

Honours



We are pleased to announce that Dr. M. S Gill, erstwhile President of The Himalayan Club and the Honourable Minister for Sports in India has been elected as a Honorary Member of The Himalayan Club. His enthusiasm, contribution and guidance have resulted in the club acquiring its own premises for the first time in the eighty glorious years of its existence.



Dr. M. S. Gill



Mohinder Singh, Neel Chand, T. K. Rath, and Capt. M. S. Kohli were chosen by a Central Selection Committee under the chairmanship of Sports Minister Dr. M. S. Gill for the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards (TNNAA) for 2007.



Capt. M. S. Kohli

Capt. M. S. Kohli has been awarded the Life Time Achievement award.

Mountaineers Mohinder Singh and Neel Chand were selected for the Land Adventure Award while Air Adventure award went to skydiver T. K. Rath.

Earlier known as the National Adventure Awards, the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards are given to provide recognition to the achievements made by persons in the field of adventure.

The award consists of a bronze statuette, a scroll of honour, a blazer with a silken tie/ a saree, and cash award of Rs 300,000 or the same amount as for the Arjuna Award for that particular year.

-Jasmine Hegde



*Bhaba Valley at stake--a road has to pass through here
Photo: Harish Kapadia*

Roads are being built across many Himalayan valleys. In fact, most of the valleys in Kinnaur and Spiti now have roads. This has been a requirement for the defence forces and for improving the lives of local communities. But such development generally comes in conflict with environmental conservation. A hue and cry was raised by Puritans when an existing road to the base camp of Everest in Tibet was improved, which has in fact resulted in lessening pollution caused by trucks and also to savings in fuel. A similar situation is developing in Himachal Pradesh. A classic case is a road from Spiti to Kinnaur.



A Road in Spiti Photo: Harsih Kapadia

The normal road from Chandigarh-Shimla-Kinnaur to Kaja (Spiti) takes a long turn to the east and then enters Spiti, covering more than 450 km. It was and still is a two-day journey. Due to deep valleys and steep rocks it was not possible to build a shorter route. With better technology, now that has become possible and a road has been built in Spiti till the border of Kinnaur, where it has to descend through the Bhaba valley. The Bhaba valley is thickly wooded and beautiful and is a part of the Pin-Bhaba National park. The

road to Spiti has to travel about 30 km in this valley to link up the Pin valley of Spiti with the main highway along the Sutlej.

As much of the road will cut through the wooded area, permission to build it has not been forthcoming. The people of Spiti and Kinnaur, however, want this road desperately. They point out that with fuel prices rising it makes economic sense to build the road, which will reduce the distance to Kaja by almost 115 km and save costs later on also. The local produce can reach the Chandigarh markets in a day, which will be beneficial for the local economy.

The local villagers voted out a legislator who was against building the road (for other political reasons, and not to protect the environment!) and the new representative has promised to fulfill the wishes of the people. It is a classic conflict of man vs. environment, with issues of politics, democracy, and environmental protection intertwined. Soon this *less* travelled road will become a *much* travelled road.

-Harish Kapadia

The Expeditions

Snow Lion Mt Everest Expedition 2008



Summit of Mount Everest

Mt Everest was attempted by a young team of crack climbers of the Snow Lion Adventure Club in spring 2008. This was a mixed team of 12 climbing members including the leader and three women. In the backdrop of the climb was the passing away of late Sir Edmund Hillary and the Beijing Olympics, which made the climbing flavour a bit different this year. The team reached Kathmandu and flew to Lukla on 1st April. Moving on the Everest trail along the Bhote Kosi via Monjo, Namche Bazar, Tengboche, Dingboche, Lobuje and Gorakshep the team reached Base Camp (17500 ft) on the Khumbu Glacier on 13 April.

The team established Camp I at 19500 ft on 18 April after negotiating the very hazardous Khumbu Icefall. Camp II was established under the great south-west face of the mountain in the Western Cwm at an altitude of 20400 ft on 21 April. Camp III was established on the Lhotse face on 10 May at 24000 ft and on South Col on 22 May at an altitude of 26000 ft. Security restrictions imposed by the Government of Nepal on all mountaineering expeditions to Everest this year were fully complied by the team. The restrictions imposed forbade any attempt on the mountain and movement beyond Camp II before 10 May. The mountain was climbed on 22 May, with members taking over just 7 hours to reach the summit from the South Col without the aid of any Sherpas.

The ascent was without a doubt the fastest by any team this year from South Col. Owing to the superb fitness of the team, members descended directly to Camp II on 22 May itself. In an outstanding effort of daring and courage, the team rescued a foreign climber from sure death. He was given up for dead and left behind short of the Balcony by his team. On 23 May, the team finally descended to the Base Camp in very inclement and poor visibility conditions after negotiating the Khumbu Icefall. All members returned unscathed to the Base Camp and subsequently reached Kathmandu on 31 May.

Rescue on Everest: *A precious human life is saved!*

On 22 May 2008, as four members of the Snow Lion Everest Expedition were descending after climbing the mountain their attention was drawn to a red sleeping bag in the open below the Balcony. They were instantly drawn to this sleeping bag which seemingly had a human body inside and looked fresh. The body was anchored to a fixed rope. They photographed the body. Soon their curiosity got the better of them, as they wanted to see the face of this body. As they went and uncovered the face, to their absolute horror and amazement they found that the body was very much alive and ticking. The human inside was trembling and deliriously gasping for breath. He was tied in his sleeping bag and his body was quite close to that of Scott Fisher, who too was resting close by.

Immediately they unzipped the sleeping bag, cleared his airway and removed the fixed rope. They then made him as comfortable as they could under the circumstances and gave him the last of their available water. Simultaneously, one of the members removed his mask and started administering oxygen to him. His face was bruised and shivering. His down suit had been ripped at several places.

His harness was damaged, gloves were torn and he had no oxygen with him. Apparently he was badly frost bitten. The individual finally came to his senses and introduced himself as Sultan from Oman. He was a client of an International expedition and was being guided to the summit. He informed the Indian team members that he was suffering from dehydration and altitude sickness and that he had been left behind by his team who had perhaps given him up for dead.



Sultan as found by members of the Indian team. South Col seen behind.

The four members of the Indian team immediately decided to move him down to South Col. Sultan was very weak and in no condition to move on his own. Fortunately the members, though tired after climbing the mountain at 0358 hours the same day, were still in good physical condition. While one member physically moved with Sultan clipping and unclipping him on the fixed rope, the others controlled their descent using descenders, karabiners and pulleys. He was given oxygen regularly.



Sultan behind being aided and brought down on fixed ropes by the Indian team

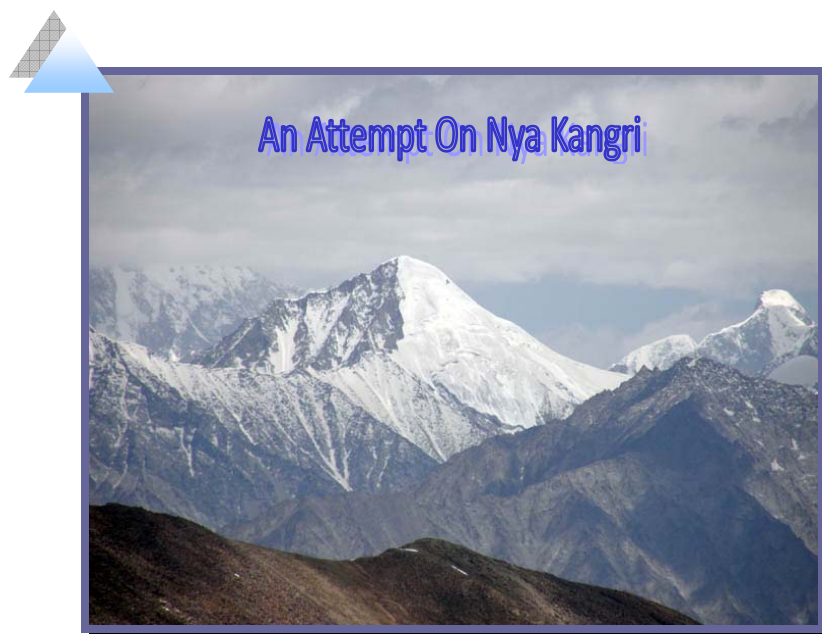


Sultan at South Col

Sultan himself put in his best as it was a question of his own survival. It was a herculean effort by any standards that was put in by the four Indian team members, at that altitude in the Death Zone and that too without any Sherpa support! Surprisingly, no effort was made by anyone from his own team to get back to him from the South Col. Finally, at 0930 hours the Indian team members took him to his team's camp at South Col.

The rescue of Sultan from the sure jaws of death is in the finest traditions of Indian mountaineering. Indian expeditions have always exhibited this great quality and have often done this in the past, sometimes even at the cost of their own success. Ethics on Everest are always debatable and much has been written in the past on this sensitive issue.

-Colonel Ashok Abbey



Nya Kangri as seen from Khardung La Photo: Divyesh Muni

Since 2001, when I visited the Arganglas valley in East Karakoram, Nya Kangri (6480 m) remained a prominent peak on our to-do list. A beautiful pyramid of snow and ice, the peak dominates the entrance to the valley. The Himalayan Club sponsored our four-member team consisting of Vineeta Muni, Rajesh Gadgil, Rajan Rikame and myself to attempt the peak in June–July 2008. We received tremendous support from Wg. Cdr. N. K. Dahiya, Director, Indian Mountaineering Foundation [IMF] in getting the necessary clearances from the Ministry of Defence to enter the Nubra Valley.

As we flew into Leh, the clouds hung ominously over the entire region. We hoped this would be a passing phase since June is normally considered to be a good time to climb in East Karakoram. Our friends, Motup Chewang, Hony. Secretary for Ladakh of The Himalayan Club and his wife Yangdu were of tremendous assistance in organising our entire expedition. Samgyal Sherpa, a friend and climbing companion since more than ten years accompanied us along with a cook Norbu and his helper, Kami. We stayed a night at Tegur before starting our approach march on 19 June. Eleven horses carried our food and equipment for the next three days till we established Base Camp at Phonglas on the true right of the river at an altitude of 4600 m.

Light rain accompanied us on the walk in while it snowed on the higher reaches of the mountains. We hoped that the weather would clear by the time we reached Base Camp and started serious climbing. We planned to attempt Nya Kangri from its South Ridge. A small glacier originating from the South face of the mountain fed a stream coming down to Base Camp. On establishing Base Camp on 21 June, we did a reeve of a route to Advance Base Camp [ABC] near the snout of the glacier at an altitude of 5400 m. It was early in the expedition and we were struggling with the altitude. Accompanied by light snow during the days, we ferried loads and occupied ABC on 25 June. The approach to the South Ridge of Nya Kangri was from a 700 m gully flanked on one side by a rocky ridge and by a huge hanging glacier formed at the base of the South East face of Nya Kangri. It was a challenge to find a route through the gully which would keep us safe from the constant rock fall from the ridge to the west of the gully and from potential avalanches from the South East face of Nya Kangri.

On 26 June, we opened a route through the gully and fixed four rope lengths to an altitude of 5800 m. The route looked good and was safe for most of its distance from any objective hazards. We hoped to establish our Camp 1 on 28 June. However, as we started off early in the morning, thick clouds hung over the entire region. We had just about reached our previous high point when the weather broke with strong winds and snow fall. We secured all the equipment at a safe location and beat a hasty retreat.

The weather gods were not kind to us. For the next two days it snowed heavily and the entire region was plastered with snow. On 1 July the weather cleared. However, we stayed put for the day to allow the snow to settle. Two avalanches came frighteningly close to our route up the gully. I was apprehensive now of the conditions on the mountain.

We now had very few days to complete our climb and get back to Base Camp to keep to our return schedule. On 2 July we decided to make one final attempt to establish Camp 1. We left in the early morning to cover ground as quickly as possible on the snow before it got soft with the heat. The fixed ropes had to be dug out of the snow in many places. We reached our high point of 5900 m and started climbing towards the final slopes below the South Ridge of the mountain. We had to cross a narrow chute of snow before we could reach the base of the 200 m snow slope below the proposed Camp 1 site.

However, crossing the chute became a struggle, as the accumulated snow was loose and unconsolidated. Below it was hard ice and rock. It was difficult to make progress since the soft snow gave way at every step. Even after the struggle, if we managed to cross the chute, we still had to negotiate the 200 m snow slope below the proposed Camp 1. Since the snow was loose and unconsolidated, the slope became very prone to slab avalanche. We reluctantly started our way down, removing all the fixed rope and equipment on the climb. We wound up ABC and trekked back to Tegur. We had a great time amidst the mountains of East Karakoram.



After the Storm

Photo: Divyesh Muni



Naya Kangri

Photo: Divyesh Muni

However the weather was most disappointing and what was considered as a period of clear skies and ideal climbing conditions turned out to be like the monsoon of Mumbai!! When we called home, we got to know that it had not rained at all in Mumbai during the peak monsoon time. Leaves one wondering what to expect next..... Snow fall in Mumbai?

-Divyesh Muni



New routes climbed on Kalanka and Kamet

First ascent of the North Face (new route) of Kalanka (6931 m)

The team consisting of Fumitaka Ichimura, (leader) (30 years) Yusuke Sato (27 years) and Kazuki Amano (31 years) left for Joshimath on 30 August. After waiting for good weather, they started from Base Camp on 14 September. They had to stay three nights at 6600m on the North Face (new route) due to bad weather. They finally reached the summit on 22 September and returned to Base Camp on 24 September. They had the permission to climb Changabang (6866 m) via the North Face, but abandoned it as they were exhausted by climbing the Kalanka North Face.

First ascent of the Southeast Face of Kamet (7756 m)

Two Japanese members, Hazuya Hiraide (male) and Kei Taniguchi (female) climbed the formidable Southeast Face of Kamet in the autumn of 2008.

The two member team set up their Base Camp (BC) on 1 September. After acclimatising till Mead's Col, they started from BC on the 27th. Climbing on the Southeast Face from 29th September, they reached the summit at 10:00 a.m. on 5 October and went down to Camp 3 (6600m) on the normal route. On the 6th they were down to Camp 2 (5500 m) and they reached at BC on 7 October. This was the first ascent of the Southeast Face (commonly called East Face) and the two team members are the first Japanese to have summited Kamet. Just before this Kamet expedition, Hiraide summited Gasherbrum II and Broad Peak in Pakistan.

-Reiko Terasawa



An Attempt on Vasuki Parbat

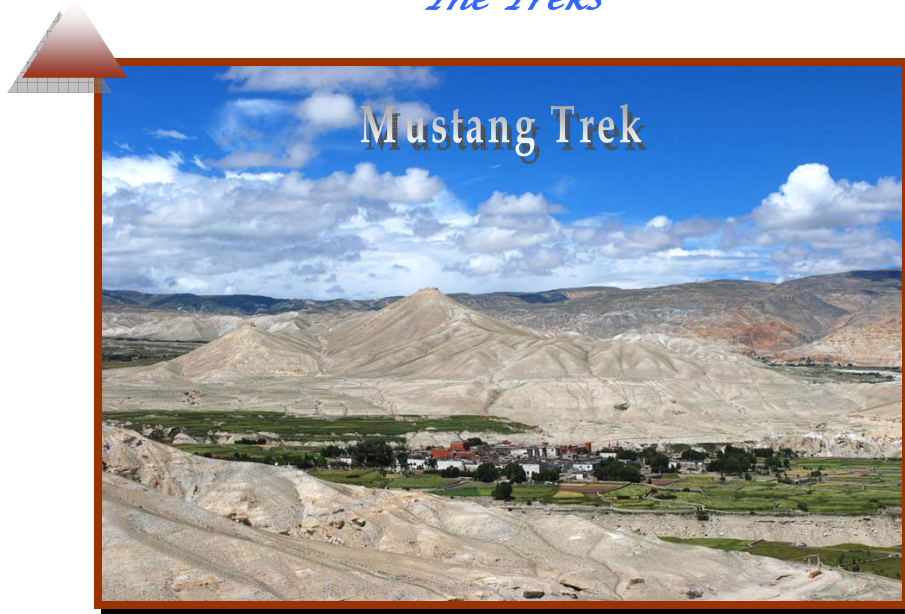
We just came back (20 October 2008) from the joys of Vasuki Parbat (6792 m). We tried the buttress line catching the sun and reached a point about two-thirds of the way up just at the foot of the snowy section catching the sun. I think we might have completed the technically hardest climbing but bad weather meant that we did not acclimatise as well as I would have liked and we just ground to a knackered halt going slower and slower (and feeling we were getting more and more wobbly) at about 6400 m. It was also surprisingly cold to the extent that we could not use bare hands on rock etc.



Vasuki Parbat as seen from Sudarshan Parbat (route attempted on right ridge line)

Photo: Harish Kapadia

-Mick Fowler



The walled city of Lo-Manthang, the focus of the trek Photo: Milan Moudgill

While Nepal sleeps July through September, waiting for the monsoon to do its thing and pass, patiently looking to the autumn season and the influx of tourists that will come with it, a small pocket of land on its northern boundary provides the rare alternative for a monsoon trek. Mustang is a thumb-like protuberance surrounded on the other three sides by Tibet.

The area lies just beyond the last ridge of the Himalayan barrier and is accessed through a breach in its mighty wall – between the 8,000m-plus massifs of Annapurna and Dhaulagiri – through which a fly-sized 16-seater propeller aircraft must find its way and land on a small patch called the Jomsom airport. On the other side an incredible land unfolds, where the monsoon has little influence; a land that is culturally Buddhist, and geographically Tibetan.

The political history of the area had caused it to be isolated from the world, and by extension to become the best preserved slice of the Buddhist pie in existence. America had a role to play even then! In the 1960s the CIA spearheaded an insurgency in Tibet based out of Mustang. A 6000-strong Khampa force operated from there. However, with Nixon's change in policy towards China in the 1970s, the American support was withdrawn.

The Nepali powers quickly sealed off Mustang to outsiders in an attempt to bring this embarrassing chapter to an end. Thus Mustang came to be under padlock all these years (thankfully?). It was only in 1992 that the first visitors were allowed in – they entered a land that had stood still in time over the last half-century! Mustang is still deemed a Restricted Area—an attempt to preserve its culture and environment and a \$500 permit is required just to enter.

Kagbeni, a few hours walk from the Jomsom airport, is the entry point into the restricted area, and the first night halt. Lying beyond is a beautifully raw and barren landscape which houses in its upper reaches the ancient kingdom of Lo, home to the Loba, amongst whom the language, culture and tradition are almost purely Tibetan.

One follows the Kali Gandhaki, actually walking on the river bed for the initial part. Here its wide silver-grey floor is cut into patterns by channels that leave the main flow randomly, to join back downstream after intertwining amongst themselves. The trail is to the east of the river, passing through Tangbe and Chhusang, and then crosses to the other side, to spend the second night at Chele.



Multi-hued hills roll away into the horizon and will merge into the Tibetan plateau!
Photo: Milan Moudgill

Thereon, over the next four days, the route will climb to the west, before heading north again, to pass through the settlements of Samar, Geling, Ghami, and Charang, and finally onto Lo-Manthang, connecting this walled city to the Tibetan border, which is just a few hours beyond. In the past, the path allowed for a flourishing trade between the southern

regions and Tibet and brought prosperity to this barren land. However, with the Chinese invasion of Tibet, the northern passes were closed and centuries of trade and commerce were brought to a sudden halt.

The trek through Mustang is a passage through cultures: the five lower villages Chele, Gyakhar, Chhuksang, Tangbe and Tetang are occupied by people who call themselves Gurung, speak a Tibetan dialect Seke, and are culturally more aligned to the Manganis of the south than the Thakali Loba of upper Mustang, who are more Tibetan. The Nepali-Hindu influences are strongly intermixed in local culture and the caste system has been carried forward.

The Sakyapa Buddhist subsect, the worldly and practical form of Buddhism, dominates over the more abstruse and esoteric practices of Gelukpa and Nyingmapa in this area. The religious structures throughout Mustang are marked with the Sakyapa colours; grey, ochre and white against blood red walls - colours that are naturally derived from and echo the surrounding landscape.



Looking south at Nilgiri, the west-most part of the Annapurna massif, looming over the trail
Photo: Milan Moudgill

The trek is strenuous but not necessarily as a consequence of the altitude which starts at about 9500 ft and touches only 13500 ft at the highest passes but because the trail is continually dipping and climbing over the ridges, thereby stretching out the days. Adding to this is an exposed terrain that offers little protection from the typically, strong, afternoon winds.

Wherever possible, mountain streams have been diverted through man-made aqueducts and brought long distances to where land can be terraced, resulting in small oasis in this harsh land. Wherever agriculture is possible in this manner, settlements have come up. With no income coming from trading, a single crop of barley and buckwheat (supplemented with pea, wheat and mustard) along with the products of animal husbandry must sustain life in Mustang.

Now, slowly, tourism is becoming an alternate source of revenue, putting money directly into the hands of the locals. In addition, a large part of the permit fees is used by the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (which administers the area), for facilitating development projects in Mustang. You will certainly experience a rare jewel on this trek, and will also be giving a lot back – the local population will benefit in more ways than one from your visit.

- Milan Moudgill



A view of the Baraadsar Lake from the ridge Photo: Percy Fernandez

There is hardly any information on the high-altitude Baraadsar Lake. Tucked inside a massive cauldron surrounded and shouldered by virgin peaks of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh, the Baraadsar Lake, till we saw it, exists as a tiny legend on a map. The objective of this circular trek was to enter from the Rupin Valley and exit from the Supin Valley.

After gathering all available information, in late September 2008, a team of seven drove from Dehradun to Netwar, a tiny hamlet located in the Tons Valley at the confluence of the Supin and Rupin rivers in Uttarkashi district. We stayed the night at the Forest Rest House, perched just above the check post of GNP hidden inside a thick pine forest.

Along with our guide and porters, we got on to a jeep next morning to Dhaula (1500 m), after passing the confluence of the two rivers, from where we began walking. We reached our first camp, off the Bitri village (2500 m), after breaking for lunch at a pretty village called Pujeli (2000 m). The walk from Dhaula on the left bank of Rupin Valley was gentle till we reached Pujeli. A short and steep climb took us to Bitri village, after which it flattened out till the camp, a lovely little meadow from where we could see the first views of the ridgelines.

The trek from Bitri to Masundha Dhar (3600 m) is the longest in the trail. The camp offers panoramic views of the Garhwal Himalaya and the Dhauladhar range. We got commanding views of Swargrohini, Kala Naag, and Ranglana in the near east and a litter of virgin peaks of the Himachal far west.

It is from Masundha Dhar that we got the first glimpse of the Baraadsar ridge and the camp located below. On Day 3, we began our trek after a clear and sunny morning towards Dalke Dhar (3500 m). It was a lovely walk from the top of the ridge except for a couple of steep sections. We were still not sure whether the rains would allow us to proceed further when we retired for the night. But the morning sun gave us enough promise to move our camp to Dev Bhasa (3640 m) or the Saddle.



The Saddle

Photo: Percy Fernandez

The Saddle is a windswept depression perched at the base of the Baraadsar ridge, open to the elements from all sides. After a warm afternoon, a severe hailstorm plastered the camp white and strong winds threatened to tear the tents at night. But calm prevailed during the rest of the night as we got ready early next morning for our climb. It seemed initially as if we could have a glimpse

of the lake after climbing the top of the ridge. But after we reached the top, we were in for a surprise, as a long traverse lay between us and the top of another ridge from where we were told we could see the lake.

After cutting steps and trudging through knee-deep snow and four hours after we left the camp, we reached on top of the second ridge overlooking an endless expanse of snow serrated by a litany of peaks and saw the Baraadsar Lake located at the far end in a flat land mass between Rupin and Supin Valley at an altitude of 4300 m. The early snowfall from mid-September made it tough for us to negotiate access to the ridge beyond which the lake is located.

Legend has it that Baraadsar is holier than the *Char Dham* and local stories are rife with the belief that a dip in the lake has cured patients of leprosy. Reportedly, a high ridge from Baraadsar can take you to one of the largest bugyals of Vishkhopri. Another interesting route north of Baraadsar and over a ridge can take you to Manji, a vast bugyal spread over Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Located in Manji is another lake called Kanasar. The water from Baraadsar flows into Rupin while the water from Kanasar flows into Supin. Manji can also be reached from Sangla Kaanta in three days.

After a brief prayer and a staccato of shots, we climbed down towards our camp below at Khasla (2325 m). On Day 6, we left Khasla and passed Ralhe, Pithari and arrived at our last camp by the pretty as ever Obra-Supin confluence. We reached Jakhol by noon the next day and took the road to Netwar and continued our journey to Mussorie and further down.

-Percy Fernandez

The Celebrations



Joint celebrations of the Himalayan Club and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation anniversaries at Mumbai. Photo: Rajesh Gadgil

Six hundred, (yes, *s i x* hundred) persons gathered at Mulund, a suburb of Mumbai, to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Himalayan Club and the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation on 13 July 2008. It was a group consisting of active climbers, trekkers, and environmentalists from all over the state of Maharashtra. One would have had to look hard for grey-haired persons in that group, so to say! Moreover each had contributed handsomely to have the pleasure of participating and spending two days together with dinner and lunch. At the venue there was a photography exhibition, mountaineering equipment display and sale, and much bonhomie.

On the first day in the evening, a question-answer session was held where many interesting questions about the roles of the Himalayan Club and IMF were raised. Col. H S Chauhan, Secretary of the IMF narrated the steps that the IMF is taking to help mountaineers. Col. Chauhan belongs to the Maratha Regiment (which hails from the state of Maharashtra) of the Indian Army, and with his Marathi (local language) brought the house to cheers.

Divyesh Muni, former Secretary of Himalayan Club talked about climbing high mountains and how to organise major expeditions in the Indian conditions. His own experiences as a leading mountaineer in India were brought to the fore to illustrate how to climb high peaks. Later, questions were put to Harish Kapadia, Hony. Editor of the *Himalayan Journal*, regarding how to present the expedition report and how to substantiate claims of ascent. He explained the nuances of good reporting and proofs that can be brought from a summit. Col. N. Kumar talked about his expedition to Kangchenjunga in 1977.



L-R: Divyesh Muni, Harish Kapadia, Col. H S Chauhan, Col. N Kumar and Tanil Kilachand Photo: Rajesh Gadgil

The most appreciation, however, was reserved for Tanil Kilachand, Vice President of the Himalayan Club when he spoke of the spiritual significance of the

Himalayan range and illustrated the subject with his own experiences. His advice to approach the mountains with humility and as a spiritual experience was shared by many youngsters, for such experiences are universal. Moreover though young, many in the audience had witnessed a wonderful sunset, adrenalin rush on a steep rock, and the love of local communities. 'How much we have to be grateful for, and how little we realise our blessings', he said.

Next morning was the formal function in which some local mountaineers were honoured, especially veteran Prof. M V Mali, aged 95, for service to mountaineering. This was in the series of Life Time Achievement awards given every year. This was followed by screenings of special films on the history of the IMF and the Himalayan Club's now celebrated film '80 Years On The Top'. Lunch was an informal affair, with the audience freely mixing with speakers and the discussions continued. A unique feature was Major H. P. S. Ahluwalia, President of the IMF speaking to the audience through a speaker phone from Delhi.

The afternoon was devoted to presentations by several local groups about their various ascents and work in the Himalaya and the Sahyadris, the local hills. They presented a variety of activities, from expeditions to high peaks to rock climbing in the local hills. It was heartening to note the care expressed for protection of the environment. As the evening drew to a close, everyone was more aware of the activities of the Himalayan Club and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation. This annual event, which is organised by the Maharashtra Seva Sangh every July, has become a part of the calendar for mountaineering enthusiasts.

The 50th year represents the Golden year. The 80th year in the life of an organisation or person is the time when they have lived through a 1000 full moons. This celebration was for a thousand golden moons!

-Harish Kapadia

80th Anniversary Celebrations of the Himalayan Club by the Pune Section



Artificial Rock Wall

Photo: Dr. Godbole

The Himalayan Club's 80th Anniversary celebrations by the Pune Section were held on 30-31 August 2008 at Garudmaachi outdoor camp site in Tamhini ghat, a very beautiful locale set amongst the greenery of Sahyadri at the height of the monsoon. This site was made available for the programme by the Himalayan Club member Vasant Limaye, CEO of The High Places Management Pvt. Ltd.

Around 50 Himalayan Club members from Pune and 10 from places like Mumbai, Satara, Panchgani, and Rajgurunagar assembled at tea time on 30 August and enjoyed indoor presentations the whole evening and after dinner till midnight.

The celebrations began with the film '80 Years On Top', which illustrates important historic milestones in the last 80 years of Himalayan Club, and were followed by a very lively and jovial talk by Harish Kapadia about various personalities that he had come across during his long tenure with the club.

This was followed by fascinating slide and film shows by Divyesh Muni, Vasant Limaye, and Surendra Chavan. A variety of presentations were made by the Himalayan Club members on the theme of 'My Himalaya', with varied subjects such as Himalayan wild life, photography, poetry on treks, global warming, etc.

The next morning, on 31 August, members enjoyed many outdoor adventure activities such as camelback ridge walk, artificial rock wall climbing and rappelling down, rope bridge crossing, etc. The Vice President of The Himalayan Club, Tanil Kilachand inaugurated the 'Map & CD Library' of the Pune section. The programme concluded with high tea and snacks at the newly built modern auditorium of the Outdoor Management Centre.



The Camelback Ridge Walk Photo: Dr. Godbole

-Dr. Raghunath Godbole

Book Review



Himalayas: Dawn to Dark by Ashok Dilwali. pp 180, 123 colour pictures, 2008. (Prakash Books India Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, Rs 2500)

Ashok Dilwali has been photographing the Himalaya since 1979 when he undertook his first trek in Sikkim. This love affair with both the Himalaya and photography has over the years resulted in Dilwali publishing 17 books and also winning numerous awards all around the world. *Himalayas: Dawn to Dark* is possibly Dilwali's grandest effort yet in recording his images. The volume contains a collection of the best photographs he has taken over the years across various locations in the Himalaya. The collection of photographs is split into the following six groups: dawn, morning, day, evening, dusk, and night. Through this method Dilwali is able to show the huge influence of light in the final outcome. With each picture in the book, Dilwali has attached a personal note. For photography enthusiasts there is a lot to learn by observing the way the photographs are composed. The only aspect missing in the personal notes is technical information about each photograph in terms of aperture, speed, and focal length.

Himalayas: Dawn to Dark is a coffee table book, which, through its sheer size and the magic of Dilwali's photographs, succeeds in bringing home the grandeur and beauty of the Himalaya.

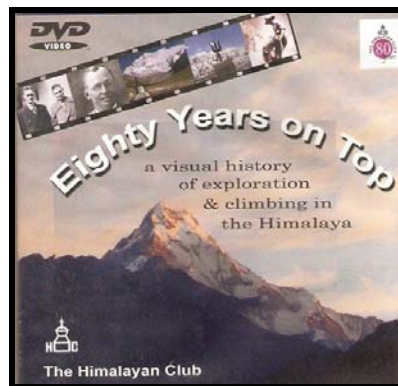
-Maninder Kohli

Club News

^^^ **The Himalayan Journal Volume 64 has been released.** In this volume, the early years of the club have been succinctly covered by Trevor Braham, while Aamir Ali brings us up to date with the Himalayan Club turning 80. The volume pays a glowing tribute to the legendary late Sir Edmund Percival Hillary while simultaneously covering myriad topics pertaining to exploration, climbing, and the environment, and for good measure, also includes an article on how not to fall off a motorcycle while in the mountains!

^^^ **To celebrate its 80th year, the Himalayan Club has produced a DVD titled '80 YEARS ON THE TOP.**

It is a 30-minute documentary that covers the history of exploration, climbing, and roles of historic personalities and has rare footage and pictures from the Club's archives. It records activities of the club till recent times, with interviews with Suman Dubey (President), Gurdial Singh (Hony. Member), Jagdish Nanavati (President Emeritus), Dr M. S. Gill (Past President), Harish Kapadia (Hony. Editor, *Himalayan Journal*), Tanil Kilachand (Vice President), and Divyesh Muni. The film is produced and directed by leading film-maker Karamjeet Singh and the commentary is by the famous actor, Roshan Seth. The documentary was premiered recently at New Delhi in the presence of Mrs Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance, and was highly appreciated. The film is very suitable for screening to those interested in the history of the Himalayan range, students, and climbers.



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The Himalayan Club is offering copies of this DVD for record and use by Clubs, organisations, and Himalayan enthusiasts. The cost within India is Rs 100 per copy and for foreigners Rs 200 (both inclusive of postage). Please send your orders with cheque/Draft or bank transfer to The Himalayan Club at its registered office: Himalayan Club Centre. 314, Turf Estate, Shakti Mills Lane, Mahalaxmi West, Mumbai 400011, India. Phone: (91 22) 2491 2829

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E-Letter, Vol. -14, October 2008.

Published for the Himalayan Club. Himalayan Club Centre, 314, Turf Estate, Shakti Mills Lane, Off Dr. E. Moses Road, Mahalaxmi [west], Mumbai 400011, India. Phone: [91-22] 2491 2829.

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