

# ANGLO-INDIAN HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION '85

The mountains in the far Northern corner of Kashmir have for many years been closed to foreigners. This year, however, the Indian Mountaineering Federation have invited the Alpine Club to send six members on a joint climbing expedition to the area. It is a unique opportunity for British Mountaineers to explore hitherto forbidden territory in a remote corner of the Himalayas.

## THE SIACHEN GLACIER

The Siachen is the world's largest glacier outside the polar regions. From its head near K2 it flows over 75 km into the Nubra valley. Tom Longstaff was first to explore the area, in 1909, and was staggered by the immense scale and complexity of this Eastern part of the Karakoram range. Three years later the legendary Bullock-Workmans continued his work and in 1935 John Hunt led an army expedition to the area. Eric Shipton's was the last British expedition to visit the Siachen, in 1957.

Now, 28 years later, there are still topographical details to clarify and mountains to climb. The Teram Kangri massif, on the North side of the Siachen, close to China, contains one of the largest groups of major unclimbed summits in the world. Five summits over 23,500 ft and a host of lower peaks have never been attempted - an irresistible mountaineering challenge.

The 1985 expedition intends to take up this challenge, operating from a remote base camp, high on the Siachen. Splitting into four-man teams, we will make a thorough exploration of the Teram Kangri massif and attempt as many virgin peaks as possible.

## THE ALPINE CLUB

The Alpine Club was founded in 1857, when many of the great alpine summits had yet to be climbed. Eight years later Edward Whymper and club members made the first ascent of the Matterhorn. British mountaineers were at the forefront of pioneering and ours was the first of the world's alpine clubs to be established. Over the last century the club has built up the world's largest collection of mountaineering literature, has produced 89 volumes of its own Alpine journal and has continued to take a leading role in world mountaineering. The list of past presidents includes such eminent figures as Martin Conway, Eric Shipton and John Hunt, who led Alpine Club members to success on Everest in 1953. Today's president, Lord Chorley, encouraging the shift of emphasis from the Alps to the Himalayas, was quick to respond to the Indian invitation for a joint expedition and, because this is such a unique opportunity, the Alpine Club is officially backing the expedition. The selected team are some of the club's most active members; they have all climbed at the highest standards and between them have over 80 years experience of exploratory mountaineering in five continents.

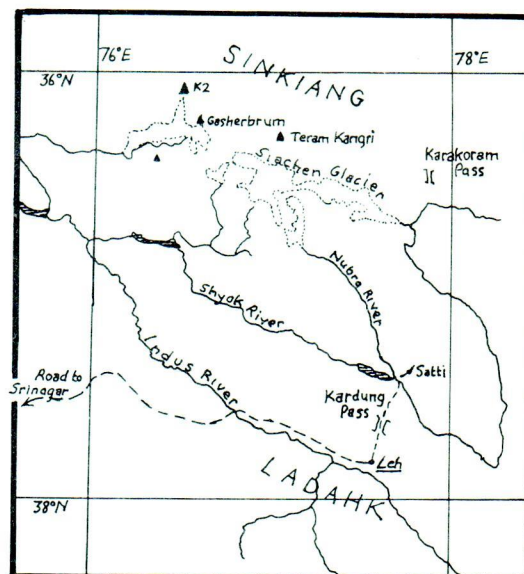
## THE INDIAN MOUNTAINEERING FEDERATION

The IMF is the representative body of Indian mountaineers and is responsible for allocating permits to foreign expeditions to the Indian Himalaya. They will select six of their members to join the British team. During the 1970s Chris Bonington led Anglo-Indian expeditions to success on Brammah I and Changabang. This year he is a patron of

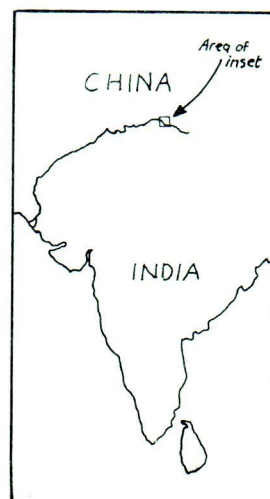
the Anglo-Indian expedition and we are glad to be continuing the tradition of joint expeditions. Britain and India have strong ties dating from the days of the Raj and ventures like this reaffirm those ties, strengthening cooperation and understanding between the two countries.

## EXPEDITION PLAN

The expedition will take place between June and September 1985. The British team will fly with all the equipment to Delhi, where we meet the Indian members for final preparations. Then begins the long overland journey north to Ladakh and on into the restricted zone, finally reaching the Nubra valley. From the roadhead, local porters carry all the supplies needed to support and equip a 12-man team for over two months at Base Camp in the mountains.



EAST KARAKORAM





# ANGLO-INDIAN HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION '85

## FINANCE

Mounting a major international expedition is a costly operation and the budget for the British team is £18,000, broken down as follows:

travel and air freight	£ 6000
food and stores	2500
equipment	2300
peak royalty fee	1800
hire of labour	3200
insurance	500
accommodation in India	400
administrative costs	300
contingency	1000
	=====
	£18000
	=====

The Mount Everest Foundation and the Sports Council will be contributing about £1,000 towards the cost. The Alpine Club, while giving the expedition its fullest advice and support, can provide no money; all its funds are required to maintain its unique library, which is administered by a full-time professional librarian. We urgently need financial support.

Our sponsors will be represented in the press, both here in Britain, and in Delhi. We will photograph companies' products and emblems in use during the expedition and will, of course, acknowledge all support in the official expedition report.

All members of the team have a thoroughly professional approach to organising expeditions and have considerable experience of the media. Dave Wilkinson sent back stories and pictures from the British Kunyang Kish expedition base camp, which were used in a major series of features by the Birmingham post. The same expedition provided Phil Bartlett with photographs for an advertising agency and an article for the British Airways magazine - 'High Life'. He has also written for all the leading climbing magazines, is assistant editor of the Alpine Journal and has contributed articles to 'The Times'. Stephen Venables, as well as running a furniture business, lectures on mountaineering to a wide variety of audiences, has mounted two photographic exhibitions, is a regular contributor to the Alpine Journal and has sold articles and photographs to the Western Daily Press, the Yorkshire Post, Gulf Air Magazine and Illustrated London News. Jim Fotheringham has published articles and photographs in The Alpine Journal and The Cumberland Times; Simon Fraser is a professional photographer, who recently exhibited his work at the Royal Geographical Society.

Sponsors can be sure that their support will be put to the best possible use in making this exciting adventure feasible.

## THE ALPINE CLUB TEAM

PHIL BARTLETT - 29, sixth-form college lecturer, started climbing very young and as a teenager was climbing some of the hardest British rock climbs. His new route on Snowdon - 'Quiver' - still has a formidable reputation. Further afield, he has climbed numerous Alpine peaks, including the first British ascent of the NE spur direct

on Les Droites. In 1976 he climbed difficult new routes on Baffin island, in the Arctic, and two years later mounted his first Himalayan expedition. Since then he has returned to the Himalayas with the British Kunyang Kish expedition and has also climbed on Mt Olympus, in the Sierra Nevada, and in the Andes.

SIMON FRASER - 30, photographer, is currently spending his second winter in Ladakh, searching for the elusive snow leopard. He has climbed several Himalayan peaks and, in Patagonia, climbed Ojos Der Salado (22,000 ft). He has also spent many months in Antarctica, during two tours of duty with the British Antarctic Survey.

JIM FOTHERINGHAM - 32, dentist, lives and works in the Lake District, where he is a well-known local climber. He is also a very experienced alpinist and has climbed several of the great routes of the Mont Blanc range, including the famous Walker Spur. An extremely competent, fast climber, he fitted an ascent of the Cassin rib on Mt McKinley (22,000 ft) into a mere 17-day trip to Alaska. Even further north, he repeated one of the hardest climbs on Baffin Island, in 1979. In the same year he also climbed on Mt Kenya and then in 1980 travelled to the Himalayas to make the first ascent of Thui III, in Pakistan. Jim is best known for his 1983 expedition when he and Chris Bonington made the first ascent of the precipitous west summit of Shivering.

TONY SAUNDERS - 34, architect, first visited the Alps as a child on skiing holidays. More recently, he has had seven climbing seasons, including a winter ascent of the north face of the Eiger. He has made several first winter ascents in Scotland and was one of the pioneers of an esoteric branch of British mountaineering - climbing the chalk cliffs of Dover, using ice-climbing techniques. In the Himalayas he made the first ascent of Conway's Ogre in 1980, and in 1984 nearly reached the summit of Bojohagur Duanasir (24,046 ft), during 16 gruelling days of continuous climbing.

DAVE WILKINSON - 38, polytechnic lecturer, usually visits the Alps at least twice a year and has climbed many of the hardest routes, most notably the first and only ascent of the formidable NW face direct of the Mönch, climbed over five days in the winter of 1976. His extensive Alpine experience was the perfect grounding for three expeditions to the Andes, where he has made many first ascents, including a new route on Yerupaja (21,759 ft). In the Himalayas, he made the first ascent of Mehrbani, did much of the leading on the 1978 Latok Expedition and was instigator and leader of the British Kunyang Kish Expedition.

STEPHEN VENABLES - 30, cabinet maker, began climbing 13 years ago with the Oxford University Mountaineering Club. He has climbed and skied extensively in the Alps, soloing several north faces and, in 1983, making a winter ascent of the remote, rarely climbed NE face of the Finsteraarhorn. In 1977 he travelled overland to Afghanistan, where he pioneered three new routes in the Hindu Kush. He has since returned five times to the Himalayas, climbing several virgin peaks, taking part in the British Kunyang Kish expedition and in 1983 making the first ascent of the spectacular Kishtwar-Shivering, by an extreme technical route up the north face. He has also pioneered climbs in the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes.



wait for good morning snow conditions on  
24th.

Aug 24.

Climb Nbabong Terong by excellent snow  
ridge. Reach N. Summit to discover S. summit  
is a few m. higher. 3 hour diversion to  
S. summit & back. Descend to crevasse  
camp 5 hrs after leaving it. Lower  
slopes avalanche-prone so no descent to valley.

Aug 25.

10 hr descent to S Terong Glacier  
& back to B.C.

Shelkar - Chorsten / South Terong trek

Aug 20 - Leave B.C. and climb up difficult lower part of Shelkar Chorsten Glacier. No easy way through ice fall and no easy <sup>lateral</sup> moraine.  
Camp at 5250 m.

Aug 21 Continue up S.C. Glacier to head of glacier & camp at 5700. Upper glacier smooth & almost flat - delightful walking. Total time from B.C. - 12 hours.

Aug 22. Early morning - climb Chorsten Peak (6050 m) by snow/ice N.W. face. Return to glacier & cross col immediately South of Chorsten Pk, descending to the first Northern branch of the S. Terong Glacier. Descend to main S. Terong Glacier & cross over to 7th Southern branch  
Camp at 5250 m. opposite Ngabong Terong

Aug 23 Dawn : 3 hour climb up first part of Ngabong Terong NE ridge to camp at 5800 m. in crevasse. Stop to

July 4

Dave, Jim, Tony, Stephen leave high camp (5600 m). 1:30 am - 5 pm: climb snowslope to col on SW ridge (5400 m). Solo climbing followed by 5 hard pitches on unstable snow.

July 5

Start SW ridge. After one pitch, Dave & Jim decide to descend. All return to tents for second night.

July 6

Dave & Jim descend. Tony & Stephen continue on SW ridge. ~~6~~ 7 pitches climbed, including "The Fortress". Sustained hard climbing. Camp in "The Breche".

July 7

Set off at 5.30 am. 6 pitches climbed to the foot of the pinnacles. Comfortable camp at midday, at the foot of the pinnacles. (c. 6600 m)

July 8

A long tiring day! 11 hours to climb 8 pitches up the pinnacles: difficult mixed climbing up a series of chimneys and ramps on the ~~the~~ North side of the pinnacles. Snowstorm in the afternoon. Camp pitched on the crest of a cornice. (c. 6750 m)

July 9

A late start at 10.30 am. Two more pitches (one very hard) to the top of the pinnacles. Thereafter the climbing eased slightly as we climbed 5 more pitches onto the big snow shoulder to a high point of c. 6850 m. While preparing to dig

out the evening campsite, Stephen dropped his rucksack, which disappeared 1000 m. down the West face. ~~We had~~ As it contained the store, we had to descend immediately. The tent, without poles, provided a sufficient but uncomfortable shelter for a very cold, windy night. Stephen shared Tony's down bivouac equipment.

July 9

Struggling with numb toes & fingers, Tony & Stephen began the absurd descent at 7 am. I absurd took them straight down ~~part~~ into the big icefield on the South side of the ridge, completely avoiding the laborious pinnacles. ~~500 m.~~ They then down-chimbed 600 m to the foot of the icefield, which they reached at midday. After a rest & the



first ~~do~~ drink for 28 hours, they  
continued down to ABC, arriving there  
in time for supper.



ANGLO-INDIAN  
HIMALAYAN  
EXPEDITION '85

*Patrons: Lord Chorley Chris Bonington CBE*

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Founded 1857. President: Lord Chorley

# ALPINE CLUB

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8 October 1984

Mr H Kapadia  
72 Vijay Apartment  
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India

Dear Mr Kapadia

Before coming on to the main point of my letter, may I heartily congratulate you on the splendid issue of the Himalayan Journal, a copy of which arrived here a few days ago. I have been reading it with the greatest of interest.

The main purpose of this letter is to bring you up to date with matters to do with the projected Eastern Karakoran expedition for 1985. Just before I went on leave at the end of July I had a letter from Capt. Kohli, a copy of which I enclose. Due to leave and other matters I was not able to reply to him until 11th September, and I enclose a copy of my letter to him. Since then I have had no reply, and of course time is running on.

I would very much appreciate any news you have on the above. At the same time it would be helpful if you could let us know how your own plans and objectives are developing. Incidentally there have been numerous rumours in England, some of them from what I would judge to be reliable sources, to the effect that there has been fighting in or around the Siachen glacier area. It is impossible to discover the scale of what may have gone on, but it does make one wonder whether in the event a permission for a foreign expedition would be forthcoming except perhaps at the eastern end of the area.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. In the meantime I will not take matters up <sup>yet</sup> again with the IMF.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



(Lord Chorley)  
President

Encls.

bcc: S W Town Esq

69 Bedford Gardens  
London W8

Capt. N. S. Kohli, I.N.(Retd.), A.V.S.M., F.R.G.S.,  
Vice-President,  
Indian Mountaineering Foundation,  
Benito Juarez Road,  
NEW DELHI - 110021,  
India.

11th September 1984

Dear Capt. Kohli,

Karakoram, 1985

Thank you for your welcome letter of 17th July. It unfortunately arrived on the day I went on leave, so that all I could then do was to leave instructions for it to be acknowledged. Your letter also crossed with my letter to you of 16th July.

We will discuss your letter at our next Committee meeting in ten days time. In the meantime, and so as to save time, it would be helpful if you could give us guidance on the following points:-

- 1) The area and peaks for which permission is to be granted. For example, will it be a blanket permission for all peaks in the Siachen glacier basin? You will appreciate that clear guidance on this is essential as we shall now need to enter into detailed discussions with Mr Kapadia of The Mountaineers, Bombay, on plans and objectives. In May Mr Kapadia seemed to envisage primarily a traverse of the Siachen glacier, including various passes, such as the Indira col, rather than major peaks.
- 2) Does the GOI/IMF have any views on requirements as to the size of the British party? When Mr Kapadia wrote to us in May he listed on his side some 6 people. I think on our side the numbers would be likely to be rather smaller than this.
- 3) Given that the IMF is proposing an expedition jointly with The Mountaineers, will a Liaison Officer be necessary, in addition?
- 4) You have intimated a booking fee of US\$2,500. You will appreciate that the AC itself will not be able to make any financial contribution to the British members; all the necessary funds will have to be provided by the participants or be raised by grants. In pursuing this it will be helpful

..../...

Capt. M. S. Kohli

- 2 -

11th September 1984

to understand how the amount of US\$2,500 is arrived at.  
In this connection we note that the Instructions for Foreign  
Expeditions states a figure of Rs. 7,500 for peaks of 21,000ft.  
and above and R.5,000 for lower peaks (IMP Handbook 1983,  
page 107).

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Lord Cherley, President

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16 July 1984

Dear Mr Kapadia

Thank you for your letter of 2 July. I am interested to hear that there seem to be difficulties over the Eastern Karakoram - and this is the impression I have got indirectly from the IMF with whom I am continuing to keep in touch.

Yours sincerely



(Lord Chorley)  
President

c S Town Esq Hon Secretary Alpine Club

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Mr Harish Kapadia  
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21 May 1984

Dear Mr Kapadia

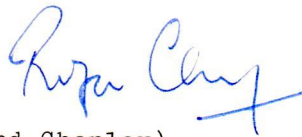
Thank you for your letter of 8 May which we have received here with interest. We note that you have been approved by the Government of India for an expedition to the Siachen Glacier in 1985 and in principle we would be very interested in joining forces with you.

As you may know we had been hoping to go to this area in 1984 but this has not proved possible. As things stand I am not sure who of those who were available for 1984 will also be available for 1985 but this is something we will examine and we will be in touch with you on this.

In your letter you mention two objectives, viz traversing the glacier and climbing to various passes, and secondly selecting a major peak. I am not sure whether you regard these as alternatives, and if so what preference you have. At this end we had been interested, for 1984, in the Rimo group of peaks. One difficulty in that connection is that we cannot find any photographs of the southern aspect of the peaks.

I should be interested to learn whether you or any of your prospective party will be at the IMF meeting in Srinagar in July as it is possible that someone from the UK will be attending, in which case our discussions could be carried forward.

Yours sincerely



(Lord Chorley)  
President

cc S Town  
Capt Kohli

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23 October 1984

Dear Mr Kapadia

Many thanks for your letter of 16th October and the promptness of your reply to my earlier letter. I have not yet in fact heard anything from the IMF. I am most interested to have confirmation of the fighting which seems to be taking place around the head of the Siachen glacier. The fact that the GOI may issue the permit but it might be withdrawn at the last minute does not encourage one to spend a lot of money on an expedition! I was also interested to have your comments on the present royalty arrangements. As soon as I hear from the IMF I will be in touch with you.

Regarding the point in your earlier letter about Mr Sarin - possibly the working in my letter to him was a little loose but I think we all knew what I meant, namely that Tenzing Norkay is an India citizen by adoption but ethnically he is a Sherpa; Mr Sarin is, as it were, indigenous.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely



(Lord Chorley)  
President



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# Sacred in the snow

IN December 1984 I was invited by the Alpine Club to join a 1985 expedition to a hitherto unexplored group of peaks in the eastern Karakorum range of the Himalayas.

The expedition, sponsored by Grindleys Bank and British Airways, was to consist of four British climbers — Steve Venables and Tony Saunders, from London, Dave Wilkinson, from Birmingham, and myself.

There were also six Indians under the leadership of Harish Kapadia, a friend of mine from Bombay and well known for his editorship of the international Himalayan Journal.



Brampton's mountaineering dentist Jim Fotheringham (left) has just returned from climbing a hitherto unexplored group of peaks in the Himalayas. The expedition started in the ancient city of Leh, crossed the highest road in the world into a forgotten valley and finally reached the Rimo Peaks. Here he tells his story.

The starting point for our trip was Leh, ancient capital of the old Buddhist Kingdom of Ladakh.

## PLATEAU

Set high on the Himalayan plateau at 11,000 feet between Kashmir and Tibet and dominated by temples and palaces, it is a wonderful place from

which to acclimatise and prepare for an expedition.

From here we went by truck over the Kardong La, at 19,000ft. this is the highest road in the world.

It leads to the Nubra Valley, a beautiful forgotten valley which has been closed to foreigners for 50 years. Only a handful of Europeans have ever been here.

The whole place had a massive impressiveness — huge rocky mountains dwarfed the wide rivers and gravel beds, bright green patches around the available water marked the villages.

And wherever there was greenery were the great rose bushes for which Nubra is famous.

## PORTERS

The people are Buddhist farmers. Roadside prayer wheels were seen in every village, while high on rocky outcrops dominating the valleys were perched small monasteries.

At the road end we engaged local porters for the 30-mile walk to our proposed base camp.

Our route took us onto the Siachen glacier. Outside the polar regions this is the largest glacier in the world.

Artillery fire could be heard in the distance where India and Pakistan were still disputing rights to the Siachen (it is now officially in India).

From here our route took us into the Terong Takpa — a hidden valley of green juniper trees and alpine flowers. It is a haven for ibex and antelope and we even saw snow leopard tracks.

## LAKE

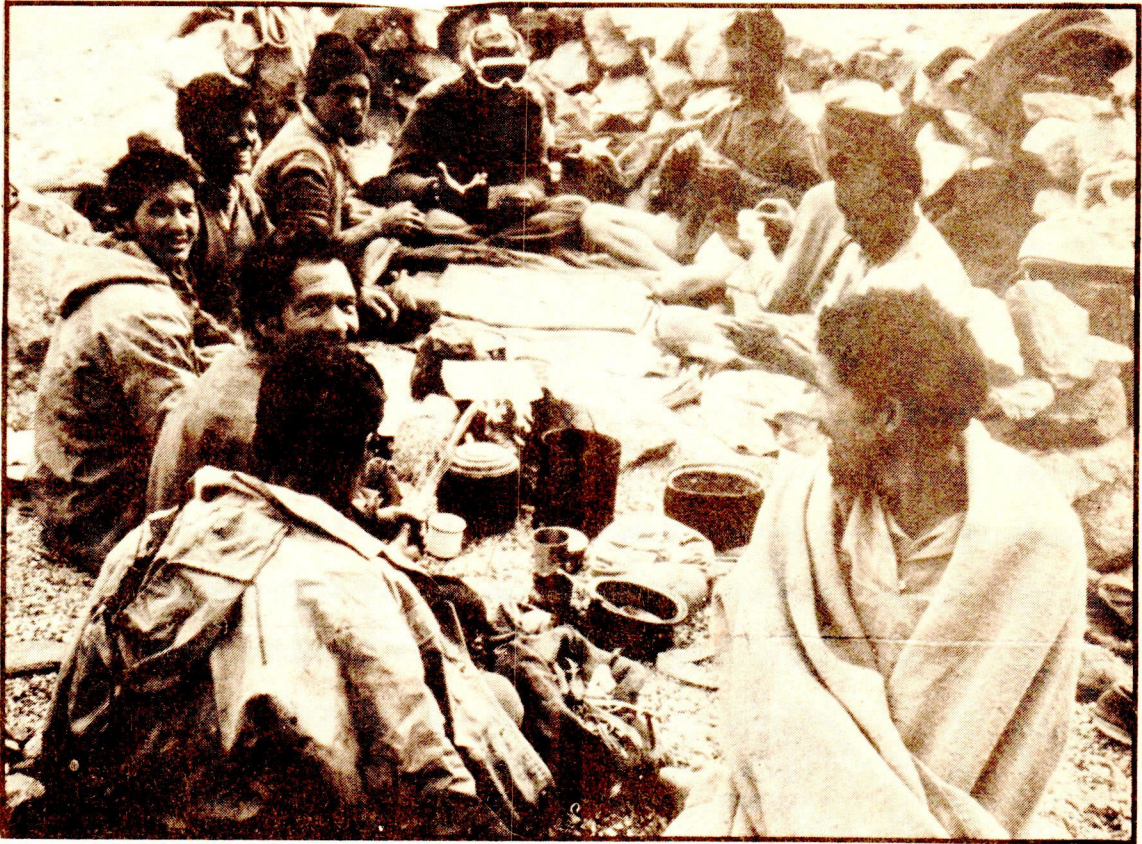
Our first major problem was to ford the large and swift flowing river, swollen by the spring melt water.

After one near-drowning, we fixed a rope to safeguard the porters.

Our way now lay across an immense moraine to the north Terong glacier. Our only route up the glacier wound through a labyrinth of ice pinnacles, each topped with its own block of stone.

After two days walking we reached the site of our base camp by a small lake in a wilderness of black rock and grey ice.

For the first time ever mountaineers viewed the Rimo Peaks from the west. The cloud rolled away to reveal two staggering mountains,



● Porters' teatime in Terong Takpa.

Rimo I and Rimo III, both near 24,000ft.

Reconnaissance showed Rimo I to be in a dangerous condition with deep unstable snow covering loose and difficult rock.

While Steve and Tony stayed on Rimo I hoping for better conditions, Dave and I descended and then climbed over a 21,000ft. col to the south Rimo glacier.

From here everything clicked and a feasible route of ascent on Rimo III could be seen — apparently safe from avalanches and stonefalls.

### CAVE

Two days of glacier travel and climbing saw us approaching the start of the difficult climb.

From the Bergschrund where we left our snowshoes, we ascended

steeply up orange granite and snow to a knife edge of loose snow.

On a precarious perch we dug a snow cave and pitched our tent. The weather was looking uncertain with a strong wind gusting over the ridge from the Chinese side and buffeting the tent.

At two in the morning we made preparations for the summit bid.

The wind was biting, the temperatures near minus 20C as we set off. Dawn came, a pale sun lighting a sea of clouds with only the highest summits showing — K2, Gasherbrum, Saltora Kangri and Rimo.

The climbing was not difficult but very exposed. The route traversed a long corniced

ridge until a rocky tower and platform was reached.

There we rested before the final ridge, broad and easy for the most part with several small summits — the real one never seemed to arrive!

### SACRED

The air was thin and we were going slowly. Then a last steep slope of wind-ruffled snow reared-up and — exhausted as we were — we knew that we had made it to the top at 23,980ft.

A great climb!

We placed some small flowers sacred to the Hindus in the snow and stayed until the cloud cleared for a view.

It was magnificent! We could see the old caravan route to China where it

wound over the Karakorum Pass; the forbidden mountains of China; the highest peaks of the Karakorum and the great bulk of Rimo I.

We descended and retraced our steps in rapidly deteriorating weather. It took us three days to get back to base camp.

### FLIGHTS

From there we discovered the River Terong has risen and swept our rope bridge away. This necessitated a 1,000ft. horizontal climb down a gorge.

The subsequent road was washed-out and exceptional bad weather meant no flights from Leh.

Sometimes it is easier to travel than to arrive!



● Climbing towards the summit ridge on Rimo III.



● Dave Wilkinson at camp one on South Rimo glacier.



● Rimo I and Rimo III (left) — two staggering mountains.

①

On the morning of the 11th July our attempt began. Dave & I, had decided to reconnoitre & if possible climb Kimono I from the east - or failing this, attempt Kimono III from the South Kimono glacier.

2400  
on double spine

At 4 a.m. we were roused by Protapsunk with two large mugs of tea - this is the only civilised start to an alpine ascent. We set off over familiar ground - up & across the North terracing glacier & crossing to what we now called the Thore glacier - ~~crossing~~ <sup>overcoming</sup> the lateral moraine was by now quite hazardous due to the presence of three glacial currents which had to be crossed.

Up the glacier we went, by now the topography was changing daily, past the foot of Kimono I & up to Thore's col. We were carrying heavy loads & the ascent of the headwall was very tiring. However, the view east from the col was quite stunning, a vast ice highway stretched toward the blue-brown hills of the Ship-Chop river.

We descended the col using Payer & Meena's

fused rope & after putting on snow-shoes we shuffled down to the junction of the South Rimo glacier. After crossing a crevassed zone we rounded the east spur of Rimo I to find a gravel bed composite - rocks amid the ice. It was a wonderful and lonely place.

Early at 6 am on the 12<sup>th</sup> July we started the long climb up the steep glacier dropping from Rimo III/IV. The sun hit us early on this side of the mountain & we halted at about midday. Having crossed a major snow fall we camped below the Rimo I/II col.

4 a.m. 13<sup>th</sup> saw us sneaking through crevasses to the plateau below Rimo IV, from here a long awkward traverse took us to the bergschrund below the rock buttress we planned to use as a line of ascent to the East ridge. We left our ski-poles at the bergschrund & traversed on four snow over ice to the first rocky outcrop. From here

10 pitches <sup>(2)</sup> of difficult mixed climbing on rock & ice with an insecure traverse on four snow led us to the knife edge of the ridge. Another 300 ft up this snow found us excavating a site for our tent. There was a cold wind blowing across the ridge which made erecting the tent difficult & also blew

Dave's sleeping mat away. High cloud was gathering to the north & west & the weather was obviously changing.

3 a.m. Start. Very cold & windy.

Dave led off up the ridge on what we hoped was going to be our summit day.

Deep climb on snow led to a little plateau. This was crossed to the start of an exposed corniced ridge which involved after traversing about 300ft the crossing of a double corniced mushroom of snow. In turn this led to a long steep snow/ice slope that was traversed to a rock corner overlooking the north side of the mountain. The knife edge character of the ridge now changed to a broader

shoulder with alternating steep & easier angled sections. Two false summits were crossed before the final wall of steep wind blown snow. I excavated my way up this to the summit at about 9:30 am. Dave arrived on top. The cloud was forming as a sort of summit cap which gave us slightly misty views. On the ascent we could see as far as K2 but now she could just glimpse Pinn I, on apparent stones thrown away. We placed the flowers given to Dave by Nawang, Yonish's son on the summit & retraced 'from whence we came'. The descent was straightforward back to the tent.

The following day we descended the rock buttress, unfortunately we had not anticipated these difficulties & were doing an one 50m rope with 2 ice pegs & few slings. Consequently we ended up chipping up rescue straps to abseil off & hammering the ice pitons into rock! After a difficult tension traverse to easy ground



②

above the benchmark we set off towards the South Pine glacier & arrived at our 'crystal camp'.

The next day saw us starting to climb back up to the col in rapidly deteriorating weather. By the time we reached the col at noon it was

snowing quite heavily & gusting hard.

The descent to A.B.C. was very long with the glacier surface so changed it was difficult to believe it was our route of ascent. Snow cover had disappeared & crevasses now yawned where easy ground had been before.

We crossed the three rivers (streams in ascent) & arrived at base camp where Steve & Tony had remained to welcome us. ~~This incredibly long hard day on the mountain,~~ making the east ridge from the west side gave a fabulously rewarding trip even if it was not originally the most obvious route of ascent!



# Indian Mountaineering Foundation

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

EMBASSY OF INDIA  
G. P. O. BOX NO. 292  
KATHMANDU (Nepal)

30 August 1985

*Dear Harish,*

Thank you for your letter of August 11 with which you have sent a brief report on your Siachen area climbs. I am so glad to know that you met with considerable success in a new area, enjoyed the climbs, and brought back everyone safe and in good health. I am also very happy that the Joint Indo-British effort worked so smoothly.

2. Your expedition may have succeeded even on RIMO I if Step had not met with a slip of his ruck sack 1,000 metres down the West Face.

3. As it was a very important expedition from our point of view, I would strongly request you to write a complete article with pictures for the 'Indian Mountaineer'.

*with best wishes  
your friend  
H.C. Sarin*

( H.C. Sarin )

Shri Harish Kapadia,  
72 Vijay Apartment,  
16 Charnichael Road,  
BOMBAY - 400 026.

THE  
SIACHEN  
INDO-BRITISH  
EXPEDITION  
1985



72, VIJAY APARTMENT,  
16, CARMICHAEL ROAD,  
BOMBAY 400 026.  
INDIA.

PHONES : 494 0772 / 31 32 27  
GRAM : WINTERWEAR

Mr H.C.Sarin,  
President, IMF,  
Embassy of India,  
G.P.O.Box No.292  
Kathmandu Nepal.

Thank you for your letter of 30th. August. My team members and myself are happy to note that you appreciate our efforts. We are happy to have been associated with IMF.

As per talks with Mr Motwani at Delhi, Mr. Stephan Venables is to write an article for the Spring 1986 issue of 'Indian Mountaineer'. He is also publishing my report with photographs in the Autumn 1985 issue. I have also offered him for publication of an article on 'History of Exploration and Climbing in the Eastern Karakoram', if desired.

Sometime in Oct., Nov. or Dec. I can come to Delhi for the slide-show on the expedition at IMF as requested. If you could suggest dates convenient to you in advance I can plan accordingly.

We have submitted our report, audited statement of accounts to IMF and completed all formalities as required which please note. I have also sent a note on our experiences on the mountains to IMF for some policy decisions for future expedition to this area. Trust that will be useful.

With many good wishes from Geeta and myself for your good health.

Yours sincerely,

Harish Kapadia

GJ: Vol. 84, Oct. 1934, p. 281

The Karakoram & Turkistan Exp. of 1929-1930

by Dr. Ph. Visser

We intended to explore the unknown region  
c extends bet. this glacier & water shed of the head  
chain of Kara. As we did not succeed in finding  
a way into this region at the L.H.S. of Nubra valley  
the entrance had to be reached from S.W. We expected  
to find a side valley filled by glacier & were quite  
surprised when a few miles ~~away~~ from the lower  
end of the glacier, we found a wide trough opening  
towards the east in a part of the Siachen flowed  
off. This glacier therefore possessed a 2<sup>nd</sup> though  
short spent under which the broad stream of  
the valley disappeared. This valley was seen from  
Siachen for the 1<sup>st</sup> time by Dr. Longstaff.

It was the entrance to a majestic high moun-  
tain region & glaciers of ~~the~~ nearly 16 miles in  
length.

Wyo and Khan Sahab were exploring Terong  
glacier c was lying in a deep valley ending in  
a steep rock wall.

Discussion - There is a great chain of peaks  
running upto over 25,000 feet ~~by but~~ ~~Nubra~~  
between Nubra valley on the west & Shyok in  
the east. a range of mountains which is  
apparently a main axis of Karakoram about  
60 miles long.

Visser's are the only people who have actually

visited any of these remarkably difficult glaciers on the eastern slopes of Holsia / Shyok water party.

Photo Plates -

- 1) La - Yoghna Valley - Saltoro Karakoram
- 2) La Yoghna Glacier - Matterhorn of Saltoro Karakoram.
- 3) Sanju Kurlun from above Sanju Pass.
- 4) Camp on Chhushtun glacier.

## THE SIACHEN INDO-BRITISH EXPEDITION 1985

### OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

1. Though we had a letter of Ministry of Defence and IMF authorising us to climb near Teram Shehr glacier and climb to Indira Col, it seemed highly unlikely that the local army authorities would permit us to go there. We were "requested" at Srinagar by Corps HQ to change plans and route. Moreover the army is sensitive to particularly Foreigners passing or staying at Siachen Snout. Also looking at the conditions prevalent while we were there, it may not be too safe for civilian mountaineers.

Hence it may be better at present, not to encourage foreign parties to upper Siachen, beyond the snout. It may be locally not permitted also.

2. The expedition was attached with an "Army Security Officer". He supplied his own equipment while food was supplied by us. Duties of L.O. as far as mountaineering activities were concerned were performed by the expedition leader.

The army S.O. helped with transport arrangement, food arrangements with army, stay at snout camp, supply of maps and all security matters.

Such an officer was almost essential and helpful considering the army activity. Particularly for Siachen area such an S.O. should be attached.

3. Weather forecasts were broadcaste on 41 metres and 76 metres. It was not received well on 41 m and most radios do not have 76 m, making it useless.

Better broadcasts on usually available frequencies is called for.

4. The Home Ministry clearance to us was delayed for too long. We proceed from Leh without papers for foreigners, solely on personal contracts. Perhaps these matters could be solved earlier and communicated by IMF.

5. For mountaineering in Eastern Karakoram the terrain, porters and availability of information are all very difficult and peculiar to this area. It is suggested that IMF should undertake the following for this area in particular :

- a) Books on this area must be added to the library.
  - b) A comprehensive history of this region and past climbs should be maintained with references of journals.
  - c) Sets of pictures of this area, showing possible peaks and sketches should be maintained. The pictures can be purchased through 4 army expeditions to the area in the recent past.
  - d) Clearance should be given early.
6. Climbing in this area is necessarily expensive and difficult due to various factors. Indian parties climbing there, either separately or with foreigners, should be given larger financial support. The amount sanctioned to our team was found to be adequate, added with our own personal contributions.
7. Our team was selected as one group approved by IMF. We functioned as a close-knit team and the expedition as a result was troublefree, most enjoyable and successful. British climbers also responded well and were friendly. It is suggested that in future even an IMF representing team should be allowed to be selected as a group and not to be selected by a "Committee". Even 2 outsiders selected, as it was suggested, would perhaps be hindersome. As it is adjusting foreigners is a different attitude and adding internal problems will not be wise.
8. The expedition was organised and managed by Indians basically, in consultations with the British. We did not employ any agents to arrange travel, porters or food. This results in far cheaper expenses overall and results in savings for foreign climbers. Perhaps IMF expeditions in future should be organised without contracts to agencies, as this will be far cheaper in cost.
9. We must thank Mr. M.C. Motwani and Mr. S.R. Krishnan of IMF for their prompt and efficient help. They responded quickly once the other authorities or IMF Committee took a decision.
10. There are many other areas in Eastern Karakoram which may be better climbing/exploration grounds. They should be opened. These areas are away from security risks and easier of access. IMF could take up the matter with the government.
- (a) Sultan Chushku group
  - (b) Chong Kumdan group
  - (c) Shelkar Chorten group
  - (d) Thangman glacier
  - (e) Laschi area.

*H. Kapadia*  
HARISH KAPADIA  
Leader  
SIBE-1985



PREM SAGAR

20th July, 1985.

Dear Harish,

As always it is a height of Joy and  
dizzy feelings to see my friend  
reach great heights and to remember  
me - Great and thanks.

Yours,

*Sagar*  
(Prem Sagar)

Mr. Harish Kapadia,  
C/o. Postmaster,  
Leh,  
Pin Code 194101.

warm greetings &  
well Dane - we are  
all with you - &



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5/7/85

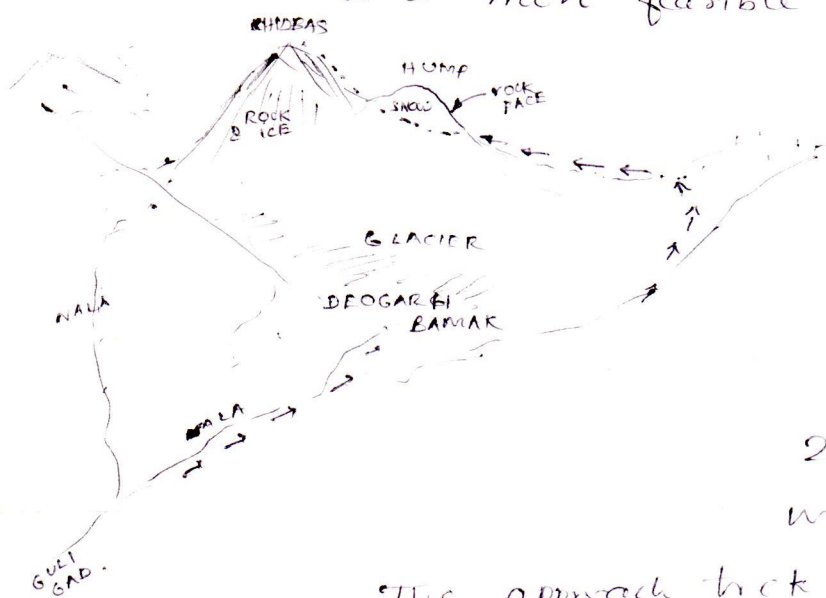
Dear Hanishbhai,

Thanks for your post-card. I just returned from our expedition the day before yesterday. I had a great time in spite of a crazy bald man as leader!

He changed plans a hundred times. We went up the Jadh Ganga to Nelang, Naga, Sonam, Pukumsunda, then up Bareguda Gadde. We tried a crossing over a high Col to get into Neelapani Gadde & back to Naga, but failed there & came back the same way to Naga. At that point we did a small peak of about  $\approx 19600$  (5980m) - (according to the map).

Your compass was very very useful in identifying peaks & locating ourselves. In the mountains one can't rely on Bhattoo's gaoing! So some good map reading put him in his place. The Sri Kailas Plan was dropped in the beginning itself. We could identify

Chidbas Parbat fairly close by & Bhattoo decided we should attempt that since it was a virgin peak which had been attempted only from Gaumuth side. Since this was the first time that a group had permission to approach from the other side, we had access to a more feasible ~~side~~ route -



ie up Guli Gad, out to Deogarhi Barmar, into the Col of the hump, then traverse the hump into the 2nd Col & into the main peak.

The approach track had no track, which we had to make. We had to use porters & ferry the supplies up. We got to the glacial moraine (1st camp), then onto the glacier & into the 1st Col (about 19000ft). Then there was a rock face to be negotiated, which some people took a look at & came back. We say it was bad weather that

made us turn back, though actually I think it was mismanagement & lack of objective. Anyway after that we came back down.

The ITBP was extremely co-operative. It was the 1st time they had seen civilians in the area, so they were spontaneously hospitable. We Bald man would walk last so as to not frighten anyone any army or ITBP camp without warning.

On the second or third night, Bhattoo saw my sleeping bag which you had lent me & was quite appalled at how thin it was. So he gallantly exchanged his with me. Since then, he has thought of you - every night he says. So don't worry about those foul hic-cups that you had ~~that~~ the last month. It was only Bhattoo's fond thoughts!

The jacket Bhattoo took over at once, & gave me a good feather jacket for use on the trip.

The govt. as well as the industrialists have recognised the villain in Bhattoo. He has

been transferred to Shillong so that he can't do much harm to anyone from there.

Anyway, you know how unaffected he can be by these kind of things. Simply looks upon it as a good opportunity for exploring the Eastern Himalayas.

Hope your expedition is doing well. All the best. How is Dhiren?

Amala

20/6/85.

Dear Hanshobhai,

ni shu shu d.

amuch mahat shubh, and,

non dai ama auy in d a l

thia d thia (dai unia)

asai in nda l ein ai

in and a l

amuch eud un eud -

and ein and ? amuch

aga of ty Siachen ni/

and eum in ee eadua

news-Item am d f

Pakistan am <sup>indus</sup> ~~indus~~ the

am an shuon d. !

hope you have a

belly-ful of drinking this

time. - a- that you can get

~~the~~ an a peaceful ~~the~~

tick to a link green  
revisit next time

How's ~~your~~ game Rishik  
counterpart - regular with  
upper lip!

I wouldn't be able to  
go to he maintains his year  
long with PG and job application.  
Its likely that you become a  
signed artist.

See you in Aug. Amre  
PG. Division must be fine. Write

पूरा मोड़ FIRST FOLD

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र कार्ड  
INLAND LETTER CARD



HARISH KAPADIA

THE SACHEN INDO-BRITISH EXPEDITION  
c/o POSTMASTER

LEH

पिन PIN 194101

पूरा मोड़ THIRD FOLD

इस पत्र के भीतर कुछ न रचित NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED  
पते में पिन कोड लिखें WRITE PIN CODE IN ADDRESS

प्रेषक का नाम और पता: --- SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: ---

Write Sagnet



111 Bin cpts, 38 m 100

पिन PIN 400069



अस्पृश्यता ईश्वर और मानवता  
के प्रति अपराध है।  
UNTOUCHABILITY IS A CRIME  
AGAINST GOD AND MAN

पूरा मोड़ SECOND FOLD

Dear Harishbhai.

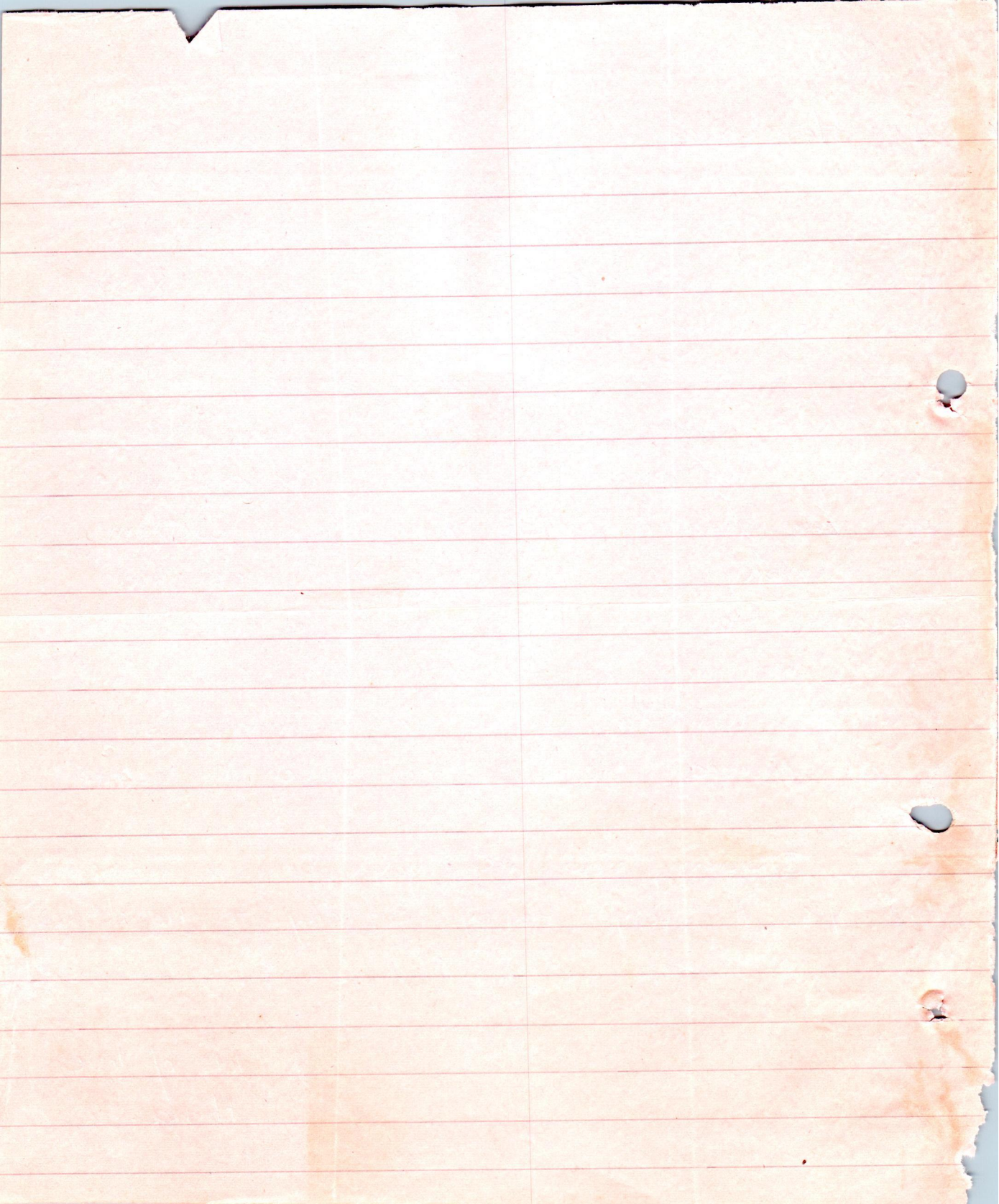
1<sup>st</sup> July '85

Hello! Hope you are in best of your health. I received your greetings. Thank you very much. ~~So~~ You all must be very busy climbing.

We have not gone for a hike since you have left as it is very hot in Bombay. We had to heavy showers which has ~~been~~ created quite a lot of problem in Bombay as the transport was not available for 3 days and now its hot again. We might go for a hike this Sunday but here is Wimbledon Finals on Sundays so its all depends. There is not much to write  
our.

Dhisen, now its your turn to write.  
And yes, A very Happy Birthday to Harishbhai.

With lots of love  
Hina.





18<sup>th</sup> June 1985

dear Harishbhai & Dhiren

We just received your post cards today. Thanks.

The monsoons have now broken, in full style, the city being under floods yesterday. I'm just waiting to go for a hike. My exams will get over by the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. So I guess on the 30<sup>th</sup> I'll be free to go. It's horrible studying while it's lovely & rainy outside. I wish that I was there too. You'll must be on the games now & really having a great time. Anyway I'll stop now with love & all the best wishes  
Gigi

18<sup>th</sup> June '85.

Dear Dhiren & Harishbhai,

Hi! કેમ છે? અને ખાતરી કે કે તમે બહુ જ મજા કરો છો.

સરની દરમિયાન તમે બહુ જમ So JEALOUS of you'll. ઇંગ્લેન્ડ

એક સંદર્ભમાં તમે જે Times of India ની રિપોર્ટ કે the

Pakistanis' have attacked on siachen glacier (Nubra valley)

ની તમે બહુ જ excitement કરો.

Setor is leaving B'bay for u.s.a & Europe in mid

July. He finally did get his visas.

Amolbhai & Shilpa are also in B'bay. ☺ ☺

खैरते खेनोडोनी साणो उभाळमी हेणो ख गलोने गवोने ख  
हेणो खै

We are all waiting for Gita's exam to get over.  
ख ख उलो खेणभाणत साणे गळी खैले खभ  
like वउ खेणो.

खाने खिना ग. O, गग, Hina, Gaurang & Parul  
are invited for dinner at Rohilbhai's place.

खैरते गगखो Everest & Tibet खे cooette

खैर. Both of them are Vaccination Hep.  
गख. गीखो खैर खेण गख. I shall end here

lots and lots of love & luck  
Parul

P.S.

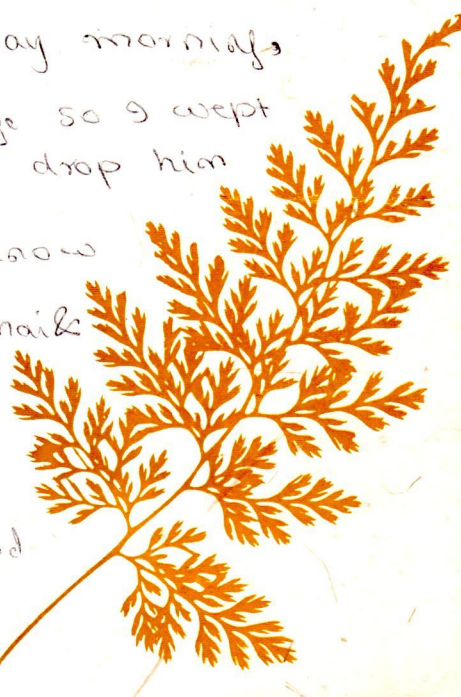
Ketan had asked me to leave some place in  
his letter for him, but as he is very busy with  
his school, खैरते खेणभाणत खेणो खैर खेणो खेणो  
खेणो खेणो खेणो खेणो खेणो खेणो खेणो खेणो  
on his behalf. Wishing you all the best and  
~~love~~ lots and lots of success all throughout your  
expedition. He has sent a big hi! to both of  
you!!

Dear Harishbhai,

10<sup>th</sup> July, '55

Hi! Well, well, I was really very happy to receive a letter from you. Nice of you to write two letters to me.

Bombay is still very very hot. College has started. Race course is stinking. My results are out and I have passed. Life is going on as usual. ~~કંઈક સારું થયું છે.~~ Over and above all this Ketan has left for America yesterday. ~~જે કંઈક સારું થયું છે, તેણે અમેરિકા તરફ જવાનું કહ્યું છે. અમારું હૃદય ખૂબ દુ:ખીતું છે.~~ Damn bad oil? I am already missing him. Actually we met yesterday morning. (ie he came to drop me to college so I went in the car) So when I went to drop him in the evening I did not. You know what Harishbhai? I met nanubhai ~~જે કંઈક સારું થયું છે તેણે મને જણાવ્યું છે કે તેણે અમેરિકા તરફ જવાનું કહ્યું છે.~~ Nanubhai is no so very very fat as you described him. (Damn Hep oil?)



You really love pulling my leg don't you?

Anyway Ketan as usual was very busy before he left, so he did not have time to write ~~to you~~ so he has asked me to say bye to you and was send his love. He has promised that he would write to you from there. About of Rice course and Regularly over (company of)   
 ~~उपे~~ ~~आप~~ ~~के~~ ~~साथ~~ ~~मे~~ ~~रा~~ ~~हूँ~~ ~~।~~   
 ~~ए~~ ~~ह~~ ~~के~~ ~~साथ~~ ~~मे~~ ~~रा~~ ~~हूँ~~ ~~।~~

Say a very big "Hi" to Dhiren & Bogabhai.  
उपे ~~आप~~ ~~के~~ ~~साथ~~ ~~मे~~ ~~रा~~ ~~हूँ~~ ~~।~~ See you soon in B' bay.

love Paraj

12.7.85

Dear Harishbhai

It was good to hear that you're all settled at BC & ABC. Hope you'll climb the way up Rind T. We planned to go for a hike last Sunday but everyone except Mihind & me couldn't make it so it flipped. Exercising for me is just starting properly since now that the exams are over. I'm doing my Gynae term at Cooper hospital so commutng is a hassle. The members seem to have taken a break for the last 2 weeks. Look forward to seeing you'll in Bay. Regards to all. Grg

31.5.85.

Dear Harish,

Thank God for this room,

not that I am upset, but it's very comforting. What do I write so soon, I have only changed my clothes and had dinner. Bha, is not upset children are busy. Nawang wants to continue going to the same course Sonam needs to be pushed.

I am so tired now do not know why I am writing to you so soon. Actually I can do without going to Poona but I shd, it wd be dampning M's spirits if I back out.

I am so sleepy Harish, so also must be you.

Do take care, of your throat, infection and all. Don't be mad because, I write so. Please, take the three vit. pills I have given it will help to build up resistance. Sorry for all this advise!

My dear Harish,

3rd June

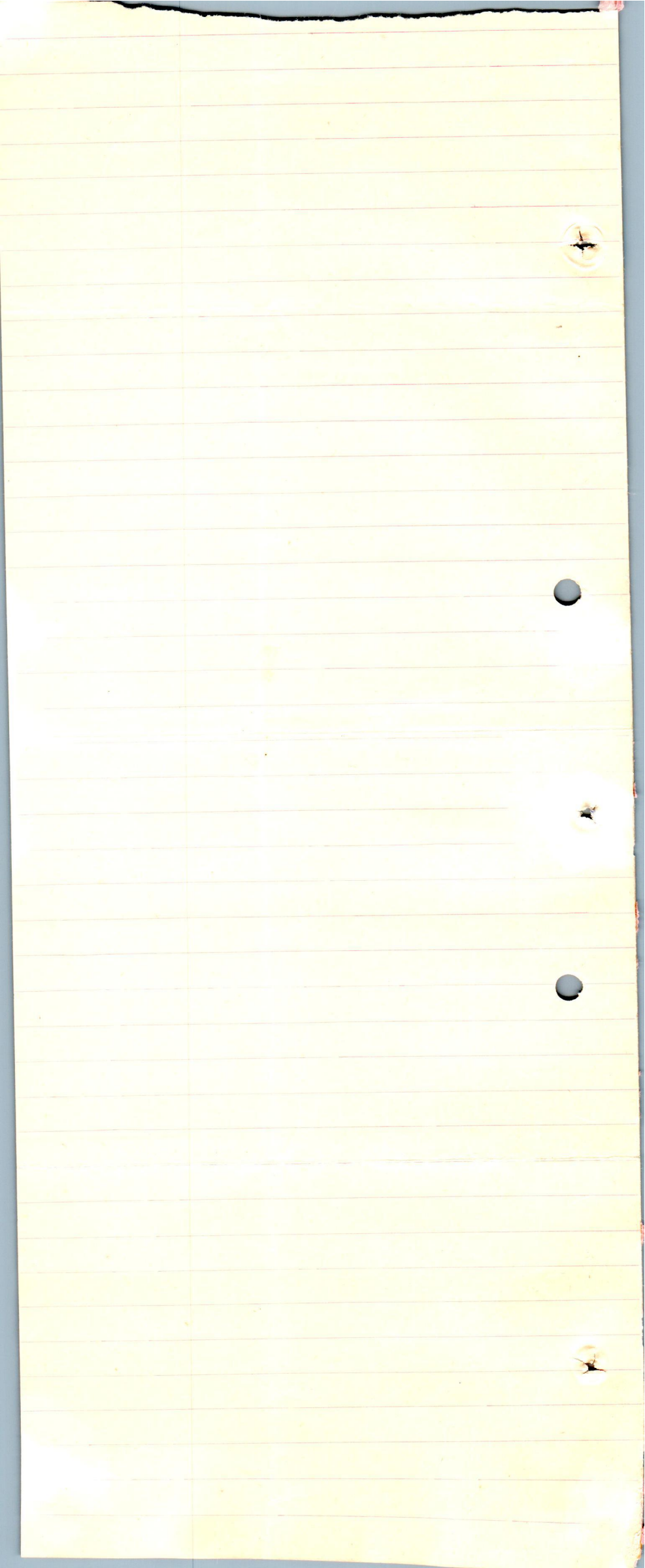
It's 5.30 a.m., I am about to leave for Poona. Yesterday Bh. & Rita got married. I was there whole day, getting maha-bored anyway Bh. did look handsome. Hish etc. & Rita pretty.

So now when I return, it will be Hitesh's turn!

Spoke to Asun & Meena yest. night all is fine and they are ready to take off. Wk are all fine here.

lots of love.

Geeta.



Hanish,

7.8.85.

I miss you tremendously.

A week since you left was busy, Three days in Poona were also very good. Mehendrabhai has super ~~had~~ with super service. It was really very very relaxing. The Tennis T. C. For N. was as usual 6-1, 6-nil but Deepak played well and had some headlines in the local paper of course, it was all fun.

They are nice lot Dr. Kistane, Ravi Athavale etc. of course, the Pune wives gave Bombaywals very critical looks, but they were all very friendly and nice to everyone. All the parents have their children playing here and since they themselves organize every small detail of it, it's good. Fun. Home-made Chicken sand-~~etc~~, all flexible and nice, no stiff upper-lip. First time I was amongst Cobras, but the wives are not all Cobras, so I suppose they are all nice!

Anyway 3 days was a short while, I went <sup>twice</sup> and had dinner with Nandamamma & P. tai.

She is working for the blind Inst. there, so is out and busy, very remarkable she is, doesn't miss a single day of morning walk!

I also spoke to Dr. L. Tebay, just to say Hello! Also met another cousin of mine! all in that short span of 3 days! and yet had very leisurely breakfasts and dinners.

It was really lovely, white canvas chair, the weather cloudy,

hot-toasts served in small basket,  
wrapped in napkins, early morning  
walk in the lawn, gathering tiny  
flowers, making Hori etc. but  
anyone would mention you, I know,  
then how I miss you!

And Haash, it wasn't raining  
much as we passed the ghats but  
it was all still and waiting  
for the rain. It was beautiful  
though. There was stillness in  
the atmosphere, the clouds had  
gathered but had stopped,  
there was no hurry in them,  
the trees ~~and~~ waited patiently.  
It was all soft and nice. ~~Waiting!~~

Back in B'bay Bha managed  
well here, S. was there,  
with him it's little tough for  
me, he has 'no' for everything!

Then yesterday for H's  
wedding I went alone, ~~as~~  
~~the~~ evening pose and stayed  
till the end. And you can't  
imagine at night Bhupesh and  
Rita came to our house to  
spend the night, you see.  
Since Hitesh + Haasha were to  
be at Juhar-Sameep. + H. J. M.  
somewhere else, Rita was to  
go back to her parent's for  
a day. Bhupesh ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> really in  
love with her. As usual with  
E1, M1, E1, M1. They came home  
and came out next day that is  
to-day only at 10 o'clock,  
brat-boo-pee. I knocked,  
since I had hot cake, and  
baked dish, salad, etc. ready  
for them. It was really very  
nice having them here.

I too, was really feeling



nice to have them here.

We all came here

at night even Hitesh & Hanshi,

Bh. & Rita, picked up the 3916

and went to drop them at

Tuhur, so I had half an hour,

and luckily, a new white

bed cover was handy and

old transform the room to a

romantic atmosphere any way

I don't think that they needed

anything more, Bh. is constantly

blushing. And to-day since

morning it was pouring.

• It was lovely for them,

they were also glad to be

away from the crowd at Fort

etc. Tomorrow noon they

leave for Shrinathji & then

for Leh, Itani reception

is cancelled bec. of Nani's

illness though I am told she

is on way to recovery!

Well, about other things.

FAB Foods has sent consignment

& spoke, to Bangalore about it,

she has told me to redirect

it, now how to do it? Any

way I will find out and

do it, also tickets are cancelled

I did not collect money bec

didn't have SIZE letter-head

with me. I did go to the

same-course inbetween my

Pune trip.

So we are all fine,

and hope so are you all.

Please, remember me to all.

and take care

and climb high.

Love, Greta.

19.6.85

My dear Harish,

I was really avoiding writing to you mainly, bec. I am busy doing Nothing, but send S+N to school, in Hosp. with Bha etc. etc. Anyway S. is very very happy about the school, I know it is only 1 week, yet it's good.

Rains have stopped for a few days and you can imagine how lovely the grass must be now. You'll must be busy with thinking plans. Some how am very calm about many things.

And there is a wonderful feeling when I think of the mountains, yet I know I won't be going there. S+N are very keen on hike, but no one to go with. Veena & kids are at Choupatly; they come on and off.

It just happened that Ravi phoned and we have fixed lunch tomorrow at his hse; tomorrow is Ramzan Id and Ashadi Beg. So S+N have holiday. So we will all gather at Ravi's place for your Birthday! I do not know who all, S. has gone to stay with Deepak

so myself and N. ; in room. Lately,  
all three of us are in this room  
most of the time. We are getting  
along better. I am less worked up  
and they are more co-operative.

Will you write to them something  
IMPORTANT. They wait for the letters  
what this Police making you return  
and L.O. with you! I invariably get  
letters dated 12<sup>th</sup> earlier than the  
one on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Anyway, you did take  
long to take off to the track.

I still do not have any  
electric connection in the room! But  
our little tiger is good company, though  
I have to share it with Bha, since he  
too, has discovered that it has better  
reception! Bha is better physically  
slow, but mentally better.

Faahima will be here end June.  
Then he will be full.

I keep imagining your camp!  
Do remember me to all. Big Hello to Meena  
I can't resist writing but I miss you.  
Anyway, all very best for the climb ahead  
lots and lots of Love  
Love

પ્રિય ભાઈ,

તારા જે તાર અને કાગળ મળ્યાં. તમે આજે જ્યાં પહોંચ્યાં છો? મુંબઈમાં જાલે આખો દિવસ ગરમી પડ્યા છે. ત્યાં હવામાન કેવું હશે? અમલી સુભા પુલકાને યોડે ન દિવસ છે. મીના આજે સુને અરુણ કાલે પહોંચી ગયાં. તમે તમારી ટ્રેક જ્યારણ શરૂ કરવાનો છે? તમે કેટલી પીડા અડવાનો છે?

તારો  
સીનમ.

P.S. Just now we received a letter Dated 31.6.85 from the Directorate General All India Radio. He writes:  
DNS, AIR New Delhi may kindly ~~arrange~~ arrange the broadcast of the special weather forecast for the benefit of the above mentioned expedition from 1.6.85 to 30.7.85 between 17.45 to 17.50 (IST) on the frequencies mentioned below:

- 3905 KHz (76.82 M)
- 7280 KHz (41.21 M)

- 2) The expedition will be known by the Code named "CHAMPA"
- 3) The region which the expedition will be exploring should not be mentioned in the bulletin. The broadcasts are liable to discontinued for security or any other reason with or without prior notice to the expedition <sup>Party</sup>
- 4) The change in frequencies if

TO,

15-7-85

HARISH KAPADIA

72, VIJAY APARTMENT,  
16, CARMICHAEL ROAD,  
BOMBAY-400 026.

To,

Dear BABA

You all must be fine. We all  
are fine. We had gone for  
a trek. On Sunday 7-7-85  
we had gone to TUISI LAKE.

With Paka kaka and Shreyas  
kaka. And on 14-7-85 we went  
to karjat on Prem uncle's Farm  
with Purvesh, Deepan, and V. Phui.

YOUR GANG IS  
PHOOSS. (फूँस)

They didn't go for any hikes.

WE ARE THE MONTANEER

from

NAWANG

July 16. '85.  
Tuesday.

HARISH KAPADIA

72, VIJAY APARTMENT,  
16, CARMICHAEL ROAD,  
BOMBAY-400 026.

My dear Harish,

It rained last night, so early morning when it stopped - everything is at a standstill.

The silence is so intense that I can not-but wait for the movements of milk and the birds. The rains are no more in full swing, just as I write it has started to pour down, so I must change my sentence to - it looks like that monsoon has come after all.

Last Sunday, we went to Karjat and at Sagar-Farm, just N., Pur., Deep. & Veenat myself. There was no walking in it, yet, it was a treat to see everything turned green - no rains, too, I didn't come, he went to stay with Podhankhai bec. he had to study - which he really did? Can you believe that? Bha is also keen that S. studies now. so good. Bha is fine, with Deepan around, it's very cheerful and busy day for all. I have, as I have written done nothing yet have been very busy in most of my things.

I am at a loss now, what do I write! Things that you don't like? Yet it's true that I am waiting and missing you.

With Love.  
Geeta -

TF RESI:363772  
OFFI:313227  
GRAM: WINTERWEAR

HARISH KAPADIA

72, VIJAY APARTMENT,  
16, CARMICHAEL ROAD,  
BOMBAY-400 026.

3-7-85

प्रिय माता,

मी ह्या मेळ केम पर हरी. प्रतीम  
 कुठ सने नीराली, मिया सुपुत्रा धर आल्या हे.  
 मदीं मी सुपुत्रा याद करे व. मारी, खुल मी  
 मारी पुरी देर घड गड. काले मी  
 देर हे समने ह्य सुपुत्रा देर होय  
 वे. समने ~~अप्री~~ "award day" पर ~~अप्री~~  
 उमं धोरु मी विरमिस जाल्यातुं ही  
 ते मां मने परां क ये वे. समारी  
 पुरी ह्यो 30मी मी उगले ह्य गड व  
 हरी. 45L हु मी गयो नही. मी वर  
 मने कडि 2, मी. मी. पी., मी. मी.  
 मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी.  
 मने मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी.  
 मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी.  
 मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी. मी.

दि.  
 मी.

13.6.85.

## HARISH KAPADIA

72, VIJAY APARTMENT,  
16, CARMICHAEL ROAD,  
BOMBAY-400 026.

Dear Harish,

So now the schools have started. Everything is smooth no rains today. Veena & children have also arrived today but we have not met them as yet. I think, I shld write to you daily. I am missing out on so many things.

Firstly, Dhruvas has become a father of the much awaited boy on the 11th June. and the proud father talks and talks --- Veena had not informed about <sup>her</sup> ~~your~~ arrival, it's only by chance we came to know about it through Rakhi's bhabhi, so there was all, right & wrong information mixed up, so call to London etc. going on.

In all that hassle, I get a call from Savita, "Please, wait for me we'll go for lunch". She came minus a car so we went in 3916 to the Sea-Lounge.

There you can imagine Savita wearing a loose Kashmiri dress, looking at all people sitting at the window, and we not having a window seat. She called the steward twice pointing out to a chap who was busy reading a newspaper! so to him the window was not really important! Any no one can tell a person to get up! so we ordered and the menu for you to know at ABC,

TF RESI:363772

OFFI:313227

GRAM: WINTERWEAR



was Pizza-chicken Italia, Scandinavian Open  
Sandw., Fish and chips, Fried Tea, and Vanilla milksh.  
So when all this elaborate thing was laid & we  
started again it was not so nice on the sofa  
you have to bend & eat, so hardly we had  
few bites, Madame decided to go out and sit  
on those white cane-chairs, the waiter, said no  
problem, so we marched out with two waiters  
following us, there too, she made so many changes  
in the position of chair to get a perfect view  
of the sea, that two old men had really to  
co-operate to please the madame! So then  
we settled for lovely lunch, with the wild sea,  
and the rain and the wind lashing the window  
panes. Back from lunch we called the children  
at B.C. for ice-cream when S. went on her usual  
mad shopping spree. Even the lunch she treated  
me! and then Shreyas says he was waiting to  
treat me for a dinner too! Anyway though  
we didn't have dinner, yesterday we can keep  
it pending for some other time.

So to-day children are back to school.  
Very short time to-day but Sonam enjoyed.  
Also S. is in gut form to bake cakes also biscuits  
and they really come out so good. I hope,  
my Taj lunch will add further taste to your  
gulabjams and lunch-meat. Love and all the  
best to you all.

yours lovingly  
Geeta.

Tuesday  
2nd July.

## HARISH KAPADIA

72, VIJAY APARTMENT,  
16, CARMICHAEL ROAD,  
BOMBAY-400 026.

Dear Harish,

The ~~hse~~ is crazy with six kids and five adults and three servants. Thank God for the room. The best and most time during the day is spent only in the kitchen.

Anyway, the school is also on and things are not yet settled.

Bha's routine is set. He is well set to his hosp. visits, looks forward to them, but I do not know really whether there is any change. Mentally he is very much better, so I suppose slowly he will be all right.

Bombay has sudden spell of rain, or bright sunshine. I like it both ways.

Half a day it pours, other half, sunshine.

Last week two days rains, flooded whole

B'bay like anything. Almost all roads had waist-deep water — bad drainage.

The traffic was real bad for those days.

I wrote Tuesday on top but today is Mon. night. It's going to be busy week.

I went to Smita Chinnai's hse at Juhu on Sunday, near ISKON Temple. real far away place.

Her two daughters were really lovely, not good looking in beautiful sense but dark with very pleasing features, strong and healthy looking. I like them better than the cute looking type.

TF RESI:363772

OFFI:313227

GRAM: WINTERWEAR

How are you'll flourish, I just feel like  
talking to you all the time when I am  
in the room. Tape Rec. is now working and  
I have music on all the time. I feel,  
restless without it, I don't listen to BBC,  
somehow.

Gaurang had come home to-day,  
to eat pizza, actually I had to  
give him the National tape-recorder,  
which is not working well.

I am waiting for some news  
from you'll now. I have got enough  
from you saying we are ready to start  
but now I am keen to know, what  
plans will <sup>it</sup> be? It takes so long for  
the news to reach. I keep feeling  
how far away you'll must be as I  
write, and so please send the news  
as often as you can.

My very best wishes to all

With lots of love -  
Kreeta.

11<sup>th</sup> July '85.

# HARISH KAPADIA

72, VIJAY APARTMENT,  
16, CARMICHAEL ROAD,  
BOMBAY-400 026.

My dear Harish,

It's your birthday today. Many Happy Returns. As usual for your birthday all the Kapadia clan pampered ourselves, with dosas and kulfi and puddings; and of course, remembered and missed you! Thanks again for the zoom, I feel I am with you - I am just guessing about you! Hope we receive news.

Last Sunday after getting bored and bored with everything and everybody. Paka, Shreyas, S. + N. and myself,

went around Tulsi lake - a mini hike and back. There are no rains in Bombay, lake area is dry and we cld easily go round the lake! ~~Back~~ Were back home by 1.30 afternoon. Last week, tennis was good fun and kept us busy.

S. has not settled down in a sense at home, there is all error all the time. He likes it there. N. is really maturing very well. Deepan is really a lovely boy, and we have good time, but doesn't let me do anything

TF RESI:363772

OFFI:313227

GRAM: WINTERWEAR

he is always after me "Greetabhabhi" he says.

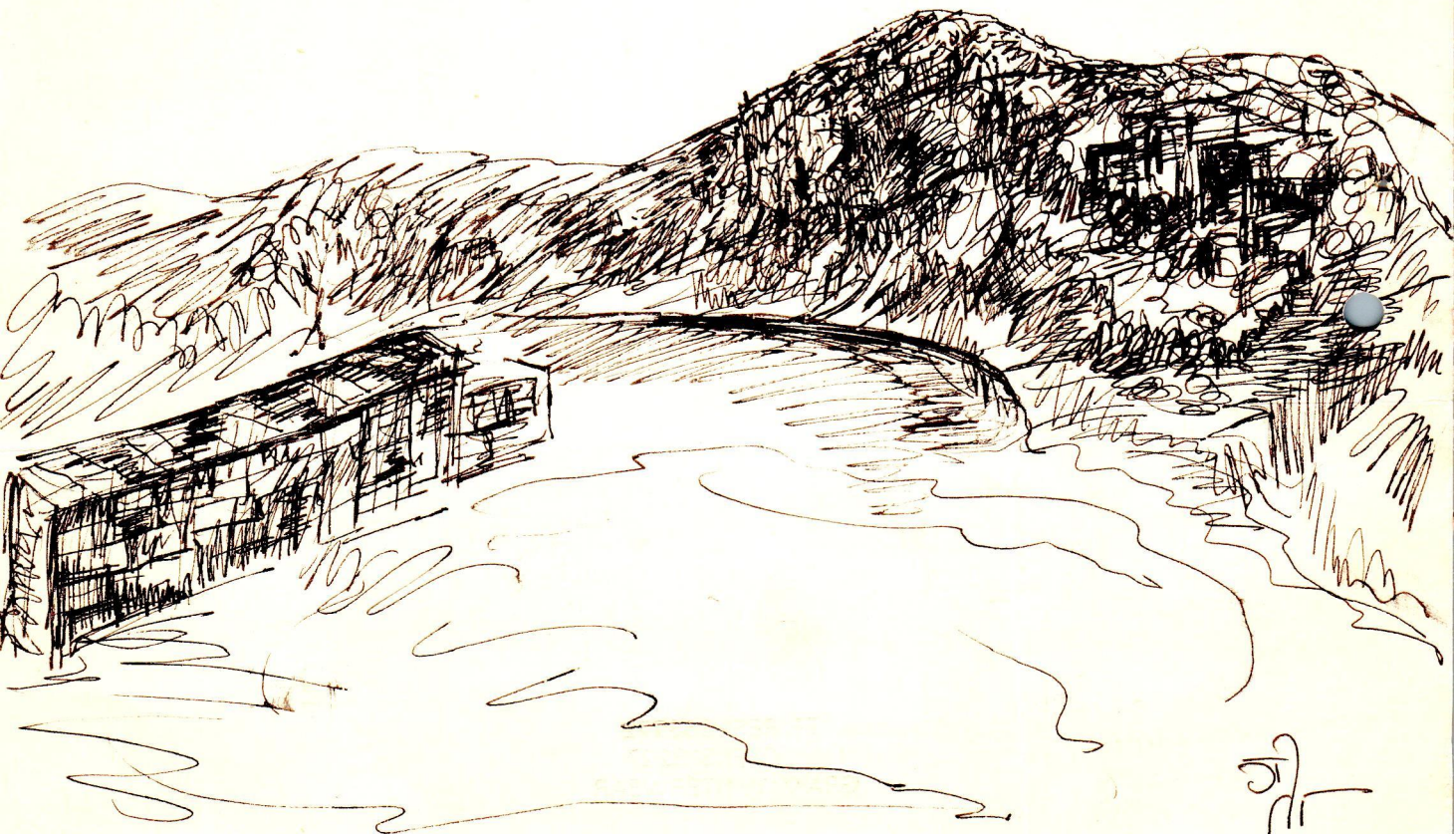
I have, no news of your gang here, except one or two phones here & there + met Ravi few days ago.

Everyone is busy with their work. Ravi is leaving in August.

I hope, all are fine and in best of health. All the best as I wait

for some news.

Yours lovingly  
Sonam and Nawang send you love.  
Also Bha, Bai, Yeena ~~blat ue~~ ~~sitola ed~~.  
Geeta.



ॐ

HARISH KAPADIA

21-6-85 23/5/12

72, VIJAY APARTMENT,  
16, CARMICHAEL ROAD,  
BOMBAY-400 026.

મિત્ર બાબા, તમે મજામાં હશો. અમને તારા કાગળો  
 મળે છે. તેરની થી અમારી સ્કુલ શાળા થઈ ગઈ  
 છે. મને મારી નવી સ્કુલ માં જઈ પડે છે. મારી  
 ક્લાસ ટીચર મીસ જીરો છે. આ ~~વ~~ વરસે  
 મારે સ્કોલ, ~~અ~~ રા.સે પી માંગી પસંદ કરવાનું છે.  
 હું કદાચ શ.સં.પી. લઈશ. તને શું લાગે છે?  
 અમને સ્કુલ માં ~~પિંડવેની~~ પિંડવેની સ્લાઈડસ  
 બતાવી. અમારા સ્કુલમાં મીટીસ બોર્ડ ઉપર પિંડવેની  
 ફોટા લગાડેલા છે. બાબા વિગા કુઈ આવી  
 ગયા છે. તે મારી મારે પાકીટ, મોજ, પિંડ પ્રક, વીટર  
 નોટલ અને એક ગેમ લાગ્યા છે. બાબા સમીતી  
 તારો સિધે પ્રમો વર્કડે હતા ત્યાં અમે જે  
 બહુ યાદ કર્યા હતા. આજે મારે પહેલી ટેજ  
 છે. આજે સાંજનાં અમે મલબ નોટ સાઈકલિંગ  
 કરવા જવાના છે. સોમવારથી વિગા કુઈ, દીપન  
 અને પુલેશ ઘરે રહેવા આવવાનાં છે.

તારો  
સોનમ

2-3-25

Happy.....



Lovely...

प्रिय माया

वरुणे मा पारसबाबासा  
 वाया हे. मुं वरुणां हुमरां. रीन  
 वरुणां पडे हे. त्यां पडे पुज  
 इंरी हुवे. आनकी तमारी रेड  
 बा रे वयो हुवे. S.I.B.E ने  
 यंपा इरीने मोसमां हुवे पारी.  
 हुवे अमारी स्कूल बाळुं वरी.  
 १३ सी तारी इपी.

नि. तारी  
नवांग





6-6-86

Happy.....



Lovely...

પ્રિય બાબા

અમે મજામાં છીએ.  
તમે પણ મજામાં ફરો અરુણાકા  
અને મીનાબાબી વડે કામે નીકળી  
ગયા છે. સોનમ, મા, મામું, અને  
ભાતી પાદ, તમારા S.I.B.F.ની  
કોડમાં ચંપા કહેવાશે.

મિ. તારી

નવાંગ

10. 6. 85

Dear Harish,

We are all ready for re-opening of the schools. Fr. Saldhana said the exams for 8, he will have them later. From today Taraji has left, Ajeet's Ranna comes twice M.T.E. You signed your letter as "Geeta", starting with me's ending with me. much to amusement of N. + S.

Let's at least do you and everyone around. I hope you don't forsaking Meera or let.

With love  
Geeta.



ले० कर्नल प्रेम चन्द्र

Lt Col Prem Chand

कमान अफसर

Commanding Officer

6/11 गोरखा राइफल्स  
6, 11 Gorkha Rifles  
मार्फत 56 ए पी ओ  
C/o 56 A P O

20 May 55

My dear Harish,

I am in receipt of your letter of 14 days in connection with your Seachou adventure. As already intimated booking of seats from Srinagar to Leh has already been done and I shall have the tickets collected when I go next time to Srinagar. I shall inform you about the transport agency once I collect tickets. Please note that the deluxe buses ply only twice a week between Srinagar and Leh and not daily. Hence your endeavour should be to reach in time and utilise the reservations already done. As regards transportation of heavy luggage I shall let you know once I go to Srinagar. There should not be any problem so far I can see. I know HQ personally and if he can help us that will be wonderful and safe too.

It is nice of you having offered your kind services. I shall be grateful if some thing is done about the Ads which I sent to you a couple of months back

If possible before you leave Bombay for Srinagar.

As the things stand today you may find me waiting your arrival at Srinagar provided you give me your ETA in time. However, my house address at Srinagar is "House No 33A Indra Nagar Opposite Broadway Cinema Hall". In case I am not there my family will certainly there as I can't come there because of children schooling.

By the way I haven't received the draft you mentioned in your above letter. In case the same has not yet been sent, there is no requirement of draft as I shall take cash from you with INTEREST later as I require money for my leave.

With warmest regards to Mrs Harish and love to children who must have gone to higher classes now.

Yours  
Prem

TANVIZ  
21000'

GILBERT  
24280'

HANK  
22160'

24300'  
Sik  
Kargoi

26470'  
Gasher  
brum

18950'  
INDIRA  
601

PK 81  
Gasher  
Team  
Shehr Gacier

SINGHEN  
GACIER



**THE SIACHEN INDO-BRITISH EXPEDITION 1985**

**View of the Siachen glacier (Eastern Karakoram)**

**Based on a photo by Workman Expedition, 1912**

SIBERIAN



THE SIACHEN INDO-BRITISH EXPEDITION 1985

View of the Siachen glacier (Eastern Karakoram)

Based on a photo by Workman Expedition, 1912

Harish Kapadia

John Hunt

Ray Sander ~~of London~~

Dave Wilkinson

Neil Cartwright  
Prithvi

Boyd

Walter Fernald

Gr

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**Grindlays reaches new heights  
with the  
INDO-BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION**

Six Indian and four British members will embark on an Indo-British mountaineering expedition to the Siachen Glacier in North Ladakh in June.

This is the first civilian expedition attempt and has been jointly sponsored by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) and its British counterpart, The Alpine Club, London with additional support provided by Grindlays Bank.

THE DAILY , SUNDAY JUNE 2 , 1985:

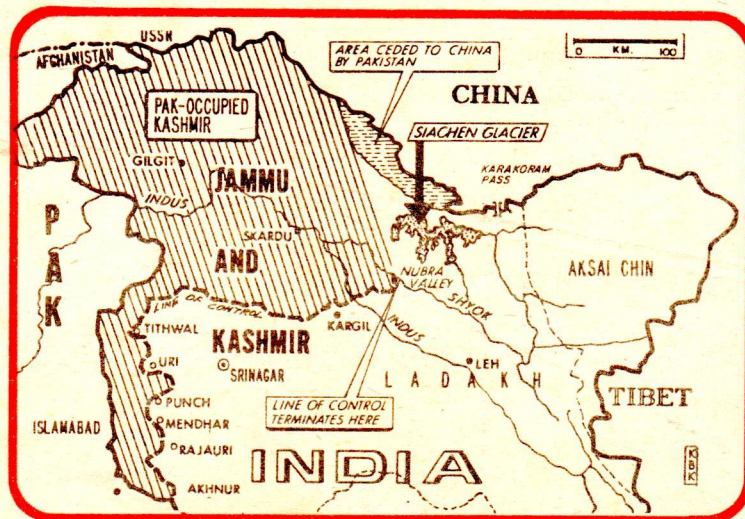
# US-Pak rout in glacier war

## • BLITZ Special

**S**RINAGAR: Not many may have heard of the Siachen glacier in Ladakh where the Indian Army has been quickly repulsing repeated Pakistani intrusions over a year and more.

BLITZ learns from authoritative Defence sources, that the Siachen glacial belt has constantly been under active surveillance by US spy satellites, and it was on the basis of the data collected by the Pentagon that Pakistan was asked to prepare to take the area in a surprise attack.

Situated along 77 and 77.35 degrees longitudes at a height of 14,000 to 18,000 ft., the 120-square-kilometre glacial belt has



immense strategic importance, as it is the only barrier separating the Chinese in the east and Pakistanis in the west of strategic Ladakh.

On its left is the high altitude region of J & K extending to Kargil and beyond, rising to the ramparts of Karakoram. On the

left of the glacier is the high altitude region of the northernmost part of the Pakistan-occupied state sprawling towards Karakoram, under whose shadow lie the Gilgit and Skardu areas of the Pakistan-held northern area of Jammu and Kashmir.

In the last two years, the area has come to occupy high importance in Pakistani military plans, which are closely dovetailed into the global designs of the Pentagon.

Skardu, a vast and high plateau, has suddenly gained importance in Pakistan's aggressive plans against this country as a jumping-off ground into the Kashmir Valley, and has been vested with immense potential for a first strike, gifted by the US planes, into India's north-west.

What has facilitated the heavy Pakistani military thrust into Siachen is the Karakoram Road, jointly built by Pakistan and China. A military engineering feat, the Karakoram Road now branches out at several points into the Pakistan-held northern parts of Kashmir, right up to the Kargil sector opposite Indian positions.

Further north of Skardu, along the Karakoram foothills are running across hundreds

# Massive sneak attacks to grab J&K

Continued From Front Page

kilometres, the Pakistanis have perfected logistic support up to the Partappur area of Nubra Valley of Ladakh, beyond which lies the Siachin glacial belt.

Till April last year, Pakistanis had minimal access to the glacial belt, as the Indian Security Forces had liberated a sizeable area in the 1971 war from the Pakistanis and, thus, plugged the entry points of Pakistani armed forces posted in the area.

Incidentally, it was from the Partappur area that Pakistani armed infiltrators entered Ladakh in 1947, across the Nubra Valley, and reached the outskirts of Leh, only to be hurled back and chased by the Volunteer Force of Ladakhis, who held the ground firmly till the arrival of the Indian Army there.

The Siachin glacial belt is one of the highest, most remote areas of the region where literally no blade of grass grows. The climate on the glacier during most part of the year touches Arctic temperatures, slumping to minus 40 degrees Celsius. Even in summer, when hot days are followed by freezing nights, the area remains cut off from the outside world.

## Pak winter war plan smashed

From November to June, when Arctic cold envelops the bare rocky mountains and its gravel slopes, the snow-swept face of the glacial area changes into an iceberg of stunning formation that beggars description.

Equipped with snow warfare military hardware, the Pakistani blueprint for action was first put into operation in April 1984, when Indian military pickets were withdrawn to the rear to escape the blinding Arctic weather on the glacier.

**Happily, the Indian military intelligence succeeded in busting the US-Pakistan secret plan for attack, and formulated counter-operational plans against the Pakistani thrust.**

By late March last year, when

the Pakistani plan began to unfold itself, the Indian Army command put into operation a surveillance system to keep the Pakistani troop movements in the area under close watch.

As the reports came of a massive and rapid deployment of the so-called elite "Baluch" regiment from areas opposite Kargil as far as two villages in the neighbourhood of the glacial belt, the Indian Army command, in a swift counter-manoeuve, moved in its special snow warfare units on the glacier to await the Pakistani thrust.

**The final Pakistani assault came towards the beginning of May when more than two battalions of Pakistani SSG commandos moved into the glacial area, only to be driven back with heavy casualties.**

## Second thrust repulsed

The defensive action by Indian Security personnel, and the supple tactics they employed to engage the Pakistanis in encounters, stunned the Pakistani Army command, which immediately ordered the withdrawal of the commandos.

According to one report, the SSG commandos comprised a sprinkling of specially equipped groups of Afghan mercenaries trained to fight in the mountain ramparts of the strategic Wakhan corridor in the north-east of Afghanistan, bordering China.

The SSG commandos are not old style advance and hit units, but trained to accomplish a variety of assignments, and are fully equipped with sophisticated weapons supplied to Pakistan by the US.

**With Indian Security Forces fully in command of the glacial belt, the Pakistani armed forces did not make any major move to re-enter the area till last August, when they launched another attack, but were again repulsed with heavy losses on their side.**

## Camp for Sikhs destroyed

The August attack on the glacial belt appeared to have been meticulously planned by Pakistan after taking into account the failure during the abortive thrust in May.

It coincided with the massive exercises which Pakistan conducted along the Line of Actual Control, resulting in fierce encounters in the Jammu-Rajauri border in the plains of J & K State.

The massive war exercise

conducted by Pakistan encouraged the Sikh extremists in the Jammu region to cross over in hundreds to the other side of the actual control line into Pakistan-held territory, for training at a number of camps set up in the area.

One such "reception camp" for the extremists, set up by the Pakistani Army command, was on a two-acre area adjoining nomad's land in the Poonch sector. **The Indian Security personnel, in a swift action, destroyed the camp along with the temporary "guest house" constructed on it for the reception of extremists.**

## Paks suffered heavy losses

From Siachin to the Jammu plains, the Pakistani actions conformed to a sinister design of providing an external dimension to the destabilisation attempts inside the country. That, perhaps, finally compelled the Indian Government to resort to "Operation Bluestar" to flush out the extremists from the Golden Temple.

It was a desperate attempt by the Pakistani military brass to test the loyalty of Indian troops maintaining vigil along the borders of the sensitive and strategic State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Equipped with sophisticated snow warfare hardware supplied to them by the United States, the Pakistanis launched three major armed thrusts since April 1984, the last one in December, in the hope of taking over the strategic glacial area by surprise.

## BBC's mischievous broadcasts

Holding fast against the massive armed thrusts of the Pakistanis, the Indian Security personnel have not only inflicted heavy losses on the Pakistanis in men and material, but also established their reputation as a capable defence force, well versed in the tactics of high altitude snow warfare.

When Pakistanis launched their first massive attack in April last year, they had hoped to take India and the world by surprise. But when an Indian news agency

broke the news of the Pakistani attack, the Pakistanis promptly came out with a denial, after the then Defence Minister had, in *suo moto* statement to Parliament, confirmed that an attack on Siachin glacier had taken place, and that the Pakistani intruders had been repulsed.

## Pak let cat out of the bag

The BBC dutifully carried on its network the Pakistani denial, and introduced an element of mischief in justification of the Pakistani stance that the Line of Actual Control dividing the Pakistan-held areas of Jammu & Kashmir had not been demarcated on the ground in the glacial belt.

But after the abortive assault by the Pakistanis in December last, the controlled press in Pakistan boasted that Pakistani troops had "re-taken" the vast glacial area from Indian hands when the truth was, that they had been rebuffed with heavy casualties.

Between their first denial of the attack on the strategic glacier in May last year and the present reports that their troops had "re-taken" the area, the Pakistanis, so to say, let the cat out of the bag by indirectly admitting that they were implementing a grandiose military plan to penetrate deep into the strategic heartland of Ladakh.

But that is not to be, thanks to the heroism of our Jawans operating at the glacial heights of Ladakh.



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JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR

# Gunfire on the Glacier



View of the Karakoram from Sia Kangri: grim scenario

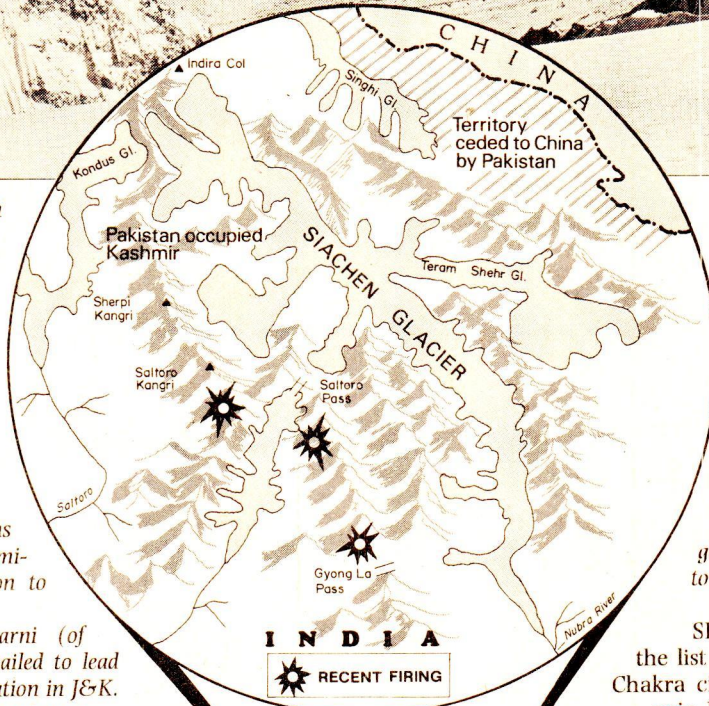
"MAJOR Ajay Nath Bahuguna (of J&K Rifles) undeterred by awe-inspiring odds successfully led his men in extremely high altitudes in conditions of high velocity winds, heavy snow and blizzards and accomplished a difficult assignment in one of the forward locations in J&K.

"Major Bahuguna thus displayed leadership, determination, courage and devotion to duty of a high order."

"Captain Sanjay Kulkarni (of Kumaon Regiment) was detailed to lead a task force in a forward location in J&K. Despite the very high altitude, extreme cold, heavy snow, high velocity winds and blizzard conditions, he accomplished his mission successfully.

"Captain Sanjay Kulkarni thus displayed leadership, determination, courage and devotion to duty of a high order."

"Lance Naik Ramesh Singh of Kumaon Regiment was a member of a group assigned to construct a helipad in one of the forward locations in J&K. Due to extremely high altitude

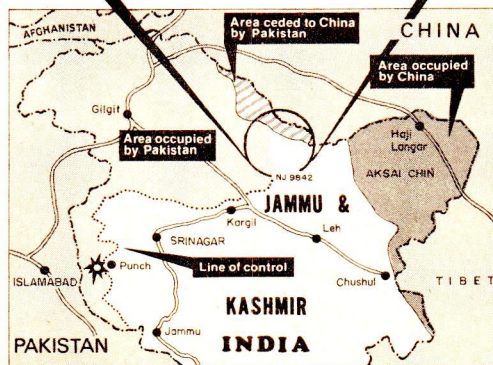


he was affected by hypoxia. Unmindful of his personal safety Lance Naik Ramesh Singh refused to leave his place of duty till the completion of the task and eventually laid down his life at his post.

"Lance Naik Ramesh Singh thus displayed courage, determination and devotion to duty of a high order."

SHORT, TERSE, cryptic and cold, the list of Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra citations goes on in the same vein. Not even once is the area of operations or the nature of the operations mentioned. Nor is there any mention of the enemy. But dozens of citations for gallantry awards made in recent months talk similarly of bravery in the face of blizzards, avalanches and subarctic conditions.

This secrecy itself explains the nature of warfare waging for over a year now in the country's northwestern extremities where neither man nor beast treaded till a year ago. Now thousands of troops, Indian and



MAP BY B.K. SHARMA

# ESCORTS SECURED DEBENTURES

## The Issue

Escorts Limited is offering 20,00,000 — 15% Secured Non-Convertible Redeemable Debentures of Rs. 100/- each, for cash, at par, aggregating Rs. 20 crores on Rights Basis to its Indian Resident Equity shareholders with a view to augment the long-term resources of the Company for working capital. The Debentures remaining unsubscribed, if any, will be disposed of by the Board of Directors in such manner as it may deem fit.

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	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
7th year	30.00	52.57	5.00	87.57
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	100.00	222.55	5.00	327.55

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At the end of	Face Value Rs.	Accumulated Interest Rs.	Total Amount Payable Rs.
1st Year	10,000	1,556	11,556
2nd Year	10,000	3,355	13,455
3rd Year	10,000	5,433	15,433
4th Year	10,000	7,835	17,835
5th Year	10,000	10,610	20,610
6th Year	10,000	13,818	23,818

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Pakistani, stand muzzle-to-muzzle in the upper reaches of Karakoram along Siachen, which at 73 kilometres is the second biggest glacier outside the polar region.

The elements are daunting, but cold is by no means their only enemy. There are incidents of firing almost every week, spilling blood on both sides. "What surprises us", says an Indian army officer in Srinagar, "is that the happenings in Siachen just do not seem to be affected by anything that happens at the diplomatic level." There can hardly be a better illustration than the bloody incidents of firing that broke out last fortnight just when the Indo-Pak joint commission was holding its second meeting in Delhi.

The incidents came after a period of relative calm. Near Gyangla in the region radiating southwards from Bilafondla (see map), a small detachment of Indian troops suddenly woke up to find itself under a rain of mortar shells. In a short spell of firing nine mortar shells landed perilously close to the post damaging some of the Indian bunkers and snowshelters though no one was hit in the attack. The Indian troops retaliated with medium machine-gun and rocket fire. A Pakistani bivouac was momentarily caught in the open and later the Pakistanis were seen collecting their wounded. The incident triggered off a chain reaction with a few other posts scattered along the glacier exchanging sporadic bursts of fire but a conflagration was avoided.

Indian defence and diplomatic sources say the sudden firing was not so much a probing mission as an effort to keep tension alive in the region. Said an official: "After Benazir Bhutto's statement in London last week that Zia has surrendered the Siachen glacier to India the Pakistan Government is under pressure to prove to its people that it has not given up its claim on the area. We see the new incidents in that perspective."

The current spate of violence, in any case, is part of a persistent Pakistani campaign to retrieve lost ground. Over the past six months Pakistani troops have persistently launched probing missions trying to outflank the Indian positions. The campaign peaked in May when a company of Pakistani troops tried to cut off the supply lines of an Indian post near Bilafondla. But an Indian patrol spotted the movement in time and the Pakistani detachment was ambushed. The Northern Command at Udhampur now preserves a few Pakistani tents and equipments captured soon after the clash, with a bit of pride.

Indian officers involved in the opera-

tion say it was this failure that led the Pakistani commanders to embark on aerial photography of the glacial region with the intention of mapping out the Indian positions. The formation of six Pakistani aircraft, two Mirage Vs (reconnaissance version) and four MiG-19s as escort was spotted first by an Indian shorthaul transport aircraft on a routine drop-sortie in the region. The Pakistani aircraft hovered over the area for five to six minutes which, according to Indian spokesmen, was too short a period for the Indian Air Force (IAF) to scramble interceptors from Srinagar or Avantipur, the nearest bases.

**The area radiating eastwards from Siachen is among the most inhospitable in the world. That is perhaps why both India and Pakistan had so far shown no inclination to demarcate the borderline here.**

In fact, in its July 6 issue the reputed *Jane's Defence Weekly* reported that India had shot down a Pakistani helicopter over Siachen. Sources in Delhi, however, say that troops in Siachen have often fired at low-flying helicopters and reported hitting at least two. But none has been seen crashing and no wreckage has ever been found.

In terms of the toll it is taking on human and financial resources, the conflagration in Siachen is prohibitively expensive for both sides. Says an Indian commander: "Ultimately, you feel sorry for the poor fellows from both sides fighting at those heights. Even the healthiest soldier is prone to developing all kinds of diseases, from pyorrhoea to piles and hypertension to rheumatism in those conditions. The military hospital in Leh has had a busy time treating casualties from high altitude exposure."

There have also been serious problems of logistics and supplies and the army and the air force, which maintains the Siachen garrisons, have had to do the ultimate in ingenuity and improvisation. The army, for example, found itself exposed to howitzer fire from the Pakistani positions and decided that it had to have heavy guns of its own. While dismantled howitzers were airlifted to the region with great difficulty, the gunners then said

they needed cranes to put the guns together. Even these were ultimately improvised from the meagre technical infrastructure available on the spot and the fire-power balance was restored.

Similarly the IAF is rewriting record books. Most of its helicopters, the Cheetah (Allouette III) and Mi-8 have a service ceiling of just about 18,000 feet. But supply and casualty evacuation missions in the region imply having to constantly fly above terrain higher than 18,000 feet. As a consequence helicopter pilots are forced to fly merely 5-10 metres above the jagged terrain. One helicopter pilot, Wing Commander Tajinder Pal Chhatwal, created a record of sorts by flying 42 such sorties in a day to supply advance pickets and earned himself a Shaurya Chakra. The IAF-men make particular mention of a bleak day in May 1984 while the operation was just being launched, and two Cheetah helicopters got into trouble almost simultaneously. One force landed at 18,000 feet and the other crash-landed 700 feet below. After three months of preparation Corporal Charivukalayil Govindan Soman, an air-frame fitter trekked to the area, dismantled the helicopters and made their retrieval possible. His reward too is a Shaurya Chakra.

Both India and Pakistan justify this rather exaggerated build-up in such desolate country in terms of their own strategic perceptions which put a heavy premium on the control of Siachen salient. The Indian view is explained by a general who says: "The strategic Tibet-Sinkiang road passes through territory captured by China east of Siachen. Northwards we have the new road from Pakistan going through the Khunjerab Pass. These form a noose round India's jugular. If they took Siachen, they would be holding a dagger to our backs in the Nubra Valley."

But what surprises military observers is the apparent suddenness of this strategic realisation. The area radiating eastwards from Siachen is among the most inhospitable anywhere in the world. That is perhaps the reason why both India and Pakistan had so far shown no inclination to demarcate the borderline here. The 1949 Karachi agreement as well as the Simla agreement agreed on a borderline terminating at point NJ 9842 on the map. The rest was left undecided, a kind of forbidden land no man was ever likely to claim. But things changed with changing technologies and geopolitics and after the 1971 war, Pakistan began showing an increasing interest in the area. It had better contiguity with the area which it flanks from west and the north and to the east

## CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

UNITED INDUSTRIAL BANK LIMITED



**STATEMENT BY  
SHRI J. N. BISWAS  
CHAIRMAN  
UNITED INDUSTRIAL BANK LTD.  
AT THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE BANK  
HELD IN CALCUTTA  
ON JUNE 21, 1985.**

### Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you to the Forty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of your Company.

Beyond dealing with the formal business today, I feel it is only appropriate for me to refer to the tragedy faced by the nation in the assassination of our late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, in October last year. Smt. Gandhi's outstanding contribution to the cause of socio-economic development of India as well as other third world countries will always be remembered with gratitude. I am sure you will all join me in paying our humble tribute to her memory.

### Economic Environment

It is heartening to note that the Indian economy has attained a reasonably strong position at a time when we have just launched the Seventh Five Year Plan. According to the latest available estimates, in 1984-85, Gross National Product at constant prices has gone up by 4% with agricultural production registering a modest increase over the peak of 1983-84 and industrial production rising by 7%. Infrastructural services have shown marked improvement and price rise has been moderate.

The outlook for 1985-86 is, on the whole, good. While production growth and improvement in infrastructure are distinctly favourable indications, the possible areas of concern relate to prices and balance of payments. In West Bengal, the economic trend is quite encouraging, particularly with a new wave of industrial ventures being initiated in the joint sector. Also, there has been a commendable progress in the revival of sick industrial units in the State. Thus, with a favourable industrial climate in West Bengal where a major part of our banking operations take place, United Industrial Bank is poised to contribute towards rapid growth of the region.

### Trends in Business

During 1984, despite a marginal increase in number of offices, your Bank's year-end deposits increased from Rs. 140.67 crores in 1983 to Rs. 180.06 crores in 1984, registering a 28.0% growth as against 14.0% growth in deposits of all scheduled commercial banks.

Similarly, your Bank's advances recorded a 34.0% growth in 1984 which compared favourably with a 16.1% growth in advances of all scheduled commercial banks.

It should also be mentioned that in 1984 advances to priority sector activities such as agriculturists, small-scale industrialists, transport operators and retail traders aggregated Rs. 29.33 crores and the beneficiaries in such priority sector loan accounts have demonstrated an encouraging performance in their respective areas of business.

### Better Service and Greater Efficiency

In its continuous and consistent pursuit of offering better services to the existing as well as new customers your Bank has initiated the following measures:

- 1) Special emphasis on reaching out to people by opening new branches; so far in 1985 the Bank has received licences for opening 18 new branches.
- 2) To introduce staggered banking hours to cater to the requirements of customers in primarily residential areas.
- 3) To introduce teller system to speed up payments to depositors.
- 4) Introduction of exclusive banking counters for children, the future citizens, to inculcate banking habits in them. Introduce exclusive banking counters for ladies to mobilise household savings.
- 5) To set up international division to facilitate foreign exchange operations.
- 6) To offer special assistance to industrial units and priority sector borrowers in terms of counselling and extension services.

In order to offer better and efficient services, the Central Office of the Bank has been set up in 1984.

### Growth and Diversification

As an organisation, your Bank has always responded successfully to the newly emerging challenges of business. With a keen sense of dynamism, the Bank envisages new areas of growth and is planning to undertake a major diversification in the form of merchant banking.

Recognising the growing needs and the complexity of raising resources for industrial projects, your Bank has decided to set up a merchant banking division to offer specialised services to our customers, existing and prospective, which include project counselling, loan syndication, management of public issues, etc.

It is expected that the division would start functioning shortly.

### Banking Policies

Banking in India has made rapid strides since the nationalisation of major scheduled commercial banks in 1969. Today, Indian banking system is recognised universally for the volume and complexity of its business operations and for the resilience it has demonstrated while combining traditional business with emerging social priorities.

The Reserve Bank of India, too, has its own pride of place among the Central Banks of the world for successfully monitoring and guiding the evolution of Indian banking system. In 1984, the Reserve Bank of India credit policy was guided by the objective of deploying bank resources to support public sector investment and to meet increased demand for credit from the commercial sector following expectations for higher food procurement and industrial growth. At the same time due priority was accorded to ensure control on inflationary pressure through bringing about a deceleration in the growth of money stock and regulating liquidity of the banking system. Raising of Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) has been the most of important policy measures in this regard.

Thrust of the new Government headed by a young and energetic Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is towards relaxation of unnecessary controls and doing away with red tapism. It is hoped that in tune with this new trend of thinking the Reserve Bank of India will give more freedom and greater operational flexibility to the Banks so that they can substantially contribute towards the achievement of the national objectives.

### Some suggestions

I feel, there should be closer coordination and greater understanding among the institutions involved in financing projects. In this regard, I put forward the following suggestions:

- 1) Insurance Companies must expedite settlement of claims because delay in such settlements leads to difficulties for the banks.
- 2) Deposit insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India must review their policies and try to reverse the trend of reducing the extent of coverage of loans. DICGCI should expedite settlement of claims.
- 3) In view of the multiplicity of borrowal accounts, particularly in rural branches with limited manpower, the limitation period under the Limitation Act be extended in case of Bank's dues.
- 4) Industrial Development Bank of India and National Bank For Agriculture and Rural Development should raise the limits for automatic refinancing fixed long time back as has been generally done in other cases.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the employees but for whose sincere efforts there could not have been harmony in industrial relations and a sustained move to improve productivity. I would also like to place on record my appreciation to my colleagues on the Board for their support, encouragement and guidance and our thanks to our innumerable customers and well wishers both home and abroad for their patronage and to the Government of India, Reserve Bank of India and Government of West Bengal and other State Governments for consideration shown to the Bank. Before I conclude, I must thank all the shareholders for their faith and confidence to the Institution.

Thank you all.

Note: This does not purport to be the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting.

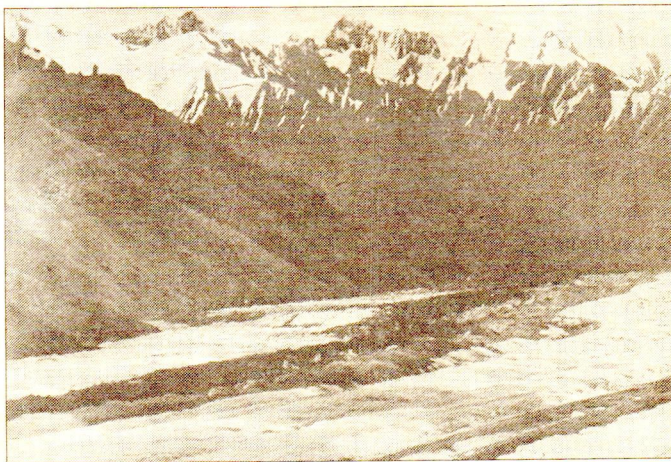


lies the territory in occupied Kashmir which Pakistan has ceded to China.

The Pakistani plan was simple and effective, to establish control over the region by sponsoring foreign expeditions to the virgin peaks here and thus having the territory listed as Pakistani in reputed international journals. To begin with it succeeded and Pakistan went on merrily sending mountaineering expeditions across the glacier without as much as drawing a diplomatic protest note in return. For over a decade, most international mountaineering journals had been listing these as expeditions carried out in Pakistan. On the face of it, it seems, the Indian army operations directorate reacted with alarm after seeing maps of the region in reputed foreign mountaineering journals showing Siachen in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

**T**HE INITIAL Indian response was sporadic patrolling of the area, much in the fashion of the anaemic effort that had met the Chinese claims over Aksai Chin in the '60s. In the late '70s the Indian army also launched a few expeditions into the area. This peaked in 1981 with Colonel N. Kumar, the renowned climber, leading a large team from the Sonmarg-based High Altitude Warfare School across Siachen. The group scaled, among other peaks, the formidable Sia Kangri and Saltoro Kangri, both overlooking Siachen from perches higher than 7,000 metres.

Intelligence sensors were soon abuzz with the reports that this had caused consternation in the Pakistani General Headquarters. They were planning to raise a special high altitude warfare force to take over the area militarily. This led to discussions at the prime minister's level and Mrs Gandhi gave the army the authority, some time in late-1982, to go shopping. A frenzied race followed with the Indian and Pakistani military delegations often finding themselves in the same cities of Europe and scouting for similar equipment at the same firms. But India pipped Pakistan at the post and in an operation masterminded by the then XVI Corps Commander Lieutenant-General P.N. Hoon in May last year elements of the 4th battalion of Kumaon Regiment hoisted the



**The Siachen glacier: protracted battle**

tricolour in the region in spite of heavy losses due to avalanches. Indian officials now admit to losing at least 40 lives to various "operation-related" causes around Siachen. Besides many more have been wounded, frost-bitten or taken ill due to exposure. Lt-General M.L. Chhibbar, goc-in-c Northern Command estimates the Pakistani casualties to be close to a hundred.

While attention has lately been confined to the glacial region there has been trouble elsewhere too. Last fortnight there were frequent reports of mortar and small arms fire in the central and north-western sectors in Kashmir. The incidents were concentrated in the area between Rajauri and Poonch and included intermittent firing from the Pakistani post of New Nali over Indian border outposts and firing from the Pakistani post of Lanjot near Poonch river over the Indian positions held by the 6th battalion of Sikh Light Infantry.

BSF officials say the Pakistani intentions seem to be mainly to provide a cover to their civilians who often infiltrate across the border in search of drinking water. "We try to prevent this by firing in the air", said an official, adding, "the standard Pakistani response is a heavy fusillade, with a generous mix of tracers meant to set the dry grass on fire so that our troops have to withdraw for the time being." But all security planners in South Block do not dismiss these incidents as of no consequence.

They point out that these incidents are taking place along the section of the Line of Control where the Pakistani troop concentration is most daunting. Between their I Corps at Mangla and X Corps at Rawalpindi the Pakistanis have at least five divisions of troops facing the

Pir Panjal ranges. These are buttressed by at least six brigades of so-called "Azad Kashmir" troops. Intelligence sources also report the raising of at least three new battalions of "Azad Kashmir" regiment at a place called Mansar along with the new recruitment in Mujahid battalions. "Immediately, we have no evidence to say that the new raisings will necessarily lead to a misadventure, but it hardly augurs well for us," says an official.

Defence experts say that in case a conflict takes place with Pakistan in future, both sides will concentrate on Kashmir since permanent territorial gains are possible only across the Line of Control. From the Pakistani point of view India has already "gained" nearly 3,000 square kilometres of territory in the Siachen region.

In South Block meanwhile, a firm decision has been taken to hold the glacial region even if it leads to repercussions elsewhere on the borders. The defence forces have been given a virtual carte blanche on purchasing the latest equipment in high altitude warfare from wherever it is available in international markets. One indication of this resolve last month was a government notification throwing open 15 of the better known peaks around Siachen to international expeditions on the condition that each group will be led by an Indian. And an Indo-British expedition is, accordingly, likely to be in the region this fall. This is bound to upset Pakistan. It is reasonably logical to presume that their next move would be to keep the tension alive by firing here and there.

But the Indian perception is that this kind of tension is a worthwhile price to pay for cementing India's claim over the territory. Said an officer: "We take Siachen as a test case. We want to assert that the Indian strategic doctrine of the '80s goes way beyond the docility of the '50s and '60s, that it is no longer possible to gnaw at our far-flung territories and then get away with no more than filibuster at the United Nations." It goes without saying that his counterparts across the line of control understand the message perfectly well. Their response too would be far from docile. And that will only ensure more blood-letting in the desolate Karakoram wastes.

—SHEKHAR GUPTA

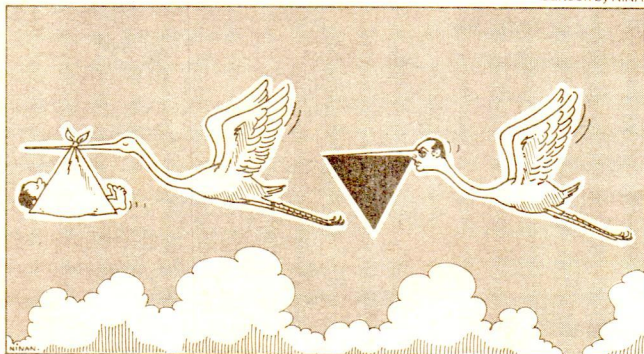
## FAMILY PLANNING

# Reviving the Battle

THE AGE of the red triangle is born again. Those who recall witnessing the 1970s blitz of publicity followed by the massive politicisation of the family planning programme that led, eventually, to the Congress defeat in the 1977 elections will also remember subsequent governments giving short shrift to the programme. Almost overnight family planning disappeared from the public eye, sterilisations became a dirty word and the ministry of family planning was even renamed family welfare. Some of those revisionist policies are at present undergoing another set of revisions in reverse gear, so that family planning has emerged, in the new Rajiv Gandhi age, as Priority Number One for the Government. Repeatedly on his American tour, the prime minister emphasised the magnitude of India's population problem; on his return he was closeted for several hours last fortnight not only with officials of the Health Ministry but a variety of experts, among them demographers, social scientists and members of voluntary agencies to understand the complex issues at stake. And at his press conference last week he admitted the present deficiencies in the programme, promising that major policy changes will be presented in the "next week or two".

Consequently, a flurry of activity has lately become evident in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, with officials falling over one another to produce new charts, refute statistics and evaluate new strategies to give the programme a much-needed shot in the arm. Among the new proposals is a USAID-mooted scheme to delink the social marketing of family planning aids from private and public sector agencies by the setting up of an autonomous non-profit society known as the Contraceptive Marketing Organisation (CMO). The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in fact, in 1983 commissioned Price Waterhouse, well-known company of management consultants, to prepare a study of the feasibility of such an organisation; their report, made available to INDIA TODAY, strongly recommended the establishing of an organisation which would

combine the "flexibility and speed of decision of the private sector and some of the authority of government". The CMO, as a result, came officially into existence last September and the Health Ministry has recently advertised for a highly-paid chief executive to head it. Says Serla Grewal, secretary in the Health Ministry: "Our



Cartoon by NINAN

effort in the social marketing of contraceptives has had limited success. We find that spacing techniques for birth control, that is, the use of condoms, IUD's, the pill and so on, are in future likely to be more important than terminal methods. And a significantly expanded distribution of contraceptives can only be achieved as part of an overall marketing programme. We want to try out, with greater freedom, new techniques in social marketing and use of the information media in an unfettered manner."

As soon as the CMO gets going, its first job will be to take over the marketing and distribution of conventional contraceptives (condoms, pills, and so on) which till last year were partly handled by private sector corporations with an established marketing network. Some 210 million condoms were distributed free in 1984-85, and nearly half through commercial agencies. Says R.P. Kapoor, additional secretary in the Health Ministry and commissioner, family welfare: "The idea is that the CMO will initially take on social marketing of contraceptives and later move into promoting other non-clinical methods of birth control."

The Price Waterhouse report emphasises the autonomous nature of the organisation, commercial in outlook, compact in size and structure and capable of serving as a lead institution. Broadly, its functions would entail:

- ▶ direct procurement of contraceptives from manufacturer and maintenance of quality control;

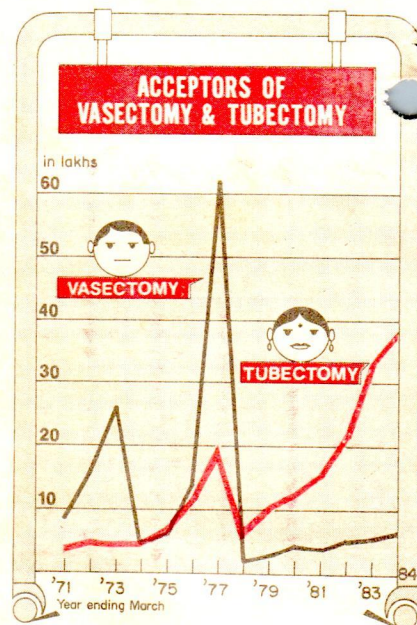
- ▶ free or subsidised distribution, planning and implementation, starting with condoms;

- ▶ information, education and communication activities to complement particularly in the area of training the efforts of existing bodies;

- ▶ introducing advertising and promotion campaigns through professional agencies and monitoring the contraceptive marketing programme regularly through market research and information systems.

The CMO will be attended by a governing board, made up of secretaries to the Government, its own directors and representatives of manufacturers and others as well as two advisory councils: the first will be made up of specialists from interested groups involved in the organisation and the second, more important, by a marketing advisory panel consisting of eminent marketing professionals. The report recommends a decentralised organisation functioning through five regional offices with a total staff strength of about a hundred people drawn from the fields of consumer marketing, the pharmaceutical industry and professional management, and puts the organisation costs at about Rs 15 crore.

The idea behind the CMO, to sell family planning aids as widely and expediently



Territory

# Blood on throne room



**T**HE Siachen glacier lies in one of the most inhospitable regions of the country. It is located in the Karakoram which contain some of the highest peaks in the world and is one of the world's most glaciated sub-polar regions. Among the larger glaciers here is Siachen which is 74 km in length and varies in width from 2 to 8 km.

From last year, the region has been the scene of hostilities between Indian and Pakistani forces. Lying in a zone that was not considered important enough to demarcate in 1949 or in 1972, it now seems to have become a bone of contention between the two coun-

tries. Unrestrained by any Line of Control or formal ceasefire, the Pakistani Government has been claiming that the region up to the Karakoram Pass is part of its territory. Such a claim is anathema to the Indian Government as this would completely surrender the rest of northern Ladakh along with what is already in China's possession. As of now, the Indian Army has been sent in strength to prevent any Pakistani infiltration into the region.

June 23, 1984: Dawn comes early in the snowbound heights around the Saltoro (Bilafond Pass). In the unnatural

ice-enhanced glare, three soldiers in an Indian observation post looked on to the glacier and spotted an advance team of mountaineers moving up. As they drew closer, the observers noted that they were armed and probably members of the Pakistani Northern Light Infantry or the elite Special Services Group (SSG). They tried to rouse the main body of the checkpoint over the telephone and, finding the instrument dead, began to move to warn their colleagues. As they prepared to ski down, the Pakistanis began firing and two men fell, one dead and the other injured.

the subtleties of the 17th-century tales and underlined their Oriental origins. Again Chagall scored a triumph.

His next commission was the Bible, for which he did 105 plates between 1931 and 1956, when the edition was published. These are remarkable for their humanity and for their precise detail.

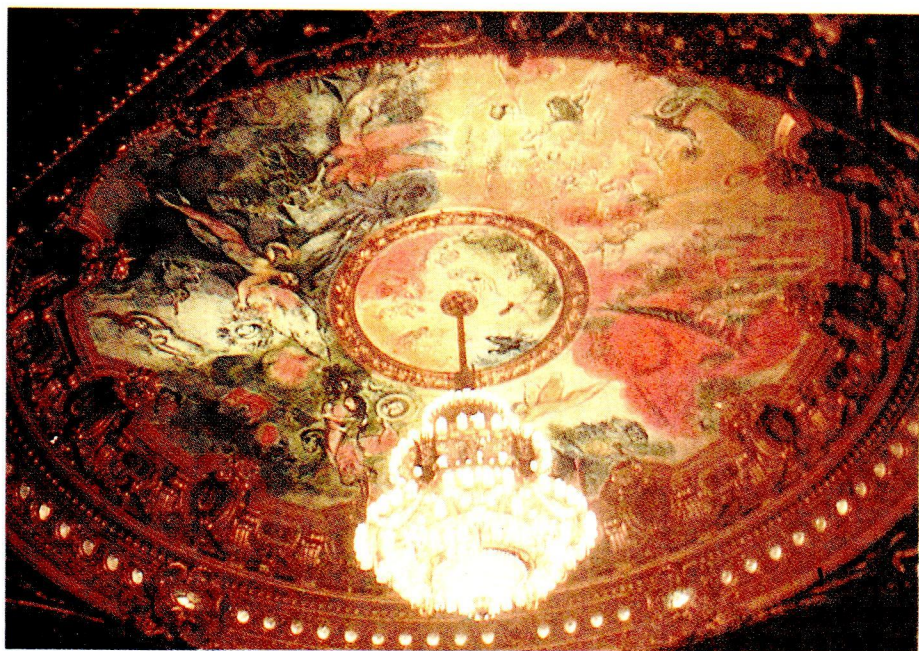
When the Germans overran France in 1940-41, the artist was brought to the United States by the Emergency Rescue Committee. He was in New York for seven years, for most of them living in an apartment off Fifth Avenue.

Chagall was a slow workman, "I could do 10 paintings a day, like some of the others, if I wanted to," he said. "But there's more to it than that. A true work of art is a self-contained world, and the world wasn't made in a day."

In 1944 Chagall's personal life was



M. Pelletier/Gamma



Chagall was welcomed as an idol by the Surrealists, who saw their art form's characteristics heralded in some of his pre-war paintings and the way he juxtaposed animals and men (above). Some of his ceiling paintings, like the one at left, have been granted landmark status.

M. Pelletier/Gamma

virtually shattered by the death of his wife, who was his mentor and his guide, and for nine months he refused to paint.

"All dressed in white or all in black, she has long floated across my canvases, guiding my art," he said at the time. "I finish neither painting nor engraving without asking her 'yes or no.'"

When the painter returned to France four years later, it was with Virginia Haggard MacNeil, by whom he had a son, David. Mrs. MacNeil, a Briton, left him after a while for an older man, a buffeting to Chagall's ego that he took in injured silence. But he soon met Valentine Brodsky, a divorced Russian, who became his second wife.

In his studio were racks of canvases, art books strewn about, uncleaned pa-

lettes, photos of relatives and postcards pinned on the wall. A samovar bubbled and a phonograph gave out classical music as he toiled. It was his private world.

From it came such paintings as "The Lovers of Venice," a boy and a girl tenderly embracing, with Venice in the background.

Chagall gave off an air of meekness, which concealed a hardheaded shrewdness about his own worth in the marketplace.

In his last years, increasing celebrity attached to Chagall. The Musee National d'Art Moderne in Paris opened a room devoted to his work. He was awarded the International Prize for Engraving at the Venice Biennale.

His work in glass, which he learned

to stain in his 60s, outshines his paintings, in the opinion of many critics.

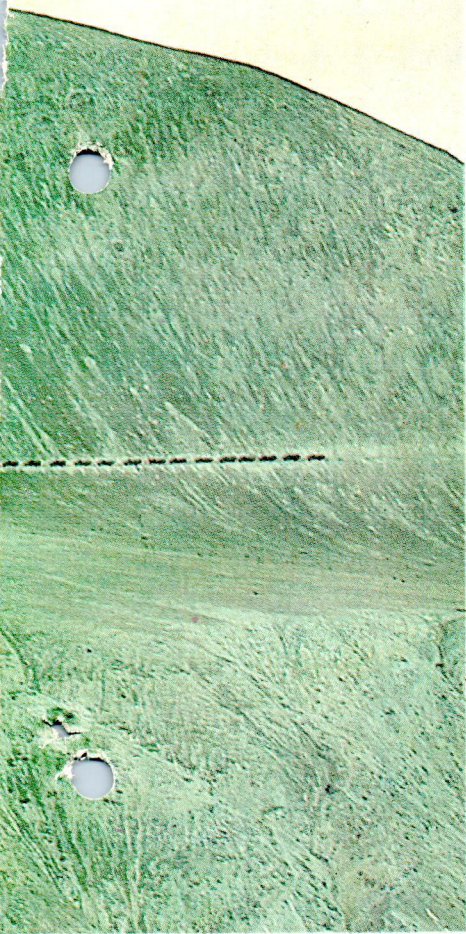
In one of his last thrusts in this direction, he designed a triptych of Old Testament themes for the three huge Gobelin's tapestries for the Knesset. With this work, as with his other art, Chagall considered himself a rugged individual, serene in the belief that his creations would outlive their critics.

"If I create with my heart almost all my intentions remain," he asserted. "If it is with my head, almost nothing. An artist must not fear to be himself, to express only himself. If he is absolutely and entirely sincere, what he says and does will be acceptable to others." □

JOHN RUSSELL

New York Times Service

# of Gods



Colour pictures on pages 76 — 83 by Romesh Bhattacharji.

part of the Indo-Pakistani frontier where active hostilities prevail.

There is perhaps no battleground more improbable than the Siachen glacier whose northern mountains mark the watershed between Central Asia and the Indian sub-continent. The glacier itself reaches altitudes of 18,000 ft and the surrounding mountains contain several peaks over 22,000 ft in height. In the best of times, only trained mountaineers traverse the glacier to climb the mountains—Saltoro Kangri, Sia Kangri or the Teram Kangri and the Apsaras. Besides the danger of rock and ice on the mountain faces, is the problem of traversing the glacier itself which is filled with bottomless crevasses and gullies interspersed with huge ice pinnacles and seracs, and, in changing temperatures, fast glacial streams swell and bring down moraine, scree and boulders. Far worse, are the temperature which goes down to -40°C in winter and the gale force winds that come down from Central Asia to induce a wind-chill factor that brings down the temperature even further.

At these temperatures, if a naked finger touches metal, it "bonds" and the skin and flesh peels off. In those altitudes, men and machines work at about 25 per cent efficiency and a human enemy is the last thing a person thinks about.

### EMBATTLED ZONE

Unfortunately, history and current politics make this region an embattled zone of sorts. Neither the Karachi Agreement on the ceasefire in 1949 nor the Simla Agreement of 1972 that worked out the Line of Control, referred to the region. The Karachi Agree-

ment (made defunct by the Simla Agreement) drew the ceasefire line to a grid point NJ 9842, a point near the Shyok river, approximately south of the glacier region. The area beyond this was not delineated at all. In the 1971 war, the Indian forces pushed back the Pakistani posts in the Kargil and Turtok sectors of occupied Kashmir. When the Line of Control (as the ceasefire line was designated) was worked out in August-October 1972, the newly delineated line ran from the Shyok river west of Thang (including Thang in India), thence north-east of Thang and again terminating at Point NJ 9842. The area north of this was again left blank. This left it open to Pakistani probing in the region.

To the east of the region is the Chinese-occupied Ladakh, with the Chinese physically holding on to their claim-line. India is in this region, therefore, left with a wedge of its own territory with the Karakorum Pass forming its apex. In the post-1962 period, activity—both mountaineering and military—in the region was desultory. The 1972 Indian gains in the region, especially in pushing back Pakistani posts along the old ceasefire line to a new line of control, must have alarmed the Pakistani authorities. When they opened up the Karakorums again to foreign expeditions, the Pakistan Government seems to have operated under a well-formulated plan to push forward, behind publicity generated by a screen of foreign expeditions into Indian territory in the Siachen region.

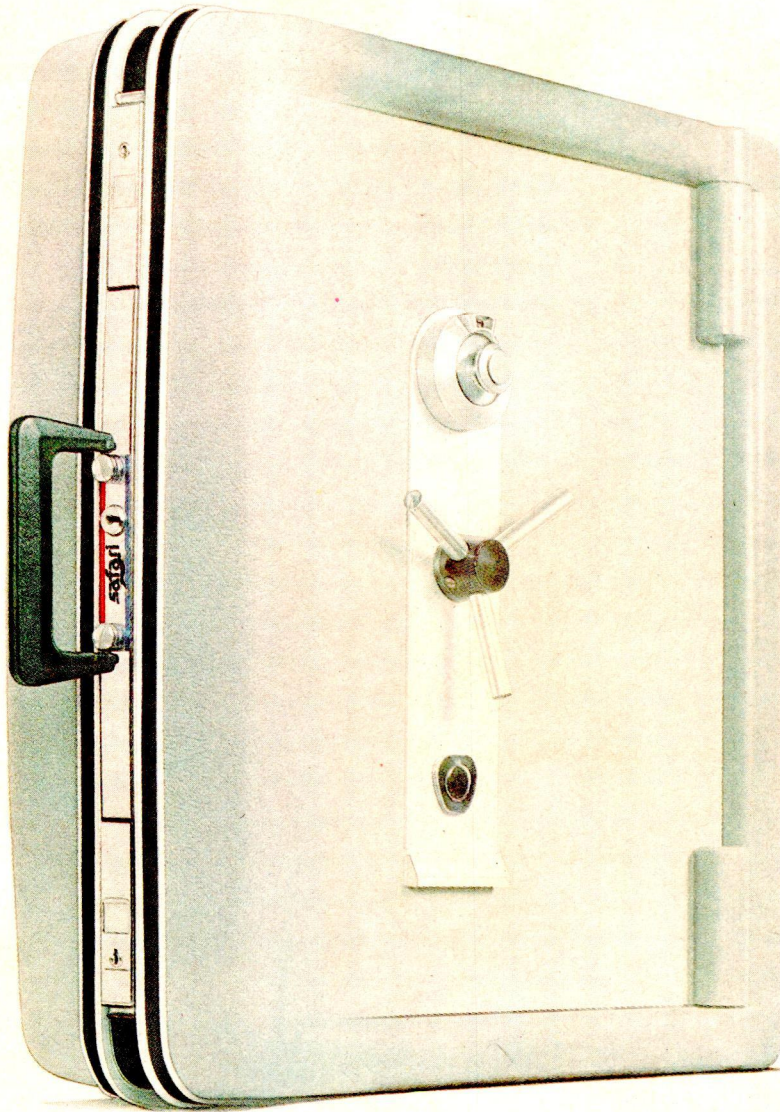
With most of the big peaks having fallen, mountaineers were tempted by the peaks around and across the Siachen glacier, the Teram Kangri, the

An Indian Army convoy en route to Leh from Srinagar; (below): a helicopter taking off from Leh to a forward position.



Fortunately, the third man got through to alert his colleagues. In no time, positions were taken up and by the time the main body of the Pakistani forces moved closer, they were met with a withering hail of fire from above. Caught in the open, Pakistani casualties were heavy and that evening, helicopters ferried scores of wounded or dead to Bunji, the nearest cantonment. Thus, according to one account, began the series of clashes between India and Pakistan in the region as well as in other parts of Kashmir last year. Today, the Siachen region echoes with daily barrages and machinegun fire, the only

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The heights to the west of Siachen where hostilities have taken place.

Apsaras and the Rimo groups, all clearly within Indian territory. The Pakistan Government began "permitting" expeditions into this area from bases in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. In 1975, a Japanese team with 116 porters crossed the Baltoro basin in the Pakistan-occupied area into the Siachen glacier to climb the Sia Kangri (24,350 ft). In the same year, a Shizuoka University team led by H. Katayama accompanied by Pakistan Army Capt. S. N. Hamdani as Liaison Officer, entered the glacier to climb Teram Kangri II on August 10. Next year, a Japanese party under H. Misawa went even further into the region to climb the Apsaras I. In 1979, a field year for the Japanese, no fewer than three expeditions moved onto the glacier at various times. R. Hayashibara of the Japanese Alpine Club led an expedition to the Sia Kangri and the Baltoro Kangri and on their way back came down on the Siachen from where they left for Khapalu (in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the starting point of many of these expeditions). Around the same time, another expedition from the Kwansai Gakuin University made an abortive bid on another peak in the Sia group.

The most elaborate expedition of that year was the one to the Teram Kangri III led by S. Hanada which came

in from the Bilafond Pass in June, crossed the Siachen with 150 porters and established base camp on the Teram Sher glacier and finally climbed the peak on July 29. This expedition must have been on Indian territory for over two months at least. In April 1980, the American Karakorum Traverse Expedition led by Galen Rowell crossed the Saltoro (Bilafond) Pass and traversed the entire glacier up to the Sia La in the north. The accounts of these expeditions were published in mountaineering journals abroad and reprinted in India. Undoubtedly, the Government of India was not unaware of this activity if lethargical in countering it.

**INDIAN MOVES**

The cumbersome Indian bureaucracy was grinding out something somewhere, but it was probably classified "secret"—precisely the opposite of what the Pakistanis were doing. Patrolling was carried out though probably desultorily, as it involved nothing short of full-fledged mountaineering expeditions. Taking a leaf from the Pakistani book, the Government of India sent the Army in—as mountaineers—and publicised their activity. India's leading "military mountaineer" N. Kumar led an expedition to the Teram Kangri peaks

in 1978, a year before the "Japanese Picnic". In 1980, Brig. Thadani led a successful expedition to the Apsaras 1 peak after establishing an advanced base camp high up in the Siachen glacier.

The expedition was there in July 1980, some months after Rowell and the Americans had passed through. In 1981, N. Kumar led the entire class of the High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS) in an expedition that traversed the Siachen from snout to Indira Col and Turkestan La and climbed two important peaks in the region, Sia Kangri and Saltoro Kangri. For some reason, India's mountaineering fraternity (far more active than its Pakistani counterparts) was not encouraged to go into the region, leave alone foreign expeditions. Given the fact that access to the region is far easier from India, via the Nubra Valley, it is not clear why foreign expeditions did not approach India. It is possible that their applications were "lost" in the morass of bureaucracy.

**FOREIGN INTEREST COOLS DOWN**

The Government of India's protests to Pakistan (and the army expeditions) helped cool the foreign interest in the

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## Mountains and politics

**T**HERE can be little doubt that the Pakistani strategy with regard to the Siachen region was a well-thought-out and formulated policy. Ever since it opened up the Karakorum to foreign expeditions in 1974, the Pakistani Government has gone out of its way to encourage foreign visitors to the area under its occupation in this part of Kashmir. It has made the application procedure extremely simple and has even waived royalty for peaks below 6,000 metres (20,000 ft). Last year's royalty earning from the 70 expeditions that visited the area came to Rs. (P) 11.6 lakhs—a 70 per cent increase over that of 1981. The Japanese have been the leading national group of mountaineers visiting Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, followed by West Europeans and North Americans.

In the current year, so far 60 countries (compared with 40 for India) have indicated their interest in climbing peaks in Pakistan, with the Japanese once again heading the list.

Last year, the Government of India threw open the Karakorum region for foreign expeditions and added 10 peaks in the Eastern Kara-

korum region from the Siachen area. These are the Apsaras, the Teram Kangri group, the two Ghaints, Indira Col and Sia Kangri. This decision was not unrelated to the developments in the area (described in the article). It is learnt that while six applications for permission are under consideration at present, the British Alpine Club is likely to be allowed to tackle the Teram Sher peak and the American team the Ghaint. Last year, an Indo-Japanese expedition was allowed to attempt the Mamos-tong Kangri. The Indian Mountaineering Foundation circular states that only one expedition would be allowed into a specified area of the Karakorums in a year and, further, the expeditions would be joint ventures led by Indians. The number of foreigners would not be allowed to exceed seven and the royalty charged would be \$ 2,000—considerably higher than the usual sum of \$ 1,200 for peaks above 7,000 metres charged in other areas of India.

This year, the Pakistan Government has already permitted several expeditions in the Karakorum area, especially to the Gasherbrum group



An Indian team at Indira Col looking into Urdock glacier and Shaks valley (illegally ceded by Pakistan to China) in the background; (right): Teram Kangri seen from base camp; a Japanese expedition spent nearly two months here in 1979 (see article).



5



(Left): the lower reaches of the Siachen glacier with parallel lines of snow and moraine; (above): a view of the Lolo fond glacier across the Siachen glacier. The Salto Pass (Bilafond Pass) is on the right of the glacier. It was the scene of the clash described in the article.



and has actually allowed two to the Sia Kangri which is clearly within the Indian area of control. The Government of India has been taking up the issue of Pakistan encouraging this type of "mountain poaching" for some time. Recently, it drew the attention of Pakistan to the permission it has granted to foreign expeditions to climb peaks of the Gasherbrum group and Sia Kangri.

The Pakistani practice of pushing foreign expeditions through its controlled territory into India in a region where there is no Line of Control and publicising the fact, has paid it dividends of sorts. For example, in all American atlases as well as official maps, the Line of Control is routinely shown as extending from NJ 9842 (where the Line actually ends as per the Indo-Pak agreement) to the Karakorum pass. The London *Times* atlas at one stage depicted the line as going northward from NJ 9842, but of late has been following the American practice.

The American official and unofficial attitude has been one of support for Pakistani claims. The *American Alpine Journal*, the premier mountaineering publication of that country, in its 1981 and 1982 numbers reported even Indian expeditions (re-

ferred to in the article) under the section "Climbs and expeditions: Pakistan". The 1982 account reads: "On page 298 of the *American Alpine Journal*, 1981, we reported a 1980 Indian expedition which crossed the ceasefire line and entered what is generally considered to be Pakistan".

Subsequently, with regard to Col. Kumar's expedition to the Siachen region, it adds in parenthesis "(Editor's note: Although this is placed under Pakistan, one must bear in mind that this is disputed territory and considered India by the Indians.)"

The 1980 American ski traverse in Siachen was led by Galen Rowell. He was a member of an expedition that attempted K2 in 1975. In his published account of that attempt, Rowell notes that the team was accused of being a CIA front to plant a monitoring device on K2, like the one the Agency had put on Nanda Devi (with Indian Government permission) some time earlier. Though the bizarre accusation was part of some fraternal infighting of American alpinists, it does bring out, along with the Nanda Devi caper and the Siachen events, that climbing is a sport that has also lost its innocence. □

M. J.

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## The border and the line of control

**T**OMES have been written and can be written on the Kashmir question. The accession of the State to India, in 1947, led to the tribal and Pakistani attack in 1947. Even subsequent conflicts, the 1962 border war with China, the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan have in one way or the other involved the State directly or peripherally. As of now, Pakistan continues to occupy 79,000 sq km of the State and the Chinese 38,000 sq km in Ladakh. In addition, Pakistan has ceded 4,500 sq km of its occupied territory to China.

Following the hostilities in 1947-48, there was a ceasefire between Indian and Pakistani forces leaving the Pakistanis in occupation of a large chunk of Kashmir. In the 1949 Karachi ceasefire agreement, the area of Siachen did not figure in the ceasefire line as no hostilities had occurred there. A report on demarcation spoke of the difficulties of delineating the line in "the glaciers". Beyond a grid point NJ 9842 near Chalunka it spoke of the line passing "northwards to the glaciers". On ground, however, the delineation took place only till Pt

NJ 9842.

In the 1971 war, Indian forces took several independent actions to "rationalise" the line in the Kargil and Turtok sectors to provide some in-depth defence to the road linking Srinagar to Leh which was at points overlooked by Pakistani-held heights. India was able to persuade Pakistan to accept a new delineation and designation for the ceasefire line. In the talks held to demarcate the new line, it was called the "Line of Control". This line, too, tended to ignore the glacier regions. Reports in the press always spoke of the delineation of the Line of Control from Chamb in Jammu to the Turtok sector, north of Srinagar. The 1972 Line of Control too was delineated to point NJ 9842.

In this situation, the area to the north of this point is undemarcated. It is this fact that has led to Pakistani adventurism in the area. The claims and counter-claims constitute a tinder-box that can be ignited at will to create mischief. □

M. J.



region. Determined now to show "actual control" of the region, the Government of India let it be known that this mountain-poaching via Pakistan would not be acceptable. The Pakistanis were not willing to give in so easily. Indian intelligence became aware that Pakistan was organising a special snow warfare force comprising elements of the SSG and the Northern Light Infantry. Given the generally lower mountain environment the Pakistani Army operates in, it must have been clear that Pakistan was planning to move into the second phase of its Siachen strategy. Having publicised the fact that the area was accessible from the Pakistani side, it was now planning to incorporate it by establishing "actual control". Given the nature of the terrain, a small force in actual occupation of the heights could keep at bay a much larger force.

Speed was of the essence. Both India and Pakistan made their preparations in 1983 to step into the area in strength. Training was stepped up and operations planned out. Fortunately, when the snow melted and made the approach to the area somewhat

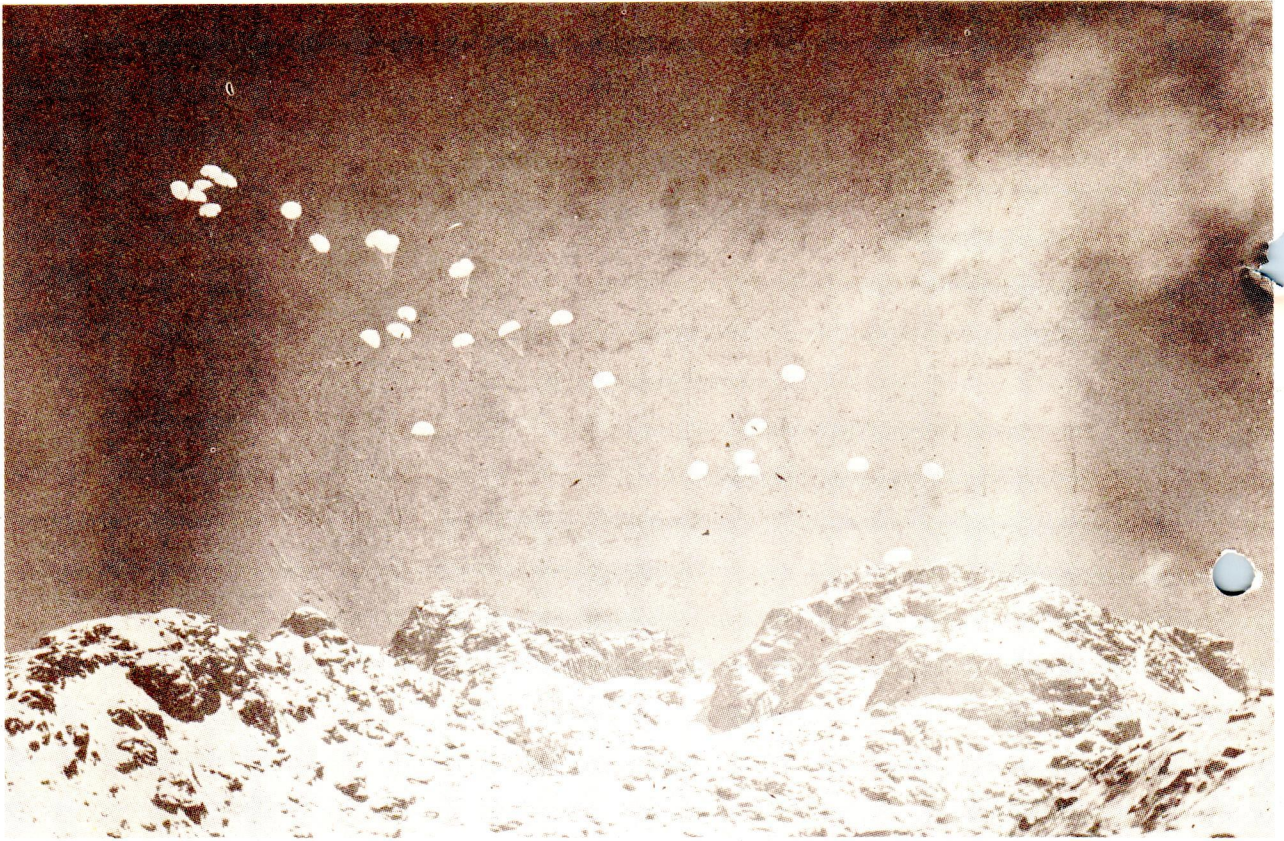
more accessible, the Indian Army was sitting on the watershed of the Saltoro range all the way from Turkestan La to Pt. NJ 9842 from which point onward the Line of Control is demarcated. With their first push foiled, the Pakistanis had to retreat and have since continued to shell Indian positions, to which the Indian Army responds. Sitting on the heights, the Indian positions are militarily superior, even though the problems of logistics are unimaginably difficult.

### TOUGH GOING

For unhindered access, it actually makes little sense for expeditions to go to the Siachen region via Khapalu in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Access through the Nubra Valley is much easier. However, up the glacier which reaches the height of 18,500 ft, the going becomes much more difficult. Overland supplies from the snout would take anything between 10 and 40 days. Both the countries supply their armies by air though the heights make the problems of even helicopter ceiling very difficult. Light Cheetah helicopters of the IAF manage the job with some difficulty. In fact, Pakistan is better off with the Puma 315B acquired from France which has much better payload capacity and ceiling. Air operations here are

**The problem of transportation in the snowy reaches of Ladakh. On Chang La Pass (16,500 ft).**

(7) (8)



Paratrooping supplies in Ladakh...sub-zero temperatures and gale force winds.

highly vulnerable to the terrible winds in the region. Every single sortie is an act of bravery. Both sides have equipped their forces with the best alpine equipment (though some indigenous Indian equipment does quite meet standards) but Indian experience in mountain warfare, gathered in the last twenty years, clearly tells.

Indian casualties in the operation have been minimal. But higher casualties have resulted from avalanches (one such incident took as many as 18 lives); frostbite, mountain sickness and cardiovascular ailments that can bring down the fittest of men. The Leh military hospital, perhaps the most advanced centre of high-altitude medicine, has all the equipment to handle the problems. Nevertheless, besides these physiological problems, soldiers suffer from all sorts of psychological problems as well like depression, hallucination and so on. The Army handles it to the extent possible. But then, guarding the national boundaries is precisely what service in the Army is all about.

#### CARTOGRAPHIC CONFUSION

The lack of demarcation of the Line of Control in the area has led to a considerable amount of cartographic confusion and misrepresentation. For example, U.S. maps routinely show the

Line of Control running well across the Indian area and reaching across the glaciers to the Karakorum Pass. Recent British maps, on the other hand, have been largely following the Indian interpretation. Here too, there is little consistency between various publishers and editions and it is for this reason that physical possession of the area is of vital importance.

What are the Pakistani aims in the area? Amateur strategists have suggested a number of things including a desire to shorten the Karakorum highway that connects Pakistan with China. Knowledgeable people say this is improbable, given the extremely difficult terrain encountered in this area.

#### GEOSTRATEGIC AIMS

The aims are more of a geostrategic nature. A Pakistani occupation of the area to the Karakorum pass would lead to their domination of the Nubra Valley and the routes going down to Leh. The Indian positions in the Siachen area as well as the vicinity of the pass, including the post of Daulat Beg Oldi, valiantly defended in 1962, is a wedge between Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the area ceded by Pakistan to China some 4,500 sq km north and north-west of Siachen, and the Aksai Chin occupied by China after the 1962 border conflict.

A Pakistani occupation of the region would, in effect, provide a "cushion" to the Chinese positions already in place. Further, the Sino-Pakistan agreement under which the Shaksgam Valley was ceded to the former, has a clause indicating that it is valid only till a final solution is reached in the demarcation of that area. The *de facto* occupation of Siachen by Pakistan would weaken any future Indian negotiations on the border issue with China.

Whatever the situation, the Indian Army now occupies positions that gives it a commanding position in the region. The positions are well sited and defended with artillery and anti-aircraft batteries and are a deterrent to any Pakistani adventurism. Today, ironically enough, the Siachen issue provides another type of wedge—the one of peace. The agreement on a ceasefire and a possible demarcation of this area could be an important first step as a "confidence building measure" to begin general talks on the "no war pact" or force reduction agreements that are talked about so often. With this, peace would return to the area which is today the only point on the Indian land frontier where active hostilities prevail. □

MANOJ JOSHI

THE  
SIACHEN  
INDO-BRITISH  
EXPEDITION  
1985



72, VIJAY APARTMENT,  
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SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The expedition consisting of 6 Indian and 5 British climbed in the Siachen glacier area of the Eastern Karakoram. They explored the unknown Terong Valley in the east. Three glaciers and 5 Cols were explored. The expedition made the first ascent of Rimo III (7233 m), made a nearly successful attempt on Rimo I (7385 m) and climbed several peaks between 6480 m and 5975 m.

The Terong Valley was visited only once before, by Dr. Ph. C. Visser (of Netherlands) in 1929. Surveyor Khan Sahib Afraz Gul Khan and Dr. R. Wyss stayed at the junction of the Terong Valleys and made surveys. In the last 56 years no party has entered the valley and we did not find any signs of locals or any other humans having entered the valley.

Though the Indian Army in recent years has made few ascents in the Siachen area, we were the first civilian (international) expedition for many years to climb in this area.

The expedition left Leh on 12 June and started the trek from Siachen snout on the 14th. After 5 km, turning east from the Siachen glacier, it entered the Terong valley and followed Terong Topko. Base camp was established on 21st at the junction of 3 glaciers at 'Siab Chushku' at 4300 m. The expedition proceeded along the North Terong glacier till it bifurcated in two glaciers. The advance base camp was established here at 'Doab Chushku' at 5000 m. The following peaks surrounding the North Terong glacier were climbed/attempted :-

Peaks Climbed: (all first ascents)

- |    |                                    |                               |  |
|----|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. | RIMO III<br>(7233 m - 23,730 ft)   | Wilkinson and<br>Fotheringham | 14 July<br>NE ridge<br>via East glacier.   |
| 2. | 'SONDHI'<br>(6480 m - 21,260 ft)   | Samant and<br>Dhiren          | 13 July<br>West ridge<br>via West icefall. |
| 3. | 'SUNDBRAR'<br>(6300 m - 20,670 ft) | Samant and<br>Dhiren          | 12 July<br>West ridge<br>via West icefall. |

- |    |                                   |                           |                        |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 4. | 'LHARIMO'<br>(6070 m - 19,910 ft) | Boga and<br>Agrawal       | 12 July<br>South ridge |
| 5. | 'DOAB'<br>(6045 m - 19,830 ft)    | Contractor<br>and Harsinh | 15 July<br>South ridge |
| 6. | 'SAFINA'<br>(5975 m - 19,600 ft)  | Samant and<br>Contractor  | 6 July<br>West ridge   |

The following peaks were attempted :

- |     |                                  |                           |                                     |
|-----|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) | RIMO I<br>(7385 m - 24,230 ft)   | Saunders and<br>Venables  | Reached<br>6900 m via<br>SW spur    |
| (b) | 'SAIGAT'<br>(6130 m - 20,110 ft) | Kapadia and<br>Pratapsinh | Reached<br>5800 m on<br>South face. |

The expedition withdrew to base camp by 15 July. In the second phase South Terong and Shelkar Chorten glaciers were explored from 20 to 26 July. The following peaks were climbed :-

- |    |   |                  |                       |
|----|---|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | 'CHORTEN'<br>(6050 m - 19,850 ft)         | Venables<br>Solo | 22 July<br>West ridge |
| 2. | 'NAGABONG TERONG'<br>(6180 m - 20,280 ft) | Venables<br>Solo | 24 July<br>East ridge |

The expedition also explored 5 different Cols in the Terong area. Each was reached for the first time. Four of them are on the main watershed of the Karakoram and lead from Nubra/Terong to South Rimo glacier/Daulat Beg Oldi.

1. 'IBEX COL' (North Terong to South Rimo glacier)  
(c. 6200 m - c. 20,340 ft) (Fotheringham, Saunders and Venables)

2. 'SONDHI COL' (Branch of North Terong to South Rimo glacier)  
(c. 6040 - c. 19,820 ft) (Samant and Dhiren).
3. 'WARSHI COL' (North Warshi glacier to South Terong glacier)  
(c. 5440 - c. 17,850 ft) (Contractor and Harsinh).
4. 'TERONG COL' (South Terong side Valley to South Rimo glacier)  
(c. 5720 m - c. 18,770 ft) (Kapadia and Dhiren).
5. 'SHELKAR COL' (Shelkar Chorten to South Terong Glacier)  
(c. 5800 m - c. 19,030 ft) (Venables).

Sponsored by: The Indian Mountaineering Foundation and The Alpine Club.

Supported by: Grindlays Bank, British Airways, Barclays Bank, Mount Everest Foundation and British Mountaineering Council.

Members: Harish Kapadia (Leader and Liaison Officer), Arun Samant, M.H. Contractor, Dhiren, Z.S. Boga and Dr. (Ms.) M. Agrawal. (Indian) .

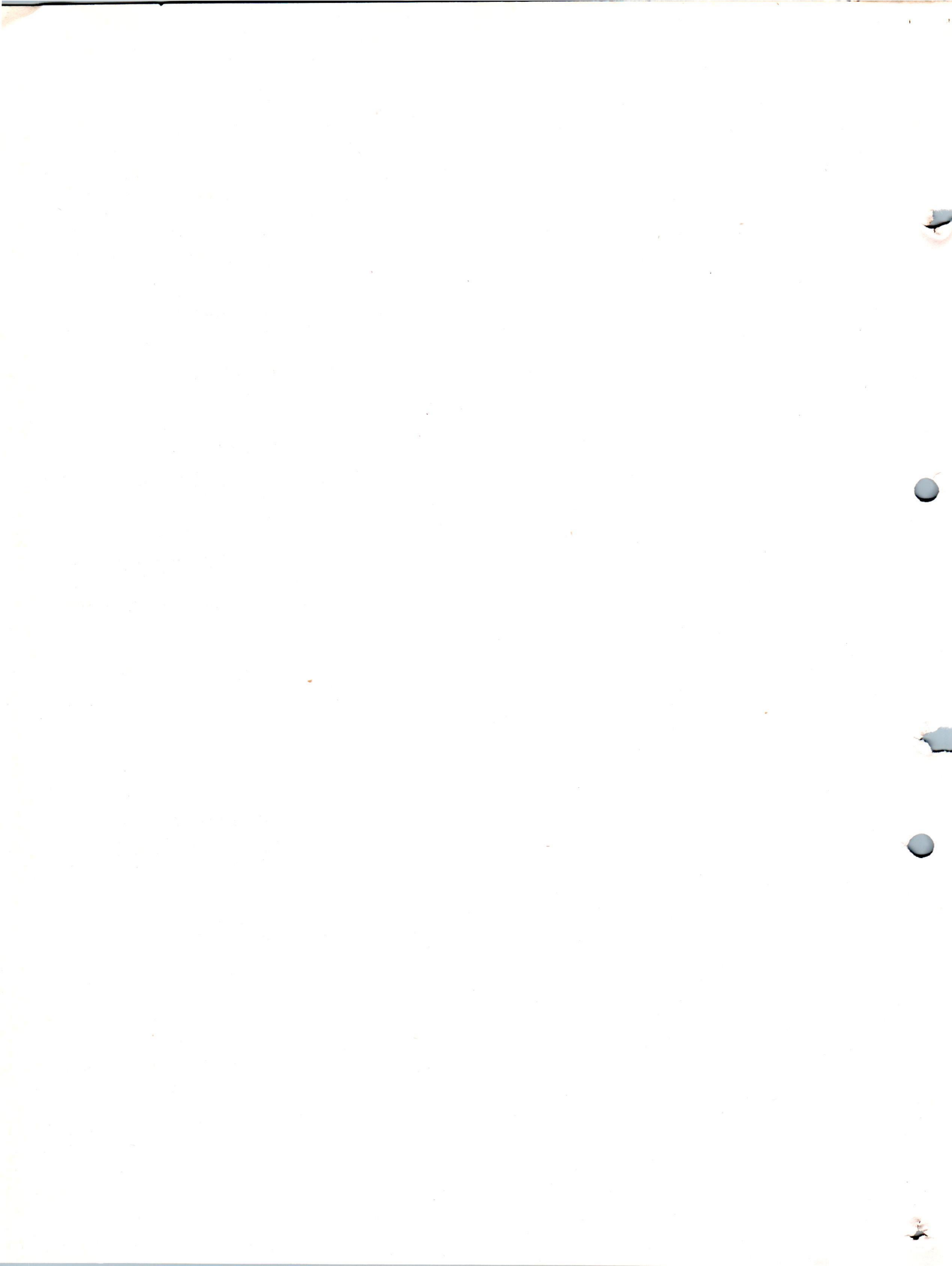
Dave Wilkinson, Jim Fotheringham, Tony Saunders, Stephen Venables and Henry Osmaston. (British).

2nd Lt. Mahendra (Army Liaison Officer).

Period: 31 May to 4 August 1985.

HARISH KAPADIA

(Leader - SIBE 1985)





# THE SIACHEN INDO-BRITISH EXPEDITION 1985

## DETAILED REPORT

The recent opening of the Eastern Karakoram for climbing led to birth of this expedition. The 6 Indian members from "The Mountaineers" Bombay represented the Indian Mountaineering Foundation. The 5 British members were from the Alpine Climbing Group and represented The Alpine Club. Harish Kapadia was leader and Liaison Officer.

After initial discussions Rimo group of peaks were selected as prime objective along with exploration of Terong Valley and climbing of other peaks. No photographs or details were available of these areas. The only known reference was expedition of Dr. Ph.C. Visser in 1929 briefly mentioned in the Geographic Journal Vol. 84.

### Approach :

The expedition left Leh on 12 June after various bureaucratic difficulties and delays. Trek to base camp started on the 14th from Siachen snout with Ladakhi porters. Due to lack of adequate and good porters, after 7 days base camp was established at 'Siab Chuskku' (4300 m) though only 18 km away. The first camp was at the entrance of the Terong valley from Siachen at Gyazgo (3800 m). A little ahead, crossing Terong Topko we proceeded along true right for the Tso camp at 4000 m at the snout of the Terong glacier. Base camp was reached over the moraine and was at the junction of North and South Terong with Shelkar Chorten on 20 June.

At first we proceeded along the North Terong glacier. After 8 km it bifurcated towards east and west. Advance base camp, 'Doab Chushku', was established here at 5000 m between 2 moraine lakes on 25 June. The route is full of ice penitents. After initial acclimatization and stocking of luggage various climbs and explorations were undertaken.

### A. Attempt on Rimo I :

The 4 British members established a camp in the 'Ibex valley' at the foot of the SW spur of Rimo I. After recce to 'Ibex Col' and to the head of the North Terong glacier this was considered to be the best route. A spell of bad weather followed. Climbing began on 4 July. After 2 days and 6 hard pitches Jim and Dave decided to descend. Tony and Stephen continued on the SW ridge for the next 3 days on very difficult mixed climbing with series of chimneys, ramps and pinnacles.

They were at the start of the last snow ramp on 9 July at high point c. 6850 m. While preparing to dig out the evening camp site Stephen dropped his rucksack 1000 m down the west face. As it contained the stove, tentpoles and sleeping bag they had to call off the further ascent. After an uncomfortable night with numb toes and fingers they descended. Thus ended a nearly successful hard attempt on Rimo I as bad weather prevented a second attempt. (Grade: ED)

B. Peaks in North Terong :

At the same time several peaks between 6480 m and 5975 m were climbed by Indian members. They divided in 3 parties and climbed in different valleys.

- (i) Arun and Dhiren penetrated the icefall on the east opposite ABC establishing a high camp in the valley. From here on 12 July they climbed 'Sundbrar' (6300 m) and the next day 'Sondhi' (6480 m). The 'Sondhi Col' at the head of the valley was recceeded which led to South Rimo glacier.
- (ii) Arun and Muslim climbed 'Safina' (5975 m) rising across the glacier on 6 July after establishing one camp at the foot of the peak.
- (iii) Boga and Meena crossed the 'Ibex Col' (which was reached and consolidated by the Britishers and Arun/Muslim earlier) to the east. On 11 July they reached 2 points of 6120 m (Ibex points I and II). On 12th 'Lharimo' (6070 m) was climbed by starlight. They returned to ABC on 13th.
- (iv) 'Doab' (6045 m) rising above ABC was approached from North Terong (west) glacier by Boga, Meena, Harish and Dhiren. The abortive attempt on 5 July went over a heavily crevassed zone to reach the northern col. A dangerous cornice of 30 m on the summit ridge dictated retreat. However later, Muslim and porter Harsinh established a camp on its southern slopes and climbed the peak on 15 July.
- (v) A party consisting of Arun, Harish, Muslim, Dhiren and Jim explored the North Terong (east) glacier to its head. The attempt to cross over to Teram Shehr ice-cap was foiled though a recce revealed an alternative route for future which will lead to 'Col Italia'. Harish and Pratapsinh attempted shapely peak of 'Saigat' (6130 m). An exposed rocky traverse which would have taken more time and equipment prevented them.

C. First ascent of Rimo III :

Dave and Jim decided to challenge Rimo I from east by crossing 'Ibex Col' which they did on 11 July. However after climbing the initial slopes the summit of Rimo I looked far and dangerous and so they decided to try for Rimo III. On 13 July they moved up the glacier basin, traversed the eastern slopes crossing a bergschrund at 6800 m. Steep mixed ground for 800 ft led to the camp above the rock-buttress. On 14 July they climbed a snow-shoulder to a knife-edged ridge and reached the summit at 9.30 a.m. After 15 minutes they withdrew in cloudy weather and by 16 July they were back at ABC (Grade: Alpine TD inf.) They found no route on Rimo I from east. Easy glacier climb to the basin at 6700 m on Rimo I. Then exceptionally difficult looking Andean type head-wall bounded by long corniced ridges defended the virgin Rimo I and II.

With this the expedition withdrew to base camp on 15th and Tony, Jim, Boga, Arun left for Leh. 5 days of bad weather confined us to tents during which Meena left for Leh but unable to cross the difficult fixed ropes over the river, returned and stayed at base camp.

D. Exploration of South Terong and Shelkar Chorten glaciers :

On 20th Muslim, Dave, Harish and Dhiren started for the South Terong glacier, crossing over to its true right. The snout was 5 km from BC. Due to bad untrodden moraine consisting of stones and sand, progress was slow and after 2 days they camped in the middle of the glacier at the junction of Terong La valley and divided in 2 parties.

- (i) Dhiren and Harish turned east to go over a surprisingly flat glacier without any crevasses. After a camp at 5500 m they reached Terong La (5720 m) on 22 July. This afforded an excellent view of the Rimo Group. This extremely gentle pass easily led down to the South Rimo glacier and DBO. They returned to BC in 2 days.
- (ii) Muslim and Harsinh climbed up Warshi Col valley from the South Terong glacier and reached the 5440 m Warshi Col, which gently led in the west to North Warshi glacier. Probably one can come from Nubra over this col to South Terong and over the Terong La to South Rimo glacier. This would give a direct access from Nubra to DBO in 5 days instead of the traditional roundabout way.  
  
Muslim and Harsinh on 23rd went up to the head of the glacier to complete the full recce and returned to BC.
- (iii) From base camp Stephen left alone up the Shelkar Chorten glacier on the 21st. The lower glacier was heavily crevassed while the head was smooth and flat. On 22 July he climbed 'Chorten' (6050 m) and crossed a col immediately south of

the peak descending to the South Terong glacier. He camped at the foot of 'Ngabong Terong' peak. After camping in a crevasse at 5800 m he reached 'Ngabong Terong' on the 24th and climbed both North and South summits of this double humped peak. On 25 July in a long day he returned to BC and caught up with others the next day.

Return :

For the return we had a serious problem in crossing the Terong Topko which had now risen. Huge ice-blocks came down the river making it impossible to cross. Tony and Stephen had fixed an intricate system of ropes of 600 ft to avoid the river crossing and reach the Siachen from the truce right near Gyazgo. On 12 July, 2nd Lt. Mahendra was nearly drowned trying to force a crossing across the river. Now with all the luggage we had to ferry at least 8 times across the ropes near the Terong-Siachen junction. Luggage was ferried across on improvised army bridge in which Dave was nearly drowned. Others followed an easier route over the Siachen glacier. Everybody gathered at the Siachen snout on 27 July and were back to Leh on 30th and Delhi on 1 August.

Glaciology (by Henry Osmaston)

"No scientific work has been done on the glaciers of Eastern Karakorm, since the expedition of Dainelli and Workmans over 50 years ago. The most interesting features of the North Terong glacier (like the Siachen itself) are the ice-pinnacles and penitents of various sizes from a few cms to 15 m high which abound in the middle part of the glacier and I studied the ways in which they formed and decayed. I also made measurements of the rate of abalation from the surface of the glacier which is 4 cm per day in sunny weather and the ways this is affected by the thickness of moraine cover. I also looked for evidence of post extensions of the glacier, and it is clear that the Siachen glacier filled the Nubra valley till its junction with the Shyok several thousand years ago. There is no clear evidence that the glaciers are either advancing or retreating at present."

Note on Ecology :

As we were the first party to enter the valley, no ecological damage is at all observed. Plenty of dead wood is available upto 4000 m. Wild roses, few lichens and trees were seen. We saw many footprints of wildlife like Ibex and others. This is an absolute wilderness area and the study of its flora and fauna in future by experts would be fruitful.

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( Leader - SIBE 1985 )