

THE WINTER EXPEDITION TO KAILASH, 1983

Sponsored by: THE MOUNTAINEERS, Bombay .

R E P O R T

The expedition was organised to the Kailash region of Brahmour (Mani Mahesh) division in the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. The aims were to experience climbing and trekking in winter in Himalaya, do a parikrama of Kailash and attempt the peak. The team succeeded in the First two objectives and reached within 800 ft of 'Chota Kailash'.

History : Of all the five peaks of Kailash in the Himalaya, Mani-Mahesh Kailash (18,556 ft) is the lowest. But it is also, perhaps the toughest. It's ascent was reported on 13 May 1968 by the Indo-Japanese Ladies Expedition. It was sponsored by The Indian Mountaineering Foundation and led by Ms. Nandini Patel (now Pandya). It's report appeared in 'Himalayan Mountaineering Institute Journal', Vol. 4 No.2, p.54. We received no further details from the leader despite few reminders. Pictures and report were received from Dr (Ms) Meena Agrawal one of the summiters. Our plans were based on these.

Progress : We left Bombay on 1 December 1983. Reached Pathankot by train and Brahmour (via Chamba, Khadamukh) by bus. We started trek on 5th to Hadsar (13 km), Kugti (13 km). We turned South to enter Bhujlanala and established base Camp at 11,000 ft on 8th. This was at the junction with Nikoranala.

On 9th we recceeded in two parties. One investigated the true Kailash peak by climbing 2,000 ft up a moraine ridge on the opposite. The true Kailash peak was steep, rocky and with no possible route seen. Another snowy peak, 'Chota Kailash' about c. 17,000 ft was identified South of Chobu Pass and above Khidja Galu. The second team recceeded site for Camp 1 and the routes beyond. On 10th Kartik, who was unwell, had to rest while others ferried loads to Camp 1 which was occupied on 11th Camp 2 at 14,100 ft was occupied the next day by Harish and Dhiren while other two ferried. The first team opened route and reached Chobu Pass, (16,200 ft) on 13th. It was felt that from a Camp near the pass 'Chota Kailash' can be climbed by a long traverse. As we prepared at Camp 2 a severe storm engulfed us. For 3 days (14th, 15th and 16th) we were totally tent-bound. Winds up to 100 km speed were experienced and minimum temperature of -25°C was recorded.

17th dawned clear but with plenty of fresh snow on the ground. Leaving at 9 a.m.

(P.T.O.)

progress was very slow. Muslim led most of the way with great stamina and opened the trail till the Pass, which was reached at 3.30 p.m. We decided to descend on the other side immediately. Harish led in the waist deep snow. After a descent of 50 ft or so the full semi-circular basin snow-wall broke off causing a wind-slab avalanche. He was carried down about 400 ft luckily unhurt and on the top of the debris. After a while others glissaded down in the path of the avalanche making a quick descent. The party camped at 15,000 ft on snow.

On 18th we reached Mani-Mahesh lake and proceeded down on the pilgrim road. We had to leave the main track to avoid iced up nalas. We continued the decent till 9 p.m. in the cold moonlit night, till little above Danchho, 10,500 ft.

On 19th we had to cross iced-up nalas frequently. Dhiren lost footing on one of the patch and was carried down 60 to 80 ft generating terrific momentum. He was luckily unhurt otherwise this could have been the most serious accident. We descended to Hadsar and luckily could hire a jeep to Brahmour same night. We returned viz Chamba, Dharamsala, Pathankot to Bombay on 25 December 1983.

Conclusions : (1) After observations it is felt that the Indo-Japanese Ladies Expedition had climbed 'Chota Kailash' and NOT the main peak. The description and photographs also correspond to the same. The local information also indicate the same. The main peak is still inviolate and it is a stupendous monolith which, if challenged, will test the skills of best climbers in the world.

(2) Brahmour area has plenty of scope for climbers and trekkers with many sharp aiguilles rising upto 19,000 ft.

(3) The Bhujla valley to the east of Kailash had plenty of Firewood/forests. In the west, where pilgrims visit, the valley was without much forest cover.

Statistics : The team spent 15 days in the mountain for the parikrama. We covered 80 kms and total ascent/descent of 31,000 ft. The temperature was never above Freezing point and the average temperature was about -7°C in the morning. We carried loads never below 20 kg each.

Members : Harish Kapadia (leader), Muslim Contractor, Dhiren Toolsidas and Kartik Bhagat.

HARISH KAPADIA

Leader.

The Mountaineers,
72, Vijay Apartments,
16, Carmichael Road,
Bombay-400 026..



THE HIMALAYAN CLUB

HARISH KAPADIA

Hon. Editor
HIMALAYAN JOURNAL

72, Vijay Apartment, 16, Carmichael Road, Bombay 400 026

Gram : WINTERWEAR, TF. 363772-313227

8 JAN 1985

REGISTERED

To,

Mr. M.C. Motwani,
Chief Administrative Officer,
The Indian Mountaineering Foundation,
Benito Juarez Road,
NEW DELHI-110021.

Dear Mr. Motwani,

Please refer to our correspondence, talks and publications in the Himalayan Journal regarding the Indo-Japanese ladies expedition 1968 ascent of Kailas in Chamba. As you are aware I had doubted the climb and on available information, IMF inquiry had also reached the same conclusions later.

I had requested one of our Himalayan Club members in Japan to look into the matter thoroughly as no material was available in IMF records and nor did the leader reply a single letter. Our Japanese friend was able to contact few members of the team and dig out information and photographs from them. In the Japanese magazine, they had published a similar account by the deputy leader in 1968.

Now the members of the expedition in Japan informs that they had not attempted the peak from the South (Chobu Pass side) but retreated to recce a route via a gully north of the SE ridge. They climbed this gully to Charoi Dhar and approached the peak from the north. They have been able to search out a few photographs of this gully and some taken below the summit.

2...



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Though certain aspects are still not clear, from the revised account and new photographs, one can perhaps conclude that they were on the correct peak of Kailas. With the new available information I would tend to agree that the expedition has climbed the peak.

It may again be noted that this revised conclusion is reached solely due to the new information available due to efforts of our Japanese friend. By available old records any competent authority will doubt the climb. It is very regrettable that incompleteness in reporting the climb, especially, failure to describe the traverse to the other side of SE ridge of Kailas raised a doubt. After a lapse of 16 years we are able to arrive at the truth of their climb.

As I had raised the doubt and conclusions based on available information, it is in fitness that I draw your attention to this new information. The aim was to arrive at the truth of the matter and I am happy that it has concluded positively. I shall be making suitable publications in the next issue of the Himalayan Journal.

With kind Regards

Yours sincerely,

HARISH KAPADIA
Hon. Editor
HIMALAYAN JOURNAL.

Indian Mountaineering Foundation

Telegrams : "INDMOUNT"
Telephone No : 671211

Benito Juarez Road,
NEW DELHI-110021

No. 5(I)-IMF/83

Dated 17th January, 1985

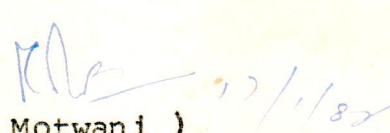
Dear Shri Kapadia,

I thank you for your letter dated 14th January 1985. I am personally grateful to you for taking the trouble of investigating into the claim of Indo-Japanese Ladies having climbed Kailash in 1968. What we should have done, has been done by you. I am particularly happy to note your honesty in coming to the correct conclusion. This has been brought to the notice of President & Sponsoring of this Foundation. It is a happy ending of an unpleasant episode.

As regards the thumb-nail sketches, brief biographical sketches showing specially the mountaineering achievement & involvement of the subject. Capt. Kohli has mentioned only a few names which occurred to him. You may add names who according to you deserve a mention in the book. You may send the sketches at your convenience. We ~~xxx~~ will add these to the book later.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(M.C. Motwani)
Administrative Officer

Shri Harish Kapadia,
72, Vijay Apartment,
16, Carmichael Road,
Bombay - 400 026.

Indian Mountaineering Foundation

Telegrams : "INDMOUNT"
Telephone No. : 6 7 1 2 1 1

M.C. Motwani
Administrative Officer

Benito Juarez Road,
NEW DELHI-110021

No.....41(IE)-IMF/84

Dated.....8th Jan 85

Dear Shri Kapadia,

This is regarding your report ~~that~~ the Indo-Japanese Ladies Expedition, 1968 may not have climbed ^{Kailash} Shivling peak. You will recall that you had mentioned to me that we should wait till you hear from the Japanese ladies who were organising some meeting in this connection.

2. I shall be grateful to know whether you have received any communication from them, and, if so, kindly send to us a copy each of your reference to them and their reply to you. In case you have received any photograph from them, we would also like to see the same.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(M.C. Motwani) 8/1/85

Shri Harish Kapadia,
72 Vijay Apartment,
16 Carmichael Road,
BOMBAY-400026.

September 19, 1984

Mr. Harish Kapadia
72, Vijay Apartment
16, Carmichael Road
Bombay 400 026
India

Dear Harish:

Re: Climb of Kailash in 1968

Thank you for your letter of 8th September. At your request, I return to you herewith original two pictures of Kailash from southeast and west.

I have talked with Mrs. Yoko Ihara and Mrs. Eiko Hisano on their climb to Kailash several times and have investigated the pictures received from them. As a result thereof, I have found it necessary to change my views on their climb given in my previous letter to you.

I would like to point out the following points which have become clear.

On 10th May, 1968, after set up a camp at 4.190m at the foot of the southeast ridge of Kailash, a reece party reached the Chobu pass, but, could not find out any possible route to the summit via its south face. They returned to the camp and never again to the pass. Mrs. Ihara wrote down in her diary on that day that: Indian members and sherpas go up to recee a route. Soon after come back they say Kailash is just above us. Rugged rock mountain. Am unwilling to climb such mountain.

On 11th May, they turned to reconnoitre the east side of Kailash and discovered a possible route to the summit on the east face of the main ridge from the summit (Charoi Dhar).

On 12th May, all members and sherpas moved. They first traversed around the foot of the rugged S.E. ridge of Kailash to other side thereof, and established a final camp at a height of 4,510m. In this respect, Mrs. Ihara says that they first traversed on very steep snow slope downward and then climbed up on the snow slope in the opposite side of

Cont'd./

September 19, 1984
Mr. Harish Kapadia

- 2 -

the rugged ridge, and that the camp site was the plane snow field and the main ridge from the summit could be seen but the summit could not be seen therefrom. (Photos A-3 and A-4).

In the reports or any articles on the climb ever published, there is no description about their traverse to the opposite side of the southeast ridge of Kailash and the location of their final camp.

Before dawn of 13th May, 1968, all members and sherpas left the final camp for the summit of Kailash. First, they climbed up the east face of the main ridge from the summit. (Photos A-5 through A-9). From the top of the ridge to the summit they climbed up a little left (east) side of the ridge. It was not a rugged ridge. First half of the climbed ridge was wide and gentle slope and the last half was narrow and steep slope. (Photos B-1 and B-2). The photo B-2 is comparable to the picture of the west face taken by the Calcutta expedition. The shapes of upper part of the summit ridge are very resemble. You will see there is no up-and-down.

It was officially reported that they left the final camp at 03.00 a.m. and reached the top of the main ridge from the summit at 08.30 a.m., and finally reached the summit at 10.30 a.m. However, we should note that only the first rope could reach the summit at 10.30 a.m. and the last rope reached the summit nearly noon and barely managed to get the final camp after dark.

The enclosed photos D-1 to D-3 were taken from the summit of Kailash, whereas D-4 and D-5 (color prints) were taken from the top of the main ridge just below (north of) the summit. Presumably, the peaks marked a, b, c, and d in Photo D-4 correspond with the points marked a, b, c, and d in the map (enlargement of the map you sent me). It is able to locate the place from where this picture was taken just below the summit of Kailash on the north main ridge. I am enclosing, for your further information, Photos C-2 and C-3. Is the peak seen in these pictures Pt. 16,287 ft.?

Cont'd./

September 19, 1984
Mr. Harish Kapadia

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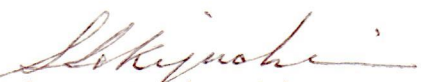
This peak is also clearly photographed in Photo D-4. By the comparison of the same peak in different pictures it will also be able to ascertain the movements of the party.

The enclosed monochromatic pictures are copies from the photographs Mrs. Ihara and Mrs. Hisano now possess. You will note that the mountains in some pictures are not seen realistically, as they were taken by a wide angle lens. The color prints are made from slides. Please keep all these pictures for your records. Note that no negative films are available here as they were confiscated by I.M.F. at that time, and only the printed copies were given to each member in New Delhi.

It is very regrettable that the incompleteness in reporting the climb, especially, failure to describe about their traverse to the other side of S.E. ridge of Kailash and the location of the final camp in their reports or any articles has caused raising a doubt on their climb. After the lapse of sixteen years, most of the detail in the expedition have been forgotten. Unless the pictures are available, we would not be able to arrive at the truth on their claim.

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes,



Shuya Sekiguchi

Enclosures:

Original 2 pictures of Kailash (returned).
19 copies of pictures.

cc: Ms. Setsuko Yamaguchi, J.A.C.
Ms. Eiko Hisano
Ms. Yoko Ihara
Ms. Michiko Fushimi

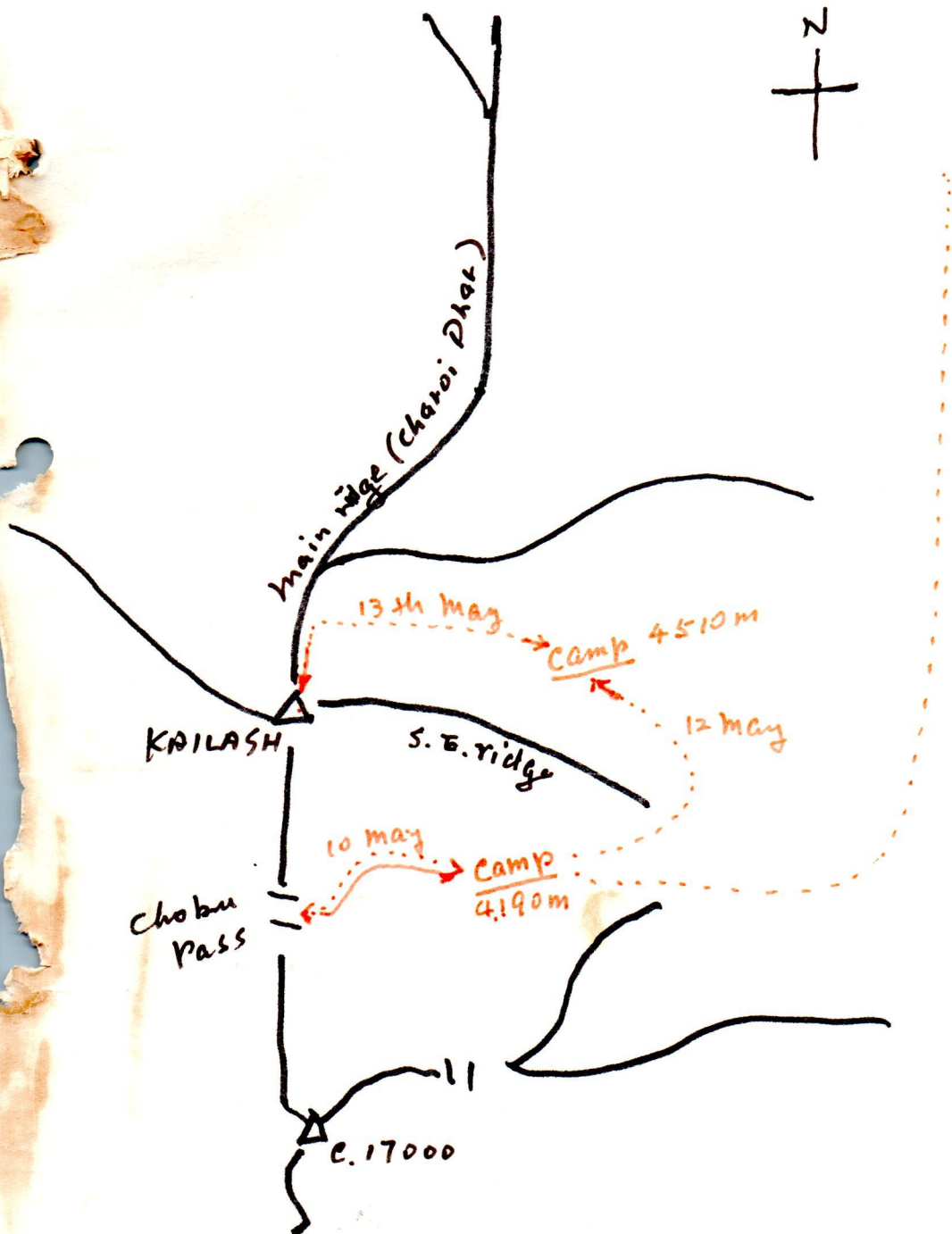
PHOTOGRAPHS

- A-1 Southeast ridge of Kailash.
- A-2 S.E. ridge of Kailash seen from its foot.
- A-3 From left to right; Camp site at 4,190m, S.E. ridge of Kailash and the final camp at 4.510m. Inner part; the main ridge of Kailash. (12 May, 1968)
- A-4 Left; S.E. ridge of Kailash. Centre; the east face of the main ridge from the summit of Kailash.
- A-5 East face of the main ridge. (13 May, 1968)
- A-6 to A-9
East face of the main ridge. (13 May, 1968)
- B-1 The lower part of the climbed main ridge. The peak seen on left is not the summit. (13 May, 1968)
- B-2 The upper part of the climbed main ridge to the summit. (13 May, 1968)
- C-1 View from the final camp site. (12 May, 1968)
- C-2 The unnamed peak seen from the final camp site. (12 May, 1968)
- C-3 View of the unnamed peak from the east face of the main ridge. (13 May, 1968)
- D-1 to D-3
Views from the summit. (13 May, 1968)
- D-4 and D-5 (color)
Views from the top of the climbed main ridge just below (north of) the summit. (13 May, 1968)

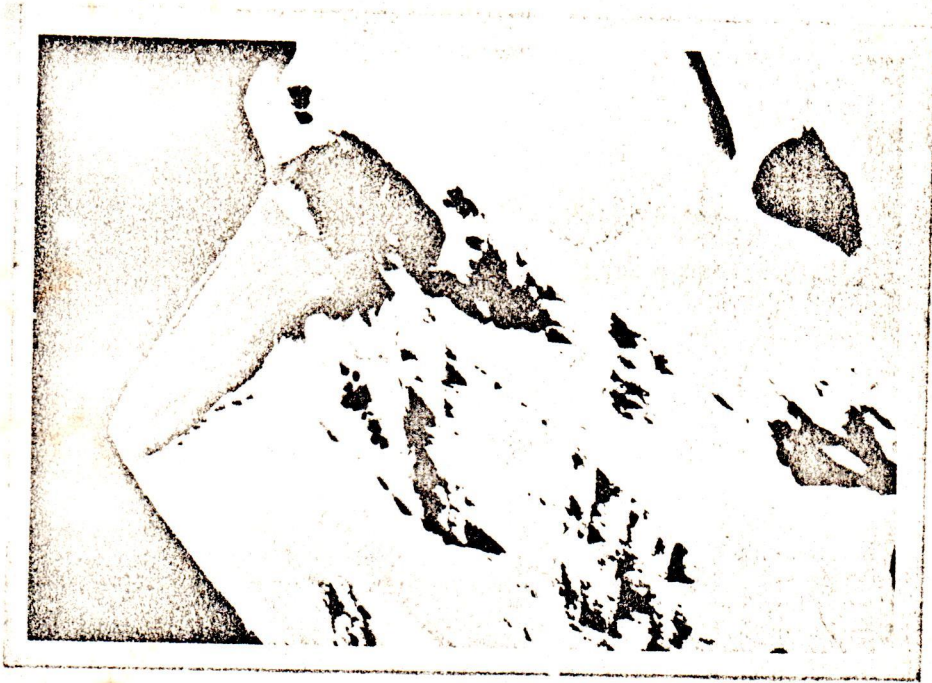
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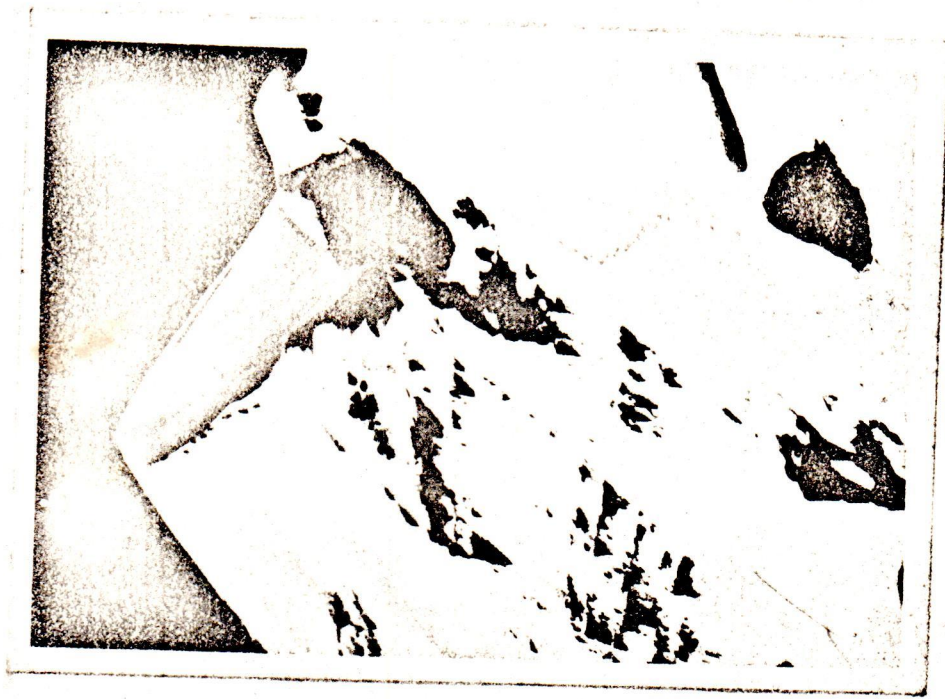
1968 Kailash Expedition

..... route & camp site









37/4 Ibrahimpur
Road,
Calcutta-700032

Dear Shri Kapadia,

Referring your letter dated the 27th September, addressed to the Secretary, Himalayan lovers' Association, four members of the Association including myself had visited Manimahesh on their way to Kugtipass, pangi valley & Sachpass in July 1979.

I had taken a photograph of Chamba-Kailash from Manimahesh lake during a break in the enshrouded mist. I am sending a copy of that photograph. (2 photographs)

We had to walk from Bharmour. But the track from Bharmour to Hadsar village was being widened then and I am not sure whether it has been open for vehicular traffic by now.

However, the trekking stages at that time were as follows: Bharmour-Hadsar-Dhancho-Manimahesh (From Chamba to Kharamukh by bus then a transshipment across Ravi river for about one Km. then again a bus ride to Bharmour.)

The lake at Manimahesh at that time was frozen. There is a very good camping ground a little below the lake at - Gourikund. Camps can also be established on the bank of the lake from where Kailash is visible from base to crest.

During previous winter there had been unprecedented snow fall in that region so we did not find any track to Manimahesh. The Dhancho nullah was frozen and tons of avalanche debris destroyed the track and covered the Dhancho stream. We had to walk over the frozen Dhancho nullah. The track must have been repaired by now-it was a good track upto Dhancho. After Dhancho the path is not so good.

There was a dilapidated small shelter (open on three sides) at Dhancho then. If it has been repaired it may have collapsed altogether. But there is camping ground near the shelter.

Normally porters from Bharmour do not want to go beyond Hadsar. It is better and cheaper to hire nules from Bharmour upto Hadsar. Porters may be hired from Hadsar. Porters are also available from Kugti village (one day's march ahead from Hadsar) and an Agent Tara Singh would arrange for them. But porters of Kugti are difficult to deal with - particularly owing to instigation by Tara Singh. It is better to procure porters from Hadsar village. Help may be sought from Prakash Ram whose grocery - shop-cum-house is at the end of the village. He is a reliable man.

The porter rates are rather high in these regions. We had to pay Rs.26/- per head per day with food (carrying 15Kg. per head) from Hadsar to Thalmai in Lahoul across Kugtipass-in 1979.

Regarding climbing routes I cannot suggest you anything for we were on a pleasure trek and did not study the peak from the angle of climbing possibilities. Moreover the peak had opened up for just a few minutes before we started our descent. Now standing at such a distance in the scale of time -it appears that an approach might be possible from Manimahesh lake area.

In this connection, a foreign team (ladies?) had attempted the peak in 1969. They had approached it from some where near Keyling temple beyond Kugti village on way to Kugtipass. As far as I remember, a report was published in Himalayan Mountaineering journal of 1970/1971. The attempt was abandoned after a sherpa had died. Unfortunately I donot have that journal. But perhaps you are already aware of this attempt.

Thanking you,
With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(A.Guha Thakurta 7/11/83)

P.S. I am leaving for
Garhwal on 8th Nov. and likely to return
by the end of this month. If communication re:
Swargarohan is required pl. contact Pratibha
Chatterjee, head of Chanchal Murthy climbing club.

11/11/82
11/11/82

S.R. Pathborshan
611 Sadashilo
Pune. 411030

My dear Kapadia

Received your letter of Sept. 20th I had given most of the information I knew in my last letter.

1) Paroti Base 5 days if you were fast - 3 days. It all depends on you. Buses are flying upto Brahmaner. A jeep track upto Gad-sar Mule track from Madhal. Then chok-kegte. Mule track from Shan Dub to Mari Mahesh lake. good view of M. Mahesh

2) I have not visited Mari M. Lake. It will be better if you carry rock-pilons, ice-tubular gloves, dead-tuan and ropes (500'). M. Mahesh is a snowy peak even in June - July. Expect some ice patches. I have not seen Mari-Mahesh Shar or Charoli-Shar.

3) Pass on Charoli-Shar (?) would be difficult. Indo-Japanese went by this route. Pass on Mari-Mahesh Shar is used by Gaddies for the flock short cut to lake area.

4) This year it will snow early as the monsoons are heavy as yet. (last Sunday 4" of rain in Poona)

4) Brahmaner is a subdivision. No 1022 Star hotels. Best house is in environment. Many shops for shades and needs. Ration available. Better to buy Kerosene at chowda. Even rations

5) I have two bad photographs taken from just before Brahmaner. When it was on haw's mark we were going on foot. They are not of much use. Still I am sending them for your file and return

A) M.M. Karbark summit on left upper corner

B) continuation of A.

Please ask Mr. Pandya or B. Agrawal

or Request: Maintenance Club Calcutta
and Himalay lovers Assoc. Calcutta
They often go to N. Lake and height
pass.

when we had been to Darjeeling all N.
Himalay area was in mist and
we could hardly see even Gurdial
valley.

Please do not depend on maps but
see a good deal. Tons of less
than 200' may not be shown on
a Survey map.

Sankhu Nath Das Calcutta can
give you very good information
as he had written five articles
in Himalayas.

I do not know his present address
so that enquire from K.K. Guha

Sri S.N. Das
8 Hemchandra street
CALCUTTA. 23

pin ~~700003~~
700023

with my best wishes

2000

enclosed:

2 Photographs ✓

Yours sincerely

Pallab Ghose

G.R. Palborchan
611 Sadashilo
Pune. 411030
Sept. 15th 83

Dear Kapadia

Thanks very much for your letter of Sept. 9th 83 which I received a couple of days back. Kindly accept my felicitations for the Tin - satellite of Mountaineers and for your climb. I am glad for the last two years you are climbing on your own.

I saw Manimahesh - Kailas (Chamba - K.) from a distance. Ascent is not difficult in summer or autumn but during the first ten days of December I am afraid it will be difficult to tackle it.

1) Indo - Japanese Ladies, Brahmour - Hadret - Before Kugli follow a stream - forest - Base.

2) Bhangla Nala near Brahmour - Follow 2 hours - gain Manimahesh Char - Follow to glacier - cross to base left - Base. This route is not very difficult in summer. May be easier in winter.

Both bases 5 days in winter from Brahmour. If you move well in 3 days. A good deal of ice is required for summit in winter. The Peak is all-snowy even in summer.

3) Manimahesh Char and Chard Char (first route) have a few peaks - satellites - which will be interesting to climb in winter.

This region gets more snow than Sharda - Char range as it is connected to Pir-pargal. If I may suggest - a peak like M. Kailas should be climbed in summer first and then tried again in winter.

If you could enquire details from Dr. N. Agrawal or Mr. M. Pandya who have climbed it - the information will be very useful to you. The sketch in the Journal Dec 1969 (Vol. 1: 102) is all balls - so to use the words. Please refer to a survey map in feet.

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र कार्ड
INLAND LETTER CARD



Shri H. KAPADIA
72, Vijay Apartment,
16, Cornhill Road,
BOMBAY. 26

पिन पिन 400026

पिन पिन थर्ड फोल्ड

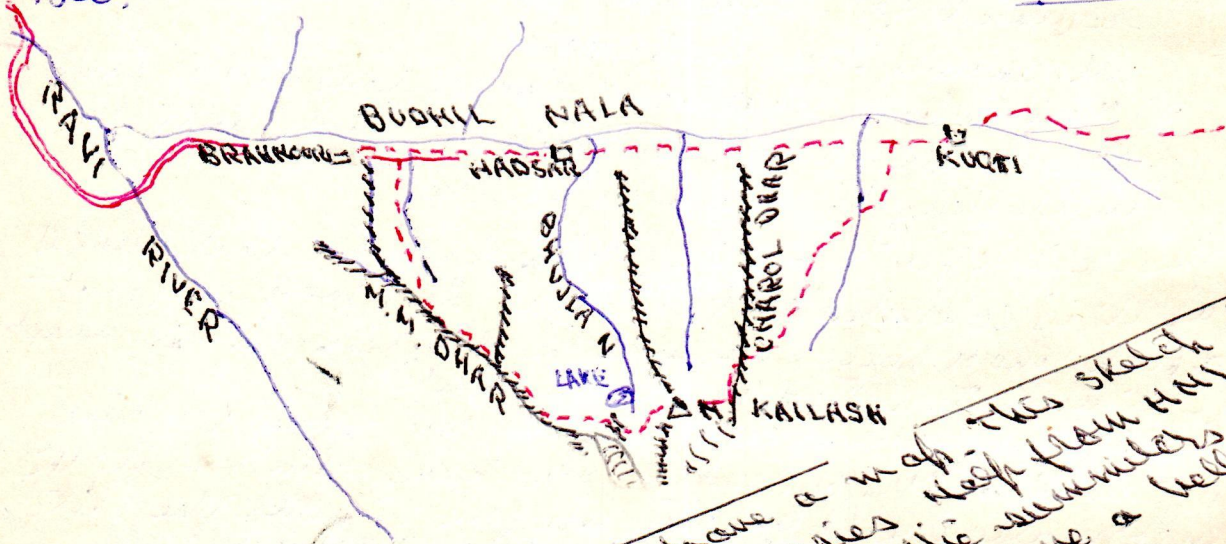
अस पत्र के भीतर कुछ न रवितर NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED
पत्रों में पिन कोड लिखें WRITE PIN CODE IN ADDRESS
प्रेषक का नाम और पता: — SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: —

G.R. Paliatdhan
611, Sateshida Pune 30

पिन पिन 411030

पहला मोड़ FIRST FOLD

Hi Thanks for sending down your Exp. report - I did not know
you had returned. I am sending a brief resume by a separate
Book-Post with my best regards. yours sincerely
Paliatdhan
1800.



I do not have a map. This sketch has
many inaccuracies. But the summit has
been taken. Both the summiters
sketch. Pal.
I would give a better
sketch. Pal.

Left Delhi by train for Pathankot

Pathankot to Chamba by bus. Stayed at the P.W.D. rest house.

Chamba by bus to Bagga. The bus didn't go any further. We crossed the bridge to the opp. side & then travelled by jeep to Dugheti & then to Bhanman. (roadhead)

Equipment & food repacked + local purchases made in Bhanman

Started our trek to Base Camp on 2nd May.

(i) From Bhanman to Hansi, route mainly downhill for about 10 miles approx.

(ii) Hansi to Kugli (8,400ft)

Longish route. We walked & climbed & walked & climbed. Saw 3 snakes en-route. Started at 6:30 am & reached Kugli at 2pm approx. At Kugli, we stayed in a small hut which had a store in the basement.

There was a river over the next part of the route & we had to build a bridge over it to shorten the distance to B.C.

From Kugli → descent of a few hundred feet & then across the river by the bridge made the previous day, then a steep climb to our Base Camp in the Pantli forest. This was an open area with no snow at the time of arrival & plenty of firewood.

B.C. 9,950ft. established on 5th May.

7th May. Established ABC at 11,450ft (some, but not charted in my diary).

9th May Camp I 13,700ft. on snow.

Steep route but no technical problems

We got our first view of Kailash from C-I. It looked a steep & rocky peak (we had initial problems in

identifying it but it was later confirmed as being
Kaibash.)

10th May. Camp II 16000ft approx.

Initially we thought we would need a lot of
fixed rope on the mountain. However, eventually we
only fixed rope in certain short difficult sections
mainly where it was steep & rocky. We found
mainly snow in the top portions.

12th May. Summit day.

Woke up at 2 AM. left camp by 3.15 am. First, across
the glacier, then a gradual climb. Next we jumped
over 2 crevasses, keeping to the edge of the glacier.
After climbing steadily for 2 hours, we reached the
rocky portions & roped up.

We next traversed climbing upwards all the time.
Near the rocks, it was very steep & we were glad of
the fixed ropes. We reached just below the ridge by
8 AM. Then came a stiff climb for about 300 ft. at
an inclination of 50° approx; then a small traverse
& then onto the ridge.

It was a narrow ridge with a cornice to one side
& it was steep, about 50-60° inclination.

The first group reached the summit at 10.30 am. The
summit was very narrow breadthwise, but was about
10-15 ft. long. Temp. on summit at 10.30 am was -5°C

Map reading of summit 18,500 ft

Altimeter reading 18,700 ft.

2 climbers slipped on the way down 20-25 ft, but were
held by the belay.

Returned to Camp II by 12.30 pm. Last group returned at
7.30 pm

14th May. C-II → B.C
Pantiforest.

16th May. Kugti.

17th May. Left for Sanakdenk Tot & unnamed peak.
Repacked.

Route from Kugti: Uphill towards Kelang Mandri then a level walk over green grass, rock & snow to a flat meadow near Juggi-ki-Tot (~~11,050 ft~~) & then to B. Camp (11,050 ft) on 18th May.

20th May. Adv. Base Camp.

Saw some brown & white bears on the opp. ridge.

21st May. Across the Odhang Glacier to establish Camp I at approx. 15,250 ft.

Recon for Sanakdenk from North & East sides. Found to be very steep & rocky with ice falls & crevasses. ? Possible route from the Lahoul side. No further attempt made on Sanakdenk by our expedition. Snowfall for the next 24 hrs.

24th May.

Attempt on unnamed peak.

9:10 AM. Snow-slab avalanche on summit ridge on the traverse.

Further climbing abandoned.

W.C.

Hope this brief resume of our expd. is of some
help to you in your expd.
Good luck!

Moore

With compliments from:

Harish.

for,

D. S. Guria,
Training Incharge,

DO No. GAD(MI) 4/A-10/83-87

Mountaineering &
Allied Sports

Bharamon
Distt. Chamba (H.P.)

Dated. 6th ~~Oct~~ Nov 83.

Dear Mr Kapadia,

I kindly ref your letter received
Dated 21st Oct 83. here are the clear picture
of the points you wanted to know.

1. The Indo. Japanese ladies had abandoned
the Expedition after the accident, and didn't make
the peak. This is what the other parties claim.

2. None else has tried the Peak after the
ascent (trial) of ladies Expedition, as far as

my knowledge. And from Bhanchho side
-NO. Though I had tried it 'Solo' in Sept 80
but had to retreat due to constant bad
weather.

3. The Photos enclosed are taken one from
Kupti side. As you have been informed
earlier all area is avalancheed, has the
danger of loose stones.

4. Our Institute remains open through out
the year. During December (from 15th onwards)
we are running winter Mt. Rescue Courses.

5. I will meet you at Bharamon on 3rd Dec

6. ~~the~~ I once again feel that you should
give it a second thought. We have already
had two snows of the season.

with regards. yours sincerely

D. S. Guria

(D. S. Guria)

From

Training Incharge,
Mountaineering & Allied Sports
Bharamour.

To,

Harish Kapadia
The Mountaineers,
72, Vijay Apartment
16, Cosmichael Road
Bombay 400 026.

Dear Mr. Kapadia,

Ret. to your letter dated 9th, and
27th September 1983, following is the detail
of the area you are keen about.

It is still ^a controversy
whether Mount Kailash has
been climbed or not. It was
first tried by Indo-Japan
Ladies expedition in 1969 which
met with ~~accident~~ and one of the
members lost her life.

The climbing route of Mount Kailash
is through the Gales frequently
visited by loose stones & avalanches
further the hanging glacier with its
snow frequently befalls needs
an artificial ice wall climb. The
wall is approximately 200' ahead
the glacier ascends steeply towards
steep cliffs forming a comb for
reaching the peak one has to establish
camp on the glacier and has to do
sever rock climbing to reach the main
ridge which leads to the summit. One
might have to ~~be~~ traverse on the rocks.

Base camp for this route is to be
established at the foot of Mt. Kailash
at an altitude of about 15,000' approx.
for this one can hire a Jeep from
Bharamour to Nadsar (13 km) and
Nadsar to Darchoo (6 km) and Darchoo
to Base camp (10 km) on Mules or
Porters but this is only possible from
July to Oct. end. latter in winters no
one dares to enter the valley as the
whole valley from Nadsar to Base
camp is frequently visited by

avalanches and loose boulders. The peaks can also only go ahead if there is no snow-fall till that point as the road between Bharmour & Hadzar is mostly blocked by the avalanches and landslides during winter.

This was the information from Nainital side South-west face of Mt. Kailash. The other route is from Kigti (13 km from Hadzar) Mule track only open from April to November and close after snow-fall due to avalanches.

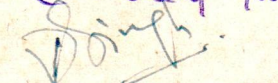
Bharmour is mostly cut-off from rest of the world during winters due to landslides and mass of avalanches. Anyhow, the bus timings from ~~the~~ Chamba to Kharanukh & Bharmour are as follows.

Chamba	Kharanukh
6.30 AM.	9.30 AM
10.30 AM.	2.02 PM
12.30 PM.	4.30 PM
3.45 PM.	—

The weather is unpredictable during the season. ~~year~~ plan to visit this area.

Now I am also enclosing of photographs of the South-west face of Mt. Kailash taken in mid June this year, as per as my knowledge and experience in this area, I would suggest to give your plan a second thought before visit this area. Our help and assistance will always be with you.

Sincerely Yours


(D. S. Gulia)

Training Centre,
Mountaineering & Allied Sports
Bharmour.

WINTER - 83.

EXPEDITION
KAILASH

The Participants,
THE WINTER EXPENDITURE TO KAILASH 1983
C/o. The Mountainers,
72, Vijay Apartments,
16, Carmichael Road,
Bombay - 500 026

We have examined the attached Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure account of the Winter Expedition to Kailash 1983 for the period from 1st December, 1983 to 25th December, 1983 with the books and vouchers as maintained by them and report that:-

1. We have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
2. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of account maintained by them.
3. The receipts and disbursements are properly and correctly shown in the accounts.
4. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said Account Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure gives a true and fairview:
 - i) in case of the Balance-sheet of the State of affairs of the expedition as at 25th December, 1983; and
 - ii) in case of the Income and Expenditure account, of the deficit for the period ended on that date.



BOMBAY: 6 FEB 1984

FOR N. D. DAGA & CO.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(H. BAXI)
PARTNER

THE WINTER EXPEDITION TO KAILASH, 1983.

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 25TH DECEMBER, 1983.

LIABILITIES

A S S E T S

Loan From Participants:

Harish Kapadia 1,212.91
Muslim Contractor 1,212.91
Dhiren Tulsidas 1,212.91
Kartik Bhagat 1,212.92

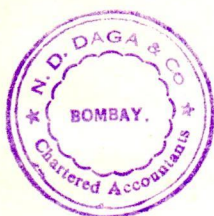
4,851.65

Total: Rs. 4,851.65
=====

Grants Receivable 2,500.00
Deficit as per
Income & Expenditure
Account 2,351.65

Total: Rs. 4,851.65
=====

AS PER OUR REPORT ATTACHED



FOR N. D. DAGA & CO.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

BOMBAY 6 FEB 1984


(P.H. BAXI)
PARTNER

6 FEB 1984



(LEADER)





(PARTICIPANT)

WINTER - 83.

EXPEDITION
KAILASH

THE WINTER EXPEDITION TO KAILASH, 1983
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD
FROM 1ST DECEMBER, 1983 to 25TH DECEMBER, 1983.

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>INCOME</u>	
To Transport & Travelling	2,027.90	By Participants' contribution	1,000.00
" Food	1,851.90	" Grants	2,500.00
" Equipment	223.00	" Deficit	2,351.65
" Medical Expenses	152.10		
" Porterage charges	1,330.00		
" Miscellaneous Expenses	266.75		
	Total: Rs. 5,851.65		Total: Rs. 5,851.65
	=====		=====

As per our Report Attached

For N. D. DAGA & CO.
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

6 FEB 1984

P.H. Baxi
 (P.H. BAXI)
 PARTNER



6 FEB 1984

J.B. Kapadia
 (LEADER)

Prasen Toolsidas

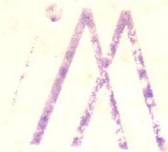
M.L. H-Contractor

(PARTICIPANTS)

AMBhagat

WINTER - 83.

EXPEDITION
 KAILASH



WINTER - 83.
EXPEDITION
KAILASH

WINTER EXPEDITION TO KAILASH, (18,555 ft) 1983

Sponsored by: THE MOUNTAINEERS, Bombay

An expedition to attempt the difficult peak of Kailash, 18,555 ft, in winter is organised by 'The Mountaineers; Bombay. A team of 4 members will attempt the peak in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.

HISTORY: Kailash was first climbed by Indo-Japanese Ladies team in May 1968. The team consisted of 10 ladies, 6 Sherpas and it employed 60 porters from Brahmour. They climbed from Kugti ridge and 5 ropes reached the summit. The second reported ascent was by Indian Army Crops of Signals in 1980. There are no other reported ascents. The peak is very rocky with two distinct steep ridges. It will provide an interesting climb which will be particularly challenging in winter.

WINTER CLIMBING: One of the first winter expedition organised by Indians was in 1981/82 season. It was organised by our association and two-man team of Harish Kapadia and Muslim Contractor climbed Yada and Jalsu peak in Dhaula Dhar. It was during this trip peak Kailash was observed. Only other known winter expedition was to Koteshwar from Bombay. It could not achieve its objective.

For the first time perhaps a technically difficult climb involving rock and ice is being attempted in winter, by Indians.

The Plan, Route and Schedules: The team will travel from Bombay to Pathankot by rail, to Chamba and Brahmour by bus. Trek to Base. The NW ridge from Harsar or the NE ridge from Kugti will be selected for an attempt after local recce.

- 1 December; Dep. Bombay
- 3 December: Arr. Pathankot, Chamba, Brahmour.
- 4 December: Reach Harsar
- 5 December: Reach Kugti
- 6 December: Base Camp
- 7 December to 25 Dec.: Recce and attempt on Kailash
- 27 December: Return to Pathankot
- 29 December: Arr. Bombay.

<u>Budget:</u>	Transport	..	3800
	Food (Members/Porters)	..	3600
	Porter charges	..	5200
	Equipment	..	1800
	Photography	..	1000
	Medicines	..	800
	Micellaneous	..	1200

	Total	17,400

Sundry: Medical cover is provided by a doctor-Student who is member of the team. Porters will be hired locally while 4 high-altitude porters will accompany from Garhwal. Equipment is mostly available with the club. Balance will be purchased and hired locally. Food lists will be worked out based on the past experience and needs for winter.

List of Members:

1. HARISH KAPADIA: (Leader). Age 38 years. Cloth Merchant.

Mountaineering Experience:

Peaks climbed: Ikualari (19,900 ft), Bethartoli Himal South (20,730 ft), Shiti Dhar (17,253 ft), Devtoli (22,270 ft), Panorama Peak Kalabaland Dhura (20,030 ft), Koteshwar II (18,670 ft), (14,200 ft) Lagma (18,901 ft), Zumto (c.19,000 ft), Tserip (19,600 ft), Kawu (c.19,400 ft), in winter Yada (13,500 ft) and Jalsu (14,100 ft). Peaks attempted: Bhagirathi II (21,364 ft), Tharkot (20,020 ft), Yogeshwar (21,710 ft), Tangmor (19,360 ft).

Extensive high-altitude trekking over high passes in North Sikkim, East Nepal, East Kumaon, North Ladakh and Zaskar.

Over 650 ascents in Western Ghats, (Sahyadris).

Editor of The Himalayan Journal. Author: 'Trek The Sahyadris'.

2. Muslim H. Contractor: Age 24 years. Executive

Mountaineering Experience:

Peaks climbed: In winter, Yada (13,500 ft) and Jalsu (14,100 ft). Lagma (18,901 ft), Panorama Peak (14,200 ft).

Peaks attempted: Manda (21,360 ft), Chau Chau Kang Nilda (20,680 ft), Tangmor (19,360 ft)

Basic Training course. Treks to Everest Base Camp, Dhauladhara, and Darma Valley.

Trekking and rock-climbing in Western Ghats, (Sahyadris).

3. DHIREN TOOLSIDAS: Age 19 years. Engineering Student.

Mountaineering Experience:

Trek to Darma Valley, climbed 'Panorama Peak' (14,200 ft), visited Ralam Dhura (18,470 ft) crossed Gangchal Dhura (16,570 ft). Ice climbing training on Meola glacier.

Extensive trekking in Sahyadri. Rock-Climbing at Pachmarhi.

4. KARTIK BHAGAT: Age 22 years. Medical student.

Mountaineering Experience:

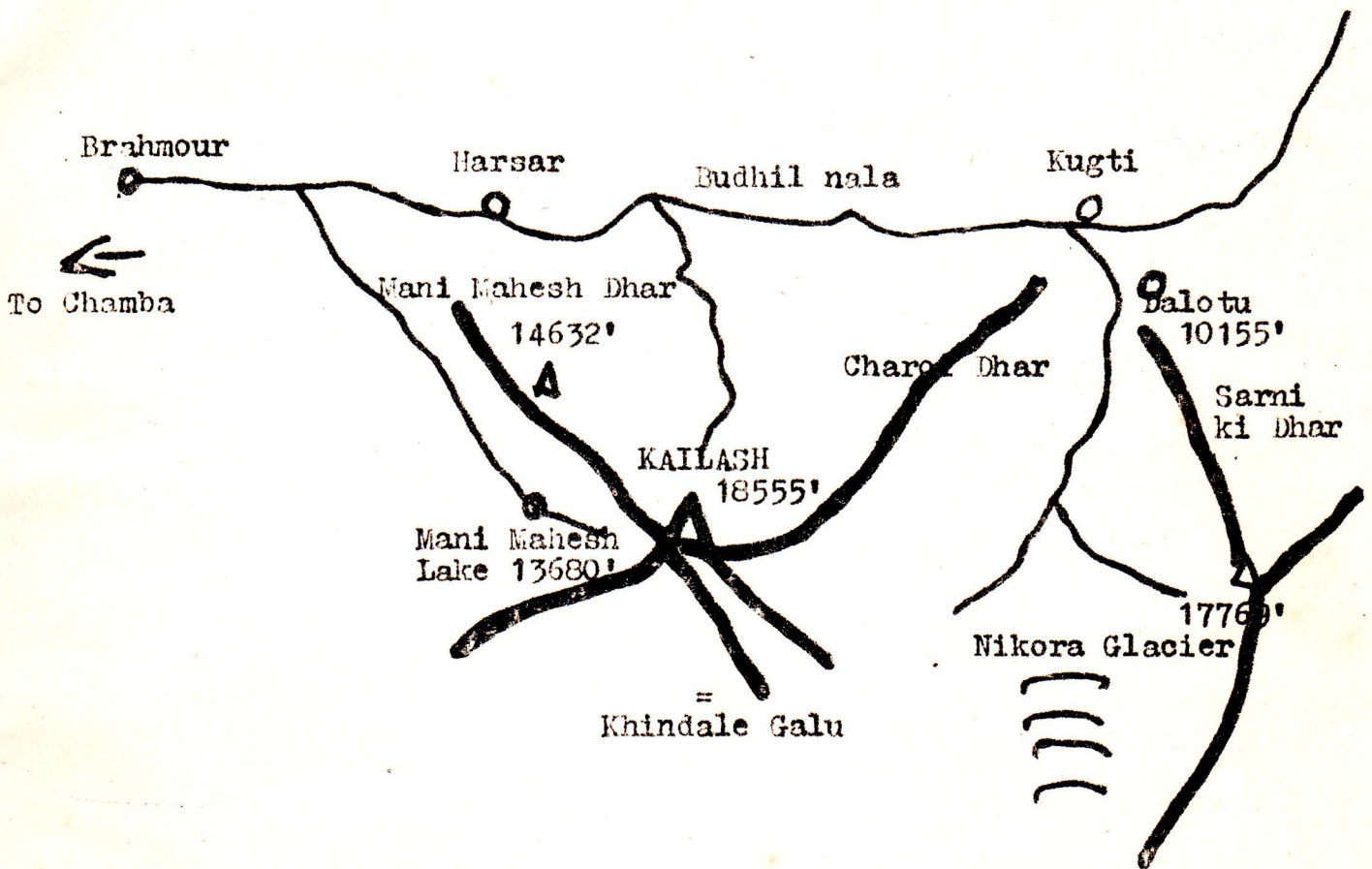
Trek to Pindari glacier, & Sandakhphu. Rock climbing course at Abu.

Extensive trekking in Sahyadris.

WINTER EXPEDITION TO KAILASH, 18,555 ft, 1983

NOT TO SCALE

NORTH



Sponsored by; The Mountaineers, 72 Vijay Apartments, 16 Carmichael Road, Bombay 400026

Members; Harish Kapadia (leader), Muslim Contractor, Dhiren Toolsidas, Kartik Bhagat.

WINTER - 83.
EXPEDITION
KAILASH