

History of the Siachen Glacier (1821-2002)

Year Expedition

- 1821 W. Moorcroft passed near the snout of the Siachen glacier and reported its existence.
- 1835 G. T. Vigne approached it from the west over Bilafond la but never guessed its existence.
- 1848 Henry Strachey discovered and established the existence of Siachen glacier and ascended it for two miles.
- 1848 Dr. T. Thompson visited the snout.
- 1849-50 F. Drew approached the glacier and wrote about it in his famous book Ladakh.
- 1862 E.C. Ryall of Survey of India, sketched the lower part of the glacier and ascribed it a length of only 16 miles.
- 1889 Sir F. Younghusband reached foot of Turkestan la (North) from north. He felt that the glacier was long and that this pass was the major Central Asian divide.
- 1907 Sir Sidney Burrard published a map on the Himalaya. It did not include Siachen though he mentioned the possibility of existence of a large glacier at the head of the Nubra valley.
- 1908 Dr. Arthur Nêvê and D.G. Oliver reached the snout and explored Mamostong Kangri.
- 1909 Dr. Tom Longstaff, Dr Arthur Nêvê and Lt A.M. Slingsby, later joined by Capt D.G. Oliver, first came over Bilafond la and later over the Siachen snout to establish the length of the Siachen glacier and exact location of various passes. This was the pioneering effort which established the true length and nature of the glacier.
- 1911-12 The Workman Expedition came over Bilafond la in the west and spent almost 2 months on the glacier. They named many peaks and passes, and climbed a few peaks. Grant Peterkin, attached to this expedition, surveyed the glacier thoroughly.
- 1911 V.D.B. Collins and C.S. McInnes of Survey of India surveyed Teram Kangri and other peaks.
- 1913-14 Sir Filippo De Filippi surveyed Rimo glacier system and published a map.
- 1929 Dr Ph.C. Visser, Netherlands expedition, surveyed Terong valleys and crossed the snout to Gyong la. He was accompanied by the Surveyor Khan Sahib Afraz Gul who completed the detailed survey of the entire glacier.

- 1929 Duke of Spoleto expedition reached Indira Col (East) from the north and discovered Staghar and Singhi glaciers.
- 1930 G. Dainelli, Italian expedition, stayed two months at Teram Shehr junction. He approached it starting from Bombay and through the Nubra valley. As the Nubra river was flooded later, he crossed Col Italia and returned via Saser la.
- 1934 G.O. Dyhrenfurth, International expedition, made the first ascent of Sia Kangri.
- 1935 British Expedition led by J. Waller with John Hunt attempted Saltoro Kangri. They camped on the Peak 36 glacier.
- 1939 Lt Peter Young visited Gyong la on shikar.
- 1956 Austrian expedition led by F. Moravec climbed Sia Kangri West.
- 1957 Imperial College British expedition led by Eric Shipton climbed Tawiz and visited several passes.
- 1961 Austrian expedition led by E. Waschak made the first ascent of Ghent.
- 1962 Japanese-Pakistan expedition led by T. Shidei made the first ascent of Saltoro Kangri I.
- 1972 'Shimla Agreement' was signed between India and Pakistan. It failed to clearly demarcate the border along this glacier.
- 1974 Japanese expedition led by T. Tanaka attempted Sherpi Kangri II via S ridge. This was the first expedition allowed from Pakistan after the 'Shimla Agreement'.
- 1974 Austrian expedition led by W. Stefan climbed Sia Kangri from SW.
- 1974 Japanese expedition led by G. Iwatsubo approached K12 from the west. Two members reached the summit but died during the return and disappeared without any trace.
- 1975 British expedition led by D. Alcock attempted Sherpi Kangri.
- 1975 Japanese expedition led by Y. Yamamoto climbed K12 by the same route to search for the missing summitters. The search failed.
- 1975 Japanese expedition led by H. Katayama made first ascents of Teram Kangri I and II, coming over Bilafond la. This was the first expedition to cross over into the Siachen glacier from Bilafond la with permits from Pakistan.
- 1975 Japanese expeditions led by S. Yamamoto attempted Saltoro Kangri I.
- 1976 Japanese expedition made first ascent of Sherpi Kangri, led by H. Hirai.
- 1976 Japanese expedition led by H. Misawa made the first ascent of Apsarasas I, crossing over Bilafond la.

- 1976 Japanese expedition led by H. Saito came over Bilafond la, crossed Staghar Pass and made the first ascent of Singhi Kangri from north.
- 1976 An Austrian expedition led by Gunther Schutz crossed over Bilafond la and attempted Salto Kangri II.
- 1977 Austrian expedition climbed Ghent NE from the Kondus glacier.
- 1978 Indian Army expedition led by Col N. Kumar approached from Nubra and climbed Teram Kangri II. This was the first Indian expedition to enter the glacier from the Nubra valley after the 1930 Italian expedition by G. Dainelli (though Indian security parties have reportedly visited the glacier till Bilafond la).
- 1978 Japanese expedition led by H. Kobayashi climbed Ghent NE from the Kondus glacier.
- 1979 Japanese expedition led by S. Hanada crossed over Bilafond la and made the first ascent of Teram Kangri III.
- 1979 Japanese expedition led by R. Hayashibara climbed Sia Kangri from the Conway Saddle, descended its S face to the Siachen glacier. They trekked out via Bilafond la.
- 1980 Indian Army expedition led by Brig K.N. Thadani climbed Apsarasas I.
- 1980 West German team led by B. Scherzer climbed Ghent.
- 1980 An American team led by Galen Rowell traversed the Siachen glacier during the Karakoram Ski Traverse of major glaciers.
- 1981 Dutch expedition attempted Salto Kangri II from the west.
- 1981 Indian Army expedition led by Col. N. Kumar reached the upper glacier via the Nubra valley. They climbed Salto Kangri I, Sia Kangri I, reached Indira Col (West), Sia la, Turkestan la and Salto Pass (PK 36 glacier pass).
- 1983 Few trekking parties crossed over Bilafond la from the west.
- 1984 Indian Army expedition led by Col. Prem Chand climbed K12 from the Siachen glacier traversing from the west.
- 1984 The Indian Army controlled the western heights on the Salto ridge to take firm control to defend the area on 14th April. This was the beginning of the 'Glacier War' now in its 14th year.
- 1985 The first expedition after the beginning of action was allowed soon. The Indo-British expedition led by Harish Kapadia (with Dave Wilkinson), explored and climbed peaks in Terong group. They approached from the Siachen glacier, climbed Rimo III and attempted Rimo I.

- 1986 Sia Kangri was climbed by the Indo-American expedition led by Maj. K.V. Cherian and Leo Lebon. They traversed the glacier. Seven Indians reached the summit and Americans reached Indira Col (West).
- 1988 Rimo I, the first ascent was made by the Indo-Japanese team led by Hukam Singh and Yoshio Ogata. They approached from the Terong valley and Ibex Col.
- 1988 Apsarasas I was climbed by the Indian Army Team. Leader and details not known.
- 1989 Rimo II first ascent, and Rimo IV second ascent. These peaks were climbed by an Indo-British team led by Sonam Palzor and Doug Scott. They approached from the Siachen snout and the Terong glacier.
- 1992 An Indian army team led by Col. M.S. Gill climbed Teram Kangri I. No details are available.
- 1996 After closer of almost ten years (since 1986) the first civilian team was given permission to climb on the upper Siachen glacier. A team from Bombay, led by Harish Kapadia climbed in the Terong valley at first. As they were about to enter the upper Siachen glacier, army cancelled their permits without assigning any reason and they were turned back. Their critical report made a serious impact.
- 1997 The Indian Women's team, with Ms. Bachendri Pal as leader, traversed the Siachen glacier and reached the India Saddle in early September.
- 1998 The Bombay team, led by Harish Kapadia, returned to the glacier. They reached Indira Col (West), India Saddle and Turkestan Ia (East). The team also made the first ascent of Bhujang Peak (6560 m) on the Teram Shehr Plateau, the first peak to be climbed on this vast plateau.
- 2000 The Indo-French team led by Harish Kapadia and Jean F. Tripard reached Col Italia on the eastern edge of the Siachen glacier. They climbed Rimo IV (7169 m).
- 2002 The Indo-Japanese team, led by Harish Kapadia and Hiroshi Sakai entered the glacier from the east, Col Italia. They made the first ascent of Padmanabh (7030 m). The Teram Shehr Plateau was explored for the first time. They returned down the Siachen glacier.