and windy everyday usually after 10 AM morning. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November it started with thunders around 8AM morning and started to snowfall soon after. Anticipating the possibility of getting stuck in middle of Western disturbance we left the basecamp in hurry and rushed downwards. The snowfall relentlessly continued for the entire day and made our progress very difficult. We marched for 9 hours to reach Chikka from basecamp in a single day. When we reached Chikka (the last camp before roadhead) at 9:30pm snow was still falling without any sign of decline.

### **Fuel Wastage**

The cook hired from the locality spent 14 litres of kerosene in just 5 days, unnoticed by the members, emptying almost all of our fuel for basecamp members. The man is innocent and did the misdeed unintentionally. It was his past learning from working with commercial trekking agencies that changed his habits. Later he mentioned he works with 'Indiahikes' where it is the norm to use fuel at this proportion.

### **Animal Intrusion**

After 2 days of load ferry BC to C1 when we moved to occupy C1 on 30<sup>th</sup> October we found the tent was attacked by some animal, most probably Himalayan Fox or Pika. They tore the tent and made a hole to get inside. Most of our dry food was gone including all of the biscuits, cakes, chocolates, energy bars, dry fruits and noodles. Not only stealing food, they also littered the inside of the tent with droppings. Perhaps it was a desperate attempt for the animals to store food for the upcoming winter, but it cost heavy for us.