

Climber at peak for Mt Everest challenge

by **Connie Primmer**

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A BUSINESSMAN from Luton is getting ready to climb Mt Everest and carry out crucial global warming research.

Partha Dey, who runs logistics company National Sameday, will be flying to the Himalayas on March 31 to start his trek which is expected to take until June.

Mr Dey's first big climb was Mt Kilimanjaro ten years ago.

Mr Dey, 42, said: "I climb all over the world and I would hate to see these gorgeous places destroyed. I want to do my bit to help preserve this beautiful earth."

Inspired by Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messner, the first human to climb Everest without supplementary oxygen, Mr Dey said he also wanted to attempt Everest without oxygen but decided it would be too risky for the team if he became ill.

Mr Dey said: "I met Reinhold Messner at a National Geographic Society (NGS) event which was fantastic. He is my inspiration and he gave me some



CHALLENGE: Partha Dey climbing Ama Dablam with Everest behind

tips for the climb."

In preparation for the trek, Mr Dey is training at Stopsley Striders Running Club and Bedroc Climbing Club in Luton.

He also travelled to Switzerland to take part in 'brutal' training sessions, one of which took eight months to fully re-

cover from.

Mr Dey is largely funding the £30,000 trip himself, but is sponsored by the University of Bedfordshire, Toodall, Crystal Units, TG Solar and his own company.

He said the cost of equipment for the trip is astronomically ex-

pensive. Boots alone cost £650.

Mr Dey will be accompanied by a team of five, as well as his fiancée Amandeep Chima and good friend Michael David, who will take part in the first two weeks of the initial climb.

The part of the trip Mr Dey expects to be most difficult is Khumba Icefall.

Mr Dey said: "Khumba Icefall is horrendously dangerous. You have to walk over using aluminium ladders and if you put your foot in the wrong place you die.

"When I'm up there all I will be focused on is survival. My fiancée is obviously worried about me but she is also very excited. As soon as I'm back we will start planning our wedding day."

The research Mr Dey is undertaking for the university and NGS will involve talking to local people about glacial retreat.

Professor Angus Duncan, head of the Research Graduate School, said: "Much of this information will not have been documented and would otherwise be lost as the older people progressively pass away."

Visit www.parthadey.com to sponsor or find out more.