

ITBP Team Skied down from Mt Everest

New Delhi, 05 June 2012:- The first ever successful Indian (ITBP) Mountaineering and Skiing down Expedition to Mt. Everest which has climbed and skied down from Mt Everest was given grand welcome by ITBP officials and fans at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. On 19th May 8 members of this team unfurled Tiranga on the Mt Everest top and attempted ski down. With this ITBP success, ITBP has conquered the highest peak in the world fourth time. This expedition was flagged off by Shri Tejendra Khanna, H.E. Lt Governor of Delhi on 6th April 2012.

It is a glorious moment for the ITBP as well for our countrymen. The skiing down from the Everest top by this team has created a record in itself as no team has ever skied down from Mt Everest successfully. Till date no Indian team has ever attempted ski down from Everest.

Shri Prem Singh, Dy Inspector General, is leader of this 23 members expedition team. He is a renowned mountaineer and had unfurled National flag as well as ITBP flag atop of Mt. Everest twice on 10.05.1992 and 14.05.2006. The six mountaineers, who unfurled the ITBP and National flag atop of Mt Everest on 19 May 2012 are Shri Rattan Singh Sonal, Second in Command, Shri Devendra Singh, Head Constable, Shri Virender Singh, Head Constable and Shri Krishna Prasad Guroung, Constable (all 4 scaled the peak first time) and Shri Pradeep Kumar Negi, Head Constable and Shri Pasang T. Sharpa, Constable (both scaled the peak 2nd Time).

Before proceeding to Mt. Everest, the team had been put through rigorous physical training and extensively trained on all technical aspects required to tackle the difficulties likely to be faced while ascending through glacial fields, knife edge icy ridges, hanging ice glaciers and jagged rocky spires on its way to higher camps and summit.

Garbage left by other expeditions and teams is major problem for fragile ecosystem in Himalayas. Accumulation of garbage on the Everest route has reached to alarming proportion. This team had also collected garbage en-route to Mt. Everest and brought it down. This garbage had been scientifically disposed off.

The ITBP after its formation in 1962, started mountaineering in 1964, when Capt. M.S. Kohli (of ITBP) led first ITBP expedition to Nanda Devi and Trishuli. In 1965, Captain M S Kohli, then Commandant ITBP, led the historic Indian Everest Expedition 1965. Out of 191 mountaineering expeditions completed by ITBP till date, 16 joint expeditions were launched with Indian Mountaineering Federation and 13 were launched with other countries.

The ITBP's mountaineers has the record of scaling Mt. Everest six times in 1984, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2006. Sh Sonam Palzor was the first ITBP man who scaled the Mt. Everest in 1984. An exclusive ITBP team under the direction of Late Shri Hukam Singh, Addl DIG had scaled the peak in 1992, when its 8 members unfurled the National and ITBP Flag on top of the peak and one of its member namely Mrs Santosh Yadav again scaled this peak in 1993. The ITBP team led by Shri Mohinder Singh, Second-in-Command, again conquered the highest peak in the world in 1996 and its 6 members unfurled the National Flag atop Mt. Everest. In 1999, Late Shri Sangey Sherpa achieved the rare distinction of climbing the Mt. Everest third time in 1999. Again in 2006, 9 members and 4 sherpas climbed this peak under leadership of Shri Harbhajan Singh. Till now 20 ITBP personnel have stood atop Mt. Everest and 06 of them have done so twice and Late Shri Sangey Sharpa climbed Mt. Everest thrice.

The names of these proud Everesters including present 6 personnel are:-

S. No	Name	Year
1	Sh. Sonam Palzor	23 May 1984 (Nepal Side)
2	Late Sh. S.D. Sharma	10 May 1992 (Nepal Side)
3	Sh. Prem Singh(Leader of	10 May 1992 (Nepal Side), 14 May 2006 (China Side)

	Current Expdn.-2012)	
4	Sh. Kanhiya Lal	10 May 1992 (<i>Nepal Side</i>)
5	Mrs. Santosh Yadav	10 May 1992 (<i>Nepal Side</i>), May 1993 (<i>Nepal Side</i>)
6	Sh Mohan Singh	12 May 1992 (<i>Nepal Side</i>)
7	Late Sh. T. Samanla	10 May 1996 (China Side)
8	Sh Wangchuk Sherpa	12 May 1992 (<i>Nepal Side</i>), 14 May 2006 (China Side)
9	Sh. Hira Ram	17 May 1996 (China Side), 17 May 2006 (China Side)
10	Sh. Jot Singh	14 May 2006 (China Side)
11	Sh. Lopsang Sherpa	12 May 1992 (<i>Nepal Side</i>)
12	Late Sh. Sangey Sherpa	12 May 1992 (<i>Nepal Side</i>), 17 May 1996 (China Side), May 1999
13	Late Sh Tashi Ram Negi	17 May 1996 (China Side)
14	Sh. Nawang Dorzee	14 May 2006 (China Side)
15	Sh. Mohammad Ali	17 May 2006 (China Side)
16	Late Sh. Tswang Palzor	10 May 1996 (China Side)
17	Sh. Vishal Mani	14 May 2006 (China Side)
18	Late Sh. Dorzee Murup	10 May 1996 (China Side)
19	Sh Pradeep kumar	17 May 2006 (China Side), 19 May 2012 (China Side)
20	Sh. Passang T. Sherpa	14 May 2006 (China Side), 19 May 2012 (China Side)
21	Sh Rattan Singh Sonal	19 May 2012 (China Side)
22	Sh Devender Singh	19 May 2012 (China Side)
23	Sh Virender Singh	19 May 2012 (China Side)
24	Sh Krishna Prasad Garoung	19 May 2012 (China Side)

ITBP has skied down from many peaks in past and its skiers have dominating presence in high altitude skiing. Team led by Shri Sohan Lal, unfurled the National Flag on top of Mt. Kamet and Skied down in 1981. Again in 2001 Team led by Shri S.K. Sharma, scaled the Mt. Kamet. In 2007 ITBP got success to put its 25 Mountaineers on top of Mt. Abi Gamin under leadership of Shri Harbhajan Singh, IG. Again on June 4th and 5th 2009 a total 15 members of ITBP unfurled the National Flag and ITBP Flag on Mt Abi Gamin and 04 members skied down from the top. Till date ITBP team have skied down from Mt. Kamet (height 25447 ft.), Mt. Abigamin (ht 24130 ft.) (two times) and Mt. Stoke Kangri (ht 20077 ft).

The expedition team had departed from Delhi on 6th April and reached glacier in April last week. To accomplish the task, they had established 06 camps in glacier including summit camp at the height of 26300 ft. The world class special equipments and clothing were provided by ITBP for this expedition. Two special helmet mounted video cameras have been used to record the skiing down event.

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