

# City woman becomes first from state to scale Mt Satopanth

Aditi Mishra  
bmfedback@indiatimes.com

**M**ountaineering is generally considered a male bastion, but more and more women are now conquering heights. Kavitha Reddy, an adventure climber from the city, recently scaled Mount Satopanth (23,206 ft) in Garhwal Himalayas, becoming the first person from Karnataka to achieve this feat.

Satopanth, the second highest peak in the Gangotri range of mountains, is said to be one of the toughest climbs in India as the path is strewn

with high, angled slopes and difficult vertical climbs. Interestingly, 39-year-old Kavitha and her team decided to take the hardest route, known as Razor's Edge, to get to the top.

"The Razor's Edge is one of the most challenging experiences as we walked on a thin line with a sheer drop of 2,000 ft on either side," said Reddy. "It took us almost four days to reach the base of the summit. We were pretty much cut off from the world as there was no communication signal. To get to the top, we had to cross three glaciers and crevices which had no end in sight. The temperatures ranged between -30 to



Kavitha Reddy during the climb

-35 degrees which made the climb all the more difficult," said Reddy.

Reddy and her team comprising two women, six men and a couple of porters began their ascent on September 6. The other woman in the group was a 17-year-old from Mumbai, who would have become the youngest ever to have reached the summit had she not cut short her adventure at the summit base camp due to deteriorating weather conditions. However, the other members decided to press on and reached the summit point after a fortnight.

The biggest challenge faced by the

team during the climb was that the ridge of the mountain was located at a height of about 21,326 ft (6,300 mts). The climbers had to walk on this narrow line only with the help of ropes.

"It was very difficult as it was a 90-degree climb and even the slightest mistake could have been fatal," Reddy said. "Scaling such heights and walking in such difficult terrain is a daunting task in itself and more so for a woman. You have to take hygiene factors into consideration. There was a time when I could not relieve myself for 24 hours and even then, I had to walk for 45 minutes in the snow."