

SOUTH CALCUTTA TREKKERS ASSOCIATION



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

Date: November 06, 2019

Sub: Expedition Report on Mt. NANDA DEVI EAST (7,434m) 2010

Dear Sir,

With reference to our intimation mail sent on 27th September 2019 on the successful ascent on Nanda Devi East (7434m), we hereby submit the final report on our expedition, completed on 24-Sep 2019, as per the IMF prescribed 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**

We request your kind verification for approval.

Awaiting your early & favorable reply in this regard.

With sincere thanks and warm regards,

RAJSEKHAR MAITY

Leader, Mt. Nanda Devi East Expedition 2019

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

Mt. Nanda Devi East (7434 m) Expedition 2019

Organized by:

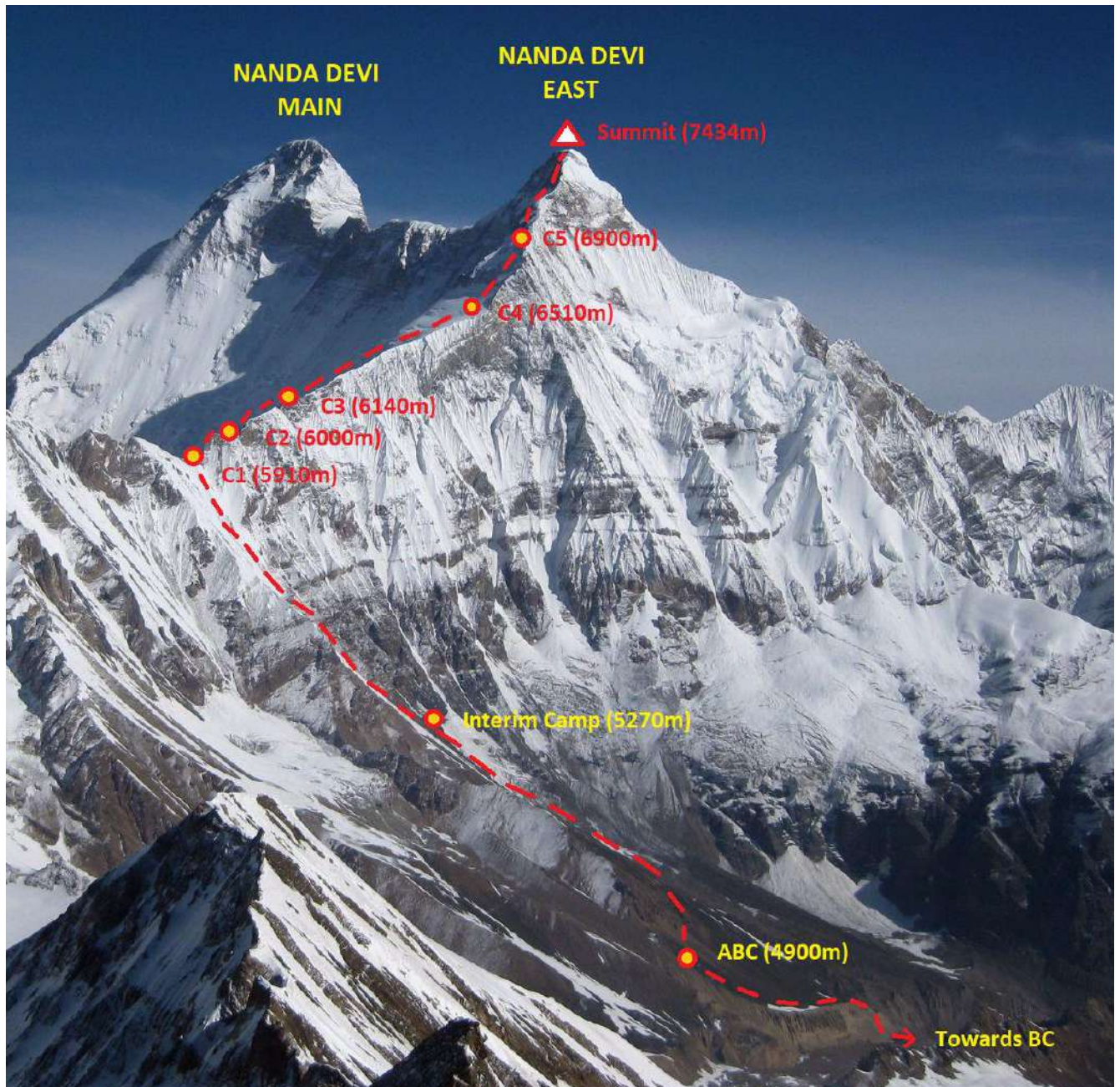
South Calcutta Trekkers Association

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Expedition Summary	
1. Name of the Association	South Calcutta Trekkers Association
2. Name of the Expeditions	Indian Nanda Devi East 2019 (Expedition Id: E054019)
3. Name of the Peak with height in meters and six figure co-ordinates	Mt. Nanda Devi East Height: 7,434 meters Co-ord: 30°21' N 79°59' E
4. Date on which permit given by IMF	23-Feb-2019
5. Nominal role of the team members	Leader – Rajsekhar Maity Deputy Leader – Upal Chakrabarti Members – Ashish Gupta Pradip Kumar Bar
6. Commencement of Trek	20 August 2019 from Lillam, Uttarakhand (1,746m)
7. Number of camps en route to Base Camp	5 Babaldhar (2,400m) Nahardevi (2,800m) Reilkot (3,153m) Lawan (3,575m) Transit Camp (3,940m)
8. Interaction with local administration	1. SDM Munsiyari, Pithoragarh Distt. Uttarakhand 2. Local Police Station, Munsiyari 3. ITBP Post (Bugdyar, Reilkot)
9. Establishment of Base Camp	26 August 2019. Bidalgwar (4,300m)
10. Establishment of higher camps	ABC (4,900m) on 03-September-2019 Interim Camp (5,270m) on 06-September-2019 C1 (5,910m) on 08-September-2019 C2 (6,000m) on 10-September-2019 C3 (6,140m) on 11-September-2019 C4 (6,510m) on 13-September-2019 C5 (6,900m) on 14-September-2019

<p>11. Technical difficulty on way to higher camps</p>	<p><u>BC to ABC</u> No technical difficulty</p> <p><u>ABC to C1</u> 1000m climb along a 45° to 55° slope of rotten, loose very unstable rock and thin layer of snow. Difficulty multiplied due to extremely unstable anchors on loose rocks.</p> <p><u>C1 to C2</u> 3 vertical rock pinnacles of 300 ft, full of loose and brittle rock and dust. Extremely exposed narrow ridge in between the pinnacles. Difficulty multiplied due to extremely unstable anchors on loose rocks.</p> <p><u>C2 to C3</u> 100 ft high vertical rock buttress, followed by an overhang rock pitch of 40 ft length.</p> <p><u>C3 to C4</u> Heavily corniced long snow arete with high exposure on either side. Vertical rock sections in between.</p> <p><u>C4 to C5</u> Uphill climb on snow slopes of 45° to 60° gradient, with a wide rock band of 70° gradient. Difficulty increased due to the character of snow where putting farm anchors were not possible.</p>
<p>12. Snow & Rock condition</p>	<p><u>Snow</u> From C3 to C4 snow was firm, however beyond C4 it became powdery in nature making front-pointing and placing strong anchor difficult. On the final summit block the snow was extremely powdery due to strong wind and was very unstable.</p> <p><u>Ice</u> Not much of hard ice</p> <p><u>Rock</u> Most part of this peak is rocky, serrated and broken ridge with many vertical rock towers. In absolutely all the sections the rock nature is rotten, scaly, loose, unstable, making the anchors extremely unreliable. The route from ABC till C2 became extremely prone to frequent rockfall in post monsoon season.</p>
<p>13. Weather Condition</p>	<p>Continuous poor weather observed on the eastern side of the south ridge of Nanda Devi East (i.e. Lawan valley), with prolonged rain, cloud and thick fog. While the west side of the south ridge of the mountain (i.e. inner Nandadevi Sanctuary) was clear with bright sunlight and strong cold wind.</p>
<p>14. Summit Report</p>	<p>Attached</p>
<p>15. Compliance to Environmental guideline</p>	<p>Garbage - All biodegradable waste was buried under soil by digging hole at campsites and non-biodegradable garbage were carried down and disposed at Lalam.</p> <p>Equipment – Most of the technical equipment are brought down. However, being on an extremely difficult and risky peak few rock anchors and fixed ropes were left on the most critical sections where descending without aid was impossible.</p>
<p>16. Maximum height attained and its date</p>	<p>7434 Meter (Summit), on 15th September 2019</p>
<p>17. Name of Summiters</p>	<p>Pradip Kumar Bar (Member) Sherpas : Phurba Sherpa Lopsang Sherpa Chongwa Dawa Sherpa Palchen Sherpa</p>
<p>18. Total Expenditure</p>	<p>Rs. 15,00,000 (rounded off)</p>
<p>19. Itinerary</p>	<p>Attached</p>
<p>20. Financial assistance required?</p>	<p>YES</p>

CLIMBING ROUTE



ITINERARY

Date	Program	Details
16-Aug	Train from Kolkata	Left Howrah by Lalkuan Exp
17-Aug	Lalkuan - Munsyari	Reached Lalkuan. Travelled to Munsyari
18-Aug	Munsyari	Stayed at Munsyari. Admin work
19-Aug	Munsyari	Stayed at Munsyari. Admin work
20-Aug	Munsyari - Babaldhar	Travelled to Jimighat. Trekked to Babaldhar
21-Aug	Babaldhar - Nahardevi	Trekked to Nahar Devi
22-Aug	Nahardevi	No movement due to poor weather
23-Aug	Nahardevi - Reilkot	Trekked to Reilkot
24-Aug	Reilkot - Lawan	Trekked to Lawan
25-Aug	Lawan - TC	Trekked to Transit Camp
26-Aug	TC - BC	Trekked to Bidalgwar. Established BC (4,300m)
27-Aug	BC	Rest at BC & load rearrangement
28-Aug	BC	Load ferry to ABC and back to BC
29-Aug	BC	Load ferry to ABC and back to BC
30-Aug	BC	Load ferry to ABC. And Route opening beyond ABC
31-Aug	BC	Route opening beyond ABC
01-Sep	BC	No movement due to poor weather
02-Sep	BC	No movement due to poor weather
03-Sep	BC - ABC	Team moved to ABC (4,900m)
04-Sep	ABC	Load ferry to Longstaff's Col
05-Sep	ABC	No movement due to poor weather
06-Sep	ABC - Interim Camp	4 members + 2 sherpa - moved to Interim camp (5,270m) . 3 sherpa - moved to C1 (5910m)
07-Sep	Interim Camp	No movement due to poor weather
08-Sep	Interim Camp - C1	Members moved to C1 (5,910m). Sherpa - route opening on rock pinnacles. HAP - load ferry from ABC to C1
09-Sep	C1	Members - rest at C1. Sherpa - route opening on rock pinnacles. HAP - load ferry from ABC to C1
10-Sep	C1 - C2	Team moved to C2 (6,000m)
11-Sep	C2 - C3	Team moved to C3 (6,140m)
12-Sep	C3	Members - rest at C3. Sherpa - route opening beyond C3
13-Sep	C3 - C4	Moved to C4 (6,510m)
14-Sep	C4 - C5	Moved to C5 (6,900m)
15-Sep	SUMMIT	Pradip, Phurba, Lopsang, Dawa, Palchen left C5 at 1:45 am. Reached summit at 10:36 am. Spent there 1 hr. Back to C5 qt 3:00 pm
16-Sep	C5 - C1	Team descended to C1 (5,910m)
17-Sep	C1 - BC	Team descended to BC (4,300m)
18-Sep	BC - Martoli	Trekked to Martoli
19-Sep	Martoli - Nahardevi	Trekked to Nahardevi
20-Sep	Nahardevi - Munsyari	Trekked to Lilam. Travelled to Munsyari
21-Sep	Munsyari	Stayed at Munsyari for admin work
22-Sep	Munsyari - Haldwani	Travelled to Haldwani
23-Sep	Haldwani - Delhi. Train	Travelled to Delhi. Boarded train
24-Sep	Kolkata	Reached Kolkata

SUMMIT REPORT

(as reported by the summiteer Pradip Kumar Bar)

On 14 September we reached the summit camp/C5 (6900m) by afternoon. Weather was sunny but slightly windy. All of the ropes that we brought for fixing were finished by the time we reached Camp 4. We decided to take away one 220m length of rope from below and to use it repeatedly on the way till summit. The summit pyramid had 3 rock bands. Our summit camp was placed on a corniced ridge above the first rock band. There were two more rock bands, the 2nd one being most tricky, and around 550 meters of more height gain to reach the summit.

At around 1:30 AM on 15th September, Pradip Bar along with four Sherpas (Phurba Sherpa, Lopsang Sherpa, Chonwa Dawa Sherpa and Palchen Sherpa) came out of the tent for the summit push, it was freezing cold with a temperature of -25°C accompanied with strong wind of 25-30 km/h velocity. Though it was a fool moon night with good visibility.

At 1:45 am we started to climb. From summit camp we proceeded through a narrow and corniced ridge. After one hour of climbing we traversed to our left to negotiate a small area consisting of rock/boulders with ice patch. After a straight climb of 60° gradient we reached the foot of the 2nd rock band. Second rock band was more technically difficult than other two, a 85°/90° steep rock wall mixed with ice & snow patch. While 3 of the Sherpas were engaged in route opening on the wall, Pradip and Phurba were waiting there for around 20 minutes. Just then we noticed a tiny red line on eastern horizon.

Once the rope was fixed we started climbing again on this difficult section. On top of the 2nd rock band we found another knife-sharp corniced ridge with high exposure on either side, that was leading towards our left. The GPS device was showing a reading of 7100 meters.

With sunlight the wind became fiercer and due to the windchill factor the relative temperature was much lower than the actual. Due to the extreme coldness and long waits we feared of frostbite and started thinking of abandoning our attempt. However, once we reached the altitude of 7300 meters on GPS and saw the connecting ridge of Nanda Devi main and East is at same level as us, we felt charged and motivated and moved on.

When we stood before the 3rd and the last rock band it was around 9:00 am. Though the gradient was of approximately 80°, still the approach route was relatively easier. The actual summit was still not visible from that point.

After the last rock band, a narrow ridge brought us to a small and the final rock wall before reaching to the summit. We traversed to the left through a snow gully and moved towards right on the final stretch towards summit. At the end of that stretch we found a small cornice barring our way which we broke apart and put steps on the summit filed at exactly 10:36 AM. The GPS showed a reading of 7431 meters with an error margin of 3 meters.

The summit field was a vast ground with almost similar altitude all around. It was extremely cold and windy (approx 55km/h). The main peak of Nanda Devi was clearly visible in front of us, towards the West. Thick layer of cloud was covering all the peaks around except the very high ones. The visible peaks were the Nanda Devi Main towards West, Trishul-1 towards South-West, Nandakhat at South, Nandakot at South-East, and the tips of Hardeol, Tirshuli West and Rishi Pahar towards the north. We stayed around 30 minutes on the summit, offering puja & taking photos and started descending. We reached Camp 5 at 3:00 PM.

We had only one coil of polypropylene rope (220 meters) on the summit approach. Most of the part was climbed with running belay.

Grade Assessment Reporting

Subject	Details
Name of Mountain	Mt. Nanda Devi East (7434 m)
Expedition Organization and Dates	South Calcutta Trekkers Association, Kolkata 16 August – 24 September 2019
Face/ Ridge Attempted	South Ridge
Nature of the face e.g. rock, snow, ice or mixed terrain	Mixed terrain
Gradient of the route in approximate degrees and description of artificial technical aids used to negotiate difficulty.	<p><u>ABC to Camp-1</u> 45° to 50° on average. 1400 meters of ropes were fixed with rock pitons and natural rock</p> <p><u>Camp-1 to Camp-2</u> 85°-90° rock pinnacles of 300 ft height, full of loose brittle rocks. 700 meters of ropes were fixed with old anchors placed by previous expeditions.</p> <p><u>Camp-2 to Camp-3</u> 85°-90° rock buttress and one overhang section. 800 meters of ropes were fixed with old anchors placed by previous expeditions.</p> <p><u>Camp-3 to Camp-4</u> Sharp corniced snow arete with extremely high exposure on either side. 800 meters of ropes were fixed with snow-bars and rock pitons.</p> <p><u>Camp-4 to Camp-5</u> 60°-70° on the snow field. 70°-85° on the rock band. Only a coil of 220 meters polypropylene rope was used by fixing and opening repeatedly, as all our stock ropes were finished.</p> <p><u>Camp-5 to Summit</u> 75°-85° on the rock band. 60°-70° on the sharp snow ridge with extreme exposure. Majorly negotiated by climbing in running belay. In most risky sections one 220 meters of polypropylene rope was used by fixing and opening repeatedly, as all our stock ropes were finished.</p>
Leaders assessment of Technical Difficulty (TD) with Grade (refer to grade description)	<p><u>ABC to Camp-1</u> : Grade 3</p> <p><u>Camp-1 to Camp-2</u> : Grade 5</p> <p><u>Camp-2 to Camp-3</u> : Grade 6</p> <p><u>Camp-3 to Camp-4</u> : Grade 4</p> <p><u>Camp-4 to Camp-5</u> : Grade 4</p> <p><u>Camp-5 to Summit</u> : Grade 6</p>
Justification of grade assessment by leader required by marking route on photographs.	Photo attached