

# TREK TO PANDAV PATTAR MANALI

## I AM ISHI



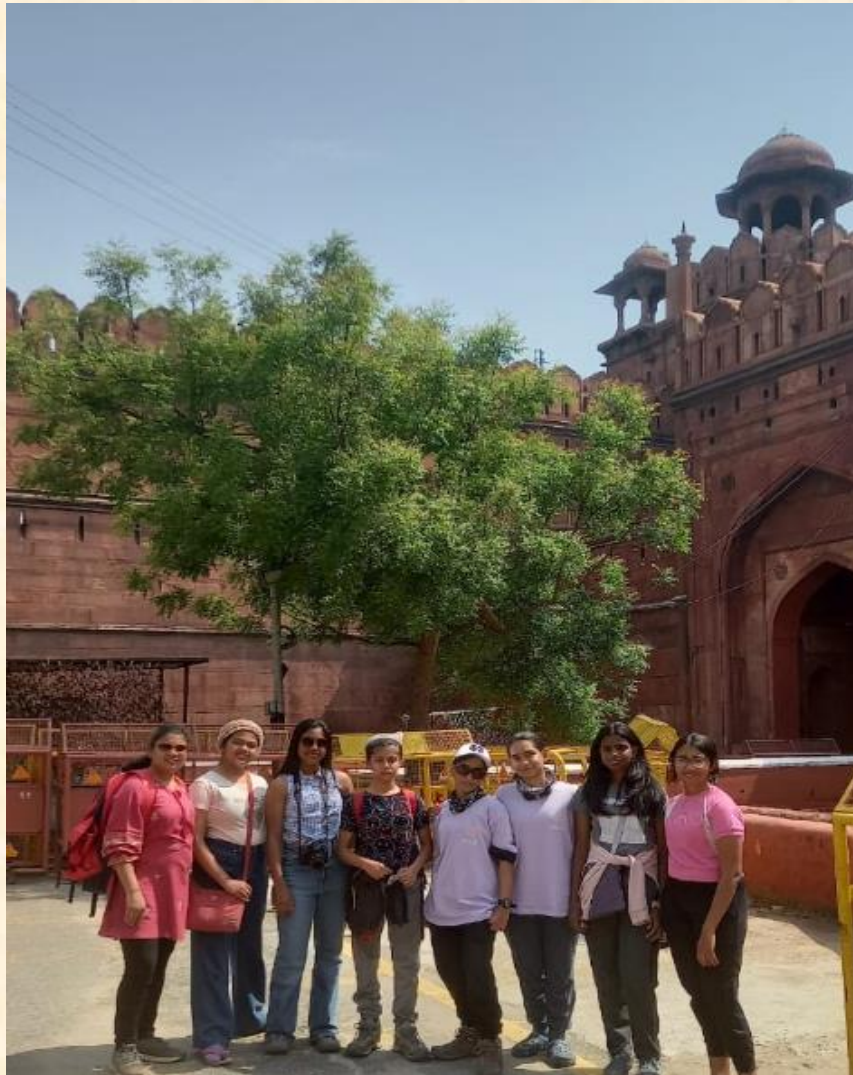
*On 1st May, my excitement knew no bounds.*

*For the first time in my life, I woke up without an alarm! It was my first school outstation trip! We were going to Pandav Patthar for a 7 day long trek. About 75 students from Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet were going to trek up 12500 feet. For most of us, it was our first trek with our own bags on our frail backs. We were all so excited and enthusiastic about conquering the peak!*

*Our flight to Delhi was at 9:50am. but we had to be at the airport by 6:30am. For one and a half hours we saw - happy faces, concerned parents, last minute instructions, Alex Sir running his oligarchy, Aadhar cards flying around and absolute chaos!*

*The flight to Delhi was comfortable and rather uneventful.*

*Then came the ride of our lives - the 13 hour long bus ride from Delhi to Manali. There was singing, dancing, screaming, Uno games, crunching chips, students imagining sleepwalking people and most importantly tons of fun!*



*This is our Team*

*To handle the trip better, each of the seven teachers from HPS had a group of 10 students assigned to them. Whilst we were on the ride of our lives, the weather decided to be a spoilt sport. Early morning, on May 2nd, we were stranded in the bus due to a landslide! If that was not all, when we reached the base camp it rained for two days straight! The silver lining was that we got to know our tent mates better.*

*Fourth May, early morning we saw signs of life! Sunlight, clear skies! Within an hour of awakening, we were already scaling up the mountain. With a 10 kg bag on our delicate little shoulders and an incline of 40 Degrees, along with temperatures ranging between 5 to 12 degrees, blacking out wasn't too far. Still with moral support from each other we kept our hopes high and freezing feet moving. We'd trek about 5 to 6 km everyday with brakes every 45 minutes.*

*Reaching camp 1 felt like a huge achievement! After that day every day was pretty much a repeat, except for the air got colder and the Himalayan sights got more breath taking. We had to bypass camp 2 due to the heavy snowfall a few days prior to our arrival- the tents were submerged under 6 feet of snow (most of us would drown in it)!*



*Sight of the Base Camp*

*After reaching camp 3, a few of us were taken on a long trek to touch snow....the experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity. It felt like slush out of an ice 'gola' machine. Reaching back to the base camp intact was like an achievement and the joy I got by being able to say 'I completed the trek' was more than what I had ever felt...*

*The next stop was Delhi and most of us felt like we had been put into an oven. We had 6 hours of time in Delhi and 2 whole travel buses to ourselves. We saw historical monuments like Lal Qila, India Gate, Lotus temple and Qutub Minar.*

*This trip helped me see the eminence of my country - from the beautiful Himalayan range and landscapes to the architectural wonders. The trek guides and teachers were very supportive and the completion of this trek wouldn't have been possible without everyone's support.*



## *I AM RITISHA*

*Write Up on the Pandav Pathar Trek, Kullu Manali  
01 May 2023 to 07 May 2023*

*The week before my seven (7) day trek from school I packed all the required and necessary items as mentioned in the itinerary provided by our school, that I would be needing for the trek. My mother made sure that every item in the list was arranged, and if that required purchasing new clothes, new jackets, tracks, she did the same.*

*The night before we were about to start our adventure, I was imagining and day dreaming about how the nature, the weather, and what all I would be doing there and most importantly how will I be managing the seven days without my brother and my mother. I set up two different alarms for 4.45 am to ensure I do not miss it, as I had to reach the airport by 6:30 am.*

*The adventure started at 4:45am the next day, I woke up to the alarm, had bath, checked the last-minute packing, lighted the lamp to receive blessing from the almighty (we generally do that as a family ritual before any travel), rushing my mother to hurry up, took blessings of my grandfather and kissed my brother and left for the drive to the airport. My mother rarely drives at that time of the day, but she did great and we reached the airport in time, actually a tad bit early. We did take a wrong turn before the domestic departures, but mom realised it pretty soon. We managed to*

*find our way to the designated gathering zone and received our tickets and boarding passes. I met new people, introduced myself, clicked pictures and then started my new beginning (of solo travel, first travel experience, first*

*school travel, first travel without family, days without smart devices, and so on). Once a particular group of teacher and students were completed, we were sent in for checking in our baggage and security check. Crossing all those hectic lines, we were now waiting at the boarding gate for the announcement. The flight was at 9:50am (boarding time was 9:15am). There were few disagreements on the seating, as everyone wanted to be seated next to their friends, but with a stern warning we were made to sit in our allocated seats only.*

*On landing Delhi, we moved to collect our luggage, and stayed at the airport for a good 6 hours before we would leave to Manali. We had packaged lunch which was served to us. We window shopped, ate snacks all the time we were at the airport. People clicked pictures, and talked all the time. We boarded the buses at 6:30pm and started our journey to Manali, stopped for dinner at a restaurant Haveli at 8:30pm. We enjoyed every bite of our dinner, and the organising teacher (advance thinking) gave all 75 students tablets for motion sickness to avoid throwing up. By 11:00pm all of the members in the bus were asleep.*

*We stopped our journey at 5.30am due to a landslide ahead (the driver had announced - "abhi bus yahin rukegi, jo bhi nashita vashta karna ho, yahin karlena" so we had to have our breakfast, freshen up and do any morning routine that were required. We started again at 10:00am once the landslide clearing instructions were received. We now were on the last leg of our bus journey to reach our destination and we could feel the fall in temperatures. We were asked to wear sweaters, jackets, ear muffs whichever would make us feel comfortable. Luckily our school had informed us a day before the journey, that the temperatures in Delhi are falling due to heavy rain in Kashmir, and hence packing of sweaters and a shawl in a separate bag was recommended. We changed our vehicle, and got into the jeeps to reach the base camp. The scenic beauty was at the best, the water flowing, the mountains, greenery all around, gentle breeze, freshness in the air, no pollution, friendly and loving dogs, and a lot more.*



### *Our Trek Team of 75 Students*

*When we reached the base camp, we put our baggage in our allotted tents, and took out our plates to go for lunch. Post our lunch, we had adventure activities like - Rope Course, Elevated Rope Net and Zip Line. Only few students could attempt it as it started raining. We rushed back into our tents for having a relaxed time. We had snacks, then dinner and retired for the day at 10:00pm.*

*The next day also, the weather wasn't great so we had to stay back at the base camp. We did complete the adventure activities when it had stopped raining, we went for a 1km walk and found a calm place to meditate. We were getting ready, packing our ruck sacks for the trek that we would start the next day (04 May 2023). The day passed by and we retired for the day at 10:00pm.*

*On 04 May 2023, we woke up at 5:30am by hearing the whistles by the camp instructors and our teachers. We were made to warm up in a fun and engaging way. The instructor did manage to make us laugh. He said something like this "I have a ball, I throw the ball, I lost the ball, I found the ball, I put the ball" and "Knees bend, more bend, more bend, zacoosa". We put on our trekking clothes, sweaters, jackets, and rucksack on our shoulders and started our trek after a small jeep ride. While we were trekking, our bodies were releasing heat and the external weather helped us to maintain the balance. We trekked for 6km and almost all of us kept tripping, sliding*

*and falling, and it took ages to complete the first day of trek. We finally completed the trek in around 6 hours. We had lunch and went for firewood hunting (we were given a few instructions on how and what to search). All the HPS trekkers went in search for the firewood, climbing up and down the trees. We had soup, waited for the camp fire to increase and enjoyed the camp fire for rest of the evening. We had dinner in our plates and got into our sleeping bags by 10:00pm.*

*On 05 May 2023, we woke up with the same whistling sounds. We were served tea with yummy breakfast. We started our trek at 8:00am. This time the trek was much tougher, but a bit easier as we had a bit of experience from the previous day, we were a bit more careful with what should not be done and so on. We had different experience this day, as the trek was different from the previous day. We trekked across the mountain areas, crossed the water body by placing small logs, trekking the stone pathways up the mountain. We did have a great experience this day. We trekked for 5.5 km in 2 hours and 30 minutes. Reached the camp site 3 directly. All of us relaxed and sighed heavily as they completed the distance in much shorter time than the previous day, also with fewer number of falls. We had our lunch, completed our daily dose of photoshoot. A batch of students went for an additional 6km trek to get a snowy escapade and returned in 2 hours 15 minutes. Once they returned, we went on with our routine camp fire, dinner and sleepy heads by 10:00pm.*

*The final day of trekking started at 5:30am with the morning anthem by our teachers. At 8:30am, the trekkers (all of us) got to complete the last leg of 5km, before we reach the jeep to get to the base camp. The trek was the most-calmest as by now, we were experts in the Manali adventure trek. One thing which I missed mentioning in the previous 2 days of the trek was the 5-8 kg ruck sack that were carrying on our shoulders all along for 3 days, 16-17km, and around 13 hours in total. On our way to Delhi, we had our dinner, and retired in the bus, relieved, tired, relaxed and accomplished.*

*Last day at Delhi was amazing, we visited monumental sights before returning to the airport. We visited India Gate, Red Fort, Lotus Temple and Qutub Minar. Lots of photography, street shopping experience, and our school group also got interviewed at the India Gate for the IPL match between Rajasthan Royals and Sun Risers Hyderabad. Our school did make a presence in Delhi too. Reached the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi and completed our check-in, security check and were seated near the*

*boarding gate. We had burgers, sponsored by our school teachers which satiated our hunger pangs. Our flight to Hyderabad was 2 hours 15 minutes long. This time, I am mentioning long, as I was really waiting to meet my family, I guess everyone was. On arriving the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad, we had to wait for an additional 60 minutes to get all our bags so we could exit and meet our families who were waiting at the Arrivals, since 10:00pm. At the airport, the teachers handed over our participation certificates to our parents (as though we would lose it ☹). We were officially certified as trekkers. Woo-hoo, we can now go for more trekking adventures, if our school takes us.*

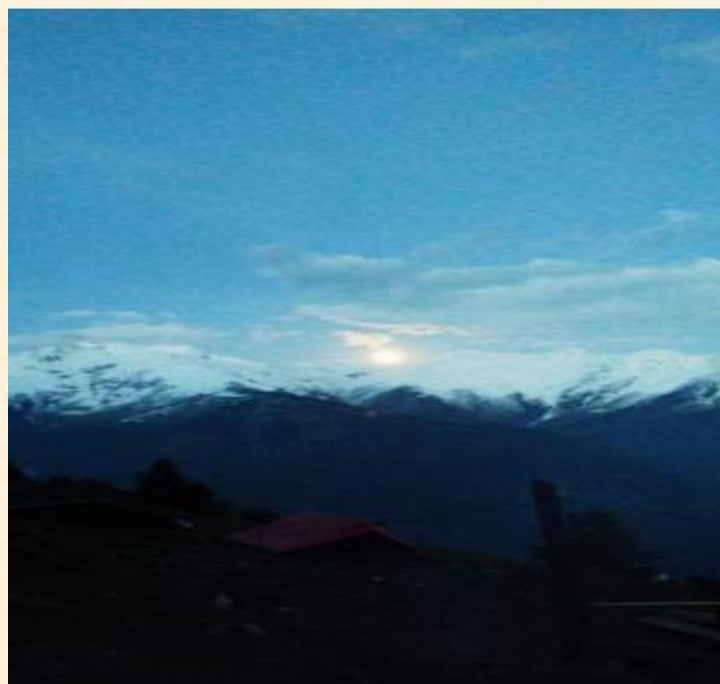
*When I met my mother and brother, we all had our stories to share, and we spoke nonstop for the next 2-3 hours and slept in our beds, in our home, home sweet home.*

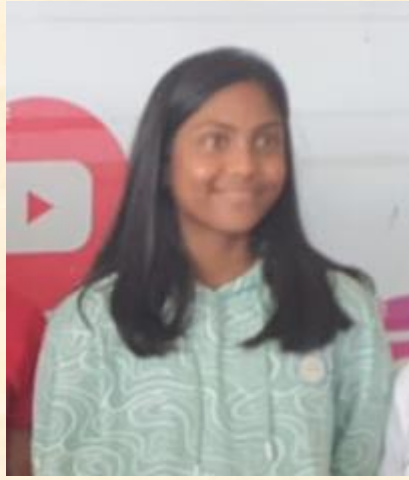




## *I AM VENYA*

*This was my first time trekking and I had a lot of fun! I loved going up the mountains and looking at the breath taking sceneries all around. The camps were quite enjoyable too and provided decent food. The base camp also had an adventure course which we got to do before we went trekking. The temperature was a slight problem, especially at night, dropping down to around 5 degrees Celsius. If there was one thing I did not like it will be the bathrooms. Everything else was amazing, the food, the tents, the trek, the views, the games, the staff, and even the water was great. I enjoyed the Delhi tour as well and feel grateful that I had the opportunity to go on this trip.*





## *I AM LIPIKA*

*This is lipika from class 9d and I was one of the members who participated in the HAT 2023 Kullu Manali to Pandav pathar trek for a week, and this is my experience. I have been to Manali previously but not for a trek I would say that this was such an amazing experience for me with friends . the camp sites/ views were two beautiful to look away from , the staff really friendly and encouraging, aside from the rain everything went so well I learn new skills, made new friends and have so many memory to cherish for a lifetime and the only dread for me was having to clean our plates in freezing cold water and the worst part not eating any non-veg but overall such a beautiful place visit with family and friends. I would recommend everyone to visit and experience at least once in their lifetime.*



*ALL OUR TEACHERS IN THE FREEZING COLD*