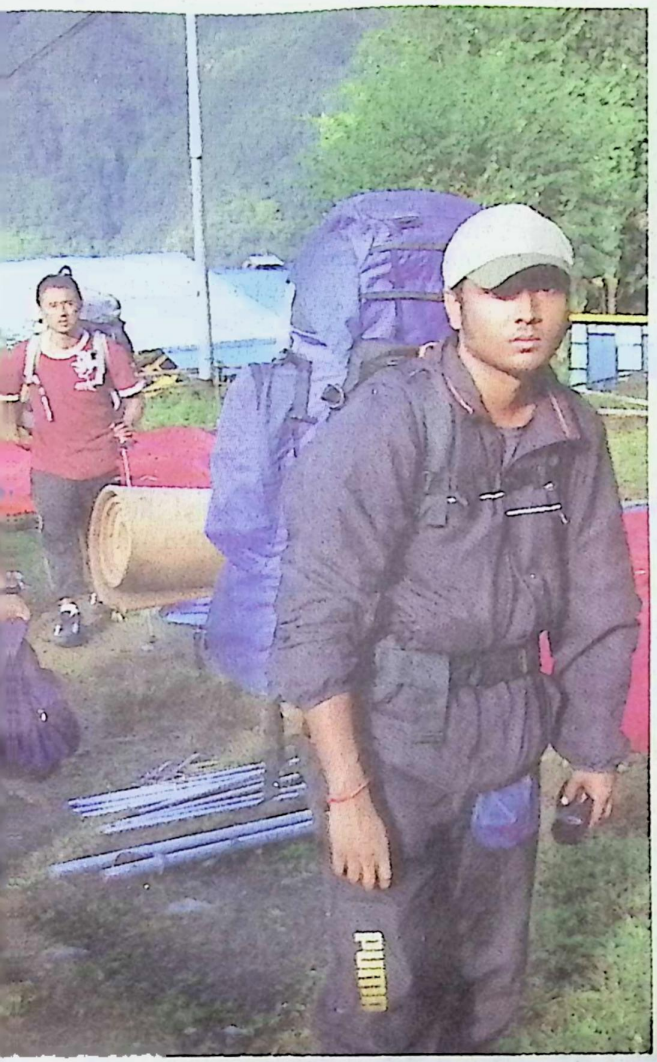
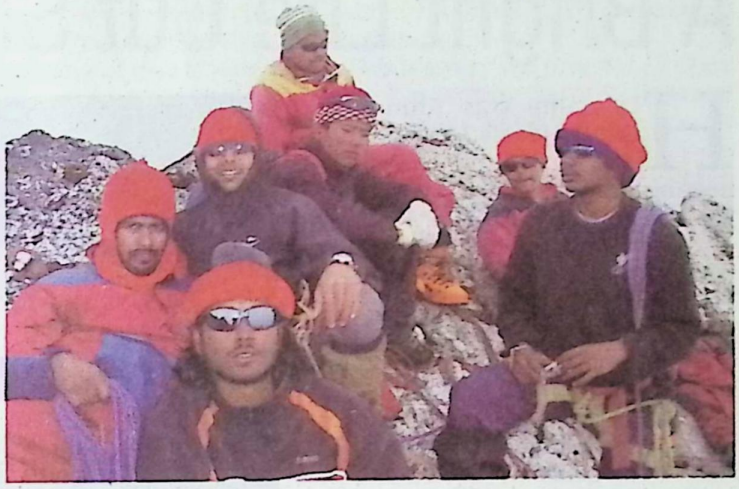
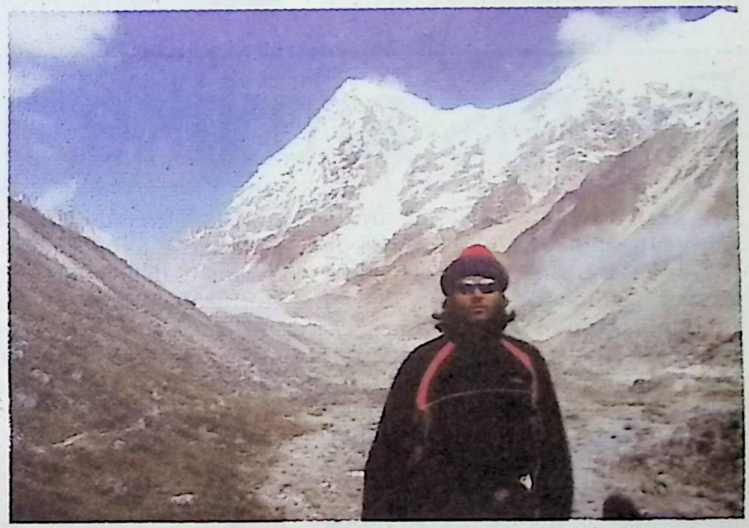






nid Frey Peak.

We spent the next 7 days at Rathong Glacier practicing the ıow crafts. There were several classes and tests on walking nıd climbing on steep ice wall. We learned to use the special qıuipment as well such as Koflach, Crampons and Ice Axe. We lsso practiced Crevasse rescue, self anchor and self arrest etc.

After finishing our main altitude adjustment period as well s completing most of our lectures and practice work on the aıthong glacier it was time for our final exercise: an altitude aiin day with option of summating a peak, if weather e:rmited. The goal was to reach 18,000 feet (previous high ltıitude was 15,500 feet on the glacier) -- and the summit of CC Roy Peak.

'We set off at the not-so-alpine-start time of a late 6 am, and ftıer crossing a river with tons of boulders and confusion and a:ssing handful of sand to step on slippery rocks, started up ıe peaks north of camp. We hiked at a fast climb rate of 40 /ırminute and continued for about 2 hours. Resting every oıur or so, we made it to the snow/ice and put on crampons nıd other cold weather gear. Ropes were fixed and we used uır ascenders (Jumars) as safety as we climbed the final 2000 ft on snow, in mostly clear, sunny weather. As we reached the final resting spot (and a possible base camp for higher peaks) in a beautifully protected cirque, we organized into teams to try for the summit.

I gathered the members of our team Ankur Agarwal, Sunil Mishara, Sattyam, Babu and Gonesh, so 6 of us were roped up together. I led the final couple of hundred feet, kicking my own steps apart from other teams that were headed up the same peak. It was really cool to be given the responsibility to pick a safe route and be asked to do the work of kicking steps in the ice. But suddenly luck turned its back on us and a massive snow fall started. We had to move ignoring the freezing cold and after climbing about 30 minutes on steep and slippery rock wall we reached the summit.

It was like being on top of the world. Chaurithang Base Camp was looking like a tiny little dot to us. But very soon it vanished because of the snow and as the weather became more rough. Very soon the snow reached our knees and climbing down was too difficult in the snow. We took safety measures and used belay (support) at some places. And after one and a half hour we reached the base camp safely.