

SOUTH CALCUTTA TREKKERS ASSOCIATION



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

Date: August 24, 2016

Sub: Expedition Report on Mt. TRISHUL-I (7,120 M) Expedition 2016

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1003/IMF/IE/2016 dated 28th Mar 2016 we hereby submit the final report on our expedition to Mt. Trisul-1 2016, as per the suggested format.

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
4. Photographs of evidence for Incident Report

Financial Assistance:

We look forward to receive a financial assistance for the said expedition, for which the hard copy of the summary report along with photographs will be sent through courier shortly.

We request your kind verification for approval and financial assistance.

Awaiting your early & favorable reply in this regard.

With sincere thanks and warm regards,

RAJSEKHAR MAITY

Leader, Mt. Trishul-1 Expedition 2016

Asst. Secretary

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

Mt. Trishul-1 (7120 Mt) Expedition 2016

Organized by:

South Calcutta Trekkers Association

Off: 14 Chakraberia Lane, Kolkata 700020

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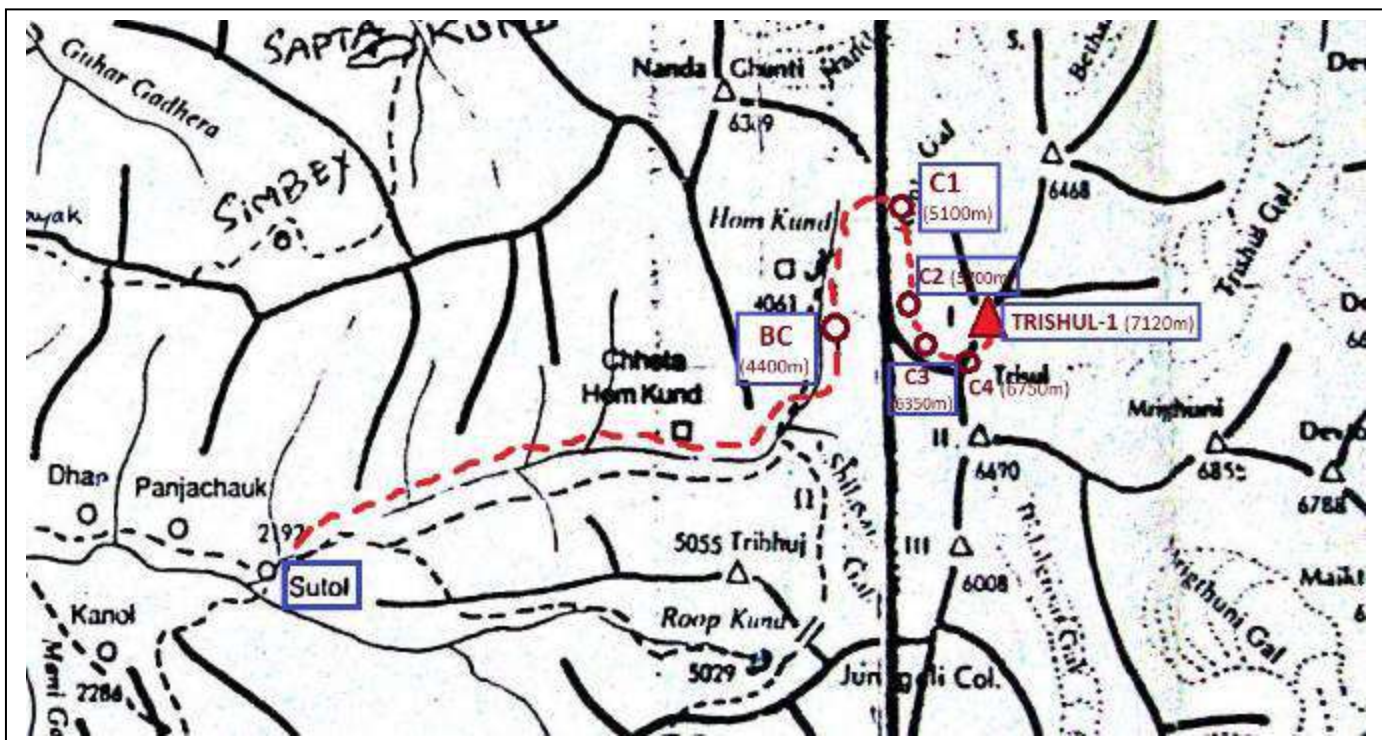
URL: www.scta.in

Expedition Summary	
1. Name of the Association	South Calcutta Trekkers Association
2. Name of the Expedition	Mt Trishul-1 (7120 Mt) Expedition 2016
3. Name of the Peak with height in metres and six figure co-ordinates	Mt. Trishul-1 Height: 7120 meters Co-ord: 30°18' N, 79°46' E
4. Date on which permit given by IMF	28 th March 2016
5. Nominal role of the team members	Leader – Rajsekhar Maity Quarter Master – Pradip Kumar Bar Members – Ashish Gupta Koushik Das
6. Commencement of Trek	7 th June '16 from Sutol
7. Number of camps en route to Base Camp	2, in Lata Kopri and Chandaniya Ghat
8. Interaction with local administration	1. DFO, Gopeswar 2. Forest Range Office, Nandaprayag 3. District Magistrate Office, Gopeswar 4. Superintendent of Police Office, Gopeswar 5. Forest Beat Office, Sutol 6. Sutol Eco-Tourism Committee, Sutol
9. Establishment of Base Camp	Dodang (4240 Mt) on 9 th June '16
10. Establishment of higher camps	Camp – 1 (5100 Mt) on 12 th June '16 Camp – 2 (5790 Mt) on 19 th June '16
11. Technical difficulty on way to higher camps	<u>Base Camp to Camp I</u> 1 st Section – Till Homkund the track goes over an intermediate ridge of 2 streams from Nandaghunti and Trishul. 2 nd Section – From Homkund the camp-1 site was a steep climb of 1600 ft over scree zone with patches of snow and melted hard ice. 300 meters of rope was fixed to ensure safety. <u>Camp I to Camp – II</u> The route from C-1 to C-2 was over the ice field of the glacier along the West face of Trishul (shown as Ronti glacier in Survey map). The ice field devoid of soft snow, which was expected at pre-monsoon season, and was full of open crevasse and brittle ice-bridges.

12. Snow & Rock condition	<p><u>Snow</u> Very poor condition of snow was noticed all along the route where it was expected to be in a very good condition in pre-monsoon season. All the snow melted and crevasses opened widely creating a huge difficulty in negotiating. The unexpectedly poor condition might have been caused from bad weather with continuous rain in hot and humid climate this summer, or might be from the recent forest fire incident in the lower Himalayas region.</p> <p><u>Rock</u> The route from Homkund to Camp-1 was through a scree zone, with gradual increase in gradient. Most of the route was very prone to rock fall.</p>
13. Weather Condition	Weather condition was very poor. Incessant rain and whiteout with dense fog almost every day at the lower camps. Bright sunny days were very rare was absent with occasional whiteout.
14. Summit Report	Not Applicable
15. Compliance to Environmental guideline	<p>Garbage - All biodegradable waste was buried under soil by digging hole at campsites. All non-biodegradable garbage were carried down and burned at forest check post, Sutol.</p> <p>Equipment – Since the team reached only till Camp-2. Not much of the ropes and equipment were used and those all are brought down without leaving anything on the route.</p>
16. Maximum height attained and its date	5790 Meter (Camp-2), on 19th June 2016
17. Name of Summiters	Summit not reached
18. Total Expenditure	Rs. 4,50,000 (rounded off)
19. Details of Day by Day events	Attached
20. Financial assistance required?	YES. Hard copy of report will be sent separately

Summit Day Details	N/A Summit not attempted.
Maximum Height Reached	5790 meters (Camp-2)
Reason of Turnaround	<p>(1) Delay in schedule due to Administrative delay (Forest department permits received on 5th June only) (2) Delay in schedule due to very poor weather condition throughout the period (3) Accident of one sherpa (rescued and evacuated safely) (4) Severe thunderstorm at Camp-2 and cloud-burst at Base Camp on 20th June night</p>

ROUTE MAP



Climbing members returned from Camp-2 (5790 m)

Planned route

Day to day itinerary

- 01-Jun The expedition team departed from Howrah Station by train (sleeper coach).
- 02-Jun Reached Haridwar at evening and stayed there
- 03-Jun The team left Haridwar. 3 members travelled to Karnaprayag with expedition luggage. 1 member travelled to Uttarkashi to hire equipment from NMI, Uttarkashi
- 04-Jun The day was spent in Administrative work and marketing at Karnaprayag. 1 member travelled from Uttarkashi to Karnaprayag with equipment rented from NIM
- 05-Jun Team leader travelled to Joshimath to arrange logistics with the help of 'Himalayan Snow Runner' agency. He then travelled to Gopeswar DFO office and Nandaprayag Forest Range office to collect permits. Rest of the team was busy in packing and arrangement of loads. Night spent at Karnaprayag
- 06-Jun 3 sherpas joined the main team at morning. Then the entire team travelled to Sutol. The team met Forest guard at Sutol check post. Night spent at Sutol
- 07-Jun The team, with 10 mules, trekked to Lata Kopri (Transit camp-1) and camped near a stream
- 08-Jun Team trekked to Chandaniya Ghat (Transit camp-2) and camped there
- 09-Jun Team trekked to Dodang and established Base Camp (4240 m)
- 10-Jun Members took rest at Base Camp. They were engaged in load rearrangement for higher camps
- 11-Jun Entire team did the first round of load ferry to Camp-1. Back to Base Camp
- 12-Jun Members ferried loads to Camp-1 and got back to Base Camp. Sherpas occupied Camp-1 (5100 m)
- 13-Jun Due to bad weather the day was of no movement. Members stayed at Base Camp. Sherpas stayed at Camp-1
- 14-Jun Members went for height gain for acclimatization & got back to Base Camp. Sherpa team did a round of load ferry to Camp-2 (5790 m)
- 15-Jun Sherpa team established Camp-2 and moved some amount load beyond Camp-2. They found a safe location beyond Camp-2 to dump the loads and returned back to Camp-2. Members went for height gain for acclimatization & got back to Base Camp.
- 16-Jun Sherpa team got down to Base Camp
- 17-Jun Entire team left Base Camp to occupy Camp-1. When they reached Camp-1, the sherpa went ahead towards Camp-2 to carry some load. While they were negotiating the crevasses on the ice-field, an unstable ice-bridge over one large crevasse broke down and a sherpa fell into the crevasse. The fall was nearly a 40 ft down. However he was rescued after a tremendous effort put by other sherpas and was carried back to Camp-1. Then he was carried down to Base Camp for immediate evacuation to nearest hospital at Ghat.

We decided to reduce the climbing team since the sherpa team was then weakened and also we were lagging few days behind the schedule for bad weather at base camp and administrative delay at Karnaprayag.

- 18-Jun As planned 3 members returned back to Base camp, 1 member stayed back at Camp-1. 1 member waited at Camp-1 till the Sherpa team came up from Base Camp and reached Camp-1 at evening.
- 19-Jun 1 member and 2 sherpa left Camp-1 and reached Camp-2 (5790 m). On the way they faced huge number of crevasses widely open and many extremely unstable ice-bridges almost at the verge of breaking down, which took a very long time to cover the distance till Camp-2
- 20-Jun 2 sherpa went to open the route up to Camp-3 and to fix ropes on the South-West ridge of the mountain. The climbing route was visible from Camp-2 and it was clearly observed that route was devoid of soft snow and was full of hard mirror-like ice. With a full day's effort the sherpas managed to reach near Camp-3 location at 6340 meters and then came down to Camp-2.
- At evening huge cloud covered the sky coming from all direction and a severe thunderstorm hit us with very strong wind and heavy lightning. It continued for the whole night.
- Meanwhile the members at Base Camp faced a cloud-burst situation and very heavy downpour all night.
- 21-Jun Facing the severe adverse weather, in addition to loss of one sherpa-strength and loss of 4 days from our schedule we understood that the summit bid won't be possible within next 3-4 days and by then we will be very late as monsoon had already hit the region. Summit plan was then abandoned. 2 sherpa went to retrieve all equipment and bring back the ropes fixed up to Camp-3. They returned to Camp-2 at afternoon.
- After their return once again the weather got deteriorated and, seeing a possible danger, the team immediately packed up all loads and moved back towards Camp-1. Team climbed down in continuous snow-fall and reached Camp-1 late evening.
- 22-Jun Team came down to Base Camp with all equipment and loads.
- All equipment was brought down to Base Camp without leaving anything on the route.
- All biodegradable waste was buried under soil by digging hole at campsite.
All non-biodegradable garbage were collected to bring back to Sutol.
- 23-Jun Members trekked to Tatara village. They reached Tatara at afternoon and stayed at the village. Sherpa waited at Base Camp for mules. Mules reached the Base Camp at afternoon.
- 24-Jun Sherpas and the mules with all luggage reached Sutol at afternoon. The team travelled to Karnaprayag and reached at night.
On the way team met the injured sherpa at Ghat and found him fit and stable.
- 25-Jun Team travelled to Uttarkashi to return the equipment hired from NIM
- 26-Jun Team travelled to Haridwar.
- 27-Jun Team boarded on train from Haridwar
- 28-Jun In train
- 29-Jun Team reached Howrah station at morning

Grade Assessment Reporting

Subject	Details
Name of Mountain	Mt. Trishul-1 (7120 m)
Expedition Organization and Dates	Organization: South Calcutta Trekkers Association, Kolkata Date: 01 June – 29 June 2016
Face/ Ridge Attempted	West Face, South-West Ridge
Nature of the face e.g rock, snow, ice or mixed terrain	<p><u>Base Camp – Camp-1</u> Section 1 (BC to Homkund): Easy moraine track Section 2 (Homkund to C-1): Scree slope of loose pebbles/rocks at beginning. Then steep gully with full of very loose and unstable rocks with snow patches and rotten melted ice.</p> <p><u>Camp-1 – Camp-2</u> Ice-field with hard ice exposed, crevasse widely open. Later soft snow and unstable/brittle ice-bridges.</p>
Gradient of the route in approximate degrees and description of artificial technical aids used to negotiate difficulty.	<p><u>Base Camp – Camp-1</u> Section 2 (Homkund to C-1): 45° at the start of scree slope, 60°-70° at upper portion, 80°-85° at the end of the gully. 300 meters of rope were fixed with rock pitons and natural anchors on steeper section</p> <p><u>Camp-1 – Camp-2</u> 30° at beginning, 45° at latter part of the ice-field 200 meters of rope were fixed with ice-stakes</p>
Leaders assessment of Technical Difficulty (TD) with Grade (refer to grade description)	<p><u>Base Camp – Camp-1:</u> Grade 3 at start of the gully. Grade 4 at higher section of the gully</p> <p><u>Camp-1 – Camp-2:</u> Grade 2</p>
Justification of grade assessment by leader required by marking route on photographs.	Photo attached

Incident Reporting

1. Climbing Accident

On 17th June the team left Base Camp and reached Camp-1. From there 3 Sherpas went ahead towards Camp-2 to carry some load. The ice-field was absolutely devoid of soft snow and was full of crevasses widely open, some with very unstable ice-bridges over it. While approaching without roping up on the ice-field, an unstable ice-bridge over one large crevasse broke down and a Sherpa fell into the crevasse. The fall was nearly 40 ft down. The victim could not be seen from the above, neither could be heard. However, with help of ropes and anchors and a tremendous effort put by other Sherpas, he was rescued and was carried back to Camp-1. Then he was carried down to Base Camp, spent the night at Base Camp. Next day he was evacuated from there and brought to the nearest hospital at Ghat, Chamoli district.

The team met the person at Ghat while returning from the mountain and found him fit again.

Photographs: Members watched the incident from Camp-1 which was far away from the spot, so there is no photographs taken during the accident. However when the team crossed the same spot later they took photographs of the spot, which are attached along with this report.

2. Severe Weather Disturbances

From the very start of our trek, we faced very poor weather which continued throughout the expedition.

At lower altitude we observed incessant rain, heavily dense fog creating whiteout and occasional heavy to very heavy downpour. At the night of 20th June a cloud-burst occurred at Base Camp area with very heavy rainfall.

At higher altitude it rained and snowed everyday starting around noon. At the night of 20th June a heavy thunderstorm hit the team at Camp-2.



RAJSEKHAR MAITY

Leader, Mt. Trishul-1 Expedition 2016

Asst. Secretary

South Calcutta Trekkers Association

14, Chakraberia Lane, Kolkata - 700020

Date: 24th August, 2016

Place: Kolkata