

SOUTH CALCUTTA TREKKERS ASSOCIATION



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To,
The Director
Indian Mountaineering Foundation
6, Benito Juarez Road
New Delhi 110021

Date: 14th July 2023

Sub: Expedition Report of Mt. Kullu Makalu (6350 M), Rubal Kang (6150M) & Ice Sail (5756m) 2023

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1007/IMF/IE/2023 dated 09th March 2023 we hereby submit the final report on our expedition to Mt. Kullu Makalu, Rubal Kang & Ice Sail 2023, as per the suggested format. For your reference, both of Kullu Makalu and Rubal kang were successfully summited by the team. Kullu Makalu summit is the **First Indian Ascent** of the mountain.

Mail Attachments:

- 1. Full Expedition Report including Grade Assessment Report and Incident Report**
- 2. Photographs of evidence for Expedition Report Summary**
- 3. Photographs of evidence for Grade Assessment Report**

We request your kind verification for approval. Awaiting your early & favourable reply in this regard.

With sincere thanks and warm regards,

Rajsekhar Maity

Leader

Mt. Kullu Makalu (6350m), Rubal Kang (6150m), Ice Sail (5756m) Expedition 2023

12th July, 2023, Kolkata

South Calcutta Trekkers Association

14, Chakraberia Lane, Kolkata - 700020

Mt. Kullu Makalu (6350m), Rubal Kang (6150m), Ice Sail (5756m)

Expedition 2023

Organized by:

South Calcutta Trekkers Association

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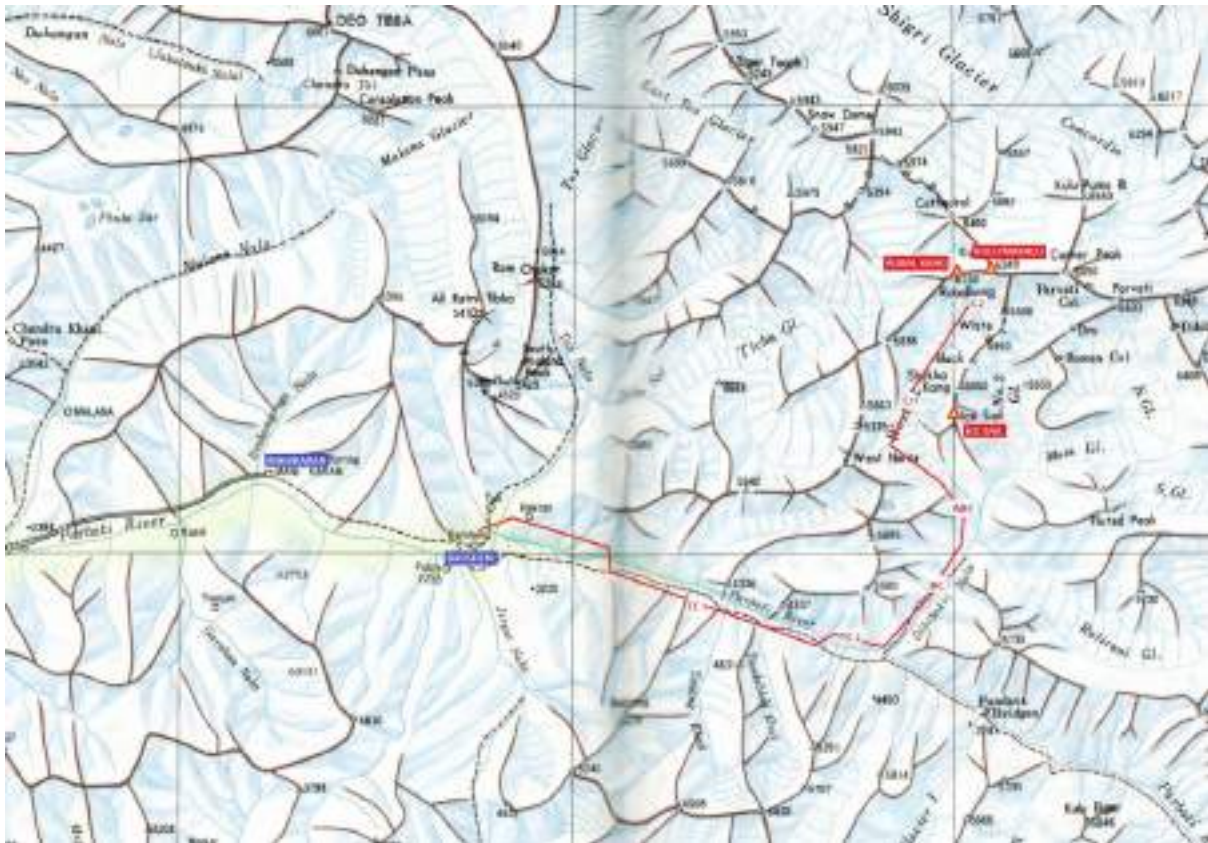
Information as required in format specified by IMF	
1. Name of the Association	South Calcutta Trekkers Association
2. Name of the Expedition	Mt. Kullu Makalu (6350m), Mt. Rubal Kang (6150m) & Mt. Ice Sail (5756m) Expedition 2023
3. Name of the Peak with height in Meters and six figure co-ordinates	Mt. Kullu Makalu: 6350 Meters, 32°06' 22" N, 77°40' 57" E Mt. Rubal Kang: 6150 Meters, 32°06' 03" N, 77°40' 35" E Mt. Ice Sail: 5756 Meters, 32°03' 05" N, 77°40' 11" E
4. Date on which permit given by IMF	09-March 2023
5. Nominal role of the team	Leader: Rajsekhar Maity
	Deputy Leader: Sayantan Dutta
	Quarter Master: Abinash Jana
	Equipment In Charge: Subhajit Banerjee
	Member: Pradip Bar
	Member: Barsha Joarder
6. Commencement of Trek	Member: Sanstitha Chakrabarti
	12 th June from Barshaini (2,220 m)
7. Number of camps enroute to Base Camp	1- Kheerganga (2,770 m) 2- Tundabhuj (3,345 m) 3- Thakurkuan (3,570 m)
8. Interaction with local administration and other agencies	Local Police Station, Manikaran, HP
9. Establishment of Base Camp	Base Camp (4056 m) 15-June 2023
10. Establishment of higher camps	Advanced Base Camp (4,506 m) on 16-June 2023
	Camp – I (4,917 m) on 19-June 2023
	Camp – II (5,400 m) on 21-June 2023
11. Technical difficulty on way to higher camps	<p><u>BC to ABC</u> No technical difficulty. Trek with steep height gain through Loose Boulder at first and then through knee deep soft snow till ABC. The campsite at ABC was under 6-7 feet of snow.</p> <p><u>ABC to Camp – I</u> No major technical difficulty. The entire route across the West Dibibokri Glacier was covered with deep soft snow.</p> <p><u>Camp – I to Camp – II</u> No major technical difficulty. March on Glacier. The entire route across the West Dibibokri Glacier was covered with deep soft snow.</p>

12. Snow & Rock condition	<p>Snow: Entire route from ABC up to Camp-II was covered with huge volume of soft snow resulted from the unusual late summer snowfall this season. No hard ice or crevasse were exposed. Trek over the snow was manageable during early morning but after 8 AM it became very strenuous to proceed with knee-deep soft and melted snow.</p> <p>Ice: Entire route of the glacier ice was fully covered with soft snow.</p> <p>Rock: Rock nature is mixed sedimentary. On climbing at Kullu Makalu face rock was quite stable, found variety of cracks for anchor to entire face. Some of the sections were unstable and rockfall zone.</p>
13. Weather Condition	Weather condition was excellent after Base Camp and the clear weather window continued till the summit climb on both the peaks completed. Poor weather (snow and rain) started from the day we started descending from C2 after the summit and continued till we reached the roadhead.
14. Summit Report	<p>Attached</p> <p>Kullu Makalu: Summited (on 24th June, 2023)</p> <p>Rubal Kang: Summited (on 23rd June, 2023)</p> <p>Ice Sail: Not attempted</p>
15. Camp site cleaning activity & disposal of garbage.	<p>All Bio Degradable garbage were carried down and was disposed off (burned) at ABC and Base Camp.</p> <p>All Non-Bio Degradable garbage were carried down and disposed in Barshaini.</p> <p>Equipment – Majority of the technical equipment were brought down except few rock pitons, snowbars, carabiners and a couple of fixed rope in the most critical pitch where descending without rope and anchors was impossible.</p>
16. Maximum height attained and its date	<p>Kullu Makalu: 6350 m (Summit), 24th June 2023 12:45 PM</p> <p>Rubal Kang: 6150 m (Summit), 23th June 2023 09:30 AM</p> <p>Ice Sail: Not attempted</p>
17. Name of Summiteers	<p>Kullu Makalu: Rajsekhar Maity, Pradip Kumar Bar, Phurba Sherpa, Lopsang Sherpa, Dawa Sherpa, Bire Tamang</p> <p>Rubal Kang: Subhajit Banerjee, Dawa Sherpa</p>
18. Total Expenditure	Rs 12,00,000 (Rounded Off)
19. Details of Day by Day events	Attached
20. Financial assistance required?	Yes

Day to Day Itinerary

09-Jun	7 Members & 4 Sherpa boarded Kalka Mail from Howrah at 21:55
10-Jun	In train
11-Jun	Reached Chandigarh at 02:30. Travel to Barshaini (03:45 - 19:45)
12-Jun	Trek to Kheerganga (10:10 - 16:30)
13-Jun	Trek to Tundabhuji (08:00 - 14:40)
14-Jun	Trek to Thakurkuan (07:40 - 11:45)
15-Jun	Trek to Base Camp (08:00 - 14:00)
16-Jun	Trek to ABC (08:00 - 12:45)
17-Jun	Members - Rest. 4 Sherpa, 2 HAP - Ferry to C1
18-Jun	3 Members, 4 Sherpa, 2 HAP - Ferry to C1
19-Jun	Full Team shifted to C1 (07:15 - 12:15)
20-Jun	4 Sherpa, 2 HAP - Ferry to C2. 2 Members - Ferry till midway. 2 Members - bought load from down
21-Jun	Full Team shifted to C2 (06:10 - 10:00/11:30)
22-Jun	4 Sherpa - Route opening on KM (03:30-13:30). 2 HAP - Ferry from C1 to C2
23-Jun	Rubal Kang: 5 Members, 2 Sherpa, 1 HAP (Riju, Subhajit, Abinash, Barsha, Sansthita, Phurba, Dawa, Sonu) - RK summit attempt (01:00-14:00). Subhajit & Dawa Sherpa summited at 09:28. Kullu Makalu: 2 Members, 2 Sherpa (Raj, Pradip, Lopsang, Bire) occupied interim camp (5750m) (04:45 - 08:30)
24-Jun	Kullu Makalu: 2 Members, 4 Sherpa - KM summit attempt. Raj & Pradip started from interim camp at 03:45 and reached summit at 12:45
25-Jun	Trek to ABC (07:20 - 14:30)
26-Jun	Trek to Thakurkuan (10:45 - 18:30). 12 return porters. Phurba, Lopsang, Bire reached Kheerganga
27-Jun	Trek to Barshaini (27km) (08:45 - 21:30). Travelled to Raskat
28-Jun	Stay at Raskat. Arrangement for return journey
29-Jun	Travelled to Kalka. Members boarded Kalka Mail (23:55). Sherpa, HAP, Cook stayed at Kalka
30-Jun	Members - train. Sherpa, HAP, Cook - Travelled to Delhi & availed train/bus for NJP/Haldwani
01-Jul	Reached Howrah at 11:30
09-Jun	7 Member + 4 Sherpa - Kalka Mail from Howrah at 21:55
10-Jun	Train. 2 HAP, 1 Cook - Boarded Kalka Mail at Delhi

Route Map



Climbing Route



Summit Report – Kullu Makalu

On 23rd June, Rajsekhar and Pradip along with Lopsang Sherpa and Bire Tamang climbed up to 5750 meters along the lower section of Kullu Makalu's South face and spent the night in an interim camp. The previous day Phurba and other three Sherpas reced the route along the snow slope of the South face till the col on the ridge connecting Rubal Kang with Kullu Makalu, and fixed 4 coils (880 meters) of plastic rope.

On 24th June, Phurba and Dawa Sherpa started their climb from C2 (5400m) at around 1:00 AM and proceeded towards the col to find the climbing route along the vertical rock section of the SW face. Lopsang joined them from the interim camp. The approach through the rock section was studied and planned by the members thoroughly before the expedition, which gave Phurba and the Sherpa team a fair idea of probable climbing area. Rajsekhar and Pradip started from the interim camp with Bire Tamang at 3:45 AM and started climbing up the face over ankle-deep snow, inclining at a gradient of 60° to 70°. In 3 hours, they ended up with the snow slope at the beginning of the rock section that extended till the summit of Kullu Makalu. The first section was of mixed rock and snow at an average angle of 80°. At around 7:45 AM they reached at the col between Kullu Makalu and Rubal Kang and for the first time in 4 hrs found a little flat space to stand and rest. It was clear sky till last night and today morning was little cloudy but, however, it cleared up later in the day and the scorching heat was quite taxing. There was no wind altogether.

The ridge extended from the col and ended at the South-Westward arete of the summit wall at 6175 meters. The summit point was still 175 meters (574 feet) above. The top of Rubal Kang at West was clearly visible from up there. From that point the team made a traverse over the knee-deep snow and gained the beginning of the 550 feet high summit wall. That rock wall was highly steep with occasional overhangs at more than 110° gradient. They faced the 1st major difficulty in an overhang at a severe angle demanded the climbers to traverse over it. This was the section from where we returned last year, clueless of any probable upward way. We used static rope on the rock wall. The rest of the climbing route over the summit rock wall passed through multiple long (40-50 ft) and small pitches (10-20 ft) of vertical rock sections and few overhangs in-between. The overhangs were small in height, 8-12 feet, but high in gradient (110°-120°). The route was almost along the SW arete of the summit wall. A total of 350 meters static rope was fixed along the summit wall's climbing route with various types of protection gears (16 rock pitons, 2 chock nuts, 2 hexes, 2 Cams, 7 snow bars). 2 etriers were used by the Sherpas in opening the overhang sections. In approximately 4.5 hours Rajsekhar and Pradip climbed the entire height of the summit wall and put step on the summit of Kullu Makalu at 12:45 PM.

The summit was a sort of sharp borderline with a straight drop at its North with heavily formed cornice. The GPS device showed the reading of 6346 meters at the summit. Other than Tichu glacier at the North the team witnessed Bara Shigri glacier and the summit of Kullu Pumori at North East, opposite side of the climbing route, which could be seen only from the summit point of Kullu Makalu. The entire team started descending from the summit at around 1:45 PM. They dismantled the interim camp on their way down and all reached Camp 2 by 7:00 PM.

Historically this is the 1st Indian Ascent on Kullu Makalu.



Summit Report – Rubal Kang

On 23rd June, 1.00 am a five members team Sayantan, Abinash, Barsha, Sansthita and Subhajit along with two Sherpa (Phurba and Dawa Sherpa) and one HAP (Sanpal Singh Danu of Jatoli village) moved from glacier camp (C2, 5400m) for the summit. Weather was clear with no wind. Phurba and Dawa Sherpa was carrying a 100 m PP rope which they fixed in the gap between the ice fall and rock which adorned the south east aspect of the peak. Gradient of that particular slope was around 70°. Once all members reached to the top anchor, they retreat the rope and fixed the same rope above on the SW face of the mountain. Barsha was not feeling well as she was vomiting frequently. We sent her back to camp 2 from 5750 m with Phurba Sherpa. Main while rest of team reached the top most anchor of the fixed rope, where Dawa, one HAP and four of us roped up in a 50° m dynamic rope, the only rope left with us and started climbing together. Gradient was around 60°. After 8 am snow started getting softer, Sansthita got exhausted and lost pace. At 5970 m, summit seemed to be another one hour, team decided to stop as snow getting softer and getting difficult to move on. It had been decided that Subhajit and Dawa will go for summit and rest of team with one HAP will go down from there. Dawa and Subhajit roped up and started moving up while rest of team fixed the only 50 m rope and rappelled down to the top most anchor of PP rope fixed little below.

After climbing another 45 min Dawa and Subhajit topped out near the summit ridge from where they could see the rocky summit pyramid of Rubal Kang. As they were on the windward side and the ridge was full of cornice on its opposite side, they were traversing little below from the ridge where gradient was too high and they could see our glacier camp directly below. They negotiated the last rocky section mostly by dry tooling. At 9.30 am they reached the summit. As per GPS reading Subhajit found the height at the highest point of the mountain was 6129m. We reached C2 at around 2:00 pm. For fixed rope we have used 100 m PP rope and 7 snow stake and one 50 m dynamic rope for roped up climbing.



Grade Assessment Reporting – Mt. Kullu Makalu: 6350 Meters

Subject	Details
Name of Mountain	Mt. Kullu Makalu: 6350 Meters
Expedition Organization and Dates	South Calcutta Trekkers Association, Kolkata 9 th June – 4 th July 2023
Face/ Ridge Attempted	South Face
Nature of the face e.g. rock, snow, ice or mixed terrain	It was mixed of Rock (40%), Snow (50%) and Ice (10%).
Gradient of the route in approximate degrees and description of artificial technical aids used to negotiate difficulty.	<p><u>Foot of peak to Rock Band</u></p> <p>The 1st 60% of the peak from its foot is along snow and ice over a gradient ranging from 45° to 70°. 880 meters of Plastic rope was fixed with 8 snow bars and natural rock anchors.</p> <p><u>Starting of Rock band to Summit</u></p> <p>The last 40% of the face is steep rock section. The gradient ranges from 80° to 110° (overhang). There are 6 to 7 overhangs along the climbing route. In this section, 350 meters of static rope was fixed with the help of 2 etriers, 16 rock pitons, 2 chock nuts, 2 hexes, 2 Cams, 7 snow bars and a number of carabiners. Also, few natural rock anchors were used.</p>
Leaders assessment of Technical Difficulty (TD) with Grade (refer to grade description)	Foot of peak to Rock Band: Grade 4 Starting of Rock band to Summit: Grade 7
Justification of grade assessment by leader required by marking route on photographs.	Photo attached

Grade Assessment Reporting – Mt Rubal Kang 6150 Meters

Subject	Details
Name of Mountain	Mt Rubal Kang 6150 Meters
Expedition Organization and Dates	South Calcutta Trekkers Association, Kolkata 9 th June – 4 th July 2023
Face/ Ridge Attempted	South Face & South-West face
Nature of the face e.g. rock, snow, ice or mixed terrain	Snow (95%) & Rock (5%)
Gradient of the route in approximate degrees and description of artificial technical aids used to negotiate difficulty.	<p><u>S Face, Lower section of the peak</u> Snow covered hard ice at 40° to 60° gradient.</p> <p><u>SW Face. Upper section of the peak</u> 50° to 60° gradient on snow.</p> <p><u>Rock section at Summit</u> 60° to 70° gradient on rock and snow.</p>
Leaders assessment of Technical Difficulty (TD) with Grade (refer to grade description)	S Face, Lower section of the peak: Grade 3 SW Face. Upper section of the peak: Grade 3 Rock section at Summit: Grade 4
Justification of grade assessment by leader required by marking route on photographs.	Photo attached